

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2015**

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 Butler called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Al Butler, *Vice-Chairman*, Sumter County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, *Treasurer*, Citrus County Commissioner
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Stan McClain, *Vice-Chairman*, Marion County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Owen requested two changes to the Agenda. The first revision was to postpone Item 6, Board Briefing, to the next meeting as all new members were not present at today's meeting. The second revision was to allow Chris Zajac, SWFWMD, to present a preview of the District's Regional Water Supply Plan. There being no opposition, the Agenda was revised as stated.

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacob Arnette, Marion County

Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Ken Cheek, Citrus County Water Resources
Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2015 Meeting

A copy of the minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Regional Water Supply Plan Preview . . . Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

Chris Zajac, Government Affairs Program Manager, presented a preview of the District Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) that is under development. This five-year update coordinates with the Regional Water Supply Plans prepared by the three water supply authorities within the SWFWMD region. Mr. Zajac discussed the preliminary population and water demand projections that will serve as the basis for the updated plan. Future water demands are anticipated to be met by using a variety of water resources, in priority order, that include conservation, reclaimed water, development of groundwater, surface water, seawater and water storage in reservoirs and ASR facilities. Mr. Zajac reported that the District places a priority on implementing regional solutions to water supply development, including cooperating with regional water supply authorities.

Discussion by the Board focused on the anticipated demands and the priorities to meet those demands. Mr. Brown was concerned that the focus for new water supply development continues to be groundwater. Although it may be less expensive, he stated that reliance on groundwater might lead to environmental issues, as in other areas of the district. Mr. Damato suggested that the priorities for water supply development should place seawater last; storage and transmission facilities will be more important in the event that seawater desalination or other alternative supplies are needed in other areas of this region. Mr. Damato further stated that the District should take the lead in making the priority revisions. Mr. Swain stated that if the population projections are correct, and groundwater continues to be used, all of the springs in Sumter County would dry up. Mr. Brown suggested that the 20-year time frame of the plan be extended and that the District should not continue to use groundwater as the priority water supply. Mr. Haag asked if the money spent in the southern regions included costs for transmission? Chris Zajac responded that transmission costs were part of the projects. For example, when funding reclaimed water projects, the majority of costs are for transmission.

7. Local Government Grant Program . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen reviewed the annual grants program, which was established by the WRWSA to assist local member governments with water supply development and water conservation projects. In recent years, the grants have been used exclusively for water conservation programs. Mr. Owen recommended that the Board continue this program for fiscal year 2015/16, to provide \$130,000 in funding, and to limit the grant to water conservation projects only.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the total allocation of funds at \$130,000 for fiscal year 2015/16 for the Local Government Grant Program and limit such grants to water conservation projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

8. Water Conservation Month Resolution . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented a Water Conservation Resolution for April 2015. The Resolution and declaration of April as water conservation month have been used by the Authority, and other state and local governments to focus attention on the need for and benefits of conservation and to highlight the resources available to conserve water.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve and execute Resolution No. 2015-01 declaring April 2015 as “Water Conservation Month”. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

9. Potential Regional Water Supply Projects . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen stated that this is a follow-up to the previous discussions of Potential Regional Water Supply Projects within the WRWSA. He has met with a number of local government staff members to discuss potential priority projects within their jurisdictions.

Citrus County’s need is not a priority at this time. A more immediate concern is water supply development in Marion County. The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is in the process of setting MFLs for Silver Springs and Silver River. It is anticipated the MFLs established for Silver Springs may include a prevention or recovery strategy. Depending on the outcome, there could be significant constraints on the groundwater resources available in portions of Marion County, particularly within the SJRWMD area. Mr. Owen has met with both Marion County staff and SJRWMD staff. If a prevention or recovery strategy is needed, solutions may include moving wells further away from the springs, using the Lower Floridan, or capturing excess stormwater or reclaimed water and retaining it for infiltration or pumping into the groundwater affecting Silver Springs. The County is looking at a possible groundwater project in the northwest portion of county as well as one further northeast of the springs. Mr. Owen has offered WRWSA assistance and partnership with any new water supply development projects.

The SJRWMD has three activities affecting the Silver Springs and Marion County: 1) setting MFLs; 2) developing a possible prevention or recovery strategy; and, 3) development of a regional water supply plan for a recently revised region, including eastern Marion County and part of Lake County. All of these activities are encompassed in what the SJRWMD refers to as the North Central Florida Water Initiative. Mr. Owen will keep the Board informed as these issues are further resolved.

Another project concept previously prioritized by the Board is water conservation. Water conservation continues to a major component in providing adequate water within the region. In a meeting with local government conservation staff, it was agreed that conservation efforts for outdoor irrigation continues to be needed. Future programs may enhance on-going programs by providing some assistance in maintaining irrigation systems or to provide a list of qualified contractors who could provide that service.

During Board discussion, Mr. Brown said that the SWFWMD was preparing a list of surplus land and asked if the WRWSA is looking at any of those lands for projects that were identified in the Regional Water Supply Plan Update. Mr. Owen agreed to research any possible lands that might be used by the WRWSA.

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

10. Bank Signature Cards ... Nancy Smith, WRWSA
a. and b. Bank Resolution and Ban Card Signatures

Mrs. Smith stated that following election of new officers in January, signatures are needed for a new bankcard and deposit resolution. Copies of the signature card and resolution are included in the Board's packet. She requested that the Board approve and authorize the officers to sign the bank signature card and deposit resolution.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve and authorize the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer and the ex officio Secretary to execute the new bank signature card and the Deposit Account Resolution and Authorization with Sun Trust bank. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

11. Executive Director's Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the February 2015 bills and requested ratification of payment of the bills totaling \$25,024.57.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to ratify payment of the February 2015 bills of \$25,024.57. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hahnfeldt and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Owen presented the March 2015 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$25,988.38.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the March 2015 bills of \$25,988.38. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

b. Board Policies – Responsibilities of Officers and Members

Mr. Owen presented the Board with a draft policy on the Responsibilities of Officers and Members, as provided in the Board's packet. Ms. Brockway suggested that the duties and responsibilities of Board Alternates be included in this policy. Mr. Owen responded that addressing Alternates would be appropriate either in this policy or in a separate policy. He recommended the Board go ahead and approve this policy as is, if there are no other suggestions, and staff will return at a future meeting with either an amendment to this policy or a separate policy concerning Alternates.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve Resolution 2015-03, Responsibilities of Officers and Members, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

c. 1st Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Owen reviewed the 1st Quarter Financial Report that was provided in the Board's packet. He recommended that the Board accept the report as presented.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Hahnfeldt to approve the 1st Quarter Financial Report for fiscal year 2015/16, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

d. Correspondence

Recent correspondence was provided in the Board's packet. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

e. News Articles

Mr. Owen advised the Board that, at least during the legislative session, news articles are sent to Board members via email or mail along with the weekly legislative bill tracking report. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

f. Other

- *Citrus County Chronicle Editorial Board.* Following a meeting with the Chronicle's Editorial Board on January 7, 2015, the Citrus County Chronicle published an article on the Water Supply Authority and its activities. This was published in February as part of a "Monday Conversation" series.
- *Local Government Presentations.* Mr. Owen has continued to meet with the local governments and recently made presentations to the City of Brooksville and the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.
- *Citrus County Water School.* The University of Florida Extension Service and Citrus County Utilities hosted its first water school in February. Mr. Owen presented to the group on the second day. The sessions were well attended and represented a wide range of interests. Earl Arnett, Marion County and Dale Swain, Bushnell, both members of the WRWSA Board, attended the water school.

These items were presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

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

Mr. Owen informed the Board that Mrs. Salz is attending meetings in Tallahassee today, including a Senate Environmental Preservation committee meeting this afternoon to discuss HB 7003, Relating to Water Resources. Mrs. Salz informed Mr. Owen that the Senate, earlier today, has conformed its Amendment 1 bill to the House version, which will maintain the funding for affordable housing and transportation, as well as providing for environmental funding.

a. Correspondence to Senator Dean

Following direction from the Board at the January meeting, staff prepared a letter to Senator Dean requesting that lands acquired using Amendment 1 funds be available for use for water supply activities when consistent with the specific purpose for which the land is acquired. Mr. Owen asked the Board for approval to send the letter to Senator Dean.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the letter to Senator Dean. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

13. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney

There was no report from the attorney.

14. Other Business

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

16. Adjournment

Chairman Al Butler announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Al Butler, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director