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**WITHLACOOCHEE WATER AUTHORITY HONORS PAST CHAIR**

*Hernando County Commissioner Jim Adkins Advanced Conservation Agenda*

LECANTO, FL, May 20, 2015 -- Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority representing Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter counties honored immediate past chairman, Hernando County Commissioner Jim Adkins for his outstanding achievements during his tenure. Notably, under Mr. Adkin's leadership, the Authority has significantly reduced water supply demand in the four-county region through water conservation by implementing a most successful outdoor irrigation program in partnership with its member governments and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). According to Authority Executive Director Richard Owen, "building costly new water supply projects will be delayed through water conservation." Mr. Adkins also led the Authority's participation in SWFWMD's Springs Protection Initiative, and achieved significant milestones including: completion of the Authority's Regional Water Supply Plan; and inter-local agreement update during the 2014 calendar year. The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority 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 will develop alternative water sources when necessary to augment traditional water supplies to meet the region's long-term needs. The Authority's next meeting will be June 17, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., in the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.

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