

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of the Meeting
March 16, 2016**

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida 34461

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Dennis Damato, Chairman, called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Richard Owen, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dennis Damato, *Chairman*, Citrus Co. Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, *Vice Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, *Treasurer*, Marion Co. Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Ron Livsey, Belleview City Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff and audience members present for this meeting.
- *Revised Agenda.* Mr. Owen noted that an item has been added to the agenda under the Executive Director's Report: 11.e. SWFWMD/SJRWMD Northern District Groundwater Model Update. He noted the Board was provided a revised agenda at their seats. **Mr. Nicholson moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the agenda as revised with the add-on item. Motion carried unanimously.**

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug Andrews, Marion County Interim Utilities Director
Jacob Arnette, Marion County Water Resources Coordinator
Robert Beltran, SWFWMD Executive Director
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Resources Manager
Ken Cheek, Citrus County Water Resources Director
Kathryn Eno, Senior Auditor, Purvis Gray & Company, LLP
Kelly Rice, SWFWMD Governing Board Member
Kevin Smith, Marion County Strategic Resources Project Mgr.
Mark White, CPA, Partner, Purvis Gray & Company, LLP
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD Governmental Affairs Program Mgr.

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the February 17, 2016 minutes was provided in the Board's meeting materials. Following consideration, **Mr. Adkins moved to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

No one submitted a *Request to Speak* card to address the Board.

(Mr. Swain entered the meeting.)

6. Southwest Florida Water Management District Update

Mr. Kelly Rice, newly appointed Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board member, introduced himself to the Board, noting that he was appointed in September 2015 to represent the northern portion of the District. He received Senate confirmation in the Legislative Session which just concluded. He said he lives in Sumter County and is a local businessman there.

Mr. Robert Beltran, SWFWMD Executive Director, provided the Board with a brief update of significant activities at the District. Discussion ensued regarding reuse, nutrient loading, Central Florida Water Initiative, cooperative water partners, seasonal storage, and future projects.

Chairman Damato thanked Mr. Beltran for an excellent presentation and Mr. Rice for attending today's Board meeting.

This was an informational item and no Board action was necessary.

7. Fiscal Year 2014-15 Financial Audit

Mr. Mark White, CPA, Partner with Purvis Gray & Company, LLP, presented the annual audit of the Authority's financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Mr. White referenced the exhibits included in the Board's meeting materials: (1) March 16, 2016 letter from Purvis Gray & Company and (2) Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report, September 30, 2015. He reviewed the document highlights, noting the Authority's financial position is strong and in compliance with Florida Statutes.

Mr. Adkins said this is a job well done and he appreciated the work performed by Purvis Gray & Company.

Mr. Owen said staff recommends Board approval of the Annual Financial Report and Fiscal Year 2014-15 Independent Auditors' Report, September 30, 2015, as presented at the meeting; and submittal of these reports to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services.

Following consideration, **Mr. Adkins moved to approve the Annual Financial Report and Fiscal Year 2014-15 Independent Auditors' Report, September 30, 2015, as presented; and submittal of these reports to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services. Mr. Arnett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

8. Water Conservation Month Resolution

Mr. Owen, WRWSA, said the purpose of this item is to request the Board execute a resolution declaring April 2016 as "Water Conservation Month." Since 1998, the state of Florida, water management districts, local governments and water-related organizations, such as the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, have declared April as "Water Conservation Month." April is typically the time of year when water demands increase due to generally hot and dry conditions.

Mr. Owen said that, proclaiming April as "Water Conservation Month" has historically been used by the Authority as a means to focus the public's attention on the need for and benefits of conservation, and to highlight the resources available to help them. This action will further the Authority's and its member governments' water conservation efforts; therefore, staff recommends the Board approve and execute Resolution No. 2016-02 declaring April 2016 as "Water Conservation Month."

Following consideration, **Mr. Adkins moved to approve and execute Resolution No. 2016-02 declaring April 2016 as “Water Conservation Month.” Mr. Swain seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

9. Springs Protection Month Resolution

Mr. Owen, WRWSA, said the purpose of this item is to request the Board execute a resolution declaring April 2016 as “Springs Protection Month.” By adopting the proposed Springs Protection Month Resolution, the Authority will demonstrate its commitment to environmental stewardship, including supporting efforts to conserve and restore the ecological balance of these spring systems.

Mr. Owen said the Authority encourages its members to become more aware of the need to protect local springs, and to support the Southwest Florida Water Management District in its restoration efforts and appropriate measures to conserve and protect local springs. He said staff recommends the Board approve and execute Resolution No. 2016-03 declaring April 2016 as “Springs Protection Month.”

Following consideration, **Mr. Swain moved to approve and execute Resolution No. 2016-03 declaring April 2016 as “Springs Protection Month.” Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

In response to Mr. Brown’s inquiry, Mr. Chris Zajac, SWFWMD, said he is coordinating with City of Crystal River staff for similar proclamations being brought before his Council.

10. Charles A. Black Wellfield Water Supply Contract, Status Report

Mr. Owen, WRWSA, said this item is to inform the Board of progress on the proposed new water supply contract with Citrus County since the last Board meeting. He said the meeting scheduled for the first part of March was cancelled and is rescheduled for early April; therefore, an update will occur at the Board’s next meeting.

Mr. Owen displayed a trophy presented to the Charles A. Black Wellfield for having the best tasting drinking water for the region. He noted that it will now compete at the state level.

This was an informational item and no Board action was necessary.

11. Executive Director’s Report

a. Bills to be Paid – Mr. Owen presented the March 2016 bills and requested approval of payment for administrative invoices in the amount of \$15,283.07 and project invoices in the amount of \$5,614.00, totaling \$20,897.07. Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Carnahan for payment of the March 2016 bills in the amount of \$20,897.07, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnett and carried unanimously.**

b. First Quarter Financial Report – Mr. Owen noted the report is provided in the supplemental meeting information placed at their seats. He reviewed report highlights for the Board’s information.

Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Arnett, to accept the First Quarter Financial Report, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence – Items were included in the Board’s meeting materials and the supplemental information.

- d. News Articles** – News articles of interest were included in the Board’s meeting materials and supplemental information.
- e. SWFWMD/SJRWMD Northern District Groundwater Model Update** – Mr. Owen said he met last week with the SWFWMD, SJRWMD, Marion County, and City of Ocala. He said the Authority participated in co-funding this model which is continually being updated and improved; therefore, the parties involved requested the Authority and Marion County provide peer review. Mr. Owen said the Authority does not have staff to review and provide input which is why this item is being brought before the Board. He said Marion County already has a consultant which does this type of work and the Authority could co-fund review with the County through appropriate agreement after consideration with the Authority’s legal counsel.

Discussion ensued regarding use of this model, minimum flows and levels, and water supply planning.

Mr. Arnett moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the transfer of \$12,500 from water resource development reserves to a budget item for the Authority’s participation in the review of the updated Northern District Groundwater Model and for the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Marion County for the joint funding of this review. Motion carried unanimously.

In response to Mr. Nicholson’s inquiry, Mr. Zajac, SWFWMD, provided a brief update on the Seven Diamond mines in Pasco County. Mr. Zajac then addressed Mr. Adkins’ question regarding the Lower Floridan Aquifer’s ongoing monitoring. Chairman Damato suggested Mr. Adkins meet with Mr. Ron Basso of the SWFWMD.

f. Other

- (1) Mr. Owen said that he is negotiating with Citrus County regarding renewal of the office lease and separate internet access has been requested. He said the cost is \$100 for installation and approximately \$100 per month for service. Mr. Owen said staff recommends approval to incur these costs.

Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded Mr. Nicholson, to approve costs of \$100 for installation and approximately \$100 per month for service.

Following consideration, **Mr. Carnahan asked this item be tabled while he addresses this matter with staff. Messrs. Carnahan and Nicholson withdrew their motion and second.**

Chairman Damato called the question for approval of Mr. Carnahan investigating this item. Mr. Brown seconded, and there was Board consensus.

- (2) Mr. Owen noted that, on March 29, he will be presenting before the SWFWMD Governing Board to provide a status report of the Authority’s water supplies, conservation initiatives, regional projects, and vision for the future.

(Mr. Carnahan left the meeting.)

12. Legislative Report

Ms. Salz briefed the Board regarding activities that occurred during the Legislative Session. She said the Authority had a good year and thanked the Board members for their contributions in weighing in on issues. Using the legislative update document at each member’s seat, Ms. Salz informed the Board regarding the major issues involving the Authority, especially Senate Bill (SB) 552, which is noted for comprehensive water policy reform, and House Bill (HB) 989, referred to as the “Florida Legacy Act” which establishes a dedicated funding source for springs restoration, protection and management

of \$50 million annually, among other things. She noted that Senate confirmation occurred for SWFWMD and SJRWMD governing board members and executive directors. She said there is a new requirement for special districts and budgeting/auditing/reporting which staff will be reviewing.

This was an informational item and no Board action was necessary.

(Mr. Carnahan left the meeting.)

13. Attorney's Report

Mr. Haag said he had nothing to report at this time.

14. Other Business

Mr. Brown inquired about Levy County and its participation in the WRWSA in a conservation effort. Mr. Owen said he has reached out and spoke to the Commission. He was told a representative would attend the meetings but no one has come. He said per capita cost contribution is an issue for them. He noted that Citrus County has been extending an offer of providing services. Chairman Damato informed the Board of regional opportunities he is aware of.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Mr. Owen said he does not have enough agenda items to warrant a meeting in April and recommended the Board cancel the meeting. **Mr. Nicholson moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to cancel the April 20, 2016 monthly meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**
- The next monthly meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 (3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto). Mr. Owen noted Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget approval will be requested and a county commission representative from each county is required for approval.

16. Adjournment

Chair Damato adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director