

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 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 Jim Adkins called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison, 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
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Bruce Hickle, City of Bushnell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mrs. Salz announced that the executive director, Richard Owen, was ill and therefore absent from the meeting. Members of the audience introduced themselves.

STAFF PRESENT

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

Sky Notestein, SWFWMD
Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2014 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 September 17, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Springs Protection . . . Sky Notestein, SWFWMD

Sky Notestein, Senior Environmental Scientist with the SWFWMD, presented updates on springs' activities and projects within the Withlacoochee region. He highlighted projects budgeted for fiscal years 2014/15 and 2015/16, including MFLs, springs coast management plan and restoration projects. Questions included the level and type of nitrates present in Kings Bay and how the state money was allocated and matched. Veronica Craw, SWFWMD, explained that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) process included receiving a list of projects endorsed and submitted by SWFWMD. DEP reviewed all projects and selected projects from that list. Currently, four projects within the SWFWMD received DEP funding.

This item was presented for information only. No action is required.

7. Minimum Flows and Levels Priority Lists and Schedules . . . Richard S. Owen, WRWSA

Mrs. Salz reviewed the SWFWMD's proposed priority list and schedule for setting the MFLs for water bodies in the region. The proposed schedule shows that a number of MFL waterbodies in the WRWSA region are being postponed to later years, relative to the current schedule. She advised the Board that Mr. Owen expects to present a powerpoint on this subject at the November Board meeting. The staff requests that the Authority authorize the executive director to submit a letter to SWFWMD requesting that waterbodies in our region be expedited, to the extent possible within the District's resources, so as to maintain the current schedule. Mrs. Salz noted that the SJRWMD has not yet made available its 2015 priority list and schedule.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to authorize submittal of a letter to SWFWMD requesting that waterbodies in this region be expedited for purposes of setting MFLs, to the extent resources are available. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mrs. Salz presented the October 2014 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$46,979.42.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the October 2014 bills of \$46,979,42. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.**

b. Modification to Citrus County Water Conservation Grant

Mrs. Salz presented a request, included in the Board's packet, as well as a letter from Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation Manager, to revise the FY 2015 Water Conservation Grant. This modification moves funds from a previously approved outdoor irrigation component to an indoor water conservation program, based upon recent success with this indoor water conservation program. Staff recommends the Board approve this change in scope. Ms. Burden summarized the grant modification request and explained the program, which includes installation of showerheads and faucet aerators. More water savings has resulted from the installation program than has been documented in other programs where the equipment was provided but not installed.

Mr. Brown suggested that the utilities consider what incentives could be provided to customers who use less water. Board discussion included the potential for rebates, tiered pricing for water rates and outreach or communication efforts.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve modification of the FY 2015 Citrus County Water Conservation Grant to move funds from an outdoor irrigation component to an indoor water conservation program. 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

- *State Board of Administration, Fund B.* Mrs. Salz advised that the State Board of Administration (SBA), Florida Prime, has liquidated Fund B and all funds have been transferred back to the Authority for potential use. When the SBA started Fund B in December 2007, the WRWSA total balance was \$202,997. Transfers have occurred back into the primary accounts on a monthly basis with a zero balance in Fund B as of September 5, 2014. The WRWSA currently has a reserve fund of \$494,144 in administrative funds and \$1,007,614 in reserve funds for projects, for a total of \$1,501,758 as of September 30th.
- *Local Government Presentations.* Mr. Owen presented an overview of the purpose and mission of the WRWSA to the Inverness City Council on September 16 and to the Crystal River City Council on October 13, 2014.
- Mr. Owen attended the SWFWMD's Kings Bay boat tour on September 22, 2014 as part of "Save Our Waters Week." It was a very informative tour.

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

Mrs. Salz reported that she attended multiple water forums in the past month. These are opportunities to network and to learn about water issues while waiting for the general legislative session to begin. She advised the Board that the Florida Association of Counties is hosting its legislative conference on November 17 – 20 and asked if any county commissioners had plans to attend.

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

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

There was no business to report.

11. Other Business

Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Owen attended the Crystal River City Council meeting on October 13, 2014 and presented a good overview of the mission and purpose of the WRWSA.

Chris Zajac, SWFWMD, informed the Board that SWFWMD has prepared an application process for anticipated additional funding for springs projects. This application process allows the local governments to put forward projects of interest prior to the notification of additional funding. The process allows SWFWMD to have projects prioritized and ready for submission in the event that additional funding becomes available.

12. Next Meeting Time and Location

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

13. Adjournment

Chairman Adkins announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

James E. Adkins, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director