

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
January 15, 2014**

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Lecanto Government Building  
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**

Chairman Dennis Damato called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

**2. Roll Call**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner  
Jim Adkins, *Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner  
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner  
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor  
Al Butler, *Vice-Chairman*, Sumter County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner  
Stan McClain, *Treasurer*, Marion County Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner  
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner  
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor  
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor  
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor  
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner  
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

Members of the audience introduced themselves. There were no announcements.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison  
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities  
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources  
Veronica Craw, SWFWMD  
Al Grubman, CCTF

Jan Grubman, CCTF  
Jay Hoecker, SWFWMD  
Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX  
Joy Kokjohn, SJRWMD  
Lois Sorensen, SWFWMD  
Tracy Straub, Marion County Engineer  
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

**4. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2013 Meeting**

A copy of the minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve the minutes for the November 20, 2013 meeting. Mr. Butler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.**

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Election of Officers . . . Governing Board**

*Chairman Dennis Damato passed the gavel to the Vice-Chairman, James Adkins.*

**Mr. Damato made a motion to nominate James Adkins as the Chairman for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bays. Ms. Bays moved nominations cease, seconded by Mr. Hahnfeldt. The motions to close nominations and to elect James Adkins as Chairman carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen stated that it is practice of the Authority, that once a new Chairman is elected, that person takes over the meeting as the chairman for the new year.

**Mr. Damato made a motion to nominate Al Butler as the Vice-Chairman for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hahnfeldt. Ms. Bays moved nominations cease, seconded by Dennis Damato. The motions to close nominations and to elect Al Butler as Vice-Chairman carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Damato made a motion to nominate Stan McClain as Treasurer for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bays. Mr. Hahnfeldt moved nominations cease, seconded by Mr. Damato. The motions to close nominations and to elect Stan McClain as Treasurer carried unanimously.**

**7. Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX**

Mr. Jones reported on progress made in drafting the *Regional Water Supply Plan Update* (RWSP) from November 20, 2013 through January 15, 2014. The preliminary water demand through 2035 is 42 million gallons per day for all Public Supply systems. Some of these demands may continue to be met with groundwater, conservation, and reclaimed water, but some members will need to consider alternative sources.

< Scott Adams arrived. >

Mr. Jones explained the methodology used to estimate the need for new wellfields to meet growing public supply demands. If a utility's existing permitted but unused capacity was equal to or greater than the projected increase in demands, no new wellfields would be necessary to meet future demands through 2035. Hernando County appears to have no water supply deficits by

2035. Citrus County will have some localized deficits that may be met by revising wellfield locations proposed in the *2010 Water Supply Plan* or expanding the capacity of the Charles A. Black water supply facilities. By 2035, Sumter County and Marion County will have water supply deficits. Mr. Jones stated that these deficits may be met by moving some 2010 proposed wellfields and by adding Lower Floridan wellfields in areas near projected demands. With these changes, the group is ready to run the Northern District model to determine groundwater availability, potential impacts from production, and to conduct a planning level financial feasibility analysis.

Board discussion covered a range of subjects, including the impact of MFLs on groundwater withdrawals, modeling, wellfield ownership and potential for locating recreation and open space uses on wellfield sites.

Mr. Jones advised that the completion of the RWSP is contingent on the number of iterations needed to complete the model scenarios. Mr. Owen said he would meet with both Gregg Jones and the District to determine if additional time extensions are needed.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**8. Springs Restoration . . . Veronica Craw, SWFWMD**

Veronica Craw, Springs & Environmental Flows Manager, SWFWMD, presented information on the District's plan for springs restoration within Citrus, Hernando and Marion counties. She provided a copy of the District's *2013-2017 Springs Management Plan* to each Board member. The springs' restoration plan includes 13 projects affecting five first magnitude springs within the northern district. The priority of the District's *Strategic Plan* is to improve the condition of northern coastal spring systems. The 2014 budget includes 8.2 million dollars for 13 projects. The District, the cooperators and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provide funding for these projects. Board members had a number of questions and comments for Ms. Craw.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**10. Hydrologic Update . . . Lois Sorensen, SWFWMD**

Chairman Adkins stated the Hydrologic Update would be considered at this time to accommodate Ms. Sorensen's schedule. Mr. Owen introduced Lois Sorensen, Program Manager, Demand Management, SWFWMD, to discuss local hydrologic conditions. Ms. Sorensen presented rainfall data, groundwater levels and stream flow measurements for the District as a whole and for areas within the District. The counties of Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas had below normal rainfall in December with a forecast for below normal rain in the next three months. Ongoing repairs at the C. W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir have reduced the water available for public supply use. Therefore, water restrictions were issued for those counties. The groundwater and surface water conditions in the northern part of the District, however, continue to be within the normal range and do not necessitate water restrictions at this time. These conditions will be monitored closely.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**9. Executive Director's Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director**

**a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Owen presented two sets of bills to the Board. The December 2013 bills were paid in December as usual in the absence of a Board meeting. The December bills are provided in the Board's Packet. Mr. Owen requested the Board ratify the payment of the December 2013 bills totaling \$43,142.95.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the December 2013 bills of \$43,142.95. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen also presented the January 2014 bills, available in a handout, and requested approval for payment of bills totaling \$53,626.67.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Butler to approve payment of the January 2014 bills of \$53,626.67. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen advised the Board that the FY 2012-2013 carry-over balance for the 12-01 work order for Water Resource Associates would be removed from the "Bills to be Paid" as the work order expired on September 30, 2013. If additional services are requested, as Mr. Owen anticipates, a new work order will be recommended to the Board.

**b. Status Report on Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Wildwood and Marion County**

Mr. Owen provided an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Wildwood, Marion County and the WRWSA. A draft copy of the MOU is included in the Board's packet. If successfully approved by each entity, the WRWSA will have a future role as a water supplier using several Lower Floridan wells that were installed by the City of Wildwood. The City and Marion County are potential customers; however, a future agreement would be required to move forward with a specific project.

The legal staff of all three parties has reviewed the MOU draft. Marion County and the City of Wildwood are scheduling the MOU for action by their respective boards. Mr. Owen will bring the MOU back to the WRWSA Board in February or March, depending on the schedules of Wildwood and Marion County.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**c. Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement Update**

Mr. Owen advised that the Agreement was approved by Hernando and Sumter counties on December 10, 2013, by Marion County on January 7, 2014, and by Citrus County on January 14, 2014. This is a significant milestone for the Authority and addresses some critical issues. With the revised Agreement, the representation on the Board will total 13, rather than 19, while still meeting the members' need for representation.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato that the executive director send a letter to each member county, to provide information that the Agreement was approved, and that it provides each member government a number of seats, as well as the ability to appoint alternates. The letter would be sent to the each local government's attorney. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and approved unanimously.**

Following input from the attorney and further consideration, **the motion was amended by Mr. Damato to direct the membership letter to each County Administrator, with a copy to each utility director. Mr. McClain amended his second, and the amended motion was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Ken Brown asked why the Hydrologic Update was on the agenda after the Executive Director's report. He stated the Authority should always schedule presentations by outside parties prior to the Executive Director's report so that they need not stay later than necessary. Mr. Owen explained that he agreed, however in this case Ms. Sorensen had requested to be put later on the agenda due to her schedule. It was the consensus of the Board that all presentations be listed on the Agenda prior to the Executive Director's items.

**d. Correspondence**

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**e. News Articles**

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**f. Other**

- *Northern District Model.* Mr. Owen stated that Phase 1 of the Northern District Model is complete. He will ask the District staff to present the model to the Board. Phase 2 of the model development has begun, with the St. Johns River Water Management District taking the lead and paying for the costs. Mr. Owen will monitor this project and participate in its further development, as the intent is to have both the St. Johns River and Southwest Florida water management districts use the final model for determining groundwater availability. He will continue to keep the Board informed.
- *Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI).* The District's sub-committees will begin their review of the 2015 CFI applications on February 5, 2014 in the Brooksville office. The WRWSA has applied for continuation of the regional irrigation system evaluation program. Mr. Owen will attend and will notify Board members of the meeting. The staff review of the WRWSA application is favorable.
- *St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).* The SJRWMD has prepared a draft water supply plan for its district. The plan breaks the district into four planning regions, with eastern Marion County being included in Region 2. The major conclusion of the plan is that future demands cannot be met solely by fresh groundwater. Alternative water supplies are needed and include water conservation, reclaimed water use, and surface water supplies.
- *WRWSA Logos.* Mr. Owen recommended that the Board authorize staff to utilize Authority funds to set up a logo for application to wearing apparel. Staff and Board Members could then purchase clothing with the WRWSA logo, which could be worn to official functions and serve to enhance name recognition for the WRWSA. The WRWSA would fund the logo creation for a one-time fee of approximately \$150. Thereafter, the WRWSA would pay a small fee for each application. The funds for this purchase would come out of the contingency budget line item.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adams to approve up to \$300 to create the logo and the fee for its application. The motion was seconded by Dennis Damato.**

Discussion by the Board resulted in an amendment to the motion. Mr. Brown suggested that name badges be added to items for purchase. Mr. Damato recommended that the motion be amended to include name badges and that the total funds available be raised to \$400.

**Mr. Adams accepted the amendment to add name badges to the list of items purchased and to provide funding up to \$400. Mr. Damato seconded the amendment and the motion, as amended, was approved by a unanimous vote.**

**11. Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison**

Ms. Salz reported on the American Water Works Association meeting that she attended in December. A summary of the meeting was included in the Board's packet. The AWWA frames its legislative priorities at this meeting. In addition, Ms. Salz discussed the bill tracking report included in the Board's packet. This report will be monitored and amended through the end of the legislative session. She also reported on the draft springs bill that is currently proposed in the Senate. This draft has been revised several times, with more revisions expected. The draft provides for funding from documentary stamps; a July 1, 2015 deadline to delineate springs' protection zones and to set MFLs; provisions to remove septic tanks in certain areas and to make upgrades or connections to sanitary sewer systems in other areas, as well as other provisions related to springs protection and restoration.

Mr. Brown asked about the Basin Boards that previously existed within the water management district and whether these Boards would be reconstituted. Discussion ensued. Mr. Owen summarized the discussion by stating that projects within the District must be competitive on a district-wide basis and that there is a need to ensure that the WRWSA region is adequately represented on the SWFWMD Board.

This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

**12. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**

Mr. Haag stated that after all members have signed the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement, the official document will be recorded with each County Clerk. Once that process is complete, the WRWSA can begin the rule repeal process.

**13. Other Business**

Mr. Hahnfeldt commented that the WRWSA priorities should support current and future water needs, recognizing where deficiencies exist, seeking solutions to meet deficiencies and focusing on alternative water supply.

**14. Next Meeting Time and Location . . .**

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2014, 3:30 p.m.,** at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

**15. Adjournment**

Chairman Adkins announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

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James E. Adkins, Chairman

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Richard S. Owen, Executive Director