

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
October 20, 2010**

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council  
1241 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street (SR 200)  
Ocala, Florida 34471-0323

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

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Richard Hoffman 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. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Hoffman, Chairman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Barbara Fitos, Vice-Chairman, Marion County Commissioner  
Rose Rocco, Treasurer, Hernando County Commissioner  
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner  
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner  
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilwoman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner  
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner  
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman  
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner  
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman  
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner  
John Priester, Ocala City Councilman  
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman  
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Diane Salz, WRWSA Legislative Liaison  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities  
Kim Dinkins, Marion County  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR  
Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc.  
Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates  
Cara Martin, SWFWMD  
James Morgan, Citrus County  
Darrell Muse, City of Ocala  
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD  
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville  
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Citizen  
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

**4. Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Commissioner Gary Bartell**

Chairman Hoffman announced that Mr. Bartell could not attend today's meeting. By consensus of the board, it was agreed to present Mr. Bartell with his plaque at the November meeting.

**5. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2010 Meeting**

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

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve the minutes for the September 15, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

**6. Report on Use of CFBC as a Water Supply**

Mr. Sullivan stated the board packet included a memorandum outlining a proposal by Mr. Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc., to use the Cross Florida Barge Canal (CFBC) as an alternative water supply. Mr. Hubbell reviewed the idea, which included installation of a structure to help prevent saltwater intrusion and create a fresh water reservoir six miles downstream of the Inglis Lock. He stated competition for the use of the Lower Withlacoochee River included planned withdrawals from the CFBC by Progress Energy for the Levy County Nuclear Power Plant, potential restoration projects developed by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and development of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the Lower Withlacoochee River by SWFWMD. In conclusion, Mr. Hubbell stated the project was an interesting proposal; however, it would require an in-depth level of analysis to determine the viability of the project. He said one concern was the low level of water quality. Mr. Hubbell recommended to the Board to accept this project as a long-term (20 to 25 years) alternative water supply project to be studied for consideration and development in the future when other alternative water supply projects are further analyzed. Mr. Damato agreed there were various issues with the project

Mr. Hilliard felt the assessment by Mr. Hubbell was correct. However, he noted the water was not wasted (fresh water going into saltwater) as the Lower Withlacoochee River feeds a vibrant estuary. Mr. Hilliard also noted current studies showed a new bridge on US Highway 19 over the river as part of the expense for the project, which he felt was an unnecessary expense. Discussion continued on the water quality of the river, location of the project, the intensive study needed for the project, and future growth's affect on water demand.

Mr. Sullivan's recommendation was to accept the Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. proposal as a potential alternative water supply (AWS) project for consideration as a long-term water supply project along with the other AWS projects approved in the WRWSA's Water Supply Master Plan. It is also recommended that further analysis of the project not take place until the time in which these long-term AWS projects are further analyzed for consideration and development in the future.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve the recommendation of the Executive Director on this project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

### **a. Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Sullivan provided a handout to the Board detailing October 2010 bills, which totaled \$70,112.93. Mr. Sullivan requested the Board approve the payment of those bills.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Fitos to approve payment of the October 2010 bills totaling \$70,112.93. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

### **b. 2010-11 Board Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Sullivan presented the upcoming year's meeting schedule for approval.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve the 2010-11 meeting schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

### **c. Report on Progress re: FERC Inglis Hydropower Application**

Mr. Sullivan stated he had contacted Paul Williams, SWFWMD to discuss the issues of concern to both the Authority and SWFWMD. Pete Hubbell had also called Inglis Hydropower, LLC to schedule a meeting to discuss the project, and he hoped to conclude the meetings and have staff recommendations to present at the November WRWSA Board meeting.

### **d. Follow-up on Recommendations of FEMA re: Oil Damage from Hurricanes**

Mr. Sullivan included in the board packet the website address to review FEMA's Public Assistance Debris Management Guide and a copy of the letter he wrote to EPA requesting information on how a major storm or hurricane may affect the spread of oil

inland. Mr. Sullivan stated he would report back to the WRWSA Board as soon as he received a response.

**e. Correspondence**

Mr. Sullivan reviewed a memorandum from Dr. Martin Kelly, Minimum Flows and Levels Program Director, Resource Projects Department, SWFWMD, on the establishment of MFLs. Mr. Sullivan plans to request that Dr. Kelly give a presentation at the next WRWSA meeting.

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

**f. News Articles**

Mr. Sullivan provided news articles on water supply issues relating to areas both regional and statewide.

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

**8. Legislative Update**

Ms. Diane Salz stated there are currently various legislative members making campaign promises to repeal portions of the current SB 550. After the General Election, there will be new committee members and committee chairs. She stated there is a movement to change water law again. Ms. Salz expects to see a lot of activity in the upcoming month and plans to have a more extensive report next month. She gave a brief review of the proposed changes to the SWFWMD's Water Shortage Plan. Ms. Salz asked the Board if she should ask Lois Sorensen, SWFWMD, to speak at the next meeting on the changes. The WRWSA board agreed they would like the presentation. Ms. Salz stated the EPA announced a short extension for the Florida Nutrients Inland Water Rule until November.

Mr. Damato expressed his concern for the provision in SB 550 requiring septic tanks inspections and cost incurred by property owners. Mr. Damato asked Ms. Salz to find out how many Counties currently have a septic tank inspection program upon sale of a residential structure.

**9. Attorney's Report**

Mr. Haag stated he did not have any additional items to report to the WRWSA.

**10. Other Business**

None.

**11. Public Comment**

Mr. Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville, asked if the WRWSA Board knew what the use is for the 24" or 36" pipes being installed in the Progress Energy right-of-way in Citrus County. Mr. Damato stated it was a massive project to import natural gas from Alabama to Miami, Florida. Mr. Radacky expressed his concerns on the pipe work crossing the Withlacoochee River and possible effects to the ecosystem.

**12. Next Meeting Time and Location**

Next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters, Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street (US 41 South), Brooksville, FL 34604.

**13. Adjournment**

Chairman Hoffman announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

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Richard Hoffman, Chairman

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Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director