

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 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 revised published agenda.

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Dennis Damato, Treasurer, called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:35 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

Dennis Damato, *Treasurer*, Citrus County Commissioner
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Bruce Hickle, City of Bushnell
Flip Mellinger, Marion County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Al Butler, *Vice-Chairman*, Sumter County Commissioner
Stan McClain, *Vice-Chairman*, Marion County Commissioner
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

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

Al Grubman
Jan Grubman
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation

Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville
Angel Roussel, Hernando County Utilities Department
Chester Bradshaw, Watershed Environmentalist

4. Approval of Minutes

A copy of the May 20, 2015 minutes was provided in the Board packet for review.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve the minutes for the May 20, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

<Mr. Ernst arrived.>

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. SJRWMD Report on North Central Florida Water Initiative . . . Lou Donnangelo, SRJWMD

Mr. Owen advised the Board that Mr. Donnangelo informed him last week that he would not be able to attend today's meeting. Mr. Owen requested that Mr. Donnangelo attend the July 15th Board meeting, but he has not confirmed that he will be available at that meeting.

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

7. Resolution Opposing SWFWMD Headquarters Relocation . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen presented a draft resolution opposing the potential relocation of SWFWMD headquarters from Brooksville to Tampa. Following discussion at the May Board meeting, the Board directed staff to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature to express the Authority's concerns with this potential move. A copy of the letter sent to the SWFWMD Governing Board was included in the Board's packet. The Board also directed staff to prepare a resolution for the June meeting. Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution 2015-03 recommending that the SWFWMD maintain its headquarters in Brooksville, Florida. Discussion by the Board followed. Mr. Brown stated that the Crystal River City Council approved a resolution opposing any potential relocation of headquarters on June 8, 2015. He further asked that the Board include an additional whereas to more clearly state the value of actual infrastructure and investment in the facility in Brooksville.

Mr. Nicholson told the Board that he, Brooksville City Manager Ms. Norman-Vacha, and Mr. Sossamon, Hernando County Administrator, met with Robert Beltran, SWFWMD Executive Director, today regarding the potential relocation of SWFWMD headquarters. Mr. Beltran cited a study that encouraged SWFWMD to relocate its headquarters in order to attract and maintain the best employees. This report concluded that the best recruitment possibilities are in Tampa. Mr. Nicholson informed Mr. Beltran that this reasoning was an excuse. The next Governing Board meeting is June 23. However, the relocation issue is not on the Governing Board's agenda until the July 28th meeting. Mr. Nicholson and others plan to meet with Mr. Beltran prior to that meeting.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve Resolution 2015-03 recommending that SWFWMD maintain its headquarters in Brooksville, Florida as presented, with the addition of language in the fifth "whereas" statement as follows: "that could be put in jeopardy should the headquarters be relocated." The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

8. General Technical/Engineering As-Needed Services Contract Extensions . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen requested that the Board consider approving a one-year extension to seven existing General Technical/Engineering Contracts. These firms were selected following a Request for Qualifications process and may be called upon by the WRWSA to provide services as needed. The contracts between the WRWSA and the firms were for an initial term of three years, ending in November 2015, with the ability to extend each contract twice by a period of one year. Mr. Owen requested that the Board approve a First Addendum to each of the agreements with Atkins, C & D Engineering, Cardno, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Jones Edmunds, Progressive Water Resources and Water Resource Associates, with a new ending date of November 2016.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Adkins to approve the First Addendum to the Agreements for General Technical/Engineering Services with the following seven firms: Atkins; C & C Engineering; Cardno; Hoyle, Tanner & Associates; Jones Edmunds; Progressive Water Resources; and Water Resource Associates. The addendum extends each contract by one year, from November 2015 to November 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.**

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the June 2015 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$44,418.43

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Ernst to approve payment of the June 2015 bills of \$44,418.43. The motion was seconded by Mr. Battista and carried unanimously.**

b. 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Owen presented the 2nd Quarter Financial report compiled by Purvis Gray and Company.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to accept the 2nd Quarter Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins 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. Administrative Services Contract

Mr. Owen presented a letter from Nancy H. Smith requesting termination of the agreement between the WRWSA and her firm for administrative assistant services. The agreement provides for a period of 60 days between notification and end of contract. Mr. Owen has begun the recruitment process with the goal of having a replacement by the July 15 Board meeting and allowing Ms. Smith to leave the Authority by the end of July.

Mr. Owen requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to perform three actions in the process to select a new administrative assistant:

1. Enter into a contract for administrative support services in an annual amount not to exceed \$37,500. The contract will be substantively the same as the existing contract for administrative services and will be reviewed by the Authority's attorney.
2. Transfer \$2,200 from reserves for purposes of having the new administrative support staff overlap with the existing staff, and to amend the current budget to include these funds.
3. Transfer \$6,000 from reserves for the purchase of computer equipment, amending the current year budget to include these funds for that purpose, and for the Executive Director to purchase replacement computer equipment for an amount not to exceed \$6,000 and to surplus the existing equipment.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Nicholson to accept the letter of termination from Nancy H. Smith and to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the steps as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

f. Other

- *Sumter Ag Alliance.* Mr. Owen informed the Board that he had been invited to speak at a recent meeting of the Sumter Ag Alliance. It was interesting to discuss water supply concerns with the agriculture industry. He told the Ag Alliance that the WRWSA and agricultural community needed to work in partnership, as water supply is critical to agriculture, to public supply and to the economy of the area.
- *Hernando Groundwater Guardians.* Mr. Owen attended the *Springs into Action* workshop on June 5. It was a great workshop and well attended. The WRWSA is a partial sponsor through the water conservation grant funding and was recognized for their contribution at the workshop.

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

Mrs. Salz congratulated each of the local governments who will receive project funding based on the draft 2015-16 state budget. The Legislature reached an agreement on the budget on Tuesday, June 16 with a vote to be taken on Friday, June 19th. Mrs. Salz itemized funding for several local projects including Crystal River Kings' Bay pilot project, Silver Springs stormwater project, Ocala well and septic tank project, two Brooksville line items, one for drainage restoration and the second is for drainage correction project and a Lower Florida well in the City of Wildwood. She will continue to review the 1,000 page budget document and may have additional information to present at later meetings.

Mrs. Salz expects that discussion on new bills for water legislation will begin in August since the 2016 Legislative session begins in January. She also reminded the Board that a statewide appointed board, a Water Resource Advisory Council, was removed from the 2015 legislation, but she expects this idea to be a component of proposed legislation in 2016. This was to be a statewide-appointed board responsible for making recommendations on projects to the legislature. The water management districts, under the Department of Environmental Protection, are currently responsible for vetting projects. The water management districts also provide matching funds for the approved projects. The statewide Board may appeal to the larger projects and will likely not be sensitive to medium and small projects. She encouraged the Board members to discuss this issue with members of their legislative delegation. The Senate was in favor of a new appointed board while the House was not.

Board discussion followed. Mr. Damato said that there is already a model for reviewing projects and making recommendations to the legislature: that is the Springs Steering Committee. This model is a much better model and allows local input. Mr. Brown discussed that the Kings Bay project is a pilot study to remove, not dredge, lyngbya, from two canals leading into Hunters

Springs. The City is glad to have the project, but it is only a small portion of the problem and it is only a beginning point. Other actions would include continuation of the lymbya removal process, removal of septic tanks and installation of living shorelines.

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

There was no report from the attorney.

13. Other Business

Chester Bradshaw, volunteer with Watershed Environmentalists, addressed the Board regarding legislative action on Amendment 1 and SB 536. There was urgent information presented in workshops by the SWFWMD regarding the Withlacoochee River. SWFWMD has not fully understood what has happened to the river, or what could and should be done. Amendment 1 included language for restoration projects to capture rainfall and restore watersheds and wetlands. Mr. Bradshaw asked the WRWSA to take a more aggressive role in natural wetlands and watershed restoration and to make it an agenda item.

14. Next Meeting Time and Location

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

15. Adjournment

Chair Damato announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the WRWSA and adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Al Butler, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director