

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2013**

TIME: 4:30 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 4:35 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

Scott Adams, Citrus County Commissioner
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Joseph Johnston, Brooksville City Councilor
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Al Butler, Sumter 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
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix
Jack Overdorff, ECO-Land Design
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Conservation
Mike Czerwinski, Environmental Consultant
Catherine Walker, SJRWMD
Kraig McLane, SJRWMD
Ron Basso, SWFWMD
Paul Duchesneau, Citrus County Water Resources

4. Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2013 Meeting

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

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

5. Northern District Model Expansion . . . Ron Basso, SWFWMD

Ron Basso, Senior Hydrogeologist, presented an update on the work in progress for the Northern District Model, Phase I. Phase I is the development of a single regional groundwater flow model that will encompass all of Marion County and will be used by both SWFWMD and SJRWMD in water resource assessments. The resulting ground water flow model should provide incremental improvements to an existing groundwater model and extend it for use throughout Marion County, regardless of the water management district boundaries. The first step in this process, model calibration, is scheduled for completion in June. This step will be followed by running up to twelve scenarios, using the model to alter pumping data within the model. The final report is scheduled for completion in September 2013. While at this time it is anticipated the updated and expanded model will not be available for use in the Regional Water Supply Plan Update, it is critical to have a long-term commitment for its use by both water management districts.

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

6. Regional Water Supply Plan Update . . . Gregg Jones, Cardno Entrix

Mr. Owen stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is established and that its first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2013. He introduced Gregg Jones, Project Manager for the Water Supply Plan Update, who provided the Board with the progress made on the project. The population and water demand projections for all utilities have been completed and the chapter describing the methodology and results is drafted. This chapter will be reviewed with the TAC on April 24th. Work is underway to evaluate the availability of groundwater; a sub-consultant has begun to re-evaluate and update surface water availability; and updates to the water conservation and reclaimed water strategies are underway. Mr. Jones will attend the Board meetings each month to discuss progress on the Plan Update.

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

7. Water Conservation Month Proclamation . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Mr. Owen presented a resolution to proclaim April 2013 as "Water Conservation Month." The declaration of April as "water conservation month" has been used by state, regional and local agencies since 1998 to encourage water conservation. He stated that Hernando County, Marion County, and Sumter County have adopted Water Conservation Month resolutions and Citrus County is scheduled to adopt next week.

Following consideration, **a motion as made by Mr. McClain to approve and execute Resolution No. 2013-01 declaring April 2013 as “Water Conservation Month.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried by a vote of 6 to 1.**

Mr. Brown indicated he voted against the motion to reflect the fact that the Crystal River City Council had voted against adopting a similar resolution requested by the Southwest Florida Water Management District due to their concerns regarding a water use permit issued by the District for a bottled water operation in the City.

8. N491 Irrigation Audit Contractor . . . Nancy H. Smith, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Smith summarized the results of an advertisement for an irrigation evaluation contractor for Phase II of the residential irrigation evaluation program. After receiving requests for information from five firms, Jack Overdorff, principal of Eco Land Design LLC, was the sole respondent. Mr. Overdorff has provided excellent service in Phase I of the program. Staff requested three revisions to the agreement as presented in the Board’s packet. The changes included the addition of language to Section 4, Paragraph E, to continue the appropriation of funding subject to SWFWMD funding; correction of section references in Section 11, second paragraph; and, the addition of paragraph E to Section 27. This addition adds Exhibit E, “Part I -General Conditions” from the Request for Quotes to the Agreement.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the Agreement, as revised, between the WRWSA and Eco Land Design, LLC and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.**

9. Local Government Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2013/14 Cycle . . . Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

Mr. Owen reviewed the Local Government Grant program for the upcoming fiscal year. He requested that the Board establish \$130,000 as the total amount of funding available and requested that the funding be limited to water conservation projects. This amount is consistent with prior funding and is in line with budget expenditures for the coming year.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to allocate \$130,000 for local government grant funding and to limit grant awards to water conservation projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and carried unanimously.**

10. Executive Director’s Report ... Richard S. Owen, Executive Director

a. Bills to be Paid

The March 2013 bills were included in the Board’s packet and the April 2013 bills were provided in the handout. Mr. Owen requested the Board approve payment of the March 2013 bills totaling \$30,752.89 and for April 2013 bills totaling \$28,518.88.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve payment of the March 2013 bills of \$30,752.89 and the April bills of \$28,518.88. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

b. 1st Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Owen presented the 1st quarter financial report prepared by Purvis Gray & Company.

c. Authorization to obtain WRWSA Credit Card

Mr. Owen explained that the WRWSA needs a credit card to purchase items available online or to otherwise pay for items that cannot be obtained with a direct purchase. He requested that the Board authorize obtaining a credit card with SunTrust Bank, where the WRWSA has an account. There is no annual fee and the card should be limited to \$300 or as close to that specified maximum as possible.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Ernst to authorize obtaining a WRWSA credit card limited to \$300.00 or the minimum allowed by the SunTrust Bank, whichever is less. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

d. Statement of Agency Organization and Operation

Mr. Owen presented an Agency Statement of Organization and Operations and requested that the Board approve the Agency Statement. Mr. Haag will be giving a status report on the repeal of the rules later in the meeting. Mr. Owen stated that the rules are not ready to be repealed, as there may be a few things in the rules that we do not want to lose.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Ernst to approve the Agency Statement of Organization and Operations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnston and carried unanimously.**

e. Correspondence

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

f. News Articles

News articles were presented in the Board's package and additional articles in a handout. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

g. Other

Mr. Owen presented updates to the Board on the following issues:

- ***WRWSA Status Report to the SWFWMD Governing Board.*** Mr. Owen presented a status report to the District Governing Board on the activities of the WRWSA on March 26, 2013. Mr. Owen thanked Board members Dale Swain, Stan McClain and Joe Johnston who were able to attend the SWFWMD Governing Board meeting with him.
- ***SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) Sub-Committee meeting.*** Mr. Owen informed the Board that the WRWSA's Phase III, Irrigation Evaluation Program was not moved forward in the CFI process by the SWFWMD Governing Board's sub-committee. He introduced Chris Zajac to discuss what type of project will meet the SWFWMD criteria for funding. Mr. Zajac believes that the sub-committee direction is to think "big." He stated that the WRWSA is very important to SWFWMD and that staff will assist the WRWSA to develop a new application for the 2014-2015 application cycle. The Board discussed the continued need for water conservation programs as a cost-effective method for extending the use of groundwater. Water conservation is the only way to reduce overall water use to meet the District's 150 gallons per capita per day regulatory requirement.
- ***Adena Springs Ranch Update.*** Mr. Owen stated that the applicant has amended their request to 5.3 million gallons per day (mgpd) on approximately 24,000 acres. There

is an additional request for information and the SJRWMD is awaiting response. The permit request is for forage only. The meat packing plant has been removed from the application and its projected water use is below 100,000 gallons per day using 4-inch wells. This level of water use is permitted by rule. The meat packing plant is moving forward separate from the water use permit application. One concern regarding the project is the potential for nutrient contamination within the receiving water bodies of Silver Springs. These issues will be handled outside the water use permit in an Environmental Resources Permit (ERP) for which the applicant is expected to apply.

- ***MFLs for Chassahowitzka & Homosassa Rivers.*** A petition has been filed with the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) regarding the MFLs adopted by SWFWMD for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems. The petition is under Section 373.114, *Florida Statutes*, for which there is no process established. The petition argues that the MFLs as adopted are not protective enough of the rivers and riverine systems. This petition requires that the Department Secretary review SWFWMD's rules for consistency with Rule 62-40, *Florida Administrative Code*, which is the water resources implementation rule. The Department is trying to develop a process for handling this petition. Mr. Owen has requested that the SWFWMD include him with any additional information received from the Department regarding the process and time frame. The WRWSA may want to engage in the petition process at a later date.

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

11. Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison

Mr. Owen presented the legislative update for Ms. Salz who is attending legislative meetings in Tallahassee. Of the items included in Ms. Salz's updates are two actions that will have a direct impact on the WRWSA if enacted. One is proposed legislation regarding public participation at public meetings. The second are funds for water projects. Some member governments that could potentially receive money through this legislation include the City of Bushnell for a water line and master plan project, Crystal River for a Kings' Bay project, and a Marion County wastewater treatment project.

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

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

a. Liability Insurance Update

Since the last Board meeting, Mr. Haag has attempted to obtain information from insurance vendors for officers and directors liability insurance. Brown & Brown was the only responding firm with a quote of \$2,035.12 annually. Mr. Haag requested direction from the Board as to how to proceed. Discussion followed as to the need for insurance, whether Board members were covered individually, and whether the policy would cover the executive director. The Board requested that additional insurance companies be contacted for quotes and to provide clarification on coverage for the executive director. Mr. Owen stated that the quotes would be gathered and assessed for possible inclusion of necessary funds in the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget beginning October 1, 2013.

b. N491 Irrigation Audit Agreements with The Villages

Mr. Haag brought to the Board the cooperative funding agreement between the North Sumter County Utilities Dependent District and the WRWSA for the irrigation evaluation program. The

total amount of the agreement is \$16,016.66 and the District's total obligation is \$8,008.33. Mr. Haag recommended that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the agreement with the North Sumter County Utilities Dependent District and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and carried unanimously.**

The second cooperative funding agreement is between the WRWSA and the Village Center Community Development District. The total amount of the agreement is \$8,008.33 and the District's total obligation is \$4,004.17.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the agreement with the Village Center Community Development District and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adams and carried unanimously.**

Other: Statement of Agency Organization and Operation

Mr. Haag stated that he had one further item for the Board's consideration. Historically, an Interlocal Agreement created the WRWSA in 1977, with Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties as the participating parties. In 1984, Levy County decided to leave the WRWSA and the interlocal agreement was amended. About that same time, a rule change was made to delete Levy County. There have been no further changes to the Interlocal Agreement. While the original rule is basically a copy of the Interlocal Agreement as adopted and amended, there have been a few changes to the rule over time. The last change was adopted in 2008.

Mr. Haag cautioned that more investigation and discussion should take place prior to repealing the WRWSA's governing rule, 49C-1, F.A.C. He suggested that the rule, after its repeal, be attached to the Organizational Statement as one way to ensure a smooth transition. Repeal of the rule will make it much easier to accommodate changes to the WRWSA, but should be undertaken carefully to maintain consistency.

Mr. Damato requested that the Board allow him to meet with Richard Owen and Larry Haag to discuss the potential return of Levy County to the WRWSA. Mr. Haag advised that re-entry of Levy County would require amendment of the Interlocal Agreement. The Board concurred with Mr. Damato's request.

13. Other Business

Stan McClain addressed the Board regarding the Adena Springs water use permit. The applicant separated the meat packing plant from the water use permit application to clarify the issue of how the water is to be used. Mr. Stronach, the applicant, is concerned about protecting the environment and the nutrient loading issue, and wanted to clarify that the major portion of the water request is for forage, not for the processing plant.

Dale Swain asked about the continued water use needs at the Crystal River power plant as it is de-commissioned. He understands that water will continue to be needed, but wants clarification as to the amount. Mr. Brown stated that Crystal River is providing reclaimed water to the coal-fired portion of power plant operations. Mr. Damato requested that Chris Zajac find out more about the water consumption and report back to the WRWSA.

14. Public Comment

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Water Conservation Coordinator, reminded the Board of the Hernando County "Your Water, Your World" workshop is set for May 10, 2013 and invited everyone to attend.

Michael Czerwinski, MCE, commented on the data available regarding the intermediate and lower aquifers and evidence of leaks between the different levels in the Tampa Bay region based on work he has performed in the area. He also commented that residents of a subdivision adjacent to the Rainbow River are installing irrigation wells; the effects of these wells may be visible in the water quality and quantity over time.

15. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2013, 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

16. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director