

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2010**

TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council
1241 SW 10th Street (SR 200)
Ocala, Florida 34471-0323

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Hoffman 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. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Hoffman, Chairman, Sumter County Commissioner
Barbara Fitos, Vice-Chairman, Marion County Commissioner
Rose Rocco, Treasurer, Hernando County Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner
John Priester, Ocala City Councilman
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilwoman
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director
Johnnye Friedrich, WRWSA Attorney
Diane Salz, WRWSA Legislative Liaison
Jim Bitter, Homosassa River Alliance
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Kim Dinkins, Marion County
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Jan Grubman, TOO FAR
Fred Hiers, Star Banner
Norman Hopkins, Amy H Remley Foundation
Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Whitey Markle, Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club
Cara Martin, SWFWMD
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD
David Rathke, SWFWMD
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Citizen
T.C. Rusnak, Citrus County Council
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates
Greg Schmukal, TOO FAR
June Schmukal, TOO FAR
John Wade, of Inverness
Pat Wade, of Inverness
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

4. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2010 Meeting

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the minutes for the May 19, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

6. Executive Director's Report

d. News Articles

Mr. Sullivan stated that before he reviewed the budget, he would like to respond to news articles in the Star Banner and the Citrus County Chronicle. Mr. Sullivan stated the Star Banner article indicated the WRWSA wished to transfer well water outside of Marion County. He stated that was an incorrect assumption and nowhere in the Regional Water Plan is ground water proposed for transfer to another county. The corridors indicated would be used to transfer alternative water supplies when needed in the future. Mr. Sullivan stated the Star Banner article said the WRWSA did not spend much on conservation. He advised the WRWSA board that he had informed Mr. Brad Rogers, Star Banner, that \$150,000 invested was a large amount as it represented approximately 50 percent of the WRWSA's projects budget. Mr. Sullivan referenced the Citrus County Chronicle's article about a presentation given to the county by Mr. Grubman using a Regional Water Plan map identifying wells to transfer water. He stated this map was part of a conceptual plan to create a network for alternative water

supplies 20 to 30 years in the future and none of the well fields in the conceptual plan were designated to transport ground water between counties.

Mr. Damato read into the record the following statement given by Mr. David Moore, Director, SWFWMD, at the WRWSA Workshop on April 21, 2010. "Legally water that travels within a water supply authority area is not considered water transfer under local sources first. A water supply authority also has priority funding from SWFWMD in development of new water sources." Mr. Moore also informed those attending the workshop that, "Tampa Bay Water has used the above mentioned facts to provide water to a multicounty area by combining groundwater, surface water (reservoir and rivers) and desalination. This workshop is about adopting a similar model, a plan and concept for future study." He finally stated, "Why would that much money ever be spent, invested, if Tampa Bay could simply steal someone's water? Obviously, it was less expensive because the cost of transportation would have been prohibitive." Alternative water supplies and transfer of water continued to be discussed.

Mr. Webb asked what was the procedure for a county to join the WRWSA as a new member and did every current member have to agree to the new membership or could it be done with majority vote? Ms. Friedrich replied she would have to research it with Mr. Haag and return with an answer at the next meeting. Ms. Fitos stated education to the public about the goals and evolution of the WRWSA was important. Ms. Rocco agreed with Ms. Fitos and stated the WRWSA needed a mission statement. Mr. Bartell stated the original purpose of the WRWSA was to prevent water transfers.

Mr. Grubman indicated the water plan showed transfer of groundwater and showed water transfers between counties. Mr. Sullivan disputed his interpretation, stating it was a conceptual plan for 20 to 30 years in the future to create an infrastructure for alternative water supplies.

Mr. Hopkins, asked the board at what level groundwater become an alternative supply. Mr. Sullivan stated the lower Floridan aquifer is considered an alternative water supply as it does not affect the environment of the upper Floridan aquifer. Mr. Hopkins expressed concerns about minimum flows and levels (MFLs) and the water quality in Kings Bay.

Mr. Wade said the Citrus County Plan states 98 percent of the water supply is ground water, and he expressed the importance of conservation.

5. Proposed 2010-11 Fiscal Year Budget

Mr. Sullivan gave an overview of the budget.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve the Fiscal Year 2010-11 budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

6. Executive Director's Report

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Sullivan provided a handout to the Board detailing June 2010 bills which totaled \$31,209.95. Mr. Sullivan requested the Board approve the payment of those bills.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Fitos to approve payment of the June 2010 bills totaling \$31,209.95. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartell and carried unanimously.**

b. Second Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Second Quarter Financial Report.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the Second Quarter Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rich and carried unanimously.**

c. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the remaining correspondence. Ms. Martin, SWFWMD, explained the enclosed utility survey was in the process of being mailed out and currently only the northern region of the district had received the survey. She said currently there was a 29 percent return rate on the survey. Ms. Martin stated a presentation would be given to the WRWSA after the data had been collected. Mr. Sullivan stated there was a letter from the City of Crystal River requesting a presentation of the Master Water Plan and Mr. Hubbell was creating a 10 to 15 minute presentation. Mr. Bartell requested a presentation to the Citrus County Commission. Ms. Rocco asked to include giving a presentation to the Hernando County Commission, Ms. Fitos asked to include the Marion County Commission, and Ms. Rich asked to include the City of Ocala.

d. News Articles

Mr. Sullivan provided news articles on water supply issues relating to areas both regional and statewide.

7. Legislative Update

Dianne Salz stated Senate Bills 550 and 1752 had been passed. She stated the Governor had vetoed Senate Bill 1565. Ms. Salz reported the Coastal Rivers Basin Board approved the purchase of the Three Sisters Springs property and it would go before the SWFWMD Governing Board for final approval at its the June Meeting. Ms. Salz stated she attended the 2010 Florida Water Forum which allowed various candidates to voice their opinions of water issues. She stated there seemed to be a trend towards creating a State Water Board and felt it was issue that should be monitored.

8. Attorney's Report

Ms. Friedrich stated she did not have any additional items to report to the WRWSA.

9. Other Business

Mr. Damato and Mr. Webb stated they went to the Lake Rousseau spillway dam. Mr. Damato took pictures and will give them to Mr. Sullivan, if anyone wanted to look at them. Ms. Rocco said she had constituents asking about the oil spill and its economic impact. She wanted to know if a hurricane could cause oil contamination of Florida's springs because of the spill. Ms. Rocco requested a letter be written to the President, the Governor and BP to address reimbursement of funds for any necessary cleanup. Mr. Rathke, SWFWMD, informed the WRWSA that Department of Environmental Protection was the lead for cleanup along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The SWFWMD Emergency Operations Center has enhanced its normal monitoring program for a quicker response time. Mr. Rathke stated Tampa Bay Water would have to shut down the desalination plant. However, they have alternative water supplies to utilize.

10. Public Comment

Norman Hopkins, Amy H Remley Foundation, stated during the end of April, SWFWMD checked the springs for oil contamination in Kings Bay and Crystal River. Also, he was concerned about fractures in the seabed which released spring water being contaminated by the oil spill.

Jim Bitter, Homosassa River Alliance, informed the WRWSA the citizens off Springs Cove Road were complaining the Homosassa River can no longer be used as drinking water due to pollution. It has been determined ground water is sufficient for the next 20 to 25 years. He asked if the river was considered part of the ground water supply. Mr. Hubbell stated that MFLs were due to be set for the river, however, the Homosassa River was not included as part of the future ground water supply to be used as potable water.

Whitey Markle, Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club, stated the SJRWMD had MFLs that were last updated in 2005 and wanted to know how current the MFLs were for SWFWMD. Mr. Rathke stated SWFWMD was working on establishing current MFLs and that MFLs for the major springs had been adopted. Mr. Hubbell stated MFLs periodically need to be updated.

11. Next Meeting Time and Location

Next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters, Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street (US 41 South), Brooksville, FL 34604.

12. Adjournment

Chairman Hoffman announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Richard Hoffman, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director