

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
February 24, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the Lake County Board of County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Keith Farner, Chair (At Large)
Carolyn Dillon, Vice Chair (#3)
Charles Clark (#1)
Nancy Fullerton, (#2)
Larry Everly, Jr. (#4)
Linda Bystrak (#5)
John Harris (At Large)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Ron Hart, Water Res. Prog. Mgr.
Lance Lumbard, Water Res. Proj. Mgr.
Patricia Burgos, Env. Program Mgr.
Ben Gugliotti, Land Res. Proj. Coord.
Carole Barice, LCWA Attorney
Linda Marino, Administrative Assistant
Linda Gavin, Recording Secretary

A list of others present that signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Water Authority.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Farner called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and everyone stood for a moment of silent meditation and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2010

Changes include **Page 4, 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence** “entering and leaving” to “going to and from”; **Page 13, 3rd paragraph, last sentence** “wasteland” to railroad corridor; **Page 17, 4th paragraph, 1st sentence** should be \$25.00/hr. for 600 hours; **Page 23, 4th paragraph, item #3** “because” to and; **same item** “which may be in Lake County’s future” to and may be in Lake County’s future someday; and **Page 24, item #5** “and they tried” to that try. **The minutes were approved as corrected.**

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry reported rain has helped the Harris Chain and Lake Apopka continues 6” below regulatory level. The St. Johns River Water Management District (District) opened the Burrell structure discharging 400 cfs between the 3rd and 19th of February which brought Lakes Eustis, Dora, Harris and Griffin to their regulatory level. The flow was then reduced to 23 cfs and the District will again reduce the flow in March to accommodate rainfall associated with tropical storm activity. If the lakes stay above their regulatory

schedule, the District may again open the structures and Mr. Perry advised that he will let the Board know if that occurs.

Chairman Farner asked if the District opened the Harris Bayou spillway. Mr. Perry stated Mr. Richmond with the District said the spillway was opened for a day because sufficient water was flowing through Burrell structure. Mr. Walker told him when the flow is above 400 cfs, the District may open Moss Bluff; however, Mr. Richmond noted the District does not have a procedure in place so the structures may be handled differently. Mr. Clark asked about phosphorous coming through the Burrell structure and Mr. Perry reported that it was over 200 ppb. He also mentioned that the Clermont Chain is 6” higher than it was last year at this time but still 3’ below the bottom of the regulatory range.

Mr. Perry shared a framed resolution acknowledging Mr. Kaiser’s valuable volunteer time and technical skills and asked if the Board wanted to invite Mrs. Kaiser to a meeting or deliver the resolution to her. The Board agreed staff should ask what she would prefer.

Mr. Perry stated a second Request for Information (RAI) from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding Lake Beauclair’s restoration project has been forwarded to BCI Engineers. Permitting should be done in 30-60 days, the contract awarded by mid-summer, and mobilization in place by September. The Water Authority received a letter from Past Board Member Griffin who dislikes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ application and has sent a Letter of Substantial Objection; however, the issues she addressed in her letter were resolved some time ago. The Water Authority received a letter from the State’s Archeology Department in Tallahassee asking that we periodically have an archeologist on site and staff will talk to that department about their request.

Mr. Perry reported the Water Authority invested \$6 million in a Certificates of Deposit (CD) which will mature 3 days after the March meeting. Staff is requesting Board authorization to go out to bid for a 3 or 6 month CD because the money will be used for the Lake Beauclair dredging project. The Board agreed staff should go out to bid and bring the results to the March meeting. He stated staff plans to hold another open house at the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF) similar to the one in October 2009. The open house will be open to the public and will be held April 22 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Mr. Perry reported staff received an Interlocal agreement from the District to use Cell G for dredged material from Lake Beauclair and they will ensure bids accommodate alternative sites so the Water Authority is not limited to one location. He stated the agreement has been reviewed by staff and Attorney Barice.

Mr. Perry introduced Mr. Dana Williams, the new NuRF operator and Mr. Brian Nagy the new Maintenance/Land Ranger.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. FY 2008-09 Audit

Ms. Patricia Sykes-Amos with Greenlee Kurras Rice and Brown said that it was a good audit and there were no findings. She mentioned \$11 million of the \$16 million in Total Assets has been set aside for designated projects such as the Lake Beauclair restoration project. She stated the Clerk's Office and Ms. Marino always have everything ready and are very good about answering questions that may arise regarding Risk Assessments.

Mr. Harris made a motion **TO ACCEPT THE FY 2008-09 AUDIT RESULTS FROM GREENLEE KURRAS RICE AND BROWN.** Seconded by Vice Chair Dillon, the motion carried 7 – 0.

b. Approval to Extend Audit Agreement

Ms. Marino stated in 2007, auditing services were bid for a 3-year period with an option to renew for an additional two years. Staff would like to extend the agreement because Greenlee Kurras Rice and Brown (GKRB) is qualified, local, has done an excellent job, and has the governmental auditing expertise and qualifications necessary. GKRB meets all of the bid insurance requirements except the Professional Liability limit, which is \$100,000 minimum with an aggregate limit of \$1 million. This agency has \$500,000 per occurrence, which exceeds the minimum requirement; however, their aggregate is \$500,000, which is less than the \$1 million required. She spoke to Ms. Sykes-Amos about increasing the aggregate but was told the cost would be prohibitive so Ms. Marino stated she called and asked our insurance company. They said they could not answer one way or the other but did say the Board can accept \$500,000 or ask for an aggregate limit of \$1 million, adding they have never been notified of any claims with auditing firms. Ms. Marino stated her recommendation is to extend the agreement with the reduced Professional Liability aggregate limit.

Chairman Farner asked the reason for \$1 million in coverage. Ms. Marino explained if something is wrong with an audit that would cause another agency to have a problem, and make a liability claim based on this audit, the Water Authority could then go back to GKRB's insurance company for that claim. Chairman Farner said he is comfortable with the change since the Clerk's Office oversees everything but he did want to hear from the other Board members. Mr. Harris said it sounds nearly impossible for the Water Authority to have a claim for \$1 million and Ms. Bystrak agreed with the staff recommendation. Vice Chair Dillon asked who set the original limits and Ms. Marino noted it was copied from a previous bid from another agency.

Ms. Fullerton made a motion **TO RENEW THE ANNUAL GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GREENLEE KURRAS RICE AND BROWN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009/2010 AND 2010/2011 WITH REDUCED PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY AGGREGATE LIMITS AT A COST OF \$9,300.00 PER YEAR.** Seconded by Mr. Everly, Jr., the motion carried 7 – 0.

c. Funding Maximum Alum Use at NuRF

Mr. Perry stated in January, Mr. Clark provided a graph entitled \$ in reserve fund vs. chance of shortage of funds for alum based on 1984-2008 flow data that showed the amount of alum needed based on certain flows during a specific year. The graph indicated if NuRF treated the entire flow, there would be times when the alum cost would reach \$5 million and other times it would be less than \$500,000. Last month, the Board felt when they budget for alum; it should be based on a flow rate of 50 cfs and did not feel \$1.5 million was enough. The Board stated it makes sense to have additional money in reserve but they were not sure what an appropriate dollar figure might be. Mr. Clark did further statistical analyses and found if they want enough money 90% of the time, it will require \$2 million in reserve plus an additional \$1.5 million in the budget.

Mr. Perry said staff set aside over \$800,000+ in a CD to cover the NuRF cleanup and they were told during the recent audit they should have included that amount in the Cash Carry Forward line item. GKRB also informed staff there is an additional \$800,000+ available for a total of \$1.7 million. He said if the Board wants \$4 million in a reserve fund, he will need to find an additional \$2.3 million. He referred to the 2009-2010 Budget Line table in his staff memorandum that indicated which items could be reduced such as \$150,000 from Legal Services (\$200,000 set aside in case the Water Authority had to litigate with ERD); \$107,000 from the Dora Canal dredging project (lukewarm response from the Board); \$200,000 from the Lake Beauclair restoration project (Board will not know cost until bids are in; \$500,000 from the 2010 Stormwater Retrofit Grants; and \$150,000 from the Contingency Reserve fund. He said another alternative would be to put less money in the reserve fund this year and budget the rest next year which then allows the Water Authority to treat the flow 85% of the time; however, by reducing stormwater grant money by \$500,000, it will significantly affect an agenda item later in this meeting.

Ms. Fullerton thanked Mr. Clark for his analysis and said two questions remain; does the Board want a reserve fund, and if so, how much. Vice Chair Dillon felt a third question could be whether they want to include all of the money this year or build the fund up over the next two to three years.

Ms. Fullerton made a motion **TO DIRECT STAFF TO SET IN PLACE A RESERVE FUND FOR ALUM USE FOR THE NURF PROJECT.** Seconded by Vice Chair Dillon, there was no vote at this time.

Mr. Clark said in January he thought the average cost to operate NuRF each year for the last 25 years would have been \$1.8 million but then he realized he did not include one year so the actual cost is closer to \$2 million. He said he was asked how much should be in a reserve fund and because he was not prepared to answer he arbitrarily said \$5 million. If one looks at the \$ in Reserve Fund vs. Chance of Shortage of Funds for Alum graph it shows \$2 million in a reserve fund and \$2 million in the budget which gives us a 5%-7% chance of running short but he would be comfortable with no more than \$2 million in a reserve fund since there would be less than a 10% chance of running short of

money. He said he sees no reason to have \$5 million in a fund and certainly does not want the Board going into debt but if no reserve fund is established, there is a 50/50 chance of running short of money each year and the reason for a reserve fund is to keep NuRF continually operating. The Total phosphorus above the Apopka-Beauclair dam graph vs. the Amount of Total phosphorus below the dam graph shows without NuRF, phosphorus from October - November 2000 would have been over 1000 ppb, or 10 times more than now. NuRF would have intercepted much of the phosphorus above and below the dam but if the Water Authority runs out of money, NuRF may not be in operation when a large event occurs. He said the Total Phosphorus in Lake Apopka vs. the AB Canal Above the Dam graph shows a huge spike in October 2000 and that the phosphorus did not come from Lake Apopka.

Mr. Everly, Jr. said a few years ago, a large amount of muck came down the AB Canal after several big storm events and now it has a sandy bottom. Mr. Clark noted there is lots of muck above the dam but below the dam, the bottom is clean but according to the District, there is loads of sediment above the dam even now. Mr. Clark stated if a reserve fund was not established and we ran short of money, the sediment would flow down the AB Canal and into Lake Beauclair. Ms. Fullerton asked if the Board could access the reserve fund for other projects. Mr. Perry stated the Board can use the reserve fund anyway they see fit until it is contractually encumbered. Chairman Farner asked if money left from the \$ 4 million could be placed in the reserve fund. Mr. Clark said the Board will have to decide but personally he would not keep more than \$2 million and Mr. Perry said the money left from the budgeted \$2 million will be re-budgeted and accounted for as Cash Carry Forward.

Mr. Clark indicated phosphorus flowing down the AB Canal and into Lake Beauclair is the product of the flow times the concentration level. He said during the big event in 2000 when the flow rate was 28 cfs there was a huge concentration of phosphorus but low flow. However, in 2003, 8,000 Kg of phosphorus entered Lake Beauclair and NuRF has only removed 800-900 Kg thus far so the 2002 event would have contributed many times more phosphorus than NuRF would have been able to remove to date. He said even 1/10th of the phosphorus in 2003 would have cost \$1 million to treat and why NuRF needs to continue to operate since no one can predict huge storm events. He emphasized there has to be adequate money.

Ms. Bystrak said in January, the Board discussed increasing the millage or buying a bond and asked if those options had been eliminated. Chairman Farner said the Board is not ready to discuss those options at this time.

(Ms. Fullerton made a motion TO DIRECT STAFF TO SET IN PLACE A RESERVE FUND FOR ALUM USE FOR THE NURF PROJECT. Seconded by Vice Chair Dillon).

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Everly, Jr. said he would like to have \$1.7 million in reserve the first year and then increase it to \$2 million the second year. Mr. Perry stated there is \$1.7 million of

unobligated funds and staff will bring a budget adjustment request to the Board in March. Vice Chair Dillon felt the Board needed to decide how much should be in the Reserve fund, how to get those funds and whether to put all of the money in this year or partial amounts in over several years. She pointed out \$2 million is just enough to handle a one time event and she asked what happens if there are several events, one after another. Mr. Clark said with \$2 million in reserve, the Water Authority has an 8% chance of not having enough money, adding it is impossible to calculate how much money will be needed. Ms. Bystrak noted the Board has yet to talk about the expense of the polymer and electricity but the Board agreed they are discussing how much money is needed in a reserve fund. Mr. Perry said the FY 2009-2010 budget shows \$1.5 million, not \$2 million and he believes the Finance Department prefers to have one line item for alum and if the money is unspent then it is carried forward.

Vice Chair Dillon said when Mr. Clark considered having a reserve fund, was it based on \$2 million a year but she thought it should be twice as much. Mr. Clark explained it would work if the Board wanted to raise \$2 million in one year but it could be handled differently if the money is raised over several years. Mr. Perry said he is hearing from the Board that they believe the optimum amount would be \$4 million to handle a maximum flow 92% of the time. Mr. Clark said if \$2 million is used during an average year, the next year they only have to budget \$2 million but Mr. Perry clarified \$4 million would need to be budgeted and then an additional \$2 million each year. There was further discussion about how to reach the optimum amount and Mr. Perry said the way to resolve this issue would be to have a \$2 million reserve fund and as we near the end of a fiscal year, staff will know how much of that money has been used and what is needed to reach \$4 million. Mr. Clark emphasized it would be foolish to count on alum money being left over this year because Lake Apopka is nearing the level where the District will begin releasing water and if there is no substantial rainfall, the NuRF will be able to treat all of the water.

Mr. Perry reported Mr. Walker with the SJRWMD told staff General Chemical had quoted them a price 30% lower than what we were quoted so Mr. Lumbard contacted General Chemical and told them he is aware that others pay varying prices and asked them to meet the District's price. General Chemical agreed to reduce our price by 35% which will stay in affect for 12 months. He said this is a classic example of governmental agencies talking and working collaboratively to the benefit of the taxpayers. He commended Mr. Lumbard on his efforts and publicly thanked Mr. Walker. He added staff will give a brief one-year report on NuRF at the March meeting.

Mr. Clark said when Mr. Lumbard increased the alum dose from 10 mg per liter to 13, 30% more alum was used, it clarified the water, but if it continues at that rate, it will offset the 35% price decrease just received from General Chemical. Mr. Perry stated Mr. Lumbard believes there are several options and he will mention them at the March meeting. Mr. Clark said he would like to hear if Mr. Perry feels comfortable with how much the Board feels should be in the reserve fund. Mr. Perry said he understands that the Board wants him to create an alum reserve fund of \$1,706,351 and combine that with the alum money now in the budget through the end of this fiscal year. Next year, he is to

make sure that \$4 million is available in the FY 2010-2011 budget to buy alum. The Board agreed by unanimous consensus.

d. Introduction of Naturalist and Projects

Ms. Burgos introduced Mr. Marc Crail, the new Water Authority Naturalist. She stated she and Mr. Crail met several times with Mr. John Harris and Ms. Claudia Rowe, the K-12 Science Program Specialist with the Lake County School Board, adding that she is in the audience and will talk about the programs from the perspective of the School Board. Ms. Burgos stated that they agreed the 9th - 12th grade program will take place at NuRF and they will discuss subject areas, tentative times, and some of the stations that will be held at the facility since it is their focus and priority. She stated that she will be explaining the 5th and 6th grade program at Hickory Point, as well.

Mr. Crail thanked the Board for accepting him and said everyone has made him feel quite welcome. He reported he has been involved in several activities including an adult hiking and kayaked event at Hickory Point and he will be at Hidden Waters and Crooked River Preserve later this week.

Mr. Perry reported certain Board members indicated they wanted a Lake Adventure Tour program and said Ms. Burgos has worked very hard to pull everything together. Staff found it extremely difficult to find a boat operator to accommodate the age group and number of students but there are two companies that might be interested including the owner of the paddlewheel behind JJ Fins who is willing to come to Hickory Point and take children on the double decked vessel but it may not work very well if students use a dip net. Another is Heritage Lake Eco-Tours, owner of a single decked vessel based on Lake Dora who will not come to Hickory Point but will meet the students at Wooten Park and do something in the Dora Canal. Staff has not received a price, as yet. Chairman Farner asked if the Sheriff's office could help and Mr. Perry said it is possible if they have a vessel that is the correct size. Chairman Farner said all the Board can do is support the program and it is up to staff to handle the details.

Ms. Burgos stated because staff has had difficulty in finding a vessel, there will be stations at Hickory Point and as the economy improves, additional vessels may become available. She mentioned Ms. Bystrak has dealt with Heritage Lake Eco-Tours with Audubon and she is trying to get a price. Ms. Burgos said there is \$5,000 in the budget and staff hopes to have one or two classes because there is no program of this type offered in Lake County. They want a boat operator that can accommodate one class on the water with Mr. Crail while another class at Hickory Point works at stations with volunteers.

Ms. Bystrak asked if the boat operator would circle Horseshoe Island and/or Long Island in Little Lake Harris and Ms. Burgos said it is just a proposal to get discussions started. Ms. Burgos requested the Board allow staff the flexibility to add or change activities because she explained that it takes time to get students on and off the boat and to look at through a microscope at what they found with a dip net and then back to Hickory Point.

Ms. Fullerton said she reviewed the Middle and High School programs and would like to see specific title language because it needs to convey meaningful information. She would also like to see the programs tied to the Green Swamp and time spent explaining about the Harris Chain and the Clermont Chain because she wants to make sure students in the Clermont Chain are involved in the programs. Ms. Burgos stated program language is based on Florida State Sunshine Standards and when they talk about the Chains, they will relay information about stormwater runoff and other South Lake County concerns.

Ms. Claudia Rowe said the great thing about this program is that it shows a continuum of what the Water Authority is doing for students in Lake County starting with the Elementary program at Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) and now there will be something for the Middle and High Schools. The Hickory Point program will explain what influences each lake and will address issues affecting all county students. This program will be centrally located so the Clermont and Umatilla students are not left out.

Ms. Bystrak stated about a year ago, the Board was introduced for the first time to the idea of hiring a part time “Naturalist” who could lead trips on our preserves and cover special events but later boat rides in the Dora Canal were added, a NuRF curriculum was added, and now a Hickory Point curriculum for 5th and 6th grades was added that duplicates important activities already in the TLNC curriculum. Previously Hickory Point was budgeted to have just educational displays and now it will be a Water Authority teaching facility. She said it went from part-time Naturalist leading tours to a full fledged nature facility and if the Board looks at the curriculum, they will see that the Water, Water Everywhere Program targets 5th graders and includes a 2-hour program at Hickory Point with three learning stations. She read the description of Stations #1- Macro-invertebrates and Water Quality, Station # - Shoreline and Stormwater, and Station #3 - Soil and Aquifer Studies. She stated the 6th grade program proposed at Hickory Point has three stations - Station #1 – Water Cycle, Station #2 – Macro-invertebrates and Water Quality (same as the 5th grade program), and Station #3 – Watershed. She said her concern has to do with the fact the 5th and 6th grade programs, which the Board had not seen until now, duplicates much of what TLNC has been doing for several years. TLNC has trained biologists who know how to identify macro-invertebrates and Dr. Yokel has trained a retired Biology teacher and a retired biologist who work and have taught students for years about how to identify macroinvertebrates. She said now Water Authority staff wants to introduce essentially the same program at Hickory Point which will then be competing with TLNC. There are plenty of schools in Lake County but there is insufficient bus money which limits the number of students that can go to NuRF or Hickory Point. She said she feels staff has introduced the 5th and 6th grade programs through the “backdoor” but some of the Board have purportedly been in support of the TLNC programs. She said she is a little surprised to see staff introducing this curriculum since it overlaps the well recognized TLNC program that students visit and love.

Ms. Burgos stated when she presented this program at the Education Workshop last year, she talked about the preserves and when the Scope of Services was prepared it showed programs at NuRF and at Hickory Point. She said she does not believe these programs

were recently mentioned to the Board because when it was first talked about, three locations were mentioned. The Board approved the Scope of Service, which included Hickory Point and the NuRF. She stated the Hickory Point exhibit was based on Ms. Bystrak's request last year which will be a passive exhibit mainly for families and students to see when they attend the Envirothon or the Park for other activities. Ms. Burgos said Ms. Bystrak's idea last year was wonderful and it was discussed prior to the budget year so she does not feel the programs came through the backdoor.

Ms. Bystrak emphasized the only new backdoor program is for the 5th and 6th grades at Hickory Point. Ms. Burgos said she indicated the NuRF program was for Middle and High School students and maybe she did not mention the 5th and 6th graders but she thought families and groups would enjoy it but that is something the Board would have to decide on. She said TLNC is not the only facility in the area since Lake County State Parks and County Rangers have butterfly and wildlife programs in classrooms and on their property and TLNC has that type of program. She wondered why the County can do it but the Water Authority is not to promote Hickory Point, NuRF and the Chains of Lakes. She said the more environmental education available the better but if the Board just wants a program at NuRF, staff will concentrate their efforts there.

Mr. Everly, Jr. made a motion TO DIRECT STAFF TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND INCORPORATE THE BOARD'S SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NURF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM AND THE HICKORY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM. Seconded by Mr. Harris, there was no vote at this time.

Mr. Everly, Jr. said small children start out with the TLNC program and by the time they reach the 5th or 6th grade they may want something else because they have already seen TLNC a number of times. He felt a different scenario might be good because it will keep children interested and some things staff does at NuRF are quite unique and he does not feel it will take anything away from TLNC.

Ms. Fullerton asked Ms. Rowe if she sees any problem with transporting students to NuRF and Hickory Point, adding she would like to see more communication between the Water Authority and TLNC. She said she does not favor Lake Adventure Tours because the program did not seem to come together but she does see value in the NuRF and Hickory Point programs.

Ms. Rowe said TLNC's program for Elementary Schools is outstanding but the benchmarks the Board has seen today is for Middle School students because they have Space Science in 6th grade, Life Science in 7th grade and Physical Science in 8th grade and the Water Authority program could raise it above what students are able to get at TLNC. Middle School teachers say students visited TLNC as Elementary students and at one time there was a limnology station in Eustis which had different levels of activity for 6th graders as well as Middle and High School students but it no longer exists and now the teachers are seeking new places to take their students. She said during discussions with

Ms. Burgos and Mr. Crail, they emphasized their programs would be a step above with a different environment and technology.

Vice Chair Dillon said she does not consider the NuRF and Hickory Point programs a shock nor does she believe the Board has been blindsided. She said it would be difficult to see the Water Authority putting a program together, taking students out on a boat, and doing some type of class and not having a curriculum, goals to meet, or at least meet some of the Florida State Sunshine Standards. She feels the programs will be great, she supports the motion, and hopefully staff will be able to resolve the boat operator issue.

Mr. Harris stated TLNC is wonderful, and is an asset to Lake County and its students. He said he as worked hard for many years to get as many children as possible into an outside classroom so they can learn something new and the more classrooms outside the better the chance the students will become enthused about science and nature. He said he has also been trying to find a way to help the School District with transportation costs to get students to NuRF and Hickory Point. He noted there is money left in the mini-grant program and he hopes some of that money can be used to assist the School District. He said he likes Hickory Point because it is centrally located which will help cut the cost of transportation and he believes it is a win-win for the School District, Water Authority, and Lake County.

Ms. Bystrak questioned if it is correct to use the word “Middle School” when it is 5th grade and Ms. Rowe noted that Middle Schools are 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Mr. Everly, Jr. amended his motion **TO DIRECT STAFF TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND INCORPORATE THE BOARD’S SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NURF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM, HICHORY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM, AND THE 5TH GRADE.** Seconded by Mr. Harris, the motion carried 6 – 1 with Ms. Bystrak voting against.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Don Tracy, a resident living on Lake Winona, came forward and referenced his handout about low water levels in the Clermont Chain. He said he and his neighbors are very concerned because the Chain is at 93’ but should be at 96.5’. He reported his son who worked for the Sheriff’s Department flew over the Clermont area a few years ago and noticed a company had purchased a number of 5-acre lots and built roads in so they could clear cut and mulch cypress trees and he does not know if the roads still exist but he felt something was blocking the flow. He called the District and they said it is the Water Authority’s responsibility to determine the problem. He said he looked at the Green Swamp recently and found Big and Little Creeks full of water but the flow was barely moving due to excess vegetation. He added a few years ago, a dam was built to divert some water because residents were getting flooded so he asked Mr. Hart about the dam in Polk County and was informed the water had not reached the top of the spillway. He said he would like for the Water Authority to do a groundwater study to determine

how much water is in the Green Swamp and take aerial photos to see if the old roads are blocking flow.

Ms. Fullerton said this needs to be a future agenda item and mentioned Ms. Bystrak is talking with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) about the Green Swamp and sand mining. She stated Save Our Lakes Committee and later The Alliance to Protect Water Resources has been involved since 2000 and has tried to determine the effect of sand mining on the water supply to the Green Swamp. Ms. Bystrak stated USGS proposed to SWFWMD that they do a Green Swamp hydrological study, and the effects of sand mining would be just one component. She noted the groundwater study is under consideration and Mr. Tracy might want to write to SWFWMD and ask them to endorse it.

Chairman Farner stated the Water Authority had a groundwater study done a few years ago that cost the taxpayers \$250,000 because we were concerned the rapid development around the Clermont Chain was draining it dry. He suggested the Board direct staff to verify the structure is operating properly and determine if the roads were illegally built and are diverting the flow. If staff sees no problems, then the Board can request staff check into this issue further.

Ms. Fullerton made a motion for **STAFF TO MEET WITH MR. TRACY AND DETERMINE IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS WITH THE STRUCTURE AND WHETHER THE ROADS ARE ACCESSIBLE AND/OR DIVERTING WATER, AND SHE WOULD LIKE TO GO ON THE TRIP.** Seconded by Mr. Harris, there was no vote at this time. Mr. Perry advised the structures on the Palatlakaha have not been opened since 2005. Mr. Everly, Jr. said the Green Swamp is a big pool and after years of drought, it takes years to fill again and Mr. Harris noted other things could be occurring. **The motion carried 7 – 0.**

Mr. Steven Haas, Mr. Tracy's neighbor said the Water Authority has already responded to his concern by asking staff to see if there is disruption resulting from logging, development, purposeful diversion, or consumptive use. He said he recently read that 11,000 acres will be developed south of Clermont which will result in more opportunity for disruption in the normal flow.

Mr. Fred Hunter, a resident living three miles east of Paisley came before the Board and said he owns one of the finest small ponds (Scrub Jay Pond) that exists. He said that he is trying to pedal to Florida Forever the development rights there and the reason he is here is that he has all of this support for the conservation easement which will prevent development on this property forever. He stated he has been a LAKEWATCH volunteer for years and would like Water Authority staff to look at his property and declare it worthy of preservation. He believes many of the endangered plants in Lake County can be found on his property and noted that his land has never been farmed. He continued that he has support letters from the Nature Conservancy and from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Ms. Fullerton asked if he had applied for County grant money and Mr. Hunter stated he spoke to the County about buying his property and also spoke to the District but they have not seen his property. Mr. Perry requested staff evaluate the property and report to the Board in March.

The meeting was recessed at 5:55 p.m. and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

e. Request by For-Profit Entities to Use Preserves

Mr. Perry said a more appropriate title for this might be requests to use our preserves by individuals wanting to charge the public. He reported staff has received three recent requests where entities want to hold events or activities and charge the public. He said it seems to be more related to the use of our preserve so staff is requesting direction from the Board. He said these requests would not be particularly invasive but if held regularly would be like running a business on our property and charging the public to attend. Staff wants to ensure the Board knows about the requests because it is an added potential liability for the Water Authority.

Attorney Barice said whenever a new activity is introduced to one of our preserves, there are liability issues so she called the District and other entities to find out what they do. She said the way to deal with this is to require a General Commercial Liability insurance policy from each event holder plus a signed Release and Hold Harmless Indemnification agreement to protect the Water Authority. In certain instances, the Board will have to decide whether to allow a certain type of event that is being proposed and she is not sure there can be a generic policy unless the Board wants to deny everyone or allow Mr. Perry to make the decision and bring it back to the Board if a problem arises. She called around about General Commercial Liability insurance and found coverage should be \$500,000 to \$1 million depending upon the degree of risk associated with the event. If it is a dangerous event, the decision would be to not allow it because the event could potentially put the Water Authority in a position of possible liability or having to defend a lawsuit.

Mr. Perry stated these requests typically do not occur on our properties and staff does not want to penalize those that ask so perhaps there is a way to say these three activities are okay. There are other issues that need to be resolved about when, how, and if the Water Authority should allow additional activities because there is a way to say “yes” and “yes if the Water Authority is covered” or we can say “no”. He said staff is concerned because the public is being charged to participate in an activity on property that already belongs to the public. Chairman Farner said he does not have a problem with the event holder charging the public as long as they are not charging admittance to our properties. He agreed most of these requests should be deferred to Mr. Perry and if there is a problem, it can be brought to the Board.

Mr. Everly, Jr. said discretion has to be used and he would have a problem if an event took over the entire preserve keeping the public from using it. He would also have a problem with out-of-county or out-of-state events taking over property that has been paid for by Lake County taxpayers.

Ms. Fullerton said since this issue continues to return she believes there should be a consistent policy for each property. She said Hickory Point is different than our preserves in terms of what the Board allows because some properties are to be kept natural but Hickory Point was built as a community park. She said she approached this issue from a profit vs. non-profit or pay vs. free standpoint and if the event holder makes money, maybe the Water Authority should charge the event holder. She remembered when a high school asked to use Hidden Waters for a track meet and she was concerned about damage. She added that Wolf Branch Sink is carefully guarded from intense use because it is within our right to do so. The Board considers the reason why the Water Authority owns each property; there are rules about how many people are allowed, the time of day and the use of the property. She said the Board needs to decide what to do about these three requests and then she wants to see a well thought out plan for each preserve, which could entail an ongoing discussion and staff work. She said taxpayers own our preserves and as much as the Board wants them to benefit, it is up to the Board to protect the properties and it will require a very high level of rule making since the Water Authority is their protector.

Chairman Farner stated policies tie one's hands, and maybe the Board will need a policy in the future but he does not believe one is necessary now. He would be more in favor of taking Attorney Barice's suggestion of giving Mr. Perry discretion to say whether a request is compatible or not, and if not, he can direct the event holder to come before the Board for a final decision. He said Mr. Perry is a good executive director and he respects Mr. Perry's opinion and judgment. He noted the three event holders did not have to ask the Board because the events will be open to the public and they can do what they want but at some point, this issue will have to be more thoroughly addressed. He said as long as the Water Authority is covered for liability, he is okay with the three requests and if there are problems, the Board can deal with them.

Vice Chair Dillon reported she called the County and City of Tavares Parks and Recreation directors and asked how they handle these types of requests. She explained she is concerned about clean up, maintenance, and wear and tear on the preserves especially if there is a running event and participants do not stay on the trails. She said she realizes the preserves are open to the public to be used as they see fit, and event holders do not have to ask permission but she is concerned it might increase staff's workload. She said there are no forms for event holders similar to what staff has for Hickory Point. She said she does not want to see good people being turned away but also does not want the preserves damaged.

Ms. Bystrak and Mr. Harris agreed the decision should be left to Mr. Perry and legal counsel. Mr. Clark stated there is a sign at the entrance to most properties that state what

one can and cannot do so if event holders abide by the rules, he has no problem with them using the preserves.

Mr. Rick Copley, a resident of Grand Island came forward and said he travels around the world competing in triathlons and he wants to hold a fundraiser on five trails including Sabal Bluff, Hidden Waters and Emeraldal Marsh. He plans to charge the public and hopes to raise enough money to cover his entry fees and transportation costs (\$10,000) as he represents Lake County. The fundraiser would be a win for him, those that attend and participate in the races, and for the preserves. He reported that he has been racing since 1982 and has entered over 500 races and all of races have been held on public land. He said there is wear and tear on a property but 50 people will not cause a problem and if the Water Authority receives complaints about too much noise or trash, the Board can tell him that he cannot use the preserves next year. He reported that for the past two years, he has held a free 5K race at Hidden Waters and does not believe there has ever been an issue. He stated he has \$1 million of liability insurance and will name the Water Authority as an additional insured and if someone gets hurt, he and the Water Authority are covered. He mentioned the event will be held on a Friday in May from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and approx. 30-50 people will attend.

Chairman Farner made a motion **THE BOARD DEFER THESE TYPES OF REQUESTS FOR USE OF OUR PRESERVES TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THESE THREE REQUESTS AND IN THE FUTURE, IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, IT WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD.**
Seconded by Vice Chair Dillon, there was no vote at this time.

Ms. Fullerton said she cannot vote for this motion because of the inclusion of “and in the future” since she still believes a policy covering our preserves is definitely needed. Mr. Everly, Jr. said he really does not want everyone to know where Sabal Bluff is located because it is a low impact preserve and not equipped to handle a massive number of people. Our preserves are protected because of water issues and are not parks but preserves. He mentioned Wekiva Park has all of the amenities and is tailored for the public. Mr. Harris said he would not have a problem with Mr. Copley’s group using Hidden Waters as long as they do not run in sensitive areas and he thought a 5K run would work well at Crooked River Preserve.

Ms. Burgos said the Board has voiced their concerns about the impact to the preserves which will assist Mr. Perry in his decision. She said she spoke with Land Management staff at the District who indicated they do not charge a fee and the only time they get a Certificate of Insurance is if someone has to unlock the gate and they also do not require a Special Use Authorization form. She added SWFWMD did not seem to have policies concerning this but said maybe they should think about one. She said when YMCA used Hidden Waters; staff requested insurance but only the parking area was used.

Mr. Clark reiterated the Water Authority has posted regulations at most of the preserves and if everyone abides by the rules, whatever financial agreement there is between the event holder and the participants, is irrelevant. He said they have every right to use the

preserve and he really does not believe the decision should be left to Mr. Perry. If the event holder wants it for their exclusive use, they should pay, but Mr. Copley is not asking for anything. He said he believes everyone he brings to the event has the right to use the preserve so he will not support the motion.

Attorney Barice clarified when organized events take place, the Water Authority needs proof of insurance and a Hold Harmless release because that is what protects the Water Authority. She said she spoke to the District's attorney and they said they require the same documents.

Ms. Fullerton asked how staff will monitor Sabal Bluff and thought it would be quite a large event. Mr. Copley said it would be a small event, however, larger race management companies hold events that bring in thousands of attendees. Ms. Fullerton asked if there are trails in Sabal Bluff and Ms. Burgos replied there are and that golf carts use them. Ms. Bystrak thought staff was in the process of restoring Sabal Bluff and Ms. Burgos said the runners will pass around the restored area, noting it will be an ideal place for this event. Vice Chair Dillon asked how Mr. Copley makes sure his runners do not run through the protected areas and he responded there will be signs directing them which will be removed after the event.

(Chairman Farner made a motion THE BOARD DEFER THESE TYPES OF REQUESTS FOR USE OF OUR PRESERVES TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THESE THREE REQUESTS AND IN THE FUTURE, IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, IT WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD. Seconded by Vice Chair Dillon.)

The motion carried 5 -2 with Ms. Fullerton and Mr. Clark voting against.

Mr. Copley asked if he is approved to hold the event and Mr. Perry said told him that he was pending proof of insurance and a signed Hold Harmless Indemnification agreement.

f. Approval to Award Stormwater Grants

Mr. Hart reported eight stormwater grant applications were received, reviewed, and scored for a total of approx. \$750,000. The projects are listed with the highest score first and are the City of Eustis retention pond at Cardinal and Bates Avenue; City of Mount Dora request to install an additional sediment box on Donnelly Street and Fourth; City of Mount Dora installation of 25 Flexstorm Inlet Filters at various locations throughout downtown; City of Mount Dora baffle box project at Grandview and Johns Avenue to reduce sediment entering a small pond; and City of Clermont's underground infiltration system at Disston Avenue to remove pollutants before they enter Lake Minnehaha. He said the top five projects fit nicely within the \$500,000 that has been set aside in the budget by the Water Authority. Three projects were not approved, the City of Umatilla that wanted to pave an existing dirt and gravel alleyway and install an infiltration system, the City of Tavares Aesop's Park stormwater treatment project which was a very good project but the City had requested 75% funding, and the City of Mount Dora who

requested money for the Lake Nettie stormwater project which in the past the Water Authority has not favored so it received a lower score.

Ms. Fullerton inquired if Mr. Hart had time to write out the history of how much money each municipality or governmental entity received from the Water Authority. Mr. Hart reported \$600,000 went to the City of Clermont, \$36,000 to DEP, a little less than \$2 million to the City of Eustis but the master stormwater pond funded last year was a combination of other projects and some have not been done, \$700,000 to the City of Leesburg for the Canal and Lee Street projects recently completed, \$250,000 to the City of Mascotte, \$25,000 to the City of Minneola for their stormwater study, \$624,000 to the City of Mount Dora, \$84,000 to the City of Tavares, \$344,000 to the City of Groveland, \$70,000 to the City of Howey-in-the-Hills, and \$837,000 to Lake County. He said the cities that have the largest stormwater problems are the ones that received the most funding and the only cities that have not received funding are Umatilla, Montverde, Lady Lake, Fruitland Park, Paisley or Astor.

Vice Chair Dillon made a motion **TO ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CITY OF EUSTIS CARDINAL/BATES AVE. RETENTION POND, CITY OF MOUNT DORA'S FOURTH AND DONNELLY STREET STORMWATER PROJECT, CITY OF MOUNT DORA'S FLEXSTROM INLET FILTERS, CITY OF MOUNT DORA'S GRANDVIEW AND JOHNS AVENUE BAFFLE BOX AND THE CITY OF CLERMONT'S DISSTON AVENUE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT.** Seconded by Ms. Fullerton, there was no vote at this time. Mr. Harris commended Mr. Hart on his hard work and Ms. Fullerton asked about the e-mail that was sent out. Ms. Bystrak reported DEP sent the e-mail which indicated they recommend Type 2 baffle boxes over Type 1 and Mr. Hart said that is what is being purchased by the City of Mount Dora. **The motion carried 7 – 0.**

{Executive Director Recommendation: (1) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% cost share agreement with the City of Eustis for the water quality portion of the Cardinal/Bates Ave. Retention Pond for an amount not to exceed \$150,000. (2) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% cost share with Mt. Dora for the water quality portion of the Fourth and Donnelly Street Stormwater Project for an amount not to exceed \$45,383. (3) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% agreement with Mt. Dora for the water quality portion of the Flexstrom Inlet Filters Project for an amount not to exceed \$2,466. (4) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% cost share agreement with Mt. Dora for the water quality portion of the Grandview and Johns Ave. Baffle Box Project for an amount not to exceed \$50,120. (5) Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% cost share agreement with Clermont for the water quality portion of the Disston Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project for an amount not to exceed \$221,275.}

g. Review of Changes Made to New Office Plans

Mr. Perry stated changes were made to the office plan related to the Board's request to move the office back from SR 19, relocation of the driveway nearer the garage, and handicapped parking closer to the front.

Vice Chair Dillon made a motion **TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FINALIZE THE ATTACHED SITE PLAN AND SUBMIT THE REVISED SITE PLAN AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THE COUNTY FOR REVIEW.** Seconded by Mr. Everly, Jr., the motion carried 7 – 0.

h. Palatlahaha River Conservation Easement

Mr. Hart stated Mr. Richard Rubin, the consultant working on behalf of the City of Groveland, approached staff and asked if the Water Authority would accept a conservation easement within a 700-acre parcel he is trying to acquire for Groveland through the Florida Communities Trust Program. He said the Water Authority acquired and paid for a partial easement across a small portion of the Palatlahaha River which allowed us to dredge and put in a channel but two small sections are missing and acquiring those two would allow further work or projects such as re-dredging years from now. If the Board decides against accepting the conservation easement, we will be unable to control and protect the area if someone wants to do another type of activity. Another reason to expand the easement is the City of Groveland may allow the Water Authority to use the land if there is a restoration project to meander the channel to push the water back into the wetlands. The conservation easement would be in the Water Authority's name and give us the ability to control and alter the land at the discretion of the Board as long as it conforms to the laws that govern the agency. Staff is recommending the Board negotiate a conservation easement with the City of Groveland if the City acquires that piece of property at no cost to the Water Authority.

Mr. Richard Rubin reported he has been able to obtain over \$70 million in grants for local governments throughout Florida utilizing the Florida Forever Program. Last year the Water Authority supported the City in applying for the Florida Communities Trust grant and the Lake County Board of County Commissioners unanimously supported the City's efforts, as well. He said he is not sure if funds will be available this year because of budget issues but he will continue with the grant process. He said this is just an exploratory meeting because once the land is purchased by the State it is very difficult to obtain easements because they use their money. If the application includes the easement, it then becomes part of the grant and will always be a reservation or conservation easement for the Water Authority. He said he has no objection to recommending the City of Groveland's grant application include linking the 100' disjointed easement together to allow the Water Authority to legally maintain the complete channel in the future. If the Water Authority wants to control both sides of the waterway with a conservation easement that extends to the upland shoreline, now is the time to consider this option so the grant application can show it as a conservation easement that will be transferred to the

Water Authority in perpetuity. He said if there is an application period, it will not be until May, so he would like to hear from the Board and staff.

Vice Chair Dillon made a motion **TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE THE WORDING OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GROVELAND IF THE CITY ACQUIRES THE PROPERTY ALONG THE PALATLAKAHA.** Seconded by Ms. Fullerton with no vote at this time.

Ms. Fullerton asked if the City will buy the property and does the grant depend upon that action occurring. Mr. Rubin said with 120 applications received each year chances are slim there will be any money so it may take another year or two. She asked if the City will annex through the property to Cherry Lake Road. Mr. Rubin said they have already annexed all four sides because the City thought it made sense to get this parcel. She suggested the Board read the delightful article written by Mr. Lumbard entitled Metamorphosis of a River in the Greenway to the Palatlakaha River Project.

Ms. Bystrak asked about the utility plant in the center of the property and Mr. Rubin said it is a water treatment plant and he has heard they may close the spray field in that area. She asked about the power line easement and whether the power company will require access because it looks as though the conservation easement goes around the power company's easement and she was told that is correct.

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Rubin requested the Board consider adding the maintained channel from Cherry Lake to the Arnold Brothers boat ramp on Hwy. 19 as a Blueway/Greenway on all future maps and official records. He said the reasons for his request include that it would re-enforce the Board's historical dedication to preserving the Palatlakaha River and Chains of Lakes for small recreational boating; it furthers the Board of County Commissioners' recently proposed new Comprehensive Plan including Objective VII-1.5 -Trails and Greenways; it helps the City win the grant designating the area as an official Blueway/Greenway and the City will receive additional points which may help to make it a successful grant. Chairman Farner suggested putting this request on the March or April agenda under Discussion Items so the Board has time to discuss whether they want to endorse it and pass it on to the appropriate County department.

- i. Staff Review of Draft Extended Leave Policy

This item was tabled until the March meeting.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice reported she modified the Flat Island railroad agreement so it would allow underground utilities and understands it will be presented to the City of Leesburg with the agreed to language. She mentioned the Water Authority's Memorandum of Understanding with Lake County regarding canoe and kayak trips is acceptable to Lake

County. She stated there has been no progress in any of the negotiations with ERD on the NuRF problems so a Complaint will be filed by Friday and hopefully that will trigger some meaningful discussions.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Amend Land Management Contracts to Add Additional Contractor - Tab 11

Ms. Burgos stated Groundtek's brush mower which was needed to reduce overgrown vegetation at Fern Prairie Preserve kept breaking down so staff contacted the second lowest bidder and they were unable to rent the necessary equipment and did not have experienced staff. She said when staff bids out the land management services contract again they will ask if the bidder has experienced workers that can handle prescribed burns. Mr. Everly, Jr. said he knows of someone with proper equipment that would like to use it in this area. Chairman Farner suggested Mr. Everly, Jr. give the man's name to Ms. Burgos so she can see if he wants to be included on the potential contractors list.

Vice Chair Dillon moved a **CONSENT AGENDA FOR TABS 11, 12 AND 13.** (There was no second). **The consent agenda carried 7 – 0.**

{Executive Director Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to add Mel-Con, Inc. to the list of approved land management services contractors and to enter into a contract with Mel-Con, Inc. }

- b. Amend Prescribed Fire Contracts to Include Additional Equipment – Tab 12

{Executive Director Recommendation: Authorize staff to amend the Prescribed Fire Services Contract to include additional line items as Specified in the memo. }

- c. Approve Palatlahaha River Structure Removal Contract – Tab 13

{Executive Director Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract with King Engineering for the Palatlahaha Restoration Project at Structures M-1 and M-4 for an amount not to exceed \$149,000. }

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Perry stated he neglected to ask the Board to authorize him to review the agreement with General Chemical for the reduced price.

Mr. Everly, Jr. made a motion **TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE A NEW PRICE FOR ALUM.** Seconded by Mr. Harris, the motion carried 7 – 0.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Clark and **Mr. Everly, Jr.** had no board member comments.

Mr. Harris distributed a sheet that listed the amount of money remaining in the Education and Community mini-grant budget for FY 2009-2010. He said he requested a couple of months ago that staff determine the amount of money left in the mini-grant fund because he would like to use some of it or whatever the Board deems appropriate to assist Lake County Schools with transportation costs to NuRF and Hickory Point. He said this needs to move forward quickly. He said he spoke to Mr. Larry Metz at the School Board and he is willing to meet with the Water Authority and work out an agreement and the Board agreed this will be on the March agenda. Mr. Harris invited the Board to participate in the ibini tera Clean-Up March 13.

Ms. Bystrak reported Ms. Cindy Strickland with Lake Soil and Water asked she mention the Envirothon will be held tomorrow at Hickory Point from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and that extra volunteers are needed. Secondly, there is a Bill in the State Legislature preempting fertilizer. She said the Board last year talked about Montverde's Fertilizer Ordinance and indicated they would be discussing this further and something needs to be done quickly since nothing has happened, thus far. She said Sen. Cary Baker will introduce this Bill which states no local government can have a stronger fertilizer bill than the State. She reported that she attended the Springs Rally in Tallahassee with 400 attending, she spoke at Senator Constantine's Water Committee and the River Rally both in Palatka, and the EPA in Orlando for the Ocklawaha Valley Audubon Society, she attended the Birds and Bikes event (150 people) and the B-Map meeting in which DEP held their quarterly teleconference meeting. She said DEP will have grant money this year for water projects and will discuss this at their March 16th meeting and requested a member of staff attend. She mentioned that Group 2 is ready to submit their grants, however, Group 1, which we are in, has not even talked about this item.

Vice Chair Dillon said she spoke to the City of Tavares' Parks and Recreations Department and the director told her she is thrilled when she works with Water Authority staff because Ms. Burgos and Messrs. Hart and Lumbard are so professional and get so much accomplished. She reported that she attended Lake County Days in Tallahassee and there is no available money and that all the Legislators can do is listen, and when money becomes available then maybe they can help.

Chairman Farner welcomed the new employees and commended Mr. Lumbard on his success in getting the price of alum reduced from General Chemical.

Ms. Fullerton thanked the Board again for the two awards she received last month. She invited the Board and staff to APWR's program on March 4th where Ms. Silvernell with

TLNC will do a hands-on demonstration showing what the Center does with school children pertaining to the Green Swamp and Clermont Chain. She stated she plans to ask Mr. Perry to ask Attorney Barice to look at the gopher tortoise non-compete policy and the alternative legal representative policy and include them on March agenda.

11. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

No further items were mentioned at this time.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Staff Report

No comments were made.

b. Monthly Financial Reports – January 2010

No comments were made.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

-ibini tera Lake Clean-up – Saturday, March 13, 2010 (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Awards event at Hickory Point after Clean-up

- Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 24, 2010 (3:30 pm) BCC Chambers/
Admin. Bldg.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approx. 7:35 pm.

Linda Gavin, Recording Secretary

Neil Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer

Keith Farner, Chairman