

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting November 18, 2020

TIME: 3:31 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.

Due to Federal COVID-19 guidelines and State of Florida Executive Order 20-193 not being extended, this meeting will be held in person. As per Florida Statutes 122-525(4), at least one-third of the voting members must be physically present to have a quorum; however, a teleconferencing option is available.

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Carnahan called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and requested a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Scott Carnahan, *Acting Chair*, Marion County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, *Treasurer*, Marion County Commissioner
Gary Search, Sumter County Commissioner
Craig Curry, Marion County Commissioner
William Kemerer, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilor
Oren Miller, Sumter County Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Gary Ernst, Belleview City Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus County Commissioner

BOARD MEMBERS VIA TELECONFERENCE

Jeff Holcomb, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Acting Chair Carnahan welcomed newly appointed members to the Board: Craig Curry, Marion County Commissioner; and Oren Miller, Sumter County Commissioner

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Director
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.
Gwen Williams, Gilligan, Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A.

OTHERS PRESENT

Danny Brooks, Brooksville Interim Utilities Director
Jody Kirkman, Marion Co Environmental Svcs Mgr
Frank Gargano, SWFWMD Govt Affairs Reg Mgr
Susan Davis, SJRWMD Intergovernmental Coord
Joy Kokjohn, SJRWMD Bureau of Water Supply Planning Hydrologist

OTHERS VIA TELECONFERENCE

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Res Mgr
Debra Burden, Citrus Co Water Conservation
Michon Fabio, Marion County Water Res Liaison
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr

4. Pledge of Allegiance – Acting Chair Carnahan led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Public Comment – Acting Chair Carnahan opened public comment and noted that there were no audience members to address the Board. Public comment closed.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes** – The September 16, 2020 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 (\$18,346.97) and approval of November (\$54,512.97).
- c. **Statement of Agency Organization Update** – Staff recommend approval of the updated statement.

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

7. Central Springs/East Coast Water Supply Planning Update

Ms. Susan Davis and Ms. Joy Kokjohn, representing the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), will presented this item.

Ms. Kokjohn provided a status report of the Central Springs/East Coast (CSEC) Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). The draft plan will not be released to the public until after the SJRWMD has received and processed comments from external agencies; therefore, this presentation discussed the framework of the plan without specific results. A draft is anticipated to be released for external agency review in mid-September.

Ms. Kokjohn introduced the draft CSEC RWSP to the Board members and let them know that staff is seeking WRWSA’s feedback.

In response to Ms. Stone’s inquiry regarding what constitutes disposal, Ms. Kokjohn provided clarification. In response to Mr. Swain’s question about flooding in the St. Johns River, Ms. Davis said she will forward information about what has occurred recently.

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

8. Charles A. Black Wellfield Fiscal Year 2019-20 Revenues

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The end of Fiscal Year 2019-20 represented the fourth 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 2019-21 budget included the minimum contract charge of \$224,000. The revenue received reflects a surplus revenue of \$20,638.60. Ms. Folsom reviewed a table summarizing quantities of water sold water and revenues for FY 2019-20.

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

9. Minimum Flows and Levels – Priority Lists and Schedules

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, said 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 were 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 Water Management District (WMD) Governing Boards for submittal to the DEP in November. The WMDs 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.

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 provided for information only and no Board action was required.

10. **2020-21 Legislative Issues**

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, reviewed the draft WRWSA 2021 legislative issues noting items being tracked for the upcoming year. This item was provided for information only and no Board action was required.

11. **Attorney's Report**

Ms. Gwen Williams attended the meeting on Mr. Batsel's behalf. She said there was nothing to report at this time.

12. **Executive Director's Report**

- a. **Confirm/Welcome New WRWSA Board Appointees** – At beginning of meeting, Mr. Carnahan welcomed Commissioners Curry and Miller.
- b. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – Ms. Folsom said that two graphs were included in the Board's meeting materials regarding Charles A. Black Wellfield pumpage showing the permit has been exceeded. She noted that Citrus County went to once a week water restrictions in June which has reduced pumpage flows from the wellfield.
- c. **America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) - Risk & Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan Deadlines** – Ms. Folsom said this item is for the Board information as it has deadlines required to be met by local water potable utilities.
- d. **Correspondence** – Items provided in the meeting materials.
- e. **News Article(s)** – One article was included regarding the City of Inverness receiving a \$1.88 million grant for septic to sewer. Mr. Hinkle noted the City Council has begun planning the use of this grant.
- f. **Other** – None

13. **Other Business**

- Acting Chair Carnahan presented Ms. Michelle Stone with a plaque honoring her service as the Board's chair for two terms.
- Mr. Carnahan also said this may be his last meeting as Citrus County would be nominating a replacement for him at their next board meeting. It was noted that Board elections will occur at the January 2021 meeting.
- Mr. Carnahan and Ms. Bryant noted that the Florida M-CORS Task Force has provided recommendations and evaluations in a final report which was due by November 15, 2020.

- Mr. Hinkle said this is his last meeting since the City of Inverness rotates with the City of Crystal River in January 2021. Acting Chair Carnahan thanked Mr. Hinkle for his service.
- Mr. Kemerer noted that this is his last meeting since he did not seek reelection and his replacement should be announced in December.
- Ms. Bryant noted that it is important for local voices to be heard.

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

- Next Regular Board Meeting – January 20, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

15. Adjournment – Acting Chair Carnahan adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

Kathy Bryant, Acting Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director