

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2012**

TIME: 4:30 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 4:35 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

Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Mayor
Maureen McNiff, Crystal River City Councilor
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Druzbeck, Treasurer, Hernando County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner
Charlie Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
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, Legislative Consultant
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Kim Dinkins, Marion County
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Al Grubman, TOO FAR

David Hornsby, SJRWMD
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
Mike Czerwinski, MGC Environmental

4. Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2012 Meeting

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

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to approve the minutes for the September 19, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNiff and carried unanimously.

5. City of Ocala's Withdrawal from Authority—Potential Rule Revisions, Budget Revisions and Board Changes . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen stated that there are at least three topics to be discussed as a result of the City of Ocala's withdrawal from the Authority. The first topic is possible revisions to the Authority's rules. After discussion, there was general agreement that staff should bring back to the Board options for a Statement of Agency Organization and Operation in lieu of having rules. This will come back to the Board in the January – February 2013 time frame.

The second topic is the need to amend the Authority's budget. Mr. Owen advised the Board that he had spoken to Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala Utilities Director, regarding the City's decision to withdraw from WRWSA membership. According to Mr. Halcomb, no formal action was taken by the City Council. The Marion County Commission did adjust its final budget to include a per capita contribution for the entire county population, including the City of Ocala. This increases Marion County's per capita assessment by \$10,744 for a new total of \$63,031.56. The staff recommended the Board amend the Authority's budget to reflect this change in revenue.

The final implication from the City's withdrawal is Board composition. Without Ocala's membership, Marion County could have five representatives on the Board. The Board discussed representation of the members on the WRWSA Board and concurred that Mr. Owen should prepare options with recommendations on member representation to be included with the Statement of Agency Organization and Operation to be presented in January or February 2013.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to amend the WRWSA budget to show the funds coming from Marion County rather than the City of Ocala and to request staff to forward a letter to the City of Ocala, requesting formal action from the City Council ratifying their withdrawal from the WRWSA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.

6. Marion County/SJRWMD/SWFWMD Joint Funding of Groundwater Model Expansion—WRWSA Participation . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen summarized a groundwater modeling project scheduled to begin later this year in Marion County. Marion County is split between the St. Johns River (SJRWMD) and the Southwest Florida (SWFWMD) Water Management Districts. Each district relies on groundwater modeling to determine the availability of groundwater for a variety of purposes such as water supply planning and permit issuance; however, these models have significant differences that can result in conflicts within Marion County. The Districts and the County have recently agreed to expand the SWFWMD's Northern District groundwater model for use over the entire county, regardless of the District jurisdiction. The project to expand the model is estimated to cost \$150,000, to be split equally among the three parties.

Mr. Owen recommended that the WRWSA participate in the project. This will allow the Authority to participate in the development of one of the most important tools for evaluating the availability of groundwater in the region. The cost would then be split four ways, with the Authority contributing \$37,500. This money could be moved from the Water Supply Development Reserves to a new project entitled 'Northern District Model Extension.'

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. McNiff to authorize the transfer of funds from the Water Supply Development Reserves in the amount of \$37,500 for a new project, Northern District Model Extension, and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a purchase order, or similar instrument, not to exceed \$37,500. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

7. Consumptive Use Permitting Application Noticing Criteria . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen reviewed the processes used by SWFWMD and SJRWMD to request and receive information on applications for certain water use permits. He suggested that the WRWSA ask for notice for any use type, specifying an area around the Charles A. Black wellfield facility to capture permits and changes to permits. The Board discussed other potential areas of impact, including requests that might impact projects in the Regional Water Supply Plan, areas around a wellfield on Cardinal Street in Citrus County, Rainbow Springs, Crystal River and the Silver River, among others.

Mr. Owen stated that he had concerns about the total amount of permits that might be involved and what action would be taken. It might be more practical to use a monitoring approach and to forward permit requests to the affected local governments. He will continue refining the criteria based on the discussion and update the Board in November.

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

8. Letter of Engagement for Jackson E. Sullivan for As-Needed Management Assistance . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Included in the Board's packet is a Letter of Engagement with Jackson E. Sullivan for a maximum amount of \$5,000. If approved, Mr. Owen would have access to assistance from the previous Executive Director on an as-needed basis. He will keep the Board apprised of the use of this budgeted item, which may include assistance with the Charles A. Black wellfield engineering analysis, the rate study being undertaken by Purvis Gray and Company and other ongoing projects.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to approve the Letter of Engagement with Jackson E. Sullivan with a modification that the \$50 per hour fee will be based on billings of a tenth of an hour. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.**

9. Executive Director's Report ... Richard Owen, WRWSA

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen provided a handout to the WRWSA detailing the bills for October 2012 and requested the WRWSA approve payment of these bills in the amount of \$65,100.69.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Bays to approve payment of the October 2012 bills totaling \$65,100.69. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNiff and carried unanimously.**

b. 2013 Calendar of Authority Board Meetings

Mr. Owen presented a proposed calendar of meetings through 2013. The Board discussed finalizing the schedule after new board members are appointed to the WRWSA.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to approve meeting at the Lecanto Government Building on January 16, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. with a survey of the membership to be completed regarding potential future meeting locations and times. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bays and carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

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

d. News Articles

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

e. Other

Mr. Owen presented updates to the Board on the following issues:

- ***Adena Springs Ranch Water Use Permit:*** The applicant is expected to modify their request for total water demand, but have not formally done so to date. The deadline for the applicant to respond to the District's request for additional information is November 24, 2012.
- ***SWFWMD MFLs for the Homosassa and Chassahowitzha Rivers:*** The SWFWMD Governing Board is expected to take action on the MFLs at their October 30, 2012 meeting. Mr. Owen plans to attend that meeting. He expects that a number of citizens and organizations will request that the Governing Board act to restrict the MFLs for these rivers to "no new impacts." If so, Mr. Owen will request that the Governing Board postpone making a decision that is not based on the Staff's recommendation in order to gather data regarding the cost of such a decision. The more restrictive MFLs will have a negative impact on the ability of the WRWSA and local governments to develop wellfields, including within central Citrus County.
- ***Wellfields in Wildwood, Florida.*** The City of Wildwood has two wells in the Lower Aquifer. The City has approached the WRWSA on whether the WRWSA has a possible use of these wells. Mr. Owen will continue to coordinate with Wildwood and will come back to the WRWSA Board if any action needs to be taken.

10. Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Legislative Consultant

Ms. Salz provided an update of legislative activities. Both the SWFWMD and SJRWMD have adopted budgets for the 2013 fiscal year. The Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties are in the process of adopting their legislative priorities.

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

There was no business to come before the WRWSA.

12. Other Business

Mr. Owen advised the Board that nine Engineering firms responded to the WRWSA Request for Qualifications for As-Needed Engineering and Technical Services. He will bring a list of recommended firms to the Board meeting on November 28, 2012.

13. Public Comment

Mr. Grubman, TOO FAR, spoke on the subject of MFLs. He stated that water conservation is a major factor in keeping water supplies available for additional population.

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2012, 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

15. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director