



WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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WITHLACOOCHEE WATER AUTHORITY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AT NEW HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Blake Guillory Discussed Water Management District Changes

LECANTO, FL, January 18, 2012 -- Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority representing Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties began the new year meeting in the Lecanto Government Office Building and by electing new officers: Citrus County Commissioner Dennis Damato is Chairman; Hernando County Commissioner John Druzbeck is Vice-Chair; and Marion County Commissioner Carl Zalak is Treasurer. Mr. Blake Guillory, the new Southwest Florida Water Management District Executive Director was introduced to the Board, and discussed the numerous changes at his agency. Of particular interest, Mr. Guillory described how SWFWMD has cut its budget and will be offering up to 50% of its levied property tax or \$90 million for cooperative funding projects during FY2013. The District's cooperative funding program currently provides assistance to the Authority and member governments in a regional water conservation pilot program for efficient outdoor landscaping and irrigation systems. Mr. Pete Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, Inc. presented recommendations to the Board from the Regional Framework Initiative Report, with no final action taken. The Regional Framework Initiative outlines a "roadmap" for collaboration on water supply projects among the Authority's member governments to ensure an affordable, safe and reliable future water supply. Additionally, the Board discussed legislation to restrict the use of water conservation rates currently used by all the Authority's member governments for encouraging water conservation by charging more for excessive use. Authority Executive Director Jack Sullivan said that building costly new water supply projects can be delayed through water conservation, and that a letter to the sponsors and the Legislative Delegation is warranted to express the Authority's concern. The Authority Board concurred. The Authority's next meeting will be February 15, 2012 at 4:30 p.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

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