

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 18, 2015

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

Commissioner Al Butler, Chairman, called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Butler, *Chairman*, Sumter County
Commissioner
Dennis Damato, *Treasurer*, Citrus County
Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Susan Goebel-Canning, Hernando County
Flip Mellinger, Marion County

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Stan McClain, *Vice-Chairman*, Marion County
Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Assistant

3. Introductions and Announcements

- *Introductions.* Mr. Owen recognized Authority staff and audience members present for this meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Chris Anastasiou, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
Jacob Arnette, Marion County
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Robin Grantham, SWFWMD
Gary Loggins, Citrus County
Jack Pepper, Attorney
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the September 16, 2015 minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved to approve the minutes for the September 16, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

No Request to Speak cards were submitted to address the Board.

6. SWFWMD Springs Coast Initiative . . . Dr. Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD

Dr. Anastasiou, SWFWMD's Chief Environmental Scientist, provided a status report to the Board of the SWFWMD's ongoing Springs Coast Initiative. He noted that the SWFWMD has a website for current and ongoing activities of the Springs Coast Steering Committee, as well as identified projects.

The Springs Coast Steering Committee approved the Rainbow River Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan at its November 4, 2015 meeting. This was the first updated or newly created SWIM Plan scheduled for approval by the Steering Committee. Other waterbodies with SWIM Plans under development include the Crystal River/Kings Bay, Weeki Wachee, Homosassa and Chassahowitzka springs and river systems. These Plans are intended to guide not only the SWFWMD's future management actions, but also those actions of the many stakeholders involved, including many of the Authority's member governments.

Mr. Owen presented Resolution 15-01, A Resolution by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) in Support of the Rainbow River Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan. He clarified that any costs for implementation will be identified and approved by the appropriate entity within the limits of its resources. It was noted there is no cost to the Authority or its member governments at this time.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved for Board approval of Resolution 15-01, A Resolution by the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority in Support of the Rainbow River Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan. Mr. Ernst seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

7. 2015-16 Water Conservation Grant Agreement with Citrus County . . . Debra Burden, Citrus County and Robin Grantham, SWFWMD

Ms. Burden noted that, at its July 15, 2015 meeting, the WRWSA Board approved entering into an Agreement with Citrus County to provide grant monies to the County for its ongoing water conservation activities. Citrus County has requested a modification to the water conservation activities that were approved as a part of the 2015-16 Grant Agreement. These changes are intended to provide for a Florida Water StarSM component to the County's conservation program and are described in the correspondence included as an exhibit in the Board's meeting materials. There is no change in the overall cost of the program. Mr. Owen noted that this request does not increase the funding amount but requests authorization to move funds from one item to another.

Ms. Grantham provided a briefing on the Florida Water StarSM program criteria which certifies that residential homes meet specific water conservation levels and includes irrigation systems. She reviewed the rebate program Citrus County is offering to residents for water efficiency.

Chair Butler thanked Ms. Grantham for her informative presentation.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved for Board approval of the County's request to modify the project activities funded as a part of the 2015-16 Grant Agreement, as outlined in the County's written request included in the Board's meeting materials. Mr. Swain seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

8. **Charles A. Black Well #7 Pump and Motor Replacement . . . Gary Loggins, Citrus County**

Mr. Loggins said that, pursuant to the Contract for Water Supply between Citrus County and the Authority, Citrus County is responsible for all operation and maintenance of the Authority's Charles A. Black wellfield. The County has been experiencing repeated problems with well number 7, one of the seven production wells at the wellfield. The County has investigated a number of options to correct this problem, including repairing the existing motor and pump, replacing the existing pump and motor with new submersible equipment, and replacing the existing submersible equipment with an in-ground pump and above-ground vertical turbine motor.

Mr. Owen said the County is recommending replacement of the existing submersible equipment with an in-ground pump with above-ground vertical turbine motor. Although this may be the alternative with the greatest up front cost (in excess of \$100,000), the long-term costs, including future downtime due to maintenance and repairs, will be minimized. The final approach taken, whether submersible or above-ground equipment, will likely set a precedent for future pump and motor replacement. Funds for this work will come from the Authority's Renewal and Replacement Fund.

Mr. Owen said the Authority has a number of consultants under contract to provide as-needed technical and engineering services. It is recommended that the Authority issue a work order to an appropriate consultant to review the problems with well number 7, evaluate the options and selected remedial action chosen by Citrus County, and present a recommendation to the Authority on the best approach to take, including the option selected by the County.

Mr. Owen said staff recommends Board authorization for the Executive Director to issue a Work Order to C&D Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for review and recommendations regarding Repair and Replacement of Well # 7. The work order was provided for review at the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the current well situation and drawdown, life-cycle costs and turnaround time, standardization of all wells, and allowing an increase in the work order for life-cycle cost analysis. Mr. Owen noted that funds are available for this item.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicholson moved Board approval to authorize the Executive Director to issue a Work Order to C&D Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for review and recommendations regarding Repair and Replacement of Well Number 7 as provided in the work order presented during the meeting; and authorize the Executive Director to approve an additional \$500 if necessary for life-cycle analysis. Mr. Damato seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

9. **Charles A. Black Wellfield Contract for Water Supply . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**

Mr. Owen said the Authority has been working with Citrus County to develop a new Contract for Water Supply to govern the Charles A. Black Water Supply Facilities. He reported on progress to-date since the Board's August 2015 meeting. There remain a number of issues to be resolved with the County to complete these negotiations.

Mr. Owen said the draft revised Water Supply Contract is intended, to the greatest extent possible, to replace all previous contracts and to provide for reliable, cost effective and sustainable long-term water supply for Citrus County. In order to ensure all necessary topics are appropriately addressed in the new Contract, and to assist in reaching a Contract that is mutually acceptable to the County and Authority, it is proposed that special counsel be retained to contribute to the Authority's expertise, to help facilitate discussions among the County and Authority representatives, and to participate in drafting the new Contract. A proposed contract for special counsel and an associated scope of work was included as an exhibit to this item.

Mr. Owen said he would like to engage Mr. Jack Pepper as the attorney to provide his services and experience. He provided a brief overview of Mr. Pepper's qualifications. He said this new contract is not contained within the existing budget so the Authority's budget would need to be amended.

Mr. Owen said staff recommends Board approval of the following:

- (1) Transfer of \$30,000 in funds from the Authority's Water Resource Development Reserves Account to Legal Services and an associated amendment of the Authority's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget; and
- (2) Authorization for the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Professional Legal Services included as an exhibit to this item.

In response to Mr. Nicholson's question, Mr. Haag said he may have a conflict of interest since he was the attorney with Citrus County when the original contract was negotiated. He said the professional services rate is the same. Mr. Haag said that, for the record, he is recusing himself.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicholson moved for the Board to (1) transfer \$30,000 in funds from the Authority's Water Resource Development Reserves Account to Legal Services and an associated amendment of the Authority's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget; and (2) authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Professional Legal Services included as an exhibit to this item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and it carried unanimously.**

10. Phase II Irrigation Audit Program Final Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen said Phase II of the Irrigation System Audit Program was conducted over the past several years as part of the Authority's ongoing water conservation initiative. He provided an overview of Phase II of the Irrigation Audit Program funded by and completed in cooperation with the SWFWMD, Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties, and two of the Villages utilities in Sumter County. Phase II has been completed and the final report on the program is due to the SWFWMD by November 30, 2015. A copy of the final report was provided at the meeting.

Following consideration, **Mr. Nicholson moved for the Board to accept the Phase II Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program Final Report, dated November 18, 2015, and authorize staff to submit the Final Report to the SWFWMD. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and it carried unanimously.**

11. Executive Director's Report

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen requested Board concurrence with payment of October 2015 bills totaling \$27,090.23.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato for Board concurrence for payment of the October 2015 bills in the amount of \$27,090.23. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and it carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the November 2015 bills and requested approval of payment totaling \$85,358.91. He noted that amount includes bills to be paid to each county (Citrus, Hernando and Marion) participating in the water conservation grant program.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato for payment of the November 2015 bills in the amount of \$85,358.91, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and it carried unanimously.**

b. 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Amendments to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, enacted during the 2015 legislative session revised the requirements for agency rulemaking plans. The WRWSA is now required to file a regulatory plan annually by October first. The regulatory plan must include certifications by the presiding officer and principal legal advisor to the agency.

Mr. Owen said, as shown in proposed 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan contained in the exhibit, no new laws were enacted during the pertinent time period that affect the duties or authority of the WRWSA. In addition, no rulemaking activities are planned for the 2015-2016 timeframe. Upon approval by the Board, the WRWSA will submit the Authority's 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan and publish it on the Authority's website.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved for the Board to approve the WRWSA's 2015-2016 Regulatory Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and it carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

Correspondence sent to the Authority was provided in the Board's meeting materials.

d. News Articles

News articles of interest were included the Board's meeting materials.

e. Other

- *WRWSA Board Meeting Materials.* Mr. Owen noted that, to save printing costs, tabs will no longer be inserted. He noted that a title page will be added for better identification of agenda items.
- *Florida Section of the American Water Works Association.* Mr. Owen requested approval for Ms. Salz to attend the November 2015 annual meeting at an estimated cost of \$500. **Mr. Nicholson moved, seconded by Mr. Damato, to approve Ms. Salz's attendance at a cost not to exceed \$500. Motion carried unanimously.**
- *WRWSA Travel Approvals.* Mr. Owen requested Board concurrence that if travel occurs outside Authority jurisdiction or costs were not budgeted, then Board approval will be requested. He said travel costs can be itemized in the yearly budget, then no additional consideration is required. Board members were in concurrence.
- *SWFWMD King's Bay Tour.* Mr. Owen said he attended the October 22, 2015, tour to provide outreach to local elected officials.
- *SWFWMD Public Supply Advisory Committee.* Mr. Owen said he attended the November 10, 2015 committee meeting and items presented included a groundwater level monitoring network project. He said there has been a focus on the upper Floridan Aquifer. Mr. Owen said he initiated discussion to include studying the lower Floridan Aquifer which may be required for the next phase of water supply. He noted the committee concurred and recommended approval. He said the SWFWMD Governing Board reportedly concurred with the committee's recommendation.
- *Too Far Meeting.* Mr. Owen said he will be providing an informational update on November 19, 2015.

12. Legislative Report...Diane Salz, WRWSA Governmental Affairs

a. Updated Legislative Platform

Ms. Salz provided a review of current issues for the legislative session. To date, staff is monitoring over two dozen bills that could impact the Authority.

During the past several interim legislative committee weeks, progress has been made on comprehensive water policy legislation. Agreement has been reached between the House and Senate after three years of effort to craft comprehensive water policy legislation. It is anticipated that this legislation will be passed during the first part of January. HB 7005 and SB 552 related to environmental resources (the comprehensive water policy bills), do not include a provision to create a "water resource advisory council" to determine which water projects warrant funding, as proposed last year by the Senate. These nearly identical bills include provisions to codify the Central Florida Water Initiative; create a springs protection act; set up a pilot program for alternative water supply (AWS) in restricted allocation areas; establish a new classification for

surface waters used for potable water supply that would protect such surface water from pollution; revise water resource planning, and minimum flows and levels (MFLs) establishment and implementation; among other things.

For the Board's information, Mr. Owen provided clarification on legislation in HB 7005 and the actions it will set in motion.

Ms. Salz noted that the Senate Environmental and Preservation Committee has confirmed the SWFWMD governing board members and its executive director. She requested Board approval to formally adopt the key policy issues which will be provided to the Authority's legislative delegation members in the four-county region.

Mr. Damato moved, seconded by Mr. Swain, to adopt the proposed legislative policy positions as shown in the exhibit including any changes approved by the Board at the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Florida Water Forum Report

Ms. Salz reported on topics discussed related to water policy. She noted that staff are able to assist with guidance for policy development.

13. Attorney's Report

Mr. Haag noted that he had no report to make at this time.

14. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

a. Approve Canceling December Meeting

Mr. Owen said it is customary to cancel the December monthly meeting. **Mr. Ernst moved, seconded by Mr. Damato, to cancel the December 16, 2015 WRWSA Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

b. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166 (3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto). Mr. Owen noted that election of officers will occur at this meeting.

16. Adjournment

Chair Butler announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Al Butler, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director