

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
July 24, 2019

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Amy Stone, Chairman (#5)
Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)
Trampis BonJorn (#2)
Peggy Cox (#1)
Keith Farner (At-Large)
Butch Hendrick (#4)
Courtney Stokes (At-Large)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager
Christina Rider, Administrative Services Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Kevin Stone, Attorney

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JUNE 26, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE JUNE 26, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall reports. He stated that as of this morning Lake Apopka was slightly above regulatory schedule and currently there is 50 cfs moving through the NuRF. He explained that for the past month all flow has been moving going through the NuRF until yesterday when the District started releasing 50 cfs over the spillway.

He stated that as soon as the centrifuge scroll is repaired and operational, they are going to talk with the District about going back to sending all flow through the NuRF.

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Mr. Farner asked why the District is running the bad water over the spillway when the NuRF is now capable of handling the flows and Mr. Perry stated that there was a small spike in the water level of Lake Apopka and most likely the District felt they needed to quickly move more water.

Mr. Perry updated the Board on the repair to the scroll and centrifuge stating that the scroll is back in place, but there is a part at the discharge end that attaches to the scroll got left behind and none of the staff was informed that it needed to be treated in anyway. He stated that there is corrosion inside the part, so the company is going to ship a new one to the NuRF and hopefully the centrifuge will be fully assembled by the end of the week and up and operating by the beginning of next week.

He stated that once it is fully operational, he will be going back to the District and request and let them know we can now take everything back through the NuRF.

Chairman Stone noted that they haven't wanted to put too much water thru the NuRF until the centrifuge was operational again.

Mr. Farner stated that the ponds have been drained and cleaned and the NuRF could handle the additional flow now. Mr. Perry stated that although they still finishing cleaning up the east pond, he agrees with Mr. Farner that they could take the additional 50 cfs through the NuRF. He stated that he would talk with the District about directing all flow through the NuRF at this time.

Mr. Perry stated that Lake Eustis and Lake Dora have popped up a bit over the regulatory schedule, so the District has opened Burrell a bit more and as of this morning it was at 383 cfs going through structure.

He reported that Lake Griffin has been above regulatory schedule for past month or so and as of this morning 736 cfs is being released through Moss Bluff. He noted that the District tends to operate their structures with a hard on the gas and hard on the brake response.

He noted that staff is keeping an eye on the tropics and of 8am this morning there is another depression forming in the Gulf. He stated that it probably isn't going to move this way, but it is time to keep a close eye on what is happening in the tropics.

Mr. Perry stated that countywide we are still currently 1.96 inches below average for the year and noted that we are at approximately 91% of year to date rainfall.

He reported that the Clermont Chain has had just enough rain over the last month to keep it hovering just slightly below the regulatory range. He stated that as of today the water level is at 96 msl, which is slightly less than a foot less this year than the same time last year

He stated that the cumulative flow through Big and Little Creeks is 51 cfs as of today and the flow is increasing. He noted that last month the flow was about 4 cfs.

Ms. Cox asked about the loss of water to evaporation and Mr. Perry stated that Mr. Hart has studied and determined that it requires a combined flow of approximately 80 cfs from Big and Little Creeks to accommodate the water lost to evaporation and the water being pulled from the

lake for irrigation. He noted that the lakes can lose up to one-quarter of an inch of rain to evapotranspiration on a sunny hot day.

Mr. Perry stated that Mr. Farner had asked about flow through the Cherry Lake structure and he had explained that there are weep holes in the structure that allow 3 cfs to flow through. He explained that according to the District they are not supposed to have totally no flow through the structure. He stated that there has been no change in the flow through the structure since late March.

Mr. Perry reminded the Board that the August Board Meeting will be on the 14th. Ms. Cox stated that she may not be at the meeting as she may have to be out of town at that time.

Mr. Farner asked when there would be flow again in the Clermont Chain and Mr. Perry stated not until the water level is between 97 and 97.5 msl and the Broad Members have been informed.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. BonJorn pulled the Revised Structure Operations Manual for Clermont Chain from the consent agenda.

a. Revised Structure Operations Manual for Clermont Chain

[VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION APPROVE THE REVISED PALATLAKAHA RIVER DAM OPERATION MANUAL. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.]

Mr. Hart stated that Mr. BonJorn has requested that a timeframe for informing the Board of any changes to the flows in the Clermont Change be added to the Operations Manual. He stated that it had been suggested that they be informed within 48 hours or less of any changes.

Vice Chair Maimone asked if that was soon enough and Mr. Farner stated that they needed to be informed as soon as possible. Ms. Cox stated she agreed and stated they should be informed within 24 hours or as soon as possible.

It was noted that they needed to be informed as soon as possible so they could provide information should they get calls from the public and everyone agreed to revise the manual to include that the Board would be *informed within 24 hours or as soon as possible* of any changes in flows through the structures.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she would revise her motion if Mr. Farner would like to withdraw his second.

Mr. Farner withdrew his second and **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED PALATLAKAHA RIVER DAM OPERATION MANUAL WITH THE ABOVE CHANGE.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. SJRWMD Contract with Phosphorus Free Water Solutions to Remove Phosphorus from Lake Apopka

Mr. Perry informed the Board that this item needed to be postponed until at least the August meeting as the person from the District that was to give the presentation had a family emergency and is unable to attend the meeting. He noted that the Lake Apopka project is not operational at this time.

He stated that he will try to get to get the representative from Phosphorous Free Water Solutions here to give a presentation to the Board about the project, but if he is unable to make it, a staff member from the District would be here.

Ms. Cox noted that it would be interesting to hear how it might affect out operation of the NuRF.

3:54

b. FY 2018-19 Budget - Set Proposed Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Perry stated that revisions to the budget based on the Budget Workshop were sent out to the Board last week. He noted that the only thing the Board needed to at time is set the tentative millage rate. He explained that the tentative millage rate is the highest millage they intend to go. He stated that they can always lower the millage, but they will not be able to go higher than the tentative millage.

He noted that one of the primary changes to the budget were related to the changes made with the reorganization. He also noted the Mary Koch will be passing her six-month mark and will be receiving an increase in pay, and that it also reflected in the budget.

Lines 16 and 17 –General Legal Services and outside HR Firm – Mr. Perry stated that he had bumped those up \$10,000 and \$15,000 based on the discussion related to possibly using the HR firm for assistance in the search for a new Executive Director and in case there was a need for assistance from the attorney.

Line 272 – Water Resources – He stated that this was a slight change due to a recalculation.

Lines 243 to 245 – He noted that these are the adjustment made in Field services, related to budgeting for and increase for the field maintenance rangers.

Line 430 – He pointed out that an additional \$5,000 had been added to replace boards on the pier.

Land Resources – Mr. Perry noted that the changes in this section are due to changes in the reorganization.

Line 319 – Maintenance Reserve – He stated that even will all the other changes he was still able to add an additional \$21,159 to the Maintenance Reserve 21,000 to bump it back up.

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Mr. Perry stated that the budget is still based on a .39 millage and we were able to accommodate those changes. He stated that at .39 the millage is 20.41% lower than last year's millage.

He stated that the estimated Roll Back Rate is .4661 mils, so at .39 mils we are actually 16.33% lower than the Roll Back Rate.

Mr. Perry stated there are a few things to think about between now and September. He stated that Mr. Farner asked him to speak to Nathalie Visscher and get information on where we stand on hydrilla. He explained that she has money allocated for labor, but she doesn't know what her chemical costs are going to cost until they conduct their monitoring in the fall. He noted that currently there is no funding for hydrilla control in the budget.

He also noted that we are expecting a \$50,000 reimbursement from the County for improvements to Hickory Point. He explained that all improvements have been completed and we are waiting on one more inspection and then we should receive the funds.

He stated that he didn't think that was reflected in the Cash Carry Forward at this time, so that might be \$50,000 additional revenue in the budget. He noted that Ms. Rider is working hard to get the reimbursement from FEMA, so there may be another 1.2 to 1.3 million dollars to add to the budget should it come in before September. He stated that we've filled out everything FEMA has requested, and they say they are almost ready to disburse the funds, but they haven't committed to actually sending the check.

Mr. Perry stated that they are working hard to close on Lake Denham before the end of this fiscal year, but if for some reason they have not closed by September 31st. we may need to carry that over in the Cash Carry Forward.

He stated that the RFB for Lake Yale is going out by the end of this week and we are expecting responses back by September 5th. He stated that depending on what technology they decide to use, will determine whether they are going to need the full four million dollars this year or if part of it can be pushed out into a future fiscal year.

Mr. Perry stated that there are still a lot of things still in play and they will be discussing the budget at the August meeting, then again at the Tentative Budget Hearing in September and finally at the Final Budget Hearing at the end of September.

He stated that he would give them an update on the cash carry forward each month until the budget is finalized at the end of September. He stated that if they start using a lot of alum, that too would be reflected in the Cash Carry Forward.

Mr. Perry stated that he recommends setting the tentative millage at .39 mils.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO SET A PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AT .39 MILS AND SET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 NO SOONER THAN 5:05 PM IN THE BCC CHAMBERS/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 315 WEST MAIN STREET, TAVARES, FL. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he is comfortable with that amount at this time. He noted that he had called and spoken to Nathalie Visscher with Fish and Wildlife and had informed her that he wouldn't be in support of providing any more funding for hydrilla treatment.

He stated that he had also spoken to Mr. Perry about cutting a million dollars out of the budget for the Lake Yale project and put it into a future budget, as he would like to be able to lower the millage even more if they are able.

Ms. Cox disagreed, stating that she didn't think they shouldn't go any lower than the proposed .39 mils. She stated that with the continued growth in the area, the use of the lakes, the hydrilla problem and the fact that the Lake Yale has been postponed for years, they can't afford to set the millage any lower than .39 mils.

4:09

[VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO SET A PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AT 0.3900 MILS AND SET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 NO SOONER THAN 5:05 PM IN THE BCC CHAMBERS/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 315 WEST MAIN STREET, TAVARES, FL. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.]

Motion approved 7-0.

- c. Authorization to have Stone & Gerken Act as the Closing Agent for the Lake Denham Acquisition

Mr. Perry stated that that they have met with Attorney Stone regarding the Lake Denham acquisition to make sure we have done all we need to do before we close.

He stated that they also discussed whether Stone & Gerken could act as the closing agent for the project. He explained that this service is not within our existing agreement.

Attorney Stone stated that he is conservative when it comes to acting as a closing agent for real estate acquisitions, as this is not in the scope of his contract with the Water Authority. He stated that he didn't want to appear to have used his position as the Board's lawyer to have gotten extra work, so he wanted the Board to give their approval before he agreed to act as the closing agent.

Vice Chair Maimone noted that she has done closings with Stone and Gerken and unless they feel there is a conflict of interest or we feel that it looks like we are being partial, she sees no reason not to.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STONE & GERKEN TO ACT AS THE CLOSING AGENT FOR THE LAKE DENHAM ACQUISITION. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

4:13

d. Authorization to Purchase a Brush Cutter for NuRF Grounds Maintenance

Dr. Danaher stated that staff is asking approval to purchase a brush cutter for the NuRF. It was noted that this is to replace the remote-control brush cutter that caught on fire during the dry season.

He explained that rather than remote control, this will be an attachment for the Bobcat and staff would be able to use it to mow the slopes as well as the rest of the property.

He noted that they received \$10,100 in reimbursement from insurance.

- 1) **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2019-01 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE LCWA 2018-2019 BUDGET BY INCREASING 9898100-364410 REVENUE FROM DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS BY \$10,100 AND 9898710-860640 CAPITAL OUTLAY EXPENDITURE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT BY \$10,100.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

- 2) **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A CUTTER HEAD ATTACHMENT FOR THE BOBCAT TO MAINTAIN GROUNDS AT THE NURF IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$11,000.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner asked if this cutter head required the purchase of additional safety items and Dr. Danaher stated that this one does not require any additional equipment and explained that both the old and new Bobcat's have the closing door/shield.

Mr. Hendrick asked about giving that portion of the property back to St. Johns if we are not going to use it for anything. Mr. Farner agreed that he would also like to discuss that at a later date.

Motion approved 7-0.

6. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Attorney Stone stated that there has been some progress with the Lake Denham project. He explained that they have the title work and they have prepared a draft title commitment, so they know what needs to be done. He stated they should be able to complete a rough due diligence process and have some survey work completed in time to bring Exercise of our Option to the Board by the August meeting.

He stated that the Title Commitment doesn't show anything strange and there are some survey requirements, but we don't anticipate those being a problem.

He stated that they have engaged BESH to do the survey. He explained that we are going to have them do a sketch and description as opposed to a full boundary survey. He stated that they

are going to get quotes on some additional components in the survey and run those past staff to see if there is anything additional, they want done, if they don't prove prohibitively expensive.

He explained that he would be back with more detail at the August meeting along with the Exercise of our Option.

4:22

The board took a break at 4:22 pm and returned at 5:00 pm for public comment.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

5:00

Eileen Tramontana with Trout Lake Nature Center addressed the Board and informed them that the Nature Center would be closed until August 20th while phase one of their improvement projects. She explained that the roads are torn up and a big mess and for safety reasons they've decided to close the Center to the public. She noted that staff is still working.

She stated that in September they will be doing an Invasive Species Bio Blitz and she stated that the Water Authority would be helping as they do a survey along the lake front of land and aquatic invasive species. She stated that this is being done as part of the National Public Lands Day, as they do own some conservation easements from the City of Eustis, so they do qualify as public lands.

Ms. Cox asked how the fundraising for the new building is coming along and Ms. Tramontana stated that currently they have raised almost a million dollars and they are starting Phase One that they are, extending their water lines, abandoning the septic tanks and installing a lift station and hooking into the City of Eustis sewer. She also stated that they would be building half of the one-way exit road and hope to tie into their easement to a roadway that is being built by Water Shed Technologies as part of study project on Trout Lake.

She noted that they have started planning for Phase Two which will be the parking lot and they will have to move their maintenance building to be able to build the new facility. She stated that they need about another million dollars to construct the facility and they are looking at how they can scale back and complete the project in bits and pieces. She stated that they hope to have a new facility within the next 2 or 3 years.

She explained that they are planning the Jungle Feast and planning to possibly grow some edible mushrooms there at Trout Lake as part of the feast. She noted that it will be held on March 6th.

Chairman Stone asked Ms. Tramontana to send her more information on the Jungle Feast.

Ms. Tramontana also stated they would be holding their Sunset Sip in the fall which will be a wine tasting and a wine walk as the sun sets, as well as holding the Sunset at the Rookery event.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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Chairman Stone stated that they are looking at moving public comment to the beginning of the meeting. She noted that Attorney has indicated that there are certain rules that they need to be following, in that they need to invite any public comment before they take any actions, which means they should be doing that before they get into the consent agenda.

She stated that they will be advertising that change and making it public knowledge within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Cox stated that in other public meetings, public comment is first, but cannot be on any of the agenda items.

Attorney Stone that it is sometimes stated that if there is comment on any of the agenda items to please hold those comments until that time, but it doesn't have to be done that way.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like to discuss the extra property at the NuRF and the possibility of turning the portion we are not using back over to the District or other design ideas we might have to take advantage of the property out there. He asked that it be put on a future agenda.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that a friend had brought it to her attention that a lot of trash such as furniture is being thrown into Trout Lake and washing into the lake. She stated that the Sheriff's office has been brought into it and noted that it appears that there are homeless living on the Eustis side of the lake and they are using it as their dump and it's working its way out into the lake.

Ms. Tramontana stated that they can also contact Trout Lake and they may be able to work with some of the neighborhoods. She stated that this is the first she is hearing about this and noted that property to the east is partly property belonging to Trout Lake. She stated that it is with the city and is pretty forested.

Vice Chair Maimone noted that from what she has heard, of part of the property is within the City of Eustis and part of it is under county jurisdiction, so they are trying to figure out who has jurisdiction over that portion.

Mr. Hart stated that he has been working with someone on some small-scale projects to help keep litter out of the lake. He explained that they have constructed a fishing line recycling box to go in at the little boat ramp on Highway 19 and are just waiting on approval from the City of Eustis to install it.

He stated that the worst area is the little waterway connects Trout Lake and Lake Eustis. He explained that this area is where a lot of the debris and trash that is washing into Trout Lake is coming from. He stated that staff could put it on the agenda and do a presentation about the issue.

Mr. BonJorn stated that the CCA will be holding a kid's fishing clinic in Clermont and he has spoken to Mr. Hart about the Water Authority staff helping with a clean-up event in connection with the fishing clinic in whichever area they choose.

He stated that they give the kids free fishing gear and teach them casting, fishing. He stated that it would be held sometime in October. He suggested that maybe staff can help regarding vegetation clearing.

Mr. Hart stated that Tracy Hauserman leads a yearly kid's fishing clinic at Hickory Point every year. He stated that this event will be on City of Clermont property and Mr. BonJorn had asked if the Agency would be able to help with vegetation clearing and he had told him that staff could put them in touch with Nathalie Visscher with Fish and Wildlife and help them get the permits needed for clearing vegetation, as the area they are looking at is heavily vegetated area.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – June 2019

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, August14, 2019 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.