



15588 Aviation Loop Drive Brooksville, Florida 34604
Office: 352.796.0697 • Fax: 352.796.3704

September 5, 2019

The Honorable Jeffrey Holcomb, Chairman
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
20 N. Main St., Room 263
Brooksville, FL 34601

Re: Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce supports continued Hernando County participation in the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Dear Chairman Holcomb:

Following a thorough discussion and recommendations of our Advocacy Committee, it is the position of the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce that the County's long-term water supply interests are best served by the county's continued support and membership in the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. Consequently, we support and applaud your recent decision to continue to engage and provide important leadership for this organization. Ensuring an affordable and reliable water supply is paramount to the continued economic vitality of our community and this is the primary purpose of the Authority.

Although we believe fresh groundwater resources within Hernando County are adequate to meet our needs for the foreseeable future, counties and cities to the south and east of us are not as fortunate. Their access to sustainable quantities of fresh groundwater are already becoming limited within their jurisdictions. Thus, their potential to impact the availability of groundwater in Hernando County continues to be a concern as it has over the years, and the region's current high growth rates are not abating that concern. It goes without saying, we have greater strength in protecting local water resources as a member of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority than as a single county:

- Membership will provide important strategic representation in Tallahassee as well as at SWFWMD, when advocacy for water supply policies that address our unique needs is critical.
- The County can continue to receive State and SWFWMD funding to assist in planning and developing new water supplies.
- As new water supplies become necessary to meet the needs of our own county's projected growth, our water supply options will be greatly benefited by regional partnerships that will help mitigate costs and provide significant economies of scale.
- While the County pays an annual fee to be a member of the Authority, records show over the last five years it has received more in grant dollars from the Authority and SWFWMD than it pays in membership fees. These grant dollars help the County implement water conservation activities that extend the capacity of constructed facilities thereby delaying the need to build

new facilities as well as extending the availability of permitted quantities needed to meet projected demands.

As the population and economy of our county and region continue to grow, the business community looks to the County Commission to ensure water supplies for our future are well planned and developed in a timely and cost-effective manner. Thus, the Chamber supports and urges continued Hernando County membership in the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority.

Sincerely,



Dr. Donna Burdzinski
Chairman of the Board
Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Michelle Stone, Marion County Board of County Commissioners; Chair, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Richard Owen, Executive Director, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
Jeff Rogers, Administrator, Hernando County
Brian Armstrong, Executive Director, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Morris Porton, Chairman, Advocacy Committee
Barbara Berendt, Tampa Bay Times
Rocco Maglio, Hernando Sun
Sonny Vergara



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

WaterMatters.org

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Bartow Office

170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

Sarasota Office

6750 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

Tampa Office

7601 U.S. 301 North (Fort King Highway)
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

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Vice Chair, Hillsborough

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Polk

Rebecca Smith

Hillsborough, Pinellas

Brian J. Armstrong, P.G.

Executive Director

September 5, 2019

Mr. Richard Owen
Executive Director
Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 West Sovereign Path, Suite 228
Lecanto, Florida 34461

Subject: Request for Project Schedule Adjustment for the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Regional Water Supply Plan Update Project (N945); Agreement No. 17CF0001100

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) entered into an agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) with an effective date of October 1, 2017, for the WRWSA Regional Water Supply Plan Update Project.

The District received a request from the WRWSA dated August 27, 2019, to revise the project schedule to extend the completion deadline for the Final Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). This request would provide additional time to address and incorporate comments received on the Draft RWSP by the WRWSA's Technical Advisory Committee and member governments. It would also accommodate scheduling of the Final RWSP for consideration at the WRWSA's Board of Directors meeting in November. A previous request to revise several task dates to reflect additional efforts required for the RWSP update was approved on January 24, 2019. Those changes provided for further engagement with WRWSA member utilities on conservation projections and additional work required for evaluation of water sources.

Extension of the Final RWSP task date will not impact provision of other task deliverables, nor will it affect the Agreement termination date of March 31, 2020. Table 1 provides a summary of the final proposed schedule change.

Table 1 – Project Schedule

Task	Commence	Complete
Population and Demand Estimates	04/20/18	03/01/19
Conservation and Reuse Evaluation	04/20/18	03/15/19
Water Sources Evaluation	04/20/18	06/19/19
Water Supply Project Options	10/19/18	07/19/19
Recommendations	02/28/19	07/19/19
Draft Regional Water Supply Plan	05/28/19	08/16/19
Final Regional Water Supply Plan	08/16/19	11/29/19

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Richard Owen

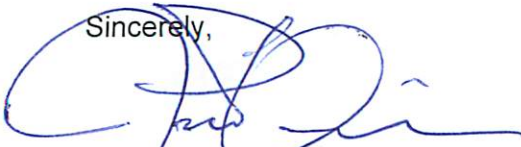
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September 5, 2019

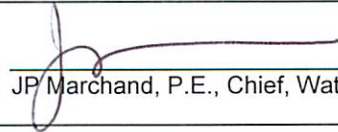
In accordance with paragraph 1.1 of the Agreement, as the District's Project Manager, I approve the request from the WRWSA to revise the project schedule. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 423-1476, extension 4421.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Quinn, AICP
Senior Project Manager
Water Supply
Water Resources Bureau

Approved by:



JP Marchand, P.E., Chief, Water Resources Bureau

JPQ:abp

Enclosures

cc: Records (contract file)
Project File

Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 228, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Bills For Payment
9/18/2019

<u>Administrative Invoices</u>	<u>Invoice Number(s)</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Richard S. Owen, AICP, Executive Director	2019-08	9/3/2019	\$6,818.00
Larry Haag, Attorney	35129	9/9/2019	\$570.00
Diane Salz, Governmental Affairs (Professional Fee)	83119	8/31/2019	\$3,500.00
C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Asst (Services)	08-Aug-2019	9/3/2019	\$3,125.00
Acentria Insurance (Public Officials Liability)	WITHREG-01	8/27/2019	\$2,741.01
Karen Allen (Web Maintenance, Page Creation)	115	9/8/2019	\$125.00
Sun Trust Business Card Statement	09.02.2019	9/2/2019	\$0.00
Total Administrative Invoices			\$16,879.01

<u>Water Supply Studies and Facilities</u>	<u>Contract/Budget</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Current Invoice(s)</u>
General Services Contract	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	
Regional Water Supply Plan Update	\$299,940.00	\$51,765.71	\$21,091.25 (1)
FY2017-18 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$42,627.50	\$2,461.38	
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$7,973.69	
Marion County	\$35,245.00	\$17,571.18	
FY2018-19 Water Conservation Grants Program			
Citrus County	\$36,875.00	\$36,875.00	
Hernando County	\$48,350.00	\$48,350.00	
Marion County	\$42,595.00	\$41,981.50	
Phase 4 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$61,839.78	\$1,100.00 (2)
Phase 5 Irrigation Program	\$200,000.00	\$140,110.44	\$8,185.66 (3)
Total Project Invoices	\$1,028,982.50	\$483,928.68	\$30,376.91

Total Bills to be Paid	\$47,255.92
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State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA2 to SBA1	\$30,376.91
State Board of Administration	Transfer from SBA1 to SunTrust Bank	\$47,255.92

Notes:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Regional Supply Plan Update - Cardno, Inc. | \$21,091.25 | Invoice 279525 |
| (2) Phase 4 (N822) - Irrigation Audit Reinspections | | |
| Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design | \$1,100.00 | Invoice 371 |
| (3) Phase 5 (Q040) - Irrigation Audits | | |
| Jack Overdorff, ECO Land Design | \$7,185.66 | Invoice 370 |
| C. LuAnne Stout, Admin Services | \$1,000.00 | Invoice 08-Aug-Q040 2019 |
| | <u>\$8,185.66</u> | |