

**WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WORKSHOP MINUTES  
April 21, 2010**

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council  
1241 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street (SR 200)  
Ocala, Florida 34471-0323

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 1:06 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

**2. Roll Call**

Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director, called the roll.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Richard Hoffman, Chairman, Sumter County Commissioner  
Barbara Fitos, Vice-Chairman, Marion County Commissioner  
Rose Rocco, Treasurer, Hernando County Commissioner  
Christine Dobkowski, Belleview City Commissioner  
John Druzbeck, Hernando County Commissioner  
Dennis Damato, Citrus County Commissioner  
Randy Mask, Sumter County Commissioner  
Stan McClain, Marion County Commissioner  
John Priester, Ocala City Councilman  
David Russell, Hernando 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  
Mary S. Rich, Ocala City Councilwoman

**3. Introductions and Workshop Overview**

Mr. Sullivan introduced others in the audience.

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Jack Sullivan, WRWSA Executive Director  
Larry Haag, WRWSA Attorney  
Doug Tharp, SWFWMD Governing Board Member  
Judy Whitehead, SWFWMD Governing Board Member  
David Moore, SWFWMD Executive Director  
Sonny Vergara, Facilitator  
Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates  
Josh Schmitz, Water Resource Associates  
John Ferguson, SWFWMD  
Cara Martin, SWFWMD  
Joe Quinn, SWFWMD  
Jim Gross, SJRWMD  
Kim Diquins, Marion County  
Todd Petrie, Marion County  
Paul Marraffino, Marion County Planning Commission  
Sue Farnsworth, Citrus County  
Robert Knight, Citrus County Utilities  
Darryl Muse, City of Ocala  
Richard Radacky, City of Brooksville  
Terri Lowery, Jones Edmunds  
Trey Arnett, The Villages  
Al Grubman, TOO FAR  
Peter Rocco, Hernando County Citizen  
Tahla Paige, Recording Secretary

Chair Hoffman stated this was a workshop and asked that board members be prepared to participate in the discussion. He then turned over the meeting to Sonny Vergara to facilitate the workshop.

#### **4. Goals, Process and Projected Outcome of Facilitating Workshop**

Mr. Sonny Vergara introduced himself, informed the board of his work history, including that he was the former Executive Director of SWFWMD. Mr. Vergara stated he would be facilitating the meeting and asked for input from the WRWSA members. Mr. Vergara explained there were eight priority areas, and he would group the related priorities together for discussion.

#### **5. Water Supply Planning and Development within the WRWSA – Context for Workshop**

a. Mr. Peter Hubbell, Water Resource Associates, reviewed current water conditions, economic turn down, flattened population water demands, and ground water availability. He added that gallons per capita per day (gpcpd) goals are now requirements. However, water use will continue to increase with the need for additional water resources. Mr. Hubbell gave an overview of future regional water needs. He ended his presentation by stating the approximately 30 recommendations had been divided into eight different headings consisting of Population and Water Demand, Data Collection and Monitoring, Regional Groundwater Assessment, Water

Conservation, Reclaimed Water, Water Supply Options, Water Supply Partnership Options, and WRWSA Regional Framework.

**6. Review and Prioritization of Phase II Recommendations**

Mr. Vergara stressed the importance of having funding and co-funding with water management districts. Mr. Russell asked if the existing Charles Black well field could be profitable to fund projects for the WRWSA. Mr. Sullivan stated the current contract is with Citrus County to operate the well field. He said the WRWSA would have to take over the operation of the well field in order to use the proceeds for projects. Mr. Russell asked if an interlocal agreement could be made for the WRWSA to get a cut of the proceeds from water production. Mr. Sullivan replied the current contract would have to be renegotiated. Ms. Rocco stated the importance of interlocal agreements and income. Discussion continued.

Mr. Vergara asked Mr. Moore for SWFWMD's interest in support of the regional concept. Mr. Moore stated a regional approach was necessary as it allowed pooling of funds for larger projects to be completed. He said there were three aspects of regionalism: First, a cooperative regional approach where local entities planned together on pooling water resources; then conservation, which is the least costly alternative and compatible with the environment; and finally, a role for the WRWSA to develop a regional water loop system for emergency backup as well as distribution of costly alternative water supplies.

Mr. Vergara discussed issues/filters affect on regional water supplies. He explained one important issue was working with water management districts for funding alternative water supply projects. Mr. Vergara stated minimum flows and levels requirements were necessary for healthy spring sheds, wetlands, and lakes, but also affected development of alternative water supplies. He noted currently there were compliance per capita usage limitations on water use permits which would affect the development of alternative water supplies. Mr. Vergara stated creation of other water supply authorities were contemplated with a possibility of one in neighboring Orlando. Finally, he explained a regional approach instead of local approach gained more influence on legislative, regulatory and legal issues.

- a. **Population and Water Demand**
- b. **Data Collection and Monitoring**
- c. **Regional Groundwater Assessment**

Mr. Vergara explained the first three priorities were grouped together as they are planning and analysis tools. Population growth affects water demand. He stated data collection and monitoring of water conditions such as droughts, flooding and changes to the environment need to be monitoring for planning issues. Regional groundwater assessment will show the availability and location of water for planning use of water supplies. Mr. Vergara stated the information was essential for future planning. Mr. Sullivan added the WRWSA updates this information every five years, but with the constant changes occurring felt it should be done as needed, perhaps every year. Mr. Russell wanted to know what was considered local resources, and he asked if the water management district had conflicts concerning local resources. Mr. Moore stated water management districts considered water authorities as local water supplies. Mr. Moore explained the modeling of the SWFWMD consisted of individual watersheds, where

SJRWMD had a regional approach with their model. He added SJRWMD would provide data for a local area upon request.

It was the consensus of the board members that all three areas are important to the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan.

d. **Water Conservation**

Mr. Vergara asked how the WRWSA intended to implement water conservation. Ms. Rocco stated Hernando County had a good program in place that helped to educate the public with presentations about plumbing and landscaping; and the county still had watering restrictions of once a day. Mr. Vergara stated SWFWMD had co-funding for water conservation programs. Mr. Sullivan explained the WRWSA has grants for co-funding with the water conservation coordinators in local governments. He said his vision for the WRWSA is to act as facilitator between SWFWMD and local governments to implement the SWFWMD water conservation model. Board members stressed public education was important for water conservation.

It was the consensus of the board members that water conservation is important to the Plan.

e. **Reclaimed Water**

Mr. Hubbell said reclaimed water along with water conservation and education will help reduce the per capita use per household, which must be 150 gpcpd by 2018. Mr. Druzbeck stated reclaimed water is the cheapest and easiest way to save water as an alternative water supply.

It was the consensus of the board members that reclaimed water is important to the Plan.

f. **Water Supply Options**

Mr. Hubbell gave a summary of options. Short-term solutions would be the use of groundwater for such areas as northern Sumter County in Wildwood and The Villages area. Midterm solutions would be area interconnections and an example of long term alternative water services would be a desalination plant. Mr. Hoffman stated the City of Wildwood and The Villages were already working together on water use and reclaimed water. Discussion centered on minimum flows and levels relating to the use of groundwater. Mr. Damato stated he agreed with developing available groundwater first, then looking at surface water, followed by desalination. He liked the mix Mr. Moore stated that Tampa Bay Water currently has of 45 percent groundwater, 55 percent surface water, and 10 percent desalination. Ms. Fitos asked about a statewide model to determine where desalination plants need to be placed. Mr. Moore explained development of desalination depended on the supply or lack of other available water supplies as it was more expensive. He added the reason it worked for Tampa Bay Water was the blended use of less expensive groundwater and surface water so the cost could be absorbed by their customers.

It was the consensus of the board members that water supply options are important to the Plan.

**g. Water Supply Partnership Options**

Mr. Sullivan stated the importance of working with the SWFWMD to develop incentive for regional groundwater supply development in the region. Mr. Russell asked about using SB 444 funds for groundwater development. Mr. Moore replied that currently there were no SB 444 funds budgeted by the state; however, SB 444 funds were for alternative water supplies and only covered brackish groundwater, not traditional groundwater.

It was the consensus of the board members that water supply partnerships are important to the Plan.

**h. WRWSA Regional Framework**

Mr. Damato stressed communication with local governments was important and information needed to flow in both directions in order to work on regional issues. Mr. Russell suggested the use of power lines or expressway right-of-ways for creating a regional water supply network. Mr. Haag explained right-of-ways were legally designated for one specific purpose and it was difficult to obtain permission for additional uses. Mr. Hubbell noted public perception that regional networks took water away for someone else's use needed to be addressed.

It was the consensus of the board members that a regional framework is important to the Plan.

**7. Break**

Due to lengthy discussion, the break was cancelled.

**8. Discussion Summary**

Due to lengthy discussion on recommendations, summary discussion did not occur.

**9. Next Steps**

Not discussed.

**10. Adjourn**

Chairman Hoffman announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Board and adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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Jackson E. Sullivan, Executive Director