

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2010**

TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
2379 Broad Street (SR 41)
Brooksville, Florida 34604

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 4:32 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
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner
Dale Swain, Bushnell City Councilman
Winn Webb, Citrus County Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Adkins, Hernando County Commissioner
Mike Amsden, Marion County Commissioner
Gary Bartell, Citrus County Commissioner
Joe Bernardini, Brooksville City Councilman
Ken Hinkle, Inverness City Councilman
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner
John Priester, Ocala City Councilman
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilwoman
David Russell, Hernando County Commissioner

3. Introductions and Announcements

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney
Diane Salz, WRWSA Legislative Liaison
John Ferguson, SWFWMD
Al Grubman, TOO FAR
Jeff Halcomb, City of Ocala Utilities
Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residents
Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates
Bob Knight, Citrus County Utilities
Cara Martin, SWFWMD
Connie Mullis, Legislative Assistant Senator Evelyn Lynn
Darryl Muse, City of Ocala
Todd Petrie, Marion County Utilities
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville
Miki Renner, SWFWMD
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Citizen
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates
Jack Scheffield, Withlacoochee Area Residents
Joe Stapf, Hernando County Utilities Director
Brent White, SWFWMD
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

4. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2010 Meeting

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

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve the minutes for the June 16, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

5. Water Conservation Grants to Local Governments

Mr. Sullivan stated there were four grant requests received. Three were from Citrus, Hernando and Marion Counties to continue funding the county Water Conservation Coordinator programs. One was from the City of Wildwood to fund a well upgrade and add a second well. Mr. Sullivan stated the budget had enough funds to cover only the Water Conservation Audits. Mr. Sullivan recommended approving the grants for Citrus, Hernando and Marion Counties.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve the recommendation to fund Citrus, Hernando and Marion Counties water conservation projects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

6. Northern District Utility Outreach Program

Mr. Brent White, Staff Water Conservation Analyst, SWFWMD, stated one of the challenges of the program is to create a sense of teamwork, instead of a sense of competition. He stated the Utility Outreach Program's goals are improving the interaction in the water supply planning and permitting process, to enforce and increase the realization

and incorporation of water conservation initiatives as an overall supply strategy, and to improve relations with all 170 public supply utilities within the SWFWMD. Mr. White stated the key program goals are to reduce per capita water use, improve interaction between the population and demand projections during permitting to help streamline the process, and develop alternative water supply strategies including water conservation and various partnerships. He provided an in-depth presentation on these areas.

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

Mr. Damato asked if the census and population growth affected the Outreach Program. Mr. White stated population growth figures were used to update future use projections. Mr. Damato asked if the Outreach Program was designed to help local counties with writing a landscaping ordinance, and Mr. White replied they definitely were. Mr. Damato told Ms. Cara Martin, Community Affairs Program Manager, SWFWMD, that he would be contacting her on the matter.

7. Update on Response to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Re: Inglis Hydropower Project

Mr. Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, gave a presentation on the Inglis Hydropower Project, stating most of the information was obtained from the application to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC). He said this project would be located at the Inglis Bypass Structure and the concerns were the potential impacts on future water supply projects in the Lake Rousseau and the Lower Withlacoochee River areas. He recommended the following items:

- a. Draft a letter to the FERC requesting the WRWSA be added to the list of contact agencies;
- b. Meet with SWFWMD to determine any impacts on future water supply development;
- c. Request a meeting with Hydropower to continue discusses and invite SWFWMD to have a joint meeting to discuss concerns about the project;
- d. Develop a position on the Inglis Hydropower Project for the WRWSA; and
- e. Report back to the WRWSA at the October meeting with a recommendation.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Damato expressed concerns about the amount of water to be used by such a project and the affect on minimum flows and levels.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. McClain to approve the recommendations for the Inglis Hydropower Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

A consensus of the WRWSA Board showed concern for the lack of noticing to local government agencies for this project. Mr. Haag stated that not even Citrus County was contacted.

8. 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. Mission Statement

Mr. Sullivan stated several Board members suggested at the June 2010 meeting that the WRWSA needed a mission statement which could be incorporated into its correspondence, web page and other documents. Mr. Damato sent Mr. Sullivan a mission statement which Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Hubbell, and Ms. Salz reviewed and edited. Mr. Sullivan stated a copy had been provided in the Board Package for review. Mr. Damato approved of the changes made to his original document. The mission statement reads as follows:

The WRWSA is a multi-county special district of the State of Florida charged with planning for and developing cost efficient, high quality water supplies for its member governments. The Authority promotes environmental stewardship through its water conservation programs and in the future will develop alternative water sources to augment groundwater supplies to meet the region's long-term needs.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Rocco to approve the mission statement as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Damato and carried unanimously.**

c. Memo to Ocala Star Banner – Re: Public Records

Enclosed in the board packet is a copy of questions received from the reporter, Mr. Bill Thompson, Ocala Star Banner, and the memorandum written in response to his questions.

d. Correspondence

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the following Correspondence:

- (1) He had prepared letters to President Obama and Governor Crist requesting information on plans made to protect our shoreline, rivers, springs and homes from hurricane storm surge and misting of oil from wave and wind action; and he asked about contingency plans for how a desalination plant might operate if oil intrusion occurred.
- (2) He sent letters to Ms. Patricia Koch, Mr. Frank Heath, and Mr. James Bitter to answer their concerns about the intent of the WRWSA to move groundwater from Citrus to Hernando County. Mr. Grubman was copied and replied to the letter by e-mail to Mr. Sullivan; and Mr. Sullivan responded to Mr. Grubman by e-mail.

- (3) Mr. Sullivan included the transmittal letters to the County Administrators and the Ocala City Manager with enclosed copies of the WRWSA adopted budget.
- (4) A letter was sent to John Ferguson, SWFWMD, requesting the WRWSA joint Phase VII program be reoriented toward refining long-range plans for infrastructure development (i.e. the Regional Framework).
- (5) A letter was received on the City of Ocala's Xeriscape Project grant which WRWSA funded this fiscal year. The funding was scheduled to begin September 16, 2009 when the actual contract was signed. However, due to a misunderstanding, the City of Ocala began the project as soon as the grant application was approved at the June 2009 WRWSA meeting. The majority of work was done prior to September 16. The grant was for \$8,000, and the City of Ocala completed the project for \$6,632.49. Mr. Sullivan recommended reimbursement to the City the full amount of \$6,632.49.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Mr. Damato to approve payment of \$6,632.49 to the City of Ocala. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClain and carried unanimously.**

e. News Articles

Mr. Sullivan provided news articles on water supply issues relating to areas both regional and statewide. This item was presented for the Board's information; no action was required.

9. Legislative Update

Ms. Dianne Salz reported she would continue to track Senate Bill 550, which covers a broad spectrum of issues and includes legislation on a septic tank inspection program. She stated the purchase of Three Sisters Springs should be completed by the end of July. Ms. Salz stated that Senator Charlie Dean was honored to be recognized by the Authority and will attend the September 2010 meeting to accept an Appreciation Award from the Authority.

Mr. Damato stated he attended the City of Crystal River meeting for the purchase of the Three Sisters Springs, which is the "Gem of the Nature Coast." He felt it was an historical meeting.

10. Attorney's Report

Mr. Hagg reviewed his recommendations for record retention and copying. Discussion ensued and the consensus was to follow current Florida State Statutes.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Fitos to follow Mr. Hagg's recommendations and have him prepare a policy for approval at the next WRWSA meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

Mr. Hagg reviewed the Florida Statutes, Section 373.1962 (7) which states to add a county or municipality to the board would require a majority vote of its voting members. He stated the WRWSA would require a minimum of 10 votes to add a new county or city to the board.

11. Other Business

Mr. Richard Radacky, Interim Public Works Director, City of Brooksville, gave an overview on Skyland Utilities, Inc. (Skyland) indicating it wished to develop utilities in southeast Hernando County and northeast Pasco County areas, and had applied for a utility certificate in water and wastewater services with the Florida Public Service Commission. He said Skyland is a subsidiary of Evans Properties, which is mostly citrus and cattle and has large holdings (approximately 43,000 acres) throughout the central portion of the state, and Mr. Evans, the owner of Evans Properties, is also the manager of Skyland Utilities. Mr. Radacky expressed concerns of water being distributed outside Hernando and Pasco Counties to Mr. Evans' properties. He requested that the WRWSA monitor the Skyland application submitted to the Florida Public Service Commission. If Skyland intends to remove water from the area, the WRWSA should object to it and protect the area water supply.

Mr. Joe Stapf, Utilities Director, Hernando County, stated Hernando County had not been contacted by Skyland to request servicing the area and permits had not been applied for from either Hernando and Pasco Counties or SWFWMD. Extensive discussion occurred with consensus reached to monitor the situation and prevent water being transferred outside the counties.

Following consideration, **a motion was made by Ms. Druzbeck to have a letter written to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) strongly opposing Skyland creating a utility to transfer water outside of Hernando and Pasco Counties, and to have Mr. Sullivan testify to the FPSC against this project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rocco and carried unanimously.**

12. Public Comment

Mr. Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. (WAR) gave handouts to the WRWSA on an alternative water source for the northern planning area capturing water by moving the canal control structure and lock six miles below the Inglis Lock. He stated the era of cheap water was over, cost of alternative water supplies is high, and WAR was concerned about the cumulative impacts on the region.

Mr. Webb asked the information be given to Mr. Hubbell for review and a report be given at the October WRWSA meeting.

13. Next Meeting Time and Location

Mr. Sullivan recommended keeping with normal summer schedule that the WRWSA not meet in August. He indicated that any business requiring the WRWSA review could wait until the September 15 meeting. By consensus the members agreed.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 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.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Hoffman announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Richard Hoffman, Chairman

Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director