

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2015**

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 Adkins called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Adkins, *Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner
Al Butler, *Vice-Chairman*, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, *Treasurer*, Marion County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

3. Introductions and Announcements

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacob Arnette Marion County
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
Ken Cheek, Citrus County Water Resources
Pete Hubbell, WRA

David O'Connor, Cardno
Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville
Angel Roussel, Hernando County Utilities
Kevin Smith, Marion County
Mark White, Purvis Gray & Co.
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2014 Meeting

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

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Hahnfeldt to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Election of Officers

a. Adoption of Board Policy – Election of Officers

Mr. Owen presented the draft Board Policy on Election of Officers, including a language change from the November 19, 2014 Board meeting.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Butler to approve Board Policy 2015-01, Election of Officers, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

b. Election of Officers

Mr. Owen advised the Board that the annual officer election provides for a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. The executive director is the *ex-officio* Secretary. Chairman Adkins, based on the adopted Board Policy for Election of Officers, conducted the officer election process.

Chairman Adkins nominated Al Butler for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

Chairman Adkins nominated Stan McClain for Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Arnett and carried unanimously.

Chairman Adkins nominated Dennis Damato for Treasurer. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.

Mr. Owen advised the Board that the new officers would take their positions at the next Board meeting.

7. Fiscal Year 2013-14 Financial Audit . . . Mark White, Purvis Gray

Mr. White presented the 2013-14 Financial Audit and stated that the opinion provided to the Board is in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. There are no issues with internal controls. Mr. White reviewed the Balance Sheet and Revenues and Expenses and expressed the opinion that the Authority is in good financial condition.

He attested that the WRWSA is in compliance with Section 218.245, Florida Statutes. This compliance statement is a new report for local governments, shown on page 19, rather than just a comment in the audit as in previous years.

The Audit does contain one comment together with a response from Management. This comment is that the Citrus County wellfield agreements go back into the 1980s. Some of the provisions are obsolete or have not been properly monitored and should be reviewed for the purpose of extending or replacing such provisions as needed to guide the parties going forward. As the Executive Director has pointed out in the management letter, work is continuing at a staff level to update the agreements. Mr. Owen confirmed the work in progress in coordination with Citrus County.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the Annual Financial Report (AFR) and Fiscal Year 2013-14 Independent Auditors' Report, September 30, 2014, as presented at the meeting and submittal of these reports to the Auditor General and to the Florida Department of Financial Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

8. Charles A. Black Wellfield Status Report . . . Ken Cheek, Citrus County

Ken Cheek, Director of Citrus County Water Resources, presented the FY 2013-14 Renewal and Replacement fund expenditures. A project to replace the generators and fuel tanks at CAB 1 and 2 is underway. These items have required outside engineering to provide appropriate specifications; because the replacement units are larger than the original generators, additional site work has also been necessary.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to accept Citrus County's annual report for the CAB Renewal & Replacement Fund, documenting expenditures and deposits for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

9. Potential Regional Water Supply Projects . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented several Potential Regional Water Supply Projects based on the recently updated *Regional Water Supply Plan 2014*, the *Regional Framework*, and the 5-year capital improvement projects developed in conjunction with the proposed new Water Purchase Agreement with Citrus County. He requested discussion and comments from the Board.

There was consensus among the Board that the list of projects was a good beginning. The Board discussed the role of conservation, how projects should be reviewed and how to assign priority. Mr. Brown recommended that the Board be very careful to treat the conservation lands and trails respectfully, considering the primary purpose of Amendment 1 in purchasing lands for conservation and recreation. Mr. Owen suggested that the next logical step is to meet with local government staff and discuss the level of support for pursuing funding. He would come back to a future meeting to present the findings to the Board. Mr. Hahnfeldt recommended that to evaluate and prioritize the projects, the Board should know the cost, the amount of time and effort to initiate the project, time to build, and operation and maintenance costs; whether each project can piggyback on other projects in the region, the type of funding available and how it fits into the WRWSA long-term water management projects.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to select Items 2.a. Charles A. Black Wellfield Expansion; 2.b., Marion County, Marion Oaks Upper Floridan Aquifer; 2.c., Marion County, Southeast-Central Marion County Lower Floridan Aquifer; and Item 3, Regional Water Conservation Project as those projects most needed to address identified water supply issues. Staff was directed to bring additional information on the feasibility of each project to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Ernst.**

After further discussion, **the motion was amended by Mr. Damato to have staff research Items 4, Aquifer Recharge Project; 5, Regionalization of Water Supplies; 6, Lower Floridan Aquifer Evaluation and Enhancement of the Northern District Model; and 2.d., Recreational Trail Network Locations, and bring those to the Board, but not necessarily as priority items. The amended motion was seconded by Gary Ernst and carried unanimously.**

10. Executive Director's Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the December 2014 bills and requested ratification of payment of the bills totaling \$19,942.74.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to ratify payment of the December 2014 bills of \$19,942.74. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the January 2015 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$25,516.36.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the January 2015 bills of \$25,516.36. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

b. Board Policies – Conduct of Meetings

Mr. Owen presented the Board with a draft policy on the Conduct of Meetings, as provided in the Board's packet.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Butler to approve Resolution 2015-02, Conduct of Board Meetings, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

Recent correspondence was provided in the Board's packet. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

d. News Articles

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

e. Other

- *Local Government Presentations.* Mr. Owen advised the Board that he presented information to City Councils in Belleview and Bushnell, and to the Boards of County Commissioners in Sumter and Marion counties. He is scheduled to make presentations to the City of Brooksville and to the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.
- *Springs Coast Management Committee.* Mr. Owen attended the December 10, 2014 meeting and presented the *2014 Regional Water Supply Plan Update*. The Committee adopted water quality recommendations in December and water quantity recommendations in January.
- *SWFWMD Regional Water Supply Plan.* The District's regional water supply plan update is underway, the WRWSA *2014 Plan Update* is feeding into this update, and SWFWMD has requested our participation in that process.
- *Citrus County Chronicle Editorial Board.* Mr. Owen and Commissioner Damato met with the Editorial Board on January 7, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to make

sure they know who we are, what we are doing, and to provide a resource for them in water supply issues.

These items were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

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

a. 2015 Legislative Policy Positions

Mrs. Salz reviewed the 2015 list of Legislative Policy positions; while many of these positions are not new to the Board, they are presented as a matrix to serve as a guide to discussions in the upcoming legislative session. A copy of the matrix has been sent with a letter to each Legislator in the Withlacoochee region, as directed last month by the Board. The legislative session is expected to include a comprehensive review of existing water legislation and the interrelated implementation of Amendment 1, so it would be useful to have our policy positions clearly stated and distributed. Public comment on the implementation of Amendment 1 may be submitted to www.flsenate.gov. Also, applications to the House of Representatives for water projects will be accepted through February 7, 2015; directions may be found at www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve the 2015 Legislative Policy Positions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arnett and carried unanimously.**

b. FSAWWA Fall Conference Report

Mrs. Salz reported on the FSAWWA Fall Conference that she attended on December 2, 2014. This conference is one of the ways that the WRWSA stays connected and engaged with water issues in preparation for the legislative session.

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

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

Based on Board discussion, Mr. Haag cautioned the Board that the implementation of Amendment 1 requires legislation to be enacted. Much of this legislation will go before Senator Dean's committee as it is drafted; as he represents Citrus and Marion counties, a letter to Sen. Dean may be in order. When it comes to co-locating other uses on recreational trails, such as underground pipelines that would not interfere with the use or visual enjoyment of trails, we cannot wait until we have a need. He suggested contacting Senator Dean and getting this idea to the Legislature now.

Mrs. Salz suggested that a letter on this subject be drafted to Senator Dean from the WRWSA.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Butler to have staff draft a letter, for the next Board meeting, to Senator Dean requesting language in the legislation to implement Amendment 1 that would allow some beneficial uses to co-locate in recreational trails, where appropriate. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

13. Other Business

Mr. Owen recommended that the February 18, 2015 meeting be cancelled. The next meeting is March 18, 2015, as previously noticed.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Butler to cancel the February 18, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2015, 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 5:13 p.m.

Al Butler, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director