

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2012**

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 meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commissioner
John Druzbeck, Vice Chairman, Hernando County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilman
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commissioner
Joe Johnston, Brooksville City Councilman
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
John McLeod, Ocala City Councilman
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilwoman
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner
Charlie Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Treasurer, Marion County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Maureen McNiff, Crystal River City Councilwoman
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Jack Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Nancy Smith, Recording Secretary
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, Inc.

Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant
David Hornsby, SJRWMD
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources Coordinator
Al Grubman, TOOFAR
Jan Grubman, TOOFAR
Richard Owen, Citizen
Robert Knight, Citrus Citizen
Bruce Wirth, Citizen
Brian Armstrong, SWFWMD
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala
Terri Lowery, Jones Edmunds
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Resources
Jimmy Brooks, Hernando-Citrus Farm Bureau
Peter Rocco, Citizen
Rose Rocco, Citizen
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD

4. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2012 Meeting

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

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Druzbeck to approve the minutes for the April 18, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.

5. Executive Director's Report ... Jack Sullivan, WRWSA

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Sullivan provided a handout to the Board detailing the bills for May 2012 and requested the Board approve payment of these bills in the amount of \$31,118.93.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Ms. Rich to approve payment of the May 2012 bills totaling \$31,118.93. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.

b. Per Capita Assessment

Mr. Sullivan presented a spreadsheet showing the proposed assessment of member governments for FY 2012-2013 based on \$0.19 per capita. This rate results in a 1.16 percent increase over FY2011-2012. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Board adopt the per capita assessment at \$0.19, the same rate as last year.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Webb to approve the assessment of \$0.19 per capita. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

c. Local Government Grants Funding

Mr. Sullivan stated that the announcement regarding the Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) was sent out to Utility Directors, Water Conservation

Coordinators, and Water Resource Coordinators on May 2, 2012. For the past three years, the Board has allocated a maximum of \$130,000 toward the program. Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Board set the maximum allocation of funds for LGGP at \$130,000.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Webb to provide a maximum of \$130,000 for the local government grant program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

d. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the correspondence provided in the Board's meeting packet and in the hand outs. This item was provided for information only. No action was required.

e. News Articles

This item was provided for information only. No action was required.

6. Ranking of Executive Director Candidates ...

a. Interviews

< Comm. Randy Mask arrived at 5:52 p.m. >

Chairman Damato introduced the three candidates short-listed for interviews by the WRWSA Board: Robert Knight, Richard Owen, and Bruce Wirth. He reminded the Board that the three candidates would be sequestered and called in to be interviewed one at a time, beginning with Robert Knight.

After a presentation by each candidate, each responded to questions asked by Board members.

< Comm. Randy Mask left at 6:28 p.m. >

b. Polling

Following the interviews, Mr. Sullivan instructed the Board to write the name of each candidate with the ranking of #1, #2, and #3 on each ballot and sign the ballot. If a majority for the number one candidate is not reached in the first vote, voting will continue until a majority is reached.

Following the vote, Mr. Sullivan collected the ballots and tallied the votes with Mr. Haag. The first vote, with 15 Board members voting, resulted in a vote count of Richard Owen – 7, Bruce Wirth – 5, and Robert Knight – 3.

Because there was no majority for the number one ranked candidate, Mr. Haag advised the Board that votes would be taken until a clear majority, meaning at least 8 votes, was received for the number one candidate. The second vote will only be for the top two candidates, in keeping with the procedure determined by the Board at the previous meeting.

c. Ranking

Ballots for the second vote were distributed, collected and tallied. Mr. Sullivan reported to the Board that Richard Owen received 10 votes and Bruce Wirth received 5 votes. The ranking of candidates is: #1 Richard Owen; #2 Bruce Wirth; and, #3 Robert Knight.

Chairman Damato requested a clarification of the procedure to complete the selection of the consulting executive director. Mr. Sullivan responded that contract negotiations will be held with Richard Owen and may include the staff screening committee and the WRWSA chairman. If a contract cannot be reached, negotiations will move to the second-ranked candidate. The contract to be negotiated will use the existing executive director's contract as a basis. The contract negotiation time and place will be advertised in the Florida Administrative Weekly and held as soon as that timing allows. It is anticipated that a contract will be provided to the Board for approval at the June 20, 2012 regular Board meeting. The anticipated start date for the new director is July 1, 2012. The current year budget provides for a period of overlap between the directors to give time to go over Authority projects and administrative details.

A request was made to provide a copy of Mr. Sullivan's contract to all Board members via email.

7. Legislative Update ... Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant

Ms. Salz provided an update on the 2012 legislative session. The predominant activity during the session related to agencies of the state. The Department of Health has established a new website to provide information for the new septic tank inspection law. Each local government with first magnitude springs has until January 1, 2013 to opt out of the inspection requirements. In addition to the four member counties, the city of Weeki Wachee is affected by the new legislation. Opting out requires a 60 percent vote by the legislative body. Other requirements are posted on the website. The contact at the Department of Health is Patty Anderson, telephone 850-245-4250.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has initiated a water policy advisory council. The Council is holding its second meeting on Friday, June 8 in Gainesville. Stakeholders include members from agriculture, public & private utilities, environmental groups and businesses. Ms. Salz will closely monitor the Council.

The Department of Environmental Protection is working to make water use permitting consistent across the state. Some rule changes are expected by this summer with perhaps some recommendations for the next state legislative session.

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

Mr. Haag had no business for the Board.

9. Other Business

Mr. Ernst requested that the Board consider revising the meeting time to 1:30 p.m. rather than 4:30 p.m. Mr. Haag stated that any change to location or time would require advertisement in the Florida Administrative Weekly and the 4 local newspapers. He recommended that the best alternative would be to bring this item before the Board in

October or November so that additional advertising expense would not be required in this budget year. Chairman Damato asked that the meetings continue as advertised and that any change be brought back to the Board in October.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

All of the candidates were invited into the Board room for announcement of the results of the ranking by Chairman Damato. Richard Owen was introduced as the number one ranked candidate to become the new consulting executive director. Chairman Damato thanked all the candidates for participating and recognized the excellence of their applications and interviews.

11. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2012 at 4:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

12. Adjournment

Chairman Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director