

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact: Diane Salz****850.339.8550****WITHLACOOCHEE WATER AUTHORITY SUPPORTS WATER CONSERVATION***Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers Being Reviewed*

LECANTO, FL, April 17, 2019 – the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority's (WRWSA) Board of Directors representing Citrus, Hernando, Marion, and Sumter counties received a report from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) regarding its efforts to revisit Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa Rivers. The Board strongly encourages the public to become involved in this process for setting these MFLs. Recognizing the importance of these two rivers to the Withlacoochee region, Board Chair Michelle Stone expressed the need for public involvement in the process of reevaluating the rivers by the SWFWMD, before new limits are set in rule. It's been six-years since SWFWMD collected and analyzed data for each river used for developing MFLs. MFLs are important to the WRWSA and its member governments since they set limits on the amount of water available for withdrawal, not only in the river systems, but in the groundwater basins that contribute flow to the spring and river runs, according to Richard Owen, WRWSA Executive Director. A public workshops will be held on June 11th at the College of Central Florida Conference Center. Additional information regarding the MFL workshop can be obtained by contacting Doug Leeper at the SWFWMD at 352-796-7211, extension 4272. The next WRWSA Board of Directors meeting will be on May 15th at 3:30 pm at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461. Additional information about the WRWSA may be found on the Authority's website at [www.wrwsa.org](http://www.wrwsa.org).

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