

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Minutes of the Meeting  
July 15, 2015**

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Lecanto Government Building  
**ADDRESS:** 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 Al Butler, Chairman, called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

**2. Roll Call**

Richard Owen, Executive Director, called the roll and a quorum was declared present.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Al Butler, *Chairman*, Sumter County  
Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, *Treasurer*, Citrus County  
Commissioner  
Robert Battista, Brooksville City Councilor  
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner  
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Councilor  
Don Hahnfeldt, Sumter County Commissioner

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Stan McClain, *Vice-Chairman*, Marion County  
Commissioner  
Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner  
Earl Arnett, Marion County Commissioner  
Ken Brown, Crystal River City Councilor  
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner  
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilor

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Dave Burnell, City of Crystal River  
Bruce Hickle, City of Bushnell  
Flip Mellinger, Marion County

**WRWSA STAFF PRESENT**

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

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

- *Joe Johnson Obituary.* Mr. Owen informed the Board that Mr. Johnston of the City of Brooksville passed away. Mr. Johnston served on the Board from December 2011 to November 2014.
- *WRWSA Administrative Assistant.* Mr. Owen thanked Ms. Smith for her service to the Authority as she moves forward to work for the City of Ocala. He introduced Ms. Stout who accepted the position and has begun providing assistance.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jacob Arnette, Marion County  
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation  
Mike Czerwinski, Michael G. Czerwinski P.A. Environmental Consultants  
James Kimbrough, Vice Chairman, Tampa Region, SunTrust  
Richard Radacky, DPW City of Brooksville  
Phyllis Rosetti, Crystal River Waterfronts Advisory Board  
Kevin Smith, Marion County

#### 4. **Approval of Minutes**

A copy of the June 17, 2015 minutes was provided in the Board packet for review. Mr. Owen noted a scrivener's error on page 3 and said the motion should reflect approval for C & D Engineering.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2015 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

#### 5. **Public Comment**

- *SWFWMD Headquarters.* Jim Kimbrough addressed the Board regarding the proposed relocation of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) headquarters from its Brooksville campus to its Tampa service office. He thanked the Board for being the first agency to address the issue and noted the other entities that had also approved resolutions for the headquarters to remain at the Brooksville campus. Mr. Kimbrough encouraged Board members to request the Governor appoint a person to fill the vacant at-large seat representing the northern area of the SWFWMD. He suggested that person be appointed from Citrus or Sumter counties.
- There was no other public comment.

At this time, Dave Burnell arrived.

#### 6. **Irrigation Audit Program Status Report . . . Nancy Smith, WRWSA**

A status report of the irrigation system evaluation programs was provided in the Board packet. Nancy Smith updated the Board on the two Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) programs for residential water conservation currently underway. Mr. Owen noted that Ms. Stout will be replacing Ms. Smith in administering these projects. He said the conservation coordinators will be developing a CFI application for another phase that will start in October 2016. Mr. Owen noted he has requested Pete Hubbell with Water Resource Associates provide assistance with that application to ensure the needs of the local governments, District and Authority are included.

#### 7. **Local Government Grant Application Review . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA**

At its March 18, 2015 meeting, the Board allocated \$130,000 and directed that the grants program focus on supporting water conservation activities. For review prior to this meeting, the Board received copies of the local government grant applications in their packets.

Mr. Owen said the Authority received three grant applications that reflect continuation of member government proven effective water conservation programs and meet the Authority's grant program requirements. He noted that the Authority was approached by the cities of Crystal River and Inverness but no applications were received. Mr. Owen provided a revised staff recommendation for the Board's consideration.

**Exhibit A**  
**2015-16 WRWSA Water Conservation Grant Applications**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
Citrus County	\$36,875	\$36,875
Hernando County	\$47,750	\$47,750
Marion County	\$35,475	\$35,475
Total	\$120,100	\$120,100

Jacob Arnette, Marion County; Alys Brockway, Hernando County; and Debra Burden, Citrus County, provided brief overviews of their respective water conservation programs and grant applications.

Following consideration, **Mr. Damato moved the staff recommendation to (1) approve the Fiscal Year 2015-16 WRWSA Water Conservation Grant Applications in the amount of \$120,100 as shown in Exhibit A and (2) authorize the Chair to execute the grant agreements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hahnfeldt and carried unanimously.**

## 8. Executive Director's Report . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

### a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen presented the July 2015 bills and requested approval of payment of the bills totaling \$20,467.38.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of the July 2015 bills in the amount of \$20,467.38. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnahan and carried unanimously.**

### b. Annual Calendar of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Meeting Dates

Mr. Owen presented the Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates reflecting the Board's monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the Lecanto Government Building. He noted that August and December are usually canceled, and the Board will make that determination at the appropriate time.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve the Annual Calendar of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Meeting Dates as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

### c. Correspondence

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

### d. News Articles

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

### e. Other

- *City of Wildwood.* Mr. Owen noted that the Authority was approached by the City of Wildwood to consider alternative water supply options for its northern service area. He said he will continue to advocate for a role of the Authority to participate in a possible project.
- *SWFWMD Headquarters.* Mr. Owen said he met with SWFWMD's Executive Director and Chief of Staff to advocate for Authority's position to oppose any move of the headquarters. He noted he will attend the appropriate meeting of the SWFWMD Governing Board to reiterate this Board's position.
- *SWFWMD Springs Coast Management Committee.* Mr. Owen informed the Board that the Rainbow River has experienced long-term declines in flow since the early 1970s to date. He said most of the decline is attributable to rainfall—19-percent reduction in flow but only two percent is due to withdrawals in the springshed. He said the focus is on water quality issues, nutrients and exotic plant species growth. Flip Mellinger said the management committee voted to vet all action items at its next meeting.
- *City of Brooksville.* Mr. Owen said the Authority was approached to partner with the City to apply for a grant from the Smithsonian for the "Museum on Main Street" education program. He noted there is no financial commitment.
- *Annual Water Forum.* Mr. Owen and Mrs. Salz requested approval to attend the September Annual Water Forum in Orlando at an estimated cost of \$700. **Mr. Damato moved to approve the total maximum travel cost of \$700 for both Mr. Owen and Mrs. Salz. Mr. Carnahan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- *American Groundwater Trust Conference.* Mr. Owen requested approval to attend the two-day September conference at an estimated cost of \$500. **Mr. Damato moved to approve the maximum travel cost of \$500 for Mr. Owen. Mr. Hahnfeldt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**9. Legislative Report . . . Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs Consultant**

Mrs. Salz noted that she attended the Environmental Permitting Course held a week ago and thanked the Board for allowing her to be there. She said a special legislative session just ended but an additional special session for redistricting will begin shortly. The interim committee meetings will begin in September with the regular session beginning January 12, 2016 and ending March 11, 2016. Mrs. Salz said discussion on key issues needs to begin now and she will provide a draft policy matrix for the Authority Board members to discuss at its September meeting to stake out a position on the relevant issues. No comprehensive water policy was enacted last session so there are a number of issues waiting for consideration. One issue of concern is a new water resource advisory council be established creating a new level of bureaucracy for review of water project proposals statewide and decide which warrant funding. The House position was that the council was unnecessary due to the Water Management Districts' framework under the supervision of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Mrs. Salz said another issue is reclaimed water and impediments for use of this water. The DEP has made an extensive effort to collect all the data on reclaimed water and emphasis was placed on reclaimed water at the Environmental Permitting Course. Mr. Owen noted there are communities nearby that are currently doing indirect potable reuse—taking reclaimed water to inject into the ground to supplement wellfields. He said the cost is expensive which may cause these communities to look for other alternatives available in the areas to their north. Mrs. Salz said she will provide the Board with a draft policy matrix for discussion purposes.

**10. Attorney's Report . . . Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney**

There was no report from the attorney.

**11. Other Business**

Mr. Damato requested information on the quality of reclaimed water versus drinking water and the permit that allows injection to supplement wellfields.

**12. Next Meeting Time and Location**

**Mr. Owen reminded the Board that its monthly August meeting is usually canceled and requested approval to advertise the cancelation.**

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to cancel the August 19, 2015 monthly meeting of the WRWSA Board of Directors and advertise the cancelation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ernst and carried unanimously.**

**The next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting location is the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida.

**13. Adjournment**

Chair Butler announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

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Al Butler, Chairman

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Richard S. Owen, Executive Director