

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2013**

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 3:37 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

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
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

Jim Tully, Jones Edmunds
Al & Jan Grubman
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources

Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix
Brian Malmberg, Hernando County
Jack Overdorff, Eco Land Design
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD
Robert Beltran, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2013, 2013 Meeting

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

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve the minutes for the September 18, 2013 meeting. Mr. McClain seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Introduce and Meet . . . Robert Beltran, Executive Director, SWFWMD

Mr. Owen introduced Robert Beltran, newly selected to serve as the SWFWMD Executive Director. Mr. Beltran briefly summarized his experience with water resource management and discussed a number of ongoing projects at the District. He distributed copies of the District's *Strategic Plan, 2014-2018*, to the Board. The Board welcomed Mr. Beltran and discussed the need for water and water supply planning in this region and the state.

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

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

Mr. Jones reported on progress made in drafting the Regional Water Supply Plan Update. Mr. Jones focused his update on the changes in the potential for seawater desalination and a review of the potential wellfields within the WRWSA region.

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

8. Conservation Program Performance . . . Jamie Padgett, The Villages Utilities

Mr. Owen mentioned that Alys Brockway had a conflict with this meeting and will give a status report next month. Jamie Padgett, Arnett Environmental, presented information on The Villages' utilities water conservation program. The overall program includes alternative water supplies, management of water resources, and education. The Villages coordinate with WRWSA through water supply planning, cooperative funding for irrigation system evaluations and conservation information sharing.

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 – October 2013

The October 2013 bills were provided in the Board's Packet. Mr. Owen requested the Board approve payment of the October 2013 bills totaling \$100,251.34.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Ms. Bays to approve payment of the October 2013 bills of \$100,251.34. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

b. Update on the Florida Water Forum

Mr. Owen reported that he and Diane Salz had attended the Florida Water Forum in September. Ms. Salz provided a summary of the meeting for the Board's packet. He stated that it was valuable to attend for the opportunity to network and share priorities with other water supply authorities and water management officials throughout the state.

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

c. Potential Project with the City of Wildwood and Marion County

Mr. Owen introduced Jim Tully, Jones Edmunds, who will be the project manager for this project if the Board concurs with the staff recommendation. Mr. Owen stated that he was approached by the City of Wildwood a few months ago regarding two Lower Floridan Aquifer wells located in the northwest portion of Wildwood's service area. The City has no immediate need for these wells as the demand is in the southeast portion of the service area. Mr. Owen told the City that the WRWSA would need a potential customer in order to use the water supplied by these wells. Mr. Owen has since learned that Marion County may be interested in using these wells.

Mr. Owen met with City of Wildwood representatives and Flip Mellinger, Marion County Utilities Director, to discuss the potential for this project. Both Wildwood and Marion County are interested in entering into a three-way agreement or memorandum of understanding with the WRWSA. The WRWSA would be the wholesale developer and provider of the groundwater to Marion County and Wildwood. Both agreed that the need is at least 15 years away; however, they would like to enter into an agreement now. Wildwood owns the wells and the land where the wellfields are located. When one or both parties (or potentially a third party within the WRWSA region) have an actual demand for the water, the project would be initiated, and a new agreement created. Wildwood would be looking for compensation for the wellfields, which might take the form of a credit on the cost of providing the water. These are the types of details that would be worked out in the agreement.

The WRWSA, as developer of the project, would begin to create a regional system to meet future water needs within the WRWSA region. In addition, a regional water supply system would be able to leverage additional funding from SWFWMD.

The staff recommendation is to approve the work order with Jones Edmunds, consistent with the As-needed Services agreements that were approved last year. Jones Edmunds would provide the additional depth of knowledge needed to prepare an Interlocal Agreement or memorandum of understanding. The cost would not exceed \$10,000, which is well within the amount budgeted for this fiscal year in As-needed Services. The Board discussed the location of the wells, the timing and use of the water, and the potential water customers.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Hahnfeldt to approve the work order for Jones Edmunds, not to exceed \$10,000, to provide technical assistance to the Authority in support of the proposed regional water supply project including development of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Wildwood, Marion County and the WRWSA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

d. Correspondence

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

e. News Articles

News articles were presented in the Board's package. Mr. Owen pointed out that the SWFWMD held a public workshop on the ranking of water bodies for establishment of MFLs. He noted that several of the water bodies in the WRWSA region had been previously scheduled for adoption in 2013 and are being pushed out to 2014 and beyond. Chairman Damato requested a copy of the schedule be provided to the Board members.

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

f. Other

There were no other items for discussion.

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

Ms. Salz reported that the week of September 23rd kicked off interim committee weeks leading up to the 2014 session beginning in March. She stated that she is tracking a small number of bills that are already drafted and circulating, such as the draft springs legislation sponsored by Senator David Simmons. Chairman Damato asked that the draft springs legislation be made available to the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners.

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

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

a. Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement Update

Mr. Haag reviewed the status of the revised and restated Interlocal Agreement. The major unresolved issue is the number of WRWSA Board members and how to provide for equity in representation with a smaller number of board members. The Board discussed the need to adequately represent their constituents, to keep the small cities involved in the process, and the ability to have a quorum for each board meeting, particularly those meetings where the assessments and the budget are adopted.

Richard Owen asked for a clarification of the proposal regarding the membership of the WRWSA Board recommended earlier by Chairman Damato. The proposed membership was for Marion County to have 3 members; Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter counties, 2 members each; and, each county to have 1 representative from its municipalities. This configuration would result in a total of 13 Board members. Chairman Damato asked for a consensus of the Board. By consensus, the Board agreed to the representation formula proposed, resulting in 13 Board members.

The Board also discussed whether alternates would be allowed and whether the alternates should be other elected officials. It was agreed by consensus that alternates should be elected officials.

The revised Interlocal Agreement will be on the November 20, 2013 Board agenda. After the revised Interlocal Agreement is approved by the WRWSA Board, the Interlocal Agreement will go to each County Commission for their review, and if acceptable, adoption.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2013, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461. Please note that the meeting begins at 3:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director