

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 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
Al Butler, Sumter County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter 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

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
Gregg Jones, Cardno ENTRIX
Jay Hoecker, SWFWMD

Chris Zajac, SWFWMD
Richard Radacky, Brooksville
Paul Duchesneau, Citrus County Utilities

4. Approval of Minutes of October 16, 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 October 16, 2013 meeting. Mr. Swain seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Conservation Program Performance . . . Alys Brockway, Hernando County

Mr. Owen introduced Alys Brockway who gave a status report on water conservation projects in Hernando County. The County provides water to approximately 85 percent of its residents. Ms. Brockway stated that in 2006, total countywide water use was 9.5 billion gallons; by 2012, the total water use was 6.6 billion gallons. While some of the decline in demand may be attributed to the economy, the utility has also worked on various conservation programs, one day per week watering restrictions and code enforcement activities. She is very pleased with the regional irrigation system evaluation program. Sixty-two residential accounts water saved 9.1 million gallons of water in one year following the irrigation system inspection.

< Stan McClain arrived. >

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*. He presented preliminary water demands through 2035 for Public Supply systems within each member county. Citrus, Marion and Sumter counties each have some projected deficits in water supply by 2035. The demand areas were compared to the wellfield locations proposed in the current Regional Water Supply Plan and potential changes were recommended for wellfield locations. The next step in the process is to refine the wellfield locations, use modeling to determine impacts to the environment, taking into account the established minimum flows and levels set for local water bodies.

Mr. Owen recommended a change in the timing of *Regional Water Supply Plan Update* drafts. The change does not require action by either the WRWSA Board or the SWFWMD Governing Board. The completion of the original Agreement was delayed for the District to complete language changes. In addition, SWFWMD required the use of the Conserve Florida model for the water conservation portion of the Plan, which has presented some problems. The University of Florida is completing the model and assisting Cardno to estimate water conservation savings. The first draft of the *Plan* should be pushed out to early April 2014 to accommodate these delays.

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

8. Irrigation Evaluation Program Status update . . . Nancy H. Smith, WRWSA

Ms. Smith presented status reports on the two regional irrigation system evaluation programs being administered by the Authority under the SWFWMD cooperative funding initiative. The Pilot program will be complete by the end of February 2014, while the second program has completed on-site evaluations in the first six months of the cooperative funding contract. The participating utilities continue to provide contacts for the program.

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 – November 2013

The November 2013 bills were provided in the Board's Packet. Mr. Owen requested the Board approve payment of the November 2013 bills totaling \$50,264.10.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Butler to approve payment of the November 2013 bills of \$50,264.10. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

b. AWWA Florida Section Conference

Mr. Owen asked that Diane Salz be approved to attend the AWWA Florida Section conference in Orlando in December. The cost should not exceed \$900.00. It is an excellent conference to understand key water issues in the upcoming legislative session.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to authorize Ms. Salz to attend the AWWA Florida Section conference and provide a report to the Authority. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

c. PC Laptop Upgrade

Mr. Owen recommended that the operating system for the Authority's PC laptop be upgraded and that the QuickBooks program be updated to 2014. The Authority uses the QuickBooks program for its financial data, which is compatible with the program used by the accountant, Purvis Gray & Company. The total cost for the two upgrades should not exceed \$500.00.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

d. News Articles

News articles were presented in the Board's package. Mr. Owen discussed the proposed use of the Lower Floridan Aquifer to meet water needs and solutions in Polk County. Polk County is also working with the SWFWMD to create a new water supply authority between Polk County and its municipalities. SWFWMD has tentatively agreed to provide \$160 million, available over time, to build the infrastructure associated with the Lower Floridan Aquifer projects if the creation of the water supply authority is successful.

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

e. **Other**

- **Marion and Citrus County Legislative Delegations.** Mr. Owen attended both delegation meetings and spoke to the groups about the WRWSA and what it does. The purpose was to provide information, not to request specific items.
- **SWFWMD Governing Board Meetings.** Mr. Owen attended the two most recent SWFWMD Governing Board meetings. The Governing Board adopted rule revisions for the consumptive use permitting consistency initiative on November 19, 2013. The St. Johns River Water Management District should be adopting the consumptive use permitting rule changes soon.

A second issue was discussion of the potential regional water supply authority in Polk County. The financial incentive of \$160 million to fund a total of 30 MGD is significant. If the WRWSA can document its needs, this Authority could potentially enter into an agreement with SWFWMD for the long-term funding of other water supply projects. Mr. Owen said that he would be following the Polk County water supply authority and its funding as it develops.

- **Charles A. Black Wellfields.** Mr. Owen told the Board that he and Nancy Smith toured the Charles A Black wellfields with Citrus County Water Resources Director, Ken Cheek, and Operations Manager Gary Loggins. It was very informative and the County is doing a great job of maintaining the facilities.
- **Tampa Bay Water (TBW) 15 Billion Gallon Reservoir.** Mr. Owen participated in a tour of the TBW Reservoir that is undergoing a large-scale renovation, costing approximately \$120 million. Executive staff from TBW and from the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority participated in the tour along with two staff members from Citrus County. There was a workshop after the tour to discuss issues of common concern. It was a great opportunity and the first time those three organizations have met in such a forum.

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

Ms. Salz reported on the draft springs legislation discussed at the last Board meeting. This bill has not been filed. Subsequent to the initial release, other drafts have been submitted to the sponsor, Senator David Simmons, as well as other comments and meetings identifying substantial concerns with the proposed legislation. Senate President Gates has established a four-member panel to be in charge of any springs legislation that may move forward in 2014. Senators Wilton Simpson and Charles Dean, from this region, are on this panel. One area of agreement is that there should be funding for springs protection and restoration. Ms. Salz will continue to monitor and report on this issue.

A bill tracking report is included in the Board's packet and will be amended and added to as the session nears. In particular, SB 272, is a bill relating to water and wastewater utilities filed by Sen. Wilton Simpson. This bill addresses water quality and rate structures in private utilities based on a situation in Pasco County, where a rate increase was recently approved by the PSC for a utility that is providing water that is not drinkable. The rates for that utility are twice as high as those of the County's utility. Sen. Simpson is attempting to keep private utility rates comparable to county-owned utilities and to improve water quality standards for private utilities.

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. Numerous comments have been received from the member counties. The changes are shown in the Board's packet. The changes are relatively minor with one exception. The Agreement provides for an alternate to serve on the Board if a Board member cannot attend the meeting. This alternate was changed from an elected official to allowing each member local government to determine the alternate, whether an elected official or other. Mr. Owen reviewed this portion of the Agreement with the Board and requested discussion or direction from the Board.

Mr. Johnston noted that sentence three in Section V should read, "A County or municipality represented . . ." instead of "A County and municipality . . ." The Board concurred with this change.

The Board members discussed the language provided in Section V, sentence 4 providing for alternates to the Board.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Johnston to approve the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement with the language changed, as follows, for Section V, sentence 4: "Alternates must be appointed by the respective county commission or city council and, if not a member of that county commission or city council, must be a staff member of the respective local government." The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen stated that the Interlocal Agreement will be rewritten as directed and a final version of the Agreement will be provided to each County government for approval. Mr. Owen will attend three of the County Board of Commissioners' meetings on December 10 and then the Marion County meeting the following week to respond to any questions. The process should be complete in December.

12. Other Business

Levy County. Chairman Damato requested an update on whether or not Levy County has decided to participate with the WRWSA as a member. Mr. Owen reported that the Levy County Coordinator told him that the Commission needed more information and deliberation relative to the benefits to the County before making a decision. Members of the Levy County Commission have expressed concerns to both Mr. Damato and Mr. Butler about the membership costs relative to benefits to their county, which has no utilities and is split into two water management districts. Chairman Damato was satisfied that Levy County had been given an opportunity to consider membership with the WRWSA during the time that revisions to the Interlocal Agreement were being made.

Chairman Damato discussed the items removed from the Chassahowitzka during the cleanup of the main spring by the District. Many artifacts were recovered, including evidence of Indian occupation 8,000 - 10,000 years ago.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

The Board agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 18, 2013.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2014, 3:30 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 5:21 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director