

**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUMMARY AGENDA**

**September 23, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Lake County Administration Building**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - County Commission Chambers**

**315 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778**

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting August 26 and the Tentative Budget Meeting of September 9, 2009**
3. **Executive Director Report**
4. **Discussion Items** **Presenter**
  - a. Authorize Alcohol (Beer) Following Rugby Match At Hickory Point Soccer Fields **Michael Perry**

In September 2008, The Board authorized the Central Florida Sports Commission to hold a rugby tournament on the soccer fields at Hickory Point on October 2008 and allow beer at the event.

Rugby is a very intense, physical sport similar to American football where players are tackled to the ground, although the similarity ends there. Rugby players wear no protective equipment and the competition is fierce. Once the games are finished, the tradition is that the players gather together to self-medicate with beer. The Board allowed the Lake County Soccer League and the Central Florida Sports Commission to have beer at the 2008 tournament provided that any beer consumed must be limited to a designated and controlled access area, identifiable security guards are on-site and that the appropriate level of insurance is obtained in advance of the event and all other rules related to Hickory Point and the soccer fields are complied with.

The Lake County Soccer League and the Central Florida Sports Commission are again seeking the Board's permission to allow beer at the soccer fields for an upcoming October 2009 rugby tournament. Staff recommends that the same conditions: any beer consumed must be limited to a designated and controlled access area; visible and identifiable security guards are provided; and that the appropriate level of insurance is obtained in advance of the event; and all other rules related to Hickory Point and the soccer fields are complied with remain.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Authorize the Lake County Soccer League and the Central Florida Sports Commission to provide beer following the rugby tournament only if the beer consumed is limited to a designated and controlled access area, security guards are provided and that the appropriate level of insurance is obtained in advance of the event and all other rules related to Hickory Point and the soccer fields are complied with.

b. Request to Waive Fees for Toys for Tots Event  
At Hickory Point

**Michael Perry**

Mr. Kerry Kline is working with the United States Marine Corps Reserve and several community boating groups to coordinate Toys for Tots Tournament and Boat Parade on December 12, 2009. The boat parade originates in the Dead River and intends to land at Hickory Point. At Hickory Point, the toys are unloaded from the boats and weighed. The participants will spend some time socializing prior to the Awards and Raffle scheduled for 12:15 pm. After the Awards and Raffle, the participants will return to their boats for the return trip.

Due to the potential large number of boats and the size of the activity it is likely that this group will dominate that portion of the park and limit other groups from using the facility. As such, policy dictates that a group of this size must rent a portion of the pavilion. The Toys for Tots organizers would also like to use the pavilion in case of rain or poor weather. Because it is a charity event, the organizers are requesting the Water Authority waive the pavilion rental fees.

Water Authority staff receive many requests from a variety of charities to use the pavilion for their charitable cause and waive the fees. While the Board and staff recognizes the value of charitable causes, due to the numerous requests and the difficulty of waiving the fee for one charitable group and not for all who make the request, the Board has not waived the fee for groups who want to use the pavilion to hold a charitable event. Charitable events are held at the park, and park staff works with the groups to help them hold their event on the park grounds without having to rent the pavilion.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Not to waive the pavilion rental fee for the *Toys for Tots* Event at Hickory Point.

c. Creel Survey Report

**Ron Hart**

Five years ago, the St Johns River Water Management District expanded the gizzard shad harvesting program to include Lakes Beauclair and Dora. The harvesting of gizzard shad had the potential to impact recreational users, particularly anglers, due to nets and other equipment used by the harvesters. Because of these concerns, the Board approved funding for the creel survey as a means to monitor angler catches and effort on Lakes Dora and Beauclair.

A creel survey is performed by a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) employee who polls the anglers on each lake during the peak fishing season. The anglers are asked what fish they are trying to catch, how long they have been fishing, and how many fish they have caught.

Each summer, Mr. John Benton, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, provides the Board with the results of the creel survey. This year's creel survey is a continuation of the existing program with some modifications due to the end of the shad harvesting, the potential continuation of the bass stocking program, and the start of the NuRF operation. The creel survey is a method of measuring the impact from the bass stocking program combined with the gradual improvements

expected from the NuRF operation. As a result, staff is recommending that creel surveys be continued.

The survey, designed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will assess the current fishing efforts of anglers on Lakes Beauclair, Dora, and Carlton. The data will be compared to the previous years and the historical data to assess any changes in the fishing effort and fishing success in these lakes. Furthermore, the creel data will be utilized by staff in conjunction with other investigations to support a comprehensive evaluation of the bass stocking program and to evaluate improvements as a result of the NuRF operation.

In the proposal, the FFWCC has agreed to provide the boats, operating supplies, scientific design, data management, analysis of data, personnel support, personnel supervision, and report writing associated with the program. The Lake County Water Authority would reimburse the FFWCC for the creel clerk’s salary and the cost of boat fuel to perform the surveys for a total cost not to exceed \$6,000. The Board has included \$6,000 for creel surveys in its proposed FY 2009-2010 budget. A representative of the FFWCC will be present at the Board meeting to present the results of last year’s Creel Survey and to answer any questions.

**Executive Director’s Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to execute an amended purchase order as recommended by staff with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the creel survey on Lakes Beauclair, Dora, and Carlton for an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

d. Settlement for NuRF Contractor Additional Fees Request **Michael Perry**

At the June 2009 meeting the Board was briefed on final issues related to the NuRF Project. One was related to claims made by the contractor for additional work. During the course of project construction, Gibbs & Register, Inc. and Environmental Research & Design, Inc. (ERD) found it necessary to facilitate several changes for proper construction of the Nutrient Reduction Facility. Because LCWA staff had been instructed that no change orders would be allowed, no financial compensation was authorized and the contractor was instructed to complete construction without additional compensation regardless of the entity at fault. In the interest of cooperation, Gibbs & Register, Inc. proceeded with the necessary changes. Staff did work with ERD to incorporate value engineering into the design aimed at providing some relief to the contractor.

Gibbs & Register believed that they were entitled to \$129,885.84. The change items are indicated in the table below:

<b>Claims Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Floc Tank Foundation Modifications	\$ 16,265.58
2. Metal Building Modifications	\$ 18,063.56
3. Conveyor Wall Modifications	\$ 4,470.61
4. Revised Water Wells	\$ 22,494.66
5. Revised Septic	\$ 13,673.31
6. Pond Sloughing	\$ 41,113.49
7. Enlargement of Spoil Pile	\$ 13,804.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 129,885.84</b>

Staff has reviewed these changes with ERD. ERD believed that the LCWA is not accountable for these charges because the credits due to the LCWA are more than ample to offset the total. Credits determined by ERD are as follows:

<b>Credits Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. Sod Credit	\$ 110,517.00
2. Savings from Alum Piping Change	\$ 24,750.00
3. Savings from Dredge Piping Change	\$ 11,624.48
4. Reduction in Density Testing	\$ 2,250.00
5. Modification of Endwall Sections	\$ 3,300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 152,441.48</b>

Pursuant to the Board’s authorization Attorney Barice directed John Horan, a partner in the law firm of Foley & Lardner LLP to serve as special counsel to negotiate with Gibbs & Register, Inc. to work toward resolving this issue. After reviewing the issue, Attorneys Barice and Horan believe that at least a portion of Gibbs & Register’s claims are legitimate and ERD’s credit calculations may be overstated. Attorneys Barice and Horan have negotiated the following settlement offer:

<b>Accepted Claims</b>	
Floc Tank Foundation Modifications	\$ 15,389
Metal Building Modifications	\$ 17,091
Conveyor Wall Modifications	\$ 4,230
Pond Sloughing (Pond 2 West Bank)	\$ 35,602
Pond Sloughing (Pond 2 SW Corner)	\$ 19,650
Grassing & Matting Additional Spoil Areas	\$ 13,061
<i>subtotal</i>	<b>\$ 105,023</b>

<b>Credit Amount to LCWA</b>	
Switch from seed to sod	- \$ 32,371
Dredge discharge piping	- \$ 6,518
Alum line markers	- \$ 3,510
<i>subtotal</i>	<b>- \$ 42,399</b>
<i>Net Claim Payment to Gibbs &amp; Register, Inc.</i>	<b>\$ 62,624</b>

Staff believes the Board has two options:

- 1) Reject the claims for additional compensation by Gibbs & Register because the credit for field adjustments exceed the claims made by the contractor, or
- 2) Concur with the findings of Attorneys Barice and Horan and approve a settlement with Gibbs & Register, Inc.

Should the Board select Option 2), staff would recommend that this amount be included in the claim being made against ERD’s insurance company since all of these issues would have arisen from errors and omissions within the plans.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Concur with the findings of Attorneys Barice and Horan and approve a settlement with Gibbs & Register, Inc. for \$62,624 for claims of additional work on the NuRF project.

e. Authorization to Purchase CDARS

**Linda Marino**

The Water Authority is again soliciting proposals from local banks for the investment of approximately \$12,000,000 in excess operating funds for terms of 6 to 18 months. The solicitation has limited acceptable investments to Certificates of Deposit (CD) and Certificates of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS). CDARS are thought to be even safer than CD’s. The banks have been instructed to quote rates for periods of 6 months to 18 months and the interest rates quoted should remain in effect through September 29, 2009. The solicitation specified that the Water Authority would only purchase investments from institutions that are qualified public depositories by the Treasurer of the State of Florida. Because rates fluctuate so quickly we requested the responses back by 4:00 p.m. on September 21, 2009.

As of August 31, 2009, the checking account and 6 month expected CD balances totaled \$15,882,000. At the time this memo was written and based on a simple cash flow analysis, staff recommends leaving approximately \$3,882,000 in the checking account and investing the remaining \$12,000,000 for 6 months. Staff will provide the responses to the solicitation and a recommendation for investment options at the meeting.

**Executive Director’s Recommendation:**

Select a Certificate(s) of Deposit (CD) or Certificates of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) to invest \$12,000,000.

f. Flat Island Railroad Right of Way Conveyance

**Patricia Burgos**

In 1990, the Water Authority began purchasing parcels within the Okahumpka Marsh as part of a larger plan to protect this important water resource. By 2002, the 2,317-acre Flat Island Preserve was created south of Leesburg. As part of this acquisition process, the Water Authority in 1997 purchased the railroad corridor for \$26,000 from CSX for preservation and access purposes. Currently, staff does minimal maintenance on this portion of the Preserve, instead concentrating maintenance and land management activities on the main Preserve to the west. The railroad corridor spans the eastern boundary of the Preserve, as indicated on the enclosed map as a red line.

Due to the interest by the City of Leesburg’s Parks and Recreation Department to create a city-wide trail that is paved and promotes access to different parts of the City, staff thought that it may be in the best interests of the LCWA to talk to the City about taking over ownership and maintenance for this portion of the Preserve for the following reasons:

- The City has a larger staff to care for a trail corridor in an urban setting;
- The City would like to have a paved trail system, which is not LCWA’s focus; and
- By conveying this portion of the Preserve, LCWA staff can better focus the agency’s resources on the main Preserve.

At the January 2007 LCWA Board meeting staff requested permission to begin discussions with the City of Leesburg to take over the ownership and maintenance of the railroad corridor. Staff is now back before the LCWA Board to begin the process to convey the approximately 19 acre railroad corridor to the City of Leesburg. A resolution and a quitclaim deed detailing this conveyance and protective restrictions are included for Board action.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Approve the Resolution and Quitclaim Deed to convey the ±19 acre Flat Island railroad corridor to the City of Leesburg for public conservation and recreation purposes.

- g. Board Member Decorum and Role of the Chairman **Chairman Fullerton**

Chairman Fullerton has requested this item be placed on the agenda. Prior to, and during her tenure as chair she has been concerned about the lack of a “job description” for the Chairman. She would like the Board to consider the issue of formalizing the role of the chairman, whether there should be term limits for a chairman and the progression of vice chair to chairman.

Chairman Fullerton would also like to review the issue of Board interaction and decorum during the meetings.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

For discussion purposes only.

- h. Review of Annual Report and Five Year Plan **Michael Perry**

Staff has prepared the draft version of the 2008 Annual Report. A copy of the Annual Report and Five Year Plan spreadsheet describing how the Five Year Plan projects and expenditures could be budgeted over the five year planning window were distributed following the August 26, 2009 Board meeting.

Staff has received no comments on the text of the annual report and as such, the report was not reprinted and therefore not included with this agenda item. If a board member desires another copy, staff will provide the copy immediately.

The Board determines its budget each year and while the five year plan does not obligate a future board to budget in accordance with the plan, it can be used as a planning tool to anticipate future expenditures and plan for larger multi-year construction projects. The report will be distributed to the Senate President, Speaker of the House, the legislative delegation and local elected officials.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Direct the Executive Director to transmit the Annual Report and Five year Plan to the Senate President, Speaker of the House, the legislative delegation and local elected officials in accordance with the guiding legislation.

i. Items for Discussion at Delegation Meeting

**Michael Perry**

The Lake County Delegation meeting has been scheduled for September 30, 2009. Typically the Water Authority is on the agenda and reports the agency's progress toward meeting its goals and objectives with specifically the progress made on major projects and particularly those funded with money from the legislature. The Chairman has made the report with the Executive Director standing by to provide any details necessary.

Following last year's Delegation meeting Board members were concerned that they had not had an opportunity to review information being provided to the Delegation and had an opportunity to discuss, as a Board, issues that the Board would like the Chairman to discuss with the Delegation.

Staff has provided a draft of the 2009 Report to the Delegation for the Board's review and comment.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Provide direction to staff regarding the 2009 Report to the Delegation and to the Chairman regarding issues to be discussed with the Delegation.

j. Approval of Beauclair Restoration Land Use Agreement

**Lance Lumbard**

One of the most challenging elements of any dredging project is selection of an appropriate location for placement of spoil material. Fortunately, after years of cooperative study and review, the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) is now able to provide the LCWA with a location that is environmentally responsible, economically feasible and mutually beneficial.

The attached Intergovernmental Agreement (IA) was drafted by District staff and approved by the District board on September 8, 2009. The IA is similar to but precedes the lease agreement which will be available once the LCWA obtains the Environmental Resource Permit and other conditions are met as defined in the agreement. Conditions within the IA that may need revision prior to execution can be discussed with District staff but may require consideration at an additional District board meeting for approval. The IA also serves to solidify the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's monetary commitment to the project.

The proposed sediment deposition location consists of two parcels known as the F and G cells just south of the NuRF facility with a combined area of 1,140 acres. This general area is indicated in the 60% plans set as the "Material Deposition (Restoration) Site." As with any restoration area surrounding Lake Apopka, the District requires extraordinary but manageable caution when implementing projects resulting in ecological alteration. For this reason, there are

several “layers” of protective measures that the District specifies in the IA. The major conditions are as follows:

- 1) Dredging shall take place no earlier than mid-September and finish no later than mid-June
- 2) Dredge material shall be spread across F and G cells so as not to exceed maximum elevation of 65 feet (NGVD 1929) as may be revised by the District pending cell bathymetry information
- 3) The Authority shall avoid, mitigate, and develop a response to potential fish kills that may result from the Project and that this responsibility shall survive an additional six months after termination of the Lease
- 4) The Authority shall ensure that water will not flow south into the E and D cells or further south to the District marsh flow-way to avoid nutrient loading to those cells
- 5) During extreme water events, the Authority provides a return pipe from the Property to Lake Beauclair to continue water release from the Project site. This will prevent conducting too much water into the Apopka Beauclair canal at a time when Lake Apopka is contributing water downstream through the Apopka Beauclair lock and dam.
- 6) That flooding private property to the west of the Property is prohibited and that the Authority shall accept sole responsibility for any flooding that occurs as a result of the Project.

The District also asks for the right to pump water from the F and G cells into the NuRF for treatment as necessary after the conclusion of the dredging project. It is unclear what equipment would be used and who would maintain the equipment required to support this, but staff would suggest that the District make the arrangements to install and maintain the necessary equipment. Staff has no other concern with this condition since the additional water would serve to benefit the downstream lakes.

Other conditions within the IA are similar to past land lease and dredge deposition agreements entered into between the LCWA and the District. LCWA staff is working with District staff to determine the level of “financial assurance” expected to “offset the monetary liability” described in Paragraph 6. t.

After discussing the six aforementioned items with BCI and the District, staff suggests the following conditions be specified in the bid and placed upon the contractor. The recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Require the contractor to operate using a double shift, 16-hour day (This means that there would be some level of activity prior to sunrise and after sunset)
- 2) Require the contractor to move the dredge line more frequently and to redistribute material at the end of the project if any elevations exceeded the maximum
- 3) Require the contractor to provide proof of an adequate fish-kill response plan either by sub-contracting with an experienced professional or by demonstrating such professional experience in the past
- 4) Use a return water pump with greater discharge capacity than the dredge pumps and monitor water levels to insure the area around the return line is always slightly lower than or equal to the south end (equal when not pumping)
- 5) Require contractor to stop dredging during high water and accommodate a reverse flow scenario where the dredge line would become the dewatering line
- 6) Recommendations 4 and 5 will address this condition as well

Included in the IA is the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants which accompanies the parcels. This simply restricts what can be constructed on the property and should have no impact on the Beauclair Restoration Project.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to execute the attached Dredge Disposal Project at the West Marsh, Lake Apopka Restoration Area Intergovernmental Agreement.

5. **Final Budget Hearing (no sooner than 5:05 p.m.)**

6. **Public Comment (5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible)**

7. **Legal Staff Report**

**Carole Barice**

8. **Action Items**

- a. **Approval of Agreement with Sheriff's Office for Marine Deputies**

**Michael Perry**

The Lake County Sheriff's Office and the Lake County Water Authority have been working together to provide deputies to enforce the laws of the State of Florida and Lake County and to promote boating safety on the waters of Lake County.

Within this Interlocal Agreement, the Authority will fund the cost of two deputies up to a maximum, not to exceed cost of \$163,511, which represents no increase over FY2008-09, and provide two boats for the deputy's use. The Lake County Sheriff's Office will:

- be responsible for maintaining liability and property insurance on the boat, motor and trailer, provided to the Sheriff's Department by the Authority;
- furnish all supplies and equipment, including the vehicle needed to tow the boat, necessary to the proper patrolling of the waters of Lake County, Florida; and
- provide two full-time deputies, assigned to the Marine Patrol Unit, on behalf of the Authority. One deputy shall have as his primary duty the patrolling of the waters of Lake County for the purpose of enforcing the laws of the State of Florida and Lake County, and promoting boating safety. The other deputy shall have as his primary duty the presentation of educational programs to the citizens of Lake County, focusing on boating safety, regulations, and courtesy.

The Sheriff and the Authority shall cooperatively define the curriculum and presentation methods of such educational programs. When not presenting such educational programs, this deputy shall perform duties similar to those of the other Marine Patrol Deputy sponsored by the Authority.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Upon final budget approval, authorize the Executive Director to execute the Interlocal Agreement between the Water Authority and the Lake County Sheriff to provide for two deputies for an amount not to exceed \$163,511.

b. Approval of Site Resident Leases

**Patricia Burgos**

**Preserves**

The Water Authority maintains annual leases with all site residents living on Preserve properties. These leases are renewed each year in conjunction with the start of the Water Authority's fiscal year. Although the leases are virtually the same, the properties they cover fall into different categories. Three sites require leases for Authority-owned homes -- the Bourlay Historic Nature Park (LCSO Marine Patrol Deputy Bud Anthony), Flat Island Preserve (LCSO Sheriff Deputy Dylan Thomas), and Crooked River Preserve (LCSO Sergeant Steve Stevenson). The fourth site, Sawgrass Island Preserve's security resident (LCSO Corrections Officer Weston Paul) is living in a private manufactured home on Water Authority Preserve land. All residents are required to submit a monthly report listing activities that they have performed on the Preserves in exchange for living at the site. Each resident must perform from 15 – 40 hours per month depending upon the site residence. Activities that are approved under the leases include, but are not limited to, patrolling the property, providing information to the public, citing illegal activity, exotic control, and maintaining the residences and grounds. Staff notes that the residents for these Preserves are members of law enforcement, which is a benefit in the security and safety management of the preserves.

**Water Resource Structure Sites & Hickory Point Site Leases**

The Authority also maintains annual leases with all site residents living as caretakers on two of the water control structures as well as the Hickory Point Recreational Facility. The site residents are as follows: M-1 structure resident LCSO Marine Patrol Deputy John Graham, M-5 structure resident LCSO Deputy Kenneth Fratto and the Hickory Point resident is LCWA Supervisory Park Ranger Mildred Hodge. The water control structure residents own their own manufactured homes and the Hickory Point home is owned by the Water Authority.

Attorney Barice has reviewed the leases. An example of the Flat Island Preserve Lease and the M5 Structure Lease are attached for review.

**Executive Director’s Recommendation:**

Approve the leases with the LCWA site residents and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreements.

c. Approval of Agreement with USGS for Water Level Monitoring **Ron Hart**

At the beginning of each budget year, the Lake County Water Authority has traditionally entered a joint funding agreement with the USGS. The purpose of this agreement is to fund the basic surface water data collection needs of the Authority. The primary area of data collection is the Palatlahaha River Basin where the Authority is responsible for the operation of its dams. Other data collection areas include seven lake level measurement sites and an inflow measurement site to Wolf Branch Sink.

The total cost of this year’s surface water data collection program would be \$158,000, no increase over the previous year. The USGS has agreed to provide \$29,300 in matching funds, the same amount as the previous fiscal year. The Water Authority’s portion for the program would be \$128,700, no increase over the previous year. The proposed agreement is attached.

**Executive Director’s Recommendation:**

Pending the approval of the FY 2009-10 budget, Authorize the Executive Director to execute the Joint Funding Agreement between the Lake County Water Authority and the USGS for an amount not to exceed \$128,700.

d. Approval of Purchase Order with SJRWMD for Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council **Michael Perry**

The Board has included \$40,000 in its draft FY 2009-10 budget to support the Harris Chain Restoration Council. Funding for the Harris Chain Restoration Council remains in the tentative budget and would be made available to the Council contingent on the adoption of the final budget. The most efficient way for the funds to be made available has been through a Purchase Order with the St. Johns River Water Management District.

The St. Johns River Water Management District provides \$10,000 in addition to in-kind services to support the Council. The District budgets the use of their funds for specific uses and would invoice the Water Authority at the end of the fiscal year for any Water Authority funds utilized. To date, the District funds and the Water Authority’s budgeted amount have been sufficient to support the Council. For example, every year since FY 2004-05, the Board has budgeted \$40,000 for the Council. In FY 2004-05 the District invoiced the Water Authority for \$21,431;

in FY 2005-06 the District invoiced the Water Authority for \$17,192; in FY 2006-07 the District invoiced the Water Authority for \$17,813; and in FY 2007-08 the District invoiced the Water Authority for \$17,689. The final invoice has not yet been received from the District for FY 2008-09; however it is expected to be an amount similar to the previous fiscal years.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Upon final budget approval, authorize the Executive Director to provide a Purchase Order to the St. Johns River Water Management District to make \$40,000 available for the Harris Chain Restoration Council.

e. Approval of LakeWatch Funding Agreement

**Ron Hart**

In 2003, budgetary cuts to the Florida LAKEWATCH program forced them to seek additional outside revenue of approximately \$110,000 or they would have to eliminate two regional coordinator positions. The Lake County Water Authority Board agreed to provide the necessary funds to ensure the program could continue to function by fully funding the cost to monitor all the lakes in our county that were currently in the program at a cost of \$109,200.

Since 2003, the Board has provided approximately \$110,000 each year to the LAKEWATCH program. This funding ensures that any budgetary cuts do not affect sampling in Lake County and also requires LAKEWATCH to provide additional services than those received in other counties. In addition, LAKEWATCH provides unsolicited services that address the concerns of the residents and members of our Board.

For the past couple of years, additional cuts to the LAKEWATCH program have resulted in the loss of regional coordinators and chemists. During this period, their service to the LCWA and its citizens has not changed in part to our funding the program. This year, budgetary cuts have resulted in LAKEWATCH notifying samplers statewide that the program may have to reduce sampling to every other month. However because of the funding provided each year by the LCWA, our residents will not be affected by these cuts.

Staff has attached the LAKEWATCH budget request for fiscal year 2009-2010.

**Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to provide a purchase order to the University of Florida to support LAKEWATCH efforts in Lake County for an amount not to exceed \$110,000.

f. Approval of Purchase Order for Alum

**Lance Lumbard**

The LCWA currently purchases liquid aluminum sulfate (alum) for use at the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF) from General Chemical Performance Products LLC. General Chemical was awarded the low bid of \$268.50 per dry ton (roughly \$0.67 per gallon) in November 2008 and a contract was executed on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The contract can be renewed at the discretion of the board for an additional three years with consideration for price adjustment during each renewal period. Staff will provide the board with updated pricing when it is available prior to the next renewal period in December. The board can determine at that point whether to renew the contract, seek an agreement with secondary alum suppliers or to rebid the entire alum purchase contract.

In the meantime, a blanket purchase order needs to be generated to allow for the purchase of alum during the next fiscal year. The purchase order is not a binding commitment to spend the entire sum with the specified vendor, but simply encumbers the funds to be spent as necessary unless canceled by the board.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Authorize Executive Director to generate a purchase order in the amount of \$1,500,000 for purchase of liquid aluminum sulfate from General Chemical Performance Products LLC during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

g. Authorization to Amend and Continue Second Year of Fencing and Prescribed Fire Contracts

**Patricia Burgos**

The Board awarded contracts for Fence Installation and Prescribed Fire Services in December 2008 and January 2009, respectively. Included in the “Contract Time” sections of both of those contracts was a provision to seek Board approval for annual extensions of the contracts. These extensions, if approved would be for twelve (12) months, covering the Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Staff would then come back to the Board in August 2010 to request another extension of both contracts for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Staff has been pleased with the performance of the prescribed fire contractor and the fencing contractor, and would recommend to the Board a renewal/extension of these contracts for FY 2009-2010.

During the process of prioritizing fencing projects for the FY 2009-2010, staff has identified the entrance of Sabal Bluff Preserve as a location which requires new fencing. While most Preserves have field fence or barbed wire, a few Preserves including Bourlay and Sabal Bluff have chain link fence. Staff is requesting permission from the Board to amend the contract to include a line item for chain link fence. This amendment would allow staff to repair/upgrade the chain link fencing as necessary. The contractor has already given staff a quote of \$13.00 per linear foot. This price included posts, fence, three strands of barbed wire at the top, braces, and any incidentals necessary to install the fence.

The Prescribed Fire contractor has worked out an agreement with a subcontractor to provide a 4x4, 10,000 gallon water tanker that can stand-by on burns, or be called out in case of an escape

or wildfire. Staff is requesting permission from the Board to add a line item for the water tanker. The quoted price is \$500 per day to stand-by plus an additional \$200 if the tanker is put into operation. There is also an additional \$300 mobilization charge. This extra equipment would not be used for all our burns, only those that have complications of escape, protection of adjacent homes needed or an ongoing wildfire situation. For example, in August 2007 a 1.9- acre wildfire occurred at Fern Prairie Preserve in a wetland area with a high amount of unburned material. The Division of Forestry responded and plowed a line to contain the fire, but it still took staff 4 days with 3-5 crew members to put it out. A major part of the time and effort went into having to search and keep refilling small 150 and 200 gallon tanks offsite at a local fire department. Staff has also discussed with the contractor the addition of a line item for a tractor plow similar to what the Division of Forestry uses, but the contractor does not have the piece of equipment available at this time. At a future date, staff may be coming back to the Board to seek permission to amend the prescribed fire services contract once more.

**Executive Director’s Recommendation:**

1. Authorize staff to extend/renew the contracts for Fence Installation and Prescribed Fire Services for Fiscal Year 2009-2010.
2. Authorize staff to amend the Fence Contract for the addition of a chain link fence line item.
3. Authorize staff to amend the Prescribed Fire Services Contract to include a water tanker line item.

**9. Board Member Comments**

**10. Board Member Items for Future Agenda**

**11. Information Items**

- a. Staff Report
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – August 2009

**12. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Legislative Delegation Meeting – Wednesday, September 30, 2009 (1:00 pm) Lake-Sumter Community College, Paul P. Williams Auditorium
- NuRF Grand Opening – Wednesday, October 14, 2009 (10:00 am) NuRF Site
- Board Meeting – Wednesday, October 28, 2009 (3:30 pm) BCC Chambers/  
Admin. Building

**13. Adjournment**