

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 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
Stan McClain, *Vice-Chairman*, Marion County Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Flip Mellinger, Marion County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

STAFF PRESENT

Richard Owen, Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Liaison
Nancy Smith, WRWSA Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacob Arnette, Marion County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Conservation
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville

Phillis Rosetti, Crystal River Waterfronts Advisory Board
Kevin Smith, Marion County

Presentation of Plaque to Immediate Past Chair

Chairman Butler presented a plaque to Jim Adkins, the WRWSA chairman from January 2014 through January 2015, in appreciation for his service to the Authority. Activities highlighted during that year included approval of the Revised and Restated Interlocal Agreement, completion of the *Regional Water Supply Plan* update, continuation of the regional residential irrigation system evaluation program, and input to the SWFWMD Springs Protection Initiative.

4. Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2015 Meeting

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

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

5. Public Comment

Alys Brockway, Hernando County Conservation Manager, announced the upcoming “Springs into Action” workshop scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2015, Glen Lakes Country Clubhouse, 9000 Glen Lakes Blvd. in Weeki Wachee. She invited the Board and other attendees to attend and handed out brochures about the workshop.

6. Board Briefing . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented a summary of the mission, functions and responsibilities of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. Mr. Owen reminded the members of several on going efforts including the Charles A Black Wellfield, participation with the SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Program to promote water conservation, grants to local governments for water conservation projects, establishment of various MFLs and coordination with Southwest Florida and St. Johns River water management districts, among other activities.

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

7. Proposed Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-16. He advised the Board that Chapter 189.016, *Florida Statutes*, requires that the Authority adopt the budget by Resolution. The resolution is included in the handout and copies of the proposed budget are in both the Board’s packet and the handout. Mr. Owen explained that the budget is presented on two pages for ease of reading with calculations included as attachments. He reviewed both the projected revenues and proposed expenditures. For 2015-16, projected revenues decrease by 1.2 percent from the 2014-15 fiscal year while expenditures for both administration and projects decrease by 19.9 percent. Mr. Owen recommended that the Board approve Resolution 2015-02 adopting the budget and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution. He then read Resolution 2015-02 Adopting Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16, into the record.

During discussion, Mr. Brown asked about the Charles A. Black wellfield payments. Mr. Owen explained that the amortization payment was graduated up over the initial years until it reached the current level with termination of all payments in the 2026 timeframe. Mr. Owen also explained that the WRWSA is working with Citrus County to revise the existing agreement for purchase of water and expects to have a draft by the end of this calendar year. This revision is expected to ensure a stable revenue source beyond the termination of the existing agreement.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve Resolution 2015-02 and the fiscal year 2015-16 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.

8. Report on the SJRWMD North Central Florida Water Initiative . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen requested that this item be postponed for presentation at the next Board meeting. The SJRWMD staff will lead the presentation. The SJRWMD staff is presently assessing the peer review comments and deciding what responses to make concerning the groundwater model, so it is too early to discuss any substantive information at today's meeting. Mr. Owen has met with staff of the each of the water management districts and with staff of Marion County Utilities. He wants to continue this coordination process as the districts work to set MFLs, which may have significant implications for groundwater resources in Marion, Sumter and Citrus counties.

Mr. Damato asked if SJRWMD staff would be prepared to provide definitive information at the next meeting and requested that SWFWMD staff be available at the same meeting. It is important that the districts reach a consensus on the approach to using the groundwater model for all communities.

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

9. Report on Charles A. Black Wellfield Activities . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented on update on activities at the Charles A. Black Wellfield in Citrus County. He has been meeting with Citrus County staff about two potential projects that, if implemented, will require modification of the existing water use permit for the wellfield. The first project is an expansion of the service area into northwest areas of Citrus County in response to arsenic contamination in private wells in that area. The second project is to build a transmission main along the recreation trail that will be constructed along with the Suncoast Parkway extension in Citrus County. The County has received concurrence from the Department of Transportation for this project, which will provide an interconnection between Sugarmill Woods and the CAB. This interconnection will provide greater redundancy and create a more regional system for the County.

Mr. Damato stated that the interconnection would also allow the county's system to be looped. He further suggested that the placement and construction of the Suncoast Parkway might allow a tie-in with a potential wellfield at Cardinal Lane.

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

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the April 2015 bills and requested concurrence of payment of the bills totaling \$22,302.96.

Following consideration, a motion was made by Mr. Damato to ratify payment of the April 2015 bills of \$22,302.96. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.

Mr. Owen presented the May 2015 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$21,980.06.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the May 2015 bills of \$21,980.06. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

b. Board Policies – Alternate Board Members

Mr. Owen reviewed the policy for Alternate Board Members that was prepared in response to the last Board meeting. Both the policy for Alternate Board Members and a staff procedure are included in the Board's packet. Mr. Owen requested approval of the Board Policy 2015-04, Alternate Board Members; the staff procedure was included for information only.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve Resolution 2015-04, Alternate Board Members, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

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

d. News Articles

Mr. Owen noted that the Board's packet and handout include several news articles. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

e. Other

- *Environmental Permitting Short Course.* The annual Environmental Permitting Short Course is scheduled for July 7 – 10, 2015 in Orlando. Mr. Owen requested the Board authorize Diane Salz to attend the meeting at an estimated cost of \$1,530.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Carnahan to authorize Diane Salz to attend the Environmental Permitting Short Course. The motion was seconded by Mr. Swain and carried unanimously.**

- *DEP Rulemaking.* Mr. Owen stated that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has initiated rulemaking on Chapter 62-40, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Water Resource Implementation Rule, that is used to provide guidance to the water management districts in issuing water use permits. One change is to include a designation of certain fresh groundwater resources as an alternative water supply (AWS) where use of the Lower Floridan Aquifer is being considered by local utilities within the WRWSA region. The purpose of AWS is to avoid negative impacts to wells, springs, rivers and lakes. If it can be demonstrated, on a case-by-case basis, that the fresh groundwater is confined or semi-confined, a water management district may designate the Lower Floridan Aquifer as an alternative water supply.
- *SWFWMD Draft Regional Water Supply Plan Update.* Mr. Owen and others from WRWSA member governments have participated in meeting with SWFWMD staff to offer input on the *Update* as it has been drafted. One change was requested to include language in the *Update* for the potential use of the Lower Floridan Aquifer as an alternative water source. SWFWMD staff included language very similar to the guidance that is going into Chapter 62-40, F.A.C., so that when it can be demonstrated that the Lower Floridan is well confined and that use of the aquifer will not impact the resources that they are trying to protect, it is designated as an AWS. Such a designation allows local utilities to meet their permitting requirement to investigate and, where feasible, develop alternative water sources and it makes that source eligible for financial assistance from the water management district.

- *SJRWMD Staff Change.* Mr. Owen advised the Board that the SJRWMD Executive Director has recently resigned. The SJRWMD Board is scheduled to discuss hiring Ann Shortelle, currently director of the Suwannee River Water Management District, to fill that position. Mr. Owen will ask to meet with the next SJRWMD executive director and ensure an open line of communication with that organization.
- *Relocation of SWFWMD Headquarters.* At the most recent SWFWMD Governing Board meeting on May 19, 2015, the Governing Board discussed the possibility of moving the headquarters from Brooksville to the Tampa service office. The Board decided to postpone the decision for up to 60 days. A decision to move the headquarters will have a major impact on the WRWSA region.

The WRWSA Board discussed the impacts of moving the headquarters, including additional difficulties in coordinating with the District, the affect on current levels of service, the waste of taxpayers' money in abandoning or under-utilizing the existing facility as well as the major economic impact on Hernando County if the headquarters are relocated and staff removed from the area.

Mr. Adkins asked that the Director write a letter to the SWFWMD Board inquiring about the reasons for moving. Mr. Brown asked that the WRWSA Board prepare a Resolution stating that there is no benefit to the WRWSA in relocating the headquarters. The Board discussed the various reasons that such relocation would be detrimental to interests within the WRWSA area. Mr. Owen suggested writing a letter to the SWFWMD Governing Board expressing WRWSA concerns. It was agreed that copies of the letter would be sent to the WRWSA member governments, the Legislative Delegation and other interested parties. The letter will be sent immediately and a resolution will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve writing a letter to the SWFWMD Governing Board to address the concerns of the WRWSA about the proposed relocation of the District's headquarters and to authorize the Chairman to sign said letter for delivery to the SWFWMD as soon as possible. In addition, the motion included drafting of a resolution opposing the relocation that would be presented at the next Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

- *WRPC Closing.* Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council will be closing on May 21, 2015. The WRPC staff notified Mr. Owen that their library contains a number of items stored the WRWSA. Mr. Owen went to the office and picked up the materials and delivered these files and reports to the WRWSA office in Lecanto.

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

Mrs. Salz reported on bills that passed the Legislature before it adjourned and also commented on bills that did not pass. Of particular interest is that the bills relating to water resources and constitutional Amendment 1 did not pass. Given that the House adjourned early, the state's budget for the upcoming fiscal year was not adopted. The Legislature will be back in Tallahassee for a special session, June 1 – 20, to address a limited agenda related to the 2015-16 budget.

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

There was no report from the attorney.

13. Other Business

There was no other business.

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2015, 3:30 p.m., at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

15. Adjournment

Chairman Al Butler announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Al Butler, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director