

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of the Meeting
November 16, 2016**

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 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

In the absence of a chairman and vice-chairman, Senior Member James Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner, was selected to serve as the Acting Chairman for this meeting. He called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

James Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Nicholson, *Vice Chairman*, Hernando County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, *Treasurer*, Marion Co. Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner
Ron Livsey, Belleview City Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff present for this meeting. Audience members introduced themselves for the Board's information.
- *Announcements.* Mr. Owen noted that the Authority is expecting county commissions to formally appoint alternates and/or staff liaisons in the coming weeks.

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF PRESENT

Jacob Arnette, Marion County Water Resources Coordinator
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Resources Manager
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation Manager
Melissa Gulvin, SWFWMD Gov't Affairs Program Manager
Gary Loggins, Citrus County Water Resources
Gary Onderdonk, Hernando County Utilities Director
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville Public Works
Lois Ann Sorensen, SWFWMD Water Conservation Manager
Kevin Vickers, Hernando County Utilities

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the September 21, 2016 minutes was provided in the Board's meeting materials. Following consideration, **Mr. Butler moved to approve the minutes for the September 21, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment – No speaker cards were submitted.

6. Hydrologic Conditions

Ms. Lois Ann Sorensen, Demand Management Program Manager at the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), provided the Board with a review of recent past and projected hydrologic conditions in the region. The presentation will be available online at the Authority's website.

Discussion ensued regarding Marion County oversight split between two water management districts, The Villages' oversight by SWFWMD, November tracking to be the driest month on record, water withdrawn for bottling as allowed by permit, actions taken should over pumping occur, state water policy, and water restrictions and enforcement.

This was an information item and no Board action was required.

7. Minimum Flows and Levels

Mr. Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, noted that the St Johns River and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts have recently completed work on establishing proposed minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for Silver Springs and the Rainbow River, respectively. These are important MFLs in the region, helping to define the availability of ground water in portions of the region.

Mr. Owen provided a brief update on the draft proposed MFLs. The work and proposed MFLs will be undergoing scientific peer review, and the districts will be soliciting public input in the coming months. The presentation will be available online at the Authority's website.

This was an information item only and no Board action was required.

8. Charles A. Black Wellfield – Implementation of New Water Supply Contract

Mr. Owen, WRWSA Executive Director, said the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the new Charles A. Black water supply facilities water supply contract at its October 11, 2016 meeting. With this approval, the new contract provisions go into effect immediately.

A summary of key provisions requiring implementation was provided to each Board member and will be available online at the Authority's website. Mr. Owen reviewed the provisions of the new contract and what can be expected as implementation takes effect.

This was an information item only and no Board action was required.

(Mr. Swain left the meeting at this time.)

9. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Bills to be Paid** – Mr. Owen noted that copies of both October 2016 and November 2016 were provided to Board members at their seats.

Mr. Owen presented the October 2016 bills and requested Board concurrence of payment for administrative invoices in the amount of \$19,393.52 and project invoices in the amount of \$31,318.77. He noted the Citrus County's Water Conservation Program reimbursement was included. **Mr. Butler moved to ratify payment of the October 2016 bills in the total amount of \$50,712.29. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the November 2016 bills and requested approval of payment for administrative invoices in the amount of \$14,329.09 and project invoices in the amount of \$61,066.69. He noted that Hernando and Marion Counties' Water Conservation Program reimbursements were included. Following consideration, **Mr. Brown moved for payment of the November 2016 bills in the total amount of \$75,395.78, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

- b. **Correspondence** – Items were included in the Board’s meeting materials.
 - *1000 Friends of Florida* – Mr. Owen said that the 1000 Friends of Florida has requested sponsorship of its 2017 webinar. He said he did not consider the request appropriate for this agency and suggested no action be taken. The Board concurred with Mr. Owen.
- c. **News Articles** – News articles of interest were included in the Board’s meeting materials.
 - *Citrus County Utilities* – Mr. Owen said the plaque displayed is from the Environmental Protection Agency to honor Citrus County Utilities as a WaterSense 2016 Partner of the Year. He pointed out pages 62 and 63 in the Board’s meeting materials. Ms. Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation Manager, provided an explanation of the County’s activities being recognized with this honor.
- d. **Other**
 - *1099 Recipient Rebate Programs* – Mr. Owen said that a topic being discussed is some organizations are providing recipients of rebate programs with 1099 forms and they must therefore report the rebate as income. He requested Board authorization that, if the opportunity presents itself, the Authority respond with a letter of support regarding the negative impact this has on potential rebate programs. **Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to authorize the WRWSA Executive Director, if and when appropriate, participate in a letter opposing irrigation audit programs being taxed by the IRS. The motion carried unanimously.**

10. Legislative Report

- Ms. Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs, congratulated former County Commissioners and Board Members Don Hahnfeldt and Stan McLain for election to the Florida House of Representatives.
- a. **Draft Legislative Matrix** – Ms. Salz noted the upcoming interim legislative committee weeks in January and February 2017 to begin bill discussions for action during the 2017 Legislative Session starting March 7.

Ms. Salz reviewed the draft matrix included in the Board’s meeting materials. Items will include reclaimed water and water reuse that may be filed by Representative Simpson who is working with stakeholder groups. Other topics expected to have bills filed include water use permitting, water supply planning, funding for restoration and springs, reuse, and Ms. Salz discussed the potential impacts on this Authority.

Discussion ensued regarding bottled water versus water use permitting, transporting water to another county, water as a commodity and people’s rights, Amendment 1 for land and water conservation, and advocates for change using stakeholders/coalition development for these complex issues. Mr. Owen suggested Ms. Salz continue her involvement with coalitions and stakeholders regarding willingness to begin addressing aforementioned items. Ms. Salz noted that quite often it is a matter of timing and collaboration.

Mr. Adkins called the question regarding approval of the draft legislative matrix with consensus for support of the WRWSA Governmental Affairs liaison’s continuing collaboration with stakeholders. Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Owen reported Governor Scott appointed two new members to the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board representing the northern region. He noted Kelly Rice and Mark Taylor will be considered for senate confirmation during the upcoming session.

- b. **Florida Water Forum** – Ms. Salz reported on the annual forum (September 22-23, 2016) and briefly reviewed the main topics of discussion for the Board’s information.

11. Attorney’s Report – No report at this time.

12. Other Business – None

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

- **Mr. Adkins called the question to cancel the December 21, 2016 monthly meeting. Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Adkins announced the next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166. Mr. Owen noted the Board will elect officers at the January 2017 meeting.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Adkins adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Nick Nicholson, Vice-Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director