

APPROVED

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 10, 2021

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 280, Lecanto, Florida 34461

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryant called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum will be present with the arrival of one more Board member.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Kathy Bryant, *Chair*, Marion County Commissioner
Craig Curry, Marion County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Commissioner
Oren Miller, Sumter County Commissioner
Beth Narverud, Hernando County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Jeff Holcomb, *Vice Chair*, Hernando County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, *Treasurer*, Citrus County Commissioner
David Bailey, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Holly Davis, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Search, Sumter County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT - None

3. Introductions and Announcements

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Dir
Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

OTHERS PRESENT

Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation Mgr
Frank Gargano, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Mark Morgan, Hernando Co Project Design Chair
Bob Moresi, Black & Vetch
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr

4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Bryant led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. **Public Comment** – There being no members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Chair Bryant closed public comment.

At this time, a quorum was not present so Item 6 was delayed.

7. General Counsel Services

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. She said staff received a letter dated October 12, 2021 (see exhibit) notifying WRWSA that Mr. Robert W. Batsel Jr. would be leaving the law firm of Gilligan, Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan P.A. to join a new firm Gooding & Batsel, PLLC on December 31, 2021. In addition the firm of Gilligan, Gooding Batsel, Anderson & Phelan P.A. will continue to practice under the new name Gilligan, Anderson & Phelan, P.A.

Mr. Batsel is interested in continuing to serve as Authority General Counsel for WRWSA, if the Board chooses that option. The new firm Gooding and Batsel, PLLC will also provide legal services to the City of Inverness and the City of Crystal River. Gilligan, Anderson & Phelan, PA will continue to represent the City of Ocala.

Ms. Narverud entered the meeting and Chair Bryant declared a quorum present.

Following consideration, **Mr. Swain moved, seconded by Mr. Curry, to keep current counsel. The Board consensus was for file and trust account balance be transferred to Robert W. Batsel, Jr. at his new law firm. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – The September 15, 2021 draft minutes were provided in the Board’s meeting materials and recommended for approval as presented.
- b. **Bills to be Paid** – Staff recommended ratification of bills for October (\$19,695.31) and approval of November (\$75,659.40).

Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Curry, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a. and 6.b. as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Charles A. Black Wellfield Fiscal Year 2020-21 Revenues

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, will presented this item. The end of Fiscal Year 2020-21 represented the fifth full year operating under the revised Water Supply Contract with Citrus County. The purpose of this agenda item is to report to the Board the status of water sales to Citrus County and corresponding revenues for the fiscal year. The FY 2021-22 budget included the minimum contract charge of \$224,000. The revenue received reflects a surplus revenue of \$11,262.

This item was presented for the Board’s information and no action was required.

9. Minimum Flows and Levels – Priority Lists and Schedules

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The purpose of this item is to provide a status report to the Board of the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) in the Authority’s four-county area. Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, requires each of the water management districts to have a Priority List and Schedule for the establishment of MFLs. The Priority List and Schedule identifies water bodies for which the District plans to establish minimum flows and levels and also identifies planned water reservations. Minimum flows and levels are limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater systems that are intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the area that may be caused by water withdrawals. Reservations set aside water from withdrawals for the protection of fish and wildlife or public health and safety.

The Districts are required to update this List and Schedule each year and provide the updated List to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by November 15th. Included as exhibits to this item are the MFLs that have been established to-date, and the proposed Priority Lists and Schedules for waterbodies within the WRWSA four-county area that are to be approved by the District Governing Boards for submittal to the DEP in November. A GIS map of the MFL locations and the current status of the MFL are provided by the DEP Office of Water Policy at:

<https://fdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=df89179a4994477a70e6ed3dfc16647>

The Water Management Districts will use these MFLs to assess the health of the environment and will limit the issuance of future water supply permits based on monitoring these locations. All MFLs are currently being met except for the Silver Spring MFL, which is listed as “Prevention” which means that the SJRWMD has a Prevention Strategy in place to bring it back to “Meeting” the MFL. This strategy includes conservation, aquifer recharge with the Ocala wetland aquifer recharge park, relocating supply to the lower Floridan aquifer, and increasing use of reclaimed for irrigation.

The most relevant upcoming MFLs to be set will be four locations along the Withlacoochee River to be set by 2024. The Withlacoochee River has been identified as a potential alternative water supply source for the region, but the potential quantities that could be available cannot be determined until the minimum flows are set. WRWSA will continue to monitor and report on efforts to set these MFLs.

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

10. **Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Project Phase V – Draft Report**

Mrs. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA, will present this item. Phase V of the Authority's Regional Irrigation System Evaluation Program began in September 2018 as part of the Authority's ongoing water conservation initiative. Phase IV of the Irrigation Audit Program was funded by and completed in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties and the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) and the Villages Community Center Development District (VCCDD). Phase V included an "enhanced" component when compared to the previous phases, whereby the WRWSA's contractor implemented various aspects of the irrigation audit recommendations, rather than relying on the homeowner for implementation. The report details the outcomes of this enhanced component. Phase V has been completed on time and within budget. Staff will provide a summary of the major findings of the Phase V effort.

The Phase V final report has been included in the Board's meeting materials. If approved by the Board, the Final Report will be submitted to the SWFWMD in accordance with the Cooperative Funding Agreement.

Following consideration, **Chair Bryant said the Board consensus is to accept the Draft Report with amended Marion County data to SWFWMD in December and submit draft to SWFMWD, and present final report to Board in January 2022 for approval.**

11. **Attorney's Report**

Mr. Batsel congratulated Board members for the work they are doing on their Commissions and Councils to acquire grants on springs and wastewater for their areas.

12. **Executive Director's Report**

- a. **Lead and Copper Rule Revision Presentation** – Mrs. Folsom noted that Mr. Brown had requested this item. She provided an informational slide presentation showing there is federal legislation revising the Lead and Copper Rule requiring: additional distribution system sampling, identification of the type(s) of piping upstream and downstream of the billing meters, additional orthophosphate treatment, lead service line replacement, and sampling in schools and childcare facilities. In response to Ms. Stone's and Mr. Miller's inquiries, Ms. Folsom said no federal funding has been included at this time which for a small utility may be onerous. She noted that results were to be reported to the state.
- b. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – Mrs. Folsom said that a summary and two graphs were included in the Board's meeting materials. Charles A. Black Wellfield pumpage continues to be below its permit limit.
- c. **Water Management Information System Water Use Permit Notifications** – Mrs. Folsom reviewed the list of WMIS WUP notifications which is increasing in length.
- d. **Correspondence** – Items provided in the meeting materials:
 - On September 14, 2021, the WRWSA received notice that WUP No. 201007121.006 (Charles A. Black Wellfield) had been renewed.
 - Citrus County notified the WRWSA that the Cost of Living increase for FY2022 would be in effect on October 1, 2021.

- e. **News Article(s)** – Items provided in the meeting material:
- Citrus Chronicle – Editorial: Residents need to see where funds will flow.
 - Citrus Chronicle – Springs protection begins with each of us.
 - WMNF – Attention all private well owners in Citrus County
 - Village News – CDD 13 approves Phase III development adding 2, 404 homes in the Vilages
 - Village News – Sumter County residents petition for cleanup of once-pristine Lake Panasoffkee
 - WUSF Public Media – Here’s why red tide would continue to affect Gulf Coast beaches for months

13. **Other Business** – None

14. **Next Meeting Time and Location**

- Next Regular Board Meeting – January 19, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

15. **Adjournment** – Ms. Stone moved, seconded by Ms. Narverud to adjourn the meeting, Chair Bryant adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director