



**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 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 4:31 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2. Roll Call

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commission
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County Commission
Dennis Damato, Chairman, Citrus County Commission
Stan McClain, Marion County Commission
John McLeod, Ocala City Council
Maureen McNiff, Crystal River City Council
Jay Musleh, Ocala City Council
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Council
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commission

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Druzbeck, Vice Chairman, Hernando County Commission
Wayne Dukes, Hernando County Commission
Gary Ernst, Belleview City Council
Richard Hoffman, Sumter County Commission
Joe Johnston, Brooksville City Council
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commission
David Russell, Hernando County Commission
Charlie Stone, Marion County Commission
Carl Zalak, Treasurer, Marion County Commission

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Richard Owen introduced consulting staff present at the meeting. He also introduced Debra Burden, Citrus County, Alys Brockway, Hernando County, and Kim Dinkins, Marion County, who were presenting information to the Board for the local government grant applications.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Consultant

Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Nancy Smith, Administrative Assistant
Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, Inc.
David Hornsby, SJRWMD
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources Coordinator
Al Grubman, TOOFAR
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala
Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Resident
Rose Rocco, Hernando County Resident
Ken Cheek, Citrus County Utilities

4. Approval of Minutes of June 20, 2012 Meeting

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

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve the minutes for the June 20, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNiff and carried unanimously.**

5. Local Government Grant Applications . . . Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen stated that local grant applications had been received from Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The total amount of requested funds for water conservation programs is \$134,500. Debra Burden, Citrus County Conservation Coordinator, Alys Brockway, Hernando County Conservation Coordinator, and Kim Dinkins, Marion County Water Resources Coordinator, each presented information about current county programs, and for the proposed water conservation programs using the local government grant, if approved.

Mr. Owen recommended that the Board approve each of the three applications, adjusting funding to 96.6 or 96.7 percent for each request as reflected in Exhibit A, to stay within the total allocation of \$130,000.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve the local government grants to Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties, with a proportional rate of 96.6 or 96.7 percent per request, as presented in Exhibit A the Board's packet. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

Following the Board action, Mr. Owens stated that Marion County had brought to his attention the issue of the WRWSA funding the conservation program for all of Marion County, rather than limiting it to the geographic area within SWFWMD. He stated that he would talk to Kim Dinkins, Marion County, and to St. Johns' River Water Management District staff, and would bring information back to the Board for further discussion.

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

a. Bills to be Paid

Mr. Owen provided a handout to the Board detailing the bills for July 2012 and requested the Board approve payment of these bills in the amount of \$37,751.20.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Swain to approve payment of the July 2012 bills totaling \$37,751.20. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

Because the Board meeting in August is cancelled, Mr. Owen requested confirmation of the process to pay the bills incurred. In months where the Board does not meet, the Authority's past practice has been to pay the Authority bills, with two signatures on the checks as required, and to have those payments ratified by the Board at the next meeting. He wanted to ensure that the Board was aware of this procedure and consent to the continued practice. The Board members concurred.

b. Sinkhole Remediation, Follow-up to June Board Discussion

Mr. Owen summarized research that he and Ms. Salz conducted pertaining to materials used to stabilize or remediate sinkholes as a follow-up to the June Board meeting. Florida has no established standards or rules governing the materials that are put in the ground to fill or stabilize sinkholes. Sinkholes, while common throughout the region, occur with particular frequency in Hernando County. Mr. Owen suggested that he contact local sinkhole remediation businesses for further information; however, the Department of Environmental Protection is the agency tasked with rule making or establishing best management practices for environmental issues.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. McNiff to authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection stating the concerns of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority and interest in establishing best management practices. The motion was seconded by Mr. Adkins and carried unanimously.**

c. Amendment to the General Services Contract with Water Resource Associates

Mr. Owen presented a request to amend the General Services Contract with Water Resource Associates (WRA). WRA has provided significant assistance on issues that were not anticipated when the budget was adopted, such as the Adena Springs Ranch CUP and assistance with Floral City water supply issues. Mr. Owen recommended that the Board approve the amendment to increase the budget by \$6,400 with a new not-to-exceed amount of \$31,400. No other changes to the contract are recommended.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. McNiff to amend the General Services Contract with Water Resource Associates to revise the budget cap to \$31,400. The motion was seconded by Mr. Webb and carried unanimously.**

d. Correspondence

Mr. Owen reviewed the correspondence provided in the Board's meeting packet. 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.

7. Legislative Update ... Richard Owen, WRWSA

Mr. Owen explained that Ms. Salz is attending the Chamber of Commerce Environmental Permitting Summer School this week. She provided an update of legislative activity that is included in the Board's packet. Mr. Owen commented that there are many rule making and pre-rule making activities underway that affect this region. He and Ms. Salz will stay involved with these activities and update the board on significant developments.

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

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

Mr. Haag had no business for the Board.

9. Other Business

Ms. McNiff requested an update on the Adena Springs Ranch water use permit application with the St. Johns' River Water Management District (SJRWMD). Mr. Owen responded that the deadline for the request for additional information (RAI) is August 28, 2012. The SJRWMD staff is working with the applicant to complete the additional information as requested. The applicant has stated that their response will be ready by the August deadline. There has been no change in the total amount of water requested.

10. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11. Next Meeting Time and Location

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 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 5:30 p.m.

Dennis Damato, Chairman

Richard S. Owen, Executive Director