

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**of the**  
**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**September 25, 2019**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26, 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 Farnar (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, IT Manager  
Christina Rider,  
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 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF - AUGUST 14, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING.** Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Approved 7-0

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 - TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING.** Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall report. He stated that Lake Apopka is below the regulatory schedule and the flow through NuRF is currently at 10 cfs and nothing is going over the spillway.

He noted that Lake Eustis is slightly below the regulatory schedule and Lake Dora just recently reached regulatory schedule. He stated that flow through the Burrell structure has been approximately 18 cfs for the past week.

He stated that Lake Griffin has also fallen below the regulatory schedule and noted that September has been a pretty lean month as far as rainfall and that is why many of the lakes have fallen below regulatory schedule.

He stated that the flow through Moss Bluff has been low for the week, with the current flow at 21 cfs.

Mr. Perry stated that rainfall for the year 1.76 inches above the historic average which is approximately 105% of the expected year-to-date rainfall.

He reported that during the last month the Clermont Chain went from 97 msl to almost 97.25 msl during Hurricane Dorian. He explained that with the high water level, flows were increased through the structures to let water out. He noted that with the recent drier weather staff has been gradually closing the flow through the structures and the flow through Cherry Lake is currently 31 cfs.

He stated that Big and Little Creek current combined flow is 147 cfs, compared to a high of 207 cfs combined flow in August.

Mr. Perry noted that there are now three disturbances in the Tropics and that of those three Jerry and Lorenzo will be non-events as far as Florida is concerned. He stated that Tropical Storm Karen doesn't know what she wants to do at this time. He explained that the models have it wandering in circles with some models showing it eventually moving straight west and some models showing it heading north then fizzling out.

Mr. Perry noted that flow from Lake Apopka is 10 cfs, with 100% of the flow going through the NuRF. He explained that staff is still working two shifts a day, seven days a week cleaning the ponds and probably will through Thanksgiving, when hopefully we will be caught up depending on any weather events.

He stated that hurricane season goes through the end of November and reminded the Board that Hurricane Irma came through in October.

Mr. Perry stated the Agency has been asked by Trout Lake Nature Center to help them with some letters of support and they are trying to go to the legislature to obtain some funding to support their education complex expansion.

He stated that they are currently in stage one of the expansions and are still trying to raise funding for phase three. He explained that they had tried a couple of years ago but weren't successful and are going to try again, looking to Senator Baxley and Representative Sullivan.

Mr. Perry stated that he didn't want to do anything until he had spoken with the Board on how to proceed.

Mr. Perry also informed the Board that the Legislative Delegation Meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup> at Lake Sumter State College from 1:30 to 6:00 pm. He stated that the Water Authority has traditionally been in attendance and stated that he was looking to the Board to see if they had anything specific that they wanted to address with the Legislative Delegation.

He talked about Lake County's legislative priority list and explained a couple of things that are significant from the County's perspective. He explained that they are going to try to ensure there is enough money for hydrilla treatment. He noted that they are requesting approximately 7.5 million dollars from the legislature for hydrilla treatment.

He stated that they are also going to be requesting funding for some advanced septic treatment systems and he noted that Lake County is also going to provide a letter of support for Trout Lake Nature Center's legislative funding request.

Mr. Perry stated he would suggest that if the Board wants to participate, he would like to suggest they show support for Lake County in their request for additional hydrilla funding and residential canal dredging and that they also show support for Trout Lake; unless there is something they want him to go to the delegation meeting about for the Water Authority.

He asked the Board if they want him and Chairman Stone to attend, and if so, what did they want them to speak about.

Ms. Cox asked how the Water Authority's \$25 per diem amount compares to any other legislatively created ad valorem district and how much their board members receive. Mr. Perry stated that he doesn't know how much other such boards are compensated.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that her concern is that they (Legislatures) are picking off a lot of special taxing districts and discontinuing them and noted that they had recently gotten rid of one of the hospital districts. She stated most of the Board members feel that \$25 a meeting is not enough, and she agrees, but that now is not a good time to be asking for an increase in per diem.

She also stated that in her opinion, someone should attend the delegation meeting every year as respect to the delegation to show that we want and need their support.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he felt they should support Lake County in their request for funding for hydrilla control and canal dredging and show their support for funding for Trout Lake.

Ms. Cox stated that she agrees and thinks the hydrilla issue is worth our appearance.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she thinks they should keep bringing up Lake Apopka, as people tend to forget that Lake Apopka is the cause of the problems in the Harris Chain. She stated that

the Water Authority gets blamed on social media for what is going on in the Chain of Lakes and what is coming from Lake Apopka, when the Agency has little or no control over how much comes from there and how much gets treated. She stated that they needed to continue that fight because until they fix that (Lake Apopka) our chain will always be a battle.

Mr. Farner stated that he agrees with the rest of the Board and that the Water Authority needs to be represented at the Legislative Delegation Meeting. He stated that he doesn't think that is the right time to be asking for funding, but they do need to show their support of certain requests being made by other agencies. He stated that he also agrees with Vice Chair Maimone about the need to clean up Lake Apopka.

Mr. Perry stated that the County is going to be seeking funds from the legislature for residential canal dredging and asked the Board if they wanted him to address this issue.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she had spoken with Lake County Commissioner, Sean Parks and warned him to be careful what he promises, because until the Lake Apopka is resolved, they (the County) would be dredging that area over and over every time there is a hurricane like Irma. She stated that Lake Apopka needs to be addressed before a lot of money is spent.

Mr. Hendrick stated that maybe they shouldn't even address that issue with the legislature, as the Water Authority is not going to have any control over what happens. He stated that he would like to take back his suggestion that they support the County in their request.

Vice Chair Maimone stated her opinion that the subject of canal dredging shouldn't be brought up as part of the Water Authority's time.

Mr. Farner stated that the Water Authority can't afford to get into the responsibility of canal dredging with Lake County and Mr. Perry explained that the Legislature cannot provide funding directly to the Water Authority, it would have to go through St. Johns River Water Management or through another state agency.

Mr. Perry stated that he thought he had good direction on what to prepare for discussion and that he would prepare a script for the Chairman.

Mr. Perry stated that the only other item was related to a discussion he had with District staff related to the leased area at NuRF. He explained that it was something that Mr. Hendrick had brought up as to whether we can try to reduce the area that is being leased or if not, do we have any ability to do something else with it.

He stated that the opinion of District staff was that the Water Authority probably ought to hang on to everything that is leased and not try to give anything back, as there might be a need for it in the future it and would be cumbersome, if not impossible, to redo the lease.

He explained that they talked a little about cattle grazing, so we don't have to mow it, and stated that this is a possibility. He stated that whatever the Water Authority decides to do, we would have to stay within the USDA requirements for managing cattle.

Mr. Farner asked if they could make this topic an agenda item in the future and see a copy of the survey of the leased area at the NuRF and the Board could discuss possible ideas and uses.

Mr. Perry noted that the property was previously used as a cow pasture before being leased to the Water Authority and stated that he would put the topic on a future board meeting agenda.

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 7-0.**

- a. Approval of Site Resident Leases and Hickory Point Resident Lease

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH THE WATER AUTHORITY SITE RESIDENTS AT THE CROOKED RIVER PRESERVE, SAWGRASS ISLAND PRESERVE, BOURLAY HISTORIC NATURE PARK, THE M-5 WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE AND HICKORY POINT PARK.**

- b. Approval to Renew Agreement with Lake County for Citizens Lake Monitoring

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE THE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOR THE LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000.**

- c. Approval of Agreement with USGS for Water Level Monitoring

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE USGS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$148,860.**

- d. Approval of Purchase Orders for Alum and Polymer

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO CHEMTRADE FOR UP TO \$2,000,000.**

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR POLYMER TO FORT BEND SERVICES AND NALCO FOR UP TO \$100,000 EACH.**

- e. Approval of Blanket Purchase Orders

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS FOR FY 2019-20 FOR THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES UP TO THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:**

Sumter Electric.....	\$94,500
City of Tavares.....	\$63,500
WEX .....	\$20,000

Lake County Board of  
County Commissioners .....\$163,710  
Florida League of Cities .....\$47,640  
Lake County Sheriff.....\$228,955  
Jani- King of Orlando .....\$12,200

- f. Authorization to Amend GEA Mechanical Purchase Order for Shipping Costs of the NuRF Centrifuge Components

**APPROVE PAYMENT TO GEA FOR THE ADDITIONAL SHIPPING COSTS OF \$5,850 FOR THE NURF CENTRIFUGE SCROLL.**

- g. Authorization to Surplus Inventory Item

**AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SURPLUS INVENTORY ITEM 295.**

**ADD-ON**

Authorization to Amend Purchase Order for Polymer and Increase FY 2018-19 Budget for Additional NuRF Position

**APPROVE THE INCREASE IN PURCHASE ORDER 20190348 BY \$25,000 FOR THE INVOICE FOR ADDITIONAL POLYMER.**

**AUTHORIZE STAFF TO TRANSFER \$24,000 FROM 9898710-830340 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO 9898710-810210 SALARIES.**

- h. Approval of Contract with USF for Lake Atlas

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S FLORIDA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN AND RESEARCH (USF-FCCDR) FOR THE BASIC MAINTENANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER ATLAS PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20.**

- i. Approval of Agreement with the USDA for Nuisance Wildlife Removal

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES FOR NUISANCE WILDLIFE REMOVAL AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020.**

- j. Approval to Extend Contract with Wendy Sellers, the HR Lady, for Outside Human Resources Services

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXTEND THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH WENDY SELLERS, THE HR LADY, FOR OUTSIDE HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.**

- k. Approval to Renew Contracts with Naturalist and Education Contractors

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MS. MARYANN KRISOVITCH, EDUCATION CONTRACTOR FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.**

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DR. MARC CRAIL, NATURALIST CONTRACTOR FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.**

- l. Approval to Renew Agreement with Trout Lake Nature Center

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER AND APPROVE THE DISBURSEMENT OF \$16,000 TO THE TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER - \$7,500 TO FUND THEIR FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE AND PERSONNEL; \$6,500 FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE TLNC; AND \$2,000 FOR SCHOOLS THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD WOULD NOT OTHERWISE FUND TO ATTEND PROGRAMS AT TLNC.**

- m. Approval to Renew Contract with the Lake County Sheriff for Marine Patrol Deputies

**APPROVE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR MARINE UNIT DEPUTIES.**

- n. Approval to Release Bid for Emergency Tree Removal

**AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RELEASE AN EMERGENCY TREE REMOVAL BID AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH A RECOMMENDATION.**

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA**

- a. SJRWMD Flow from Lake Apopka and NuRF Operations

Mr. Perry stated that the first item is related to a discussion that Mr. Farner had asked staff to have with the St. Johns River Water Management District related to the flow from Lake Apopka and how it can affect the operation of NuRF and a variety of other issues.

He stated that he visited with District staff in August and had a good discussion about the topic and he thinks that the District understands our concerns and we understand that the District's primary objective and concern is flood control.

He explained that they discussion how it seems like when it gets above the regulatory schedule, they would open the gates and let the water flow and when it got down again, they would slam the gates shut. He stated that they (the District) have always done it that way, hard on the gas and hard on the brakes. He explained that it puts the Water Authority in an awkward position if

there are alum tankers on the road and then the gates are slammed shut, we may or may not be able to get them to recall those trucks and it makes a difficult situation.

He stated that they had discussed whether there is a better approach or compromise so that that they all can achieve their goals. He noted that the Water Authority doesn't want the District to compromise their flood control responsibilities as that it extremely important.

Mr. Perry introduced David Watt, Supervisor of Professional Engineers, Bureau of Operations and Maintenance with the St. Johns River Water Management District and explained that he is here to explain how and why they determine the flow from Lake Apopka.

Mr. Watt gave a short PowerPoint Presentation (*included in the back-up documentation*) about how they determine the flow from Lake Apopka and through the NuRF and the spillway. He stated that water levels and flow rates are updated at noon every day and explained that they operate according to their approved schedule from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Watt noted that he will be retiring on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month and that Mr. Perry has met his successor and he (Mr. Watt) thinks the Water Authority and the District will continue with what he feels is an excellent working relationship.

He stated that he has always felt that the Water Authority has had the District's back in terms of working with our constituents and explaining what the District does and they in turn have tried to reciprocate that when they get phone calls. He noted that he appreciates that relationship and it is very important to the District to sustain that relationship.

Mr. Watt explained that flood protection is a big part of the District's mission, as well as water quality improvement and striking a balance between those two things. He gave a quick overview of the structures located on the Harris Chain of Lakes and stated that they operate according to a regulation schedule that was approved by the Army Corp of Engineers and their philosophy when it comes to flood control is exactly what Mr. Perry indicated, that when you are above the maximum, you let the water out and when you are below the minimum you hold the water in.

He stated that the talent is how they handle that in between time when they are approaching regulation or when they beginning to exceed the regulation schedule. He explained that the Apopka system was originally designed to discharge over 500 cfs, but for a very, very short time but really can only sustain 300-350 cfs when they need to move a lot of water through the system, as anything over that amount, Lake Dora begins to have trouble maintaining a safe stage.

He explained that there is only a foot difference between the lower and upper range of regulation schedule for Lake Apopka, with the minimum and maximum desirable levels adding approximately another foot, making it a two-foot range that they try to operate Lake Apopka within. He noted that this is extremely challenging for a lake and watershed the size of Lake Apopka.

Mr. Watt explained that it is an inherited system as they didn't build it and they do the best they can with it. He stated that the design criteria for the system is for a ten-year flood event and they do the best they can to hold on to water as long as possible and stretching that return rate.



He stated things are very dynamic in the flood control business with weather forecast being a big part of it. He stated that as an example, in the case of Hurricane Dorian the were estimates of 10 to 15 inches of rainfall, but we ended up with less than six inches of rain.

He noted that balancing water levels in Lake Dora is also important, as well as protecting the infrastructure. He stated that it would be great to be able to hold on to more water in order to avoid a downstream impact, but they also have to protect the multi-million-dollar infrastructure that has been built, so they are religious about adhering to their regulation schedules to protect the levees and structures.

Mr. Watt stated that while the District understands what the NuRF was built to handle, but they also understand the tremendous amount of operation and maintenance of the facility, and the balance and sweet spot of getting solids out of the system and treating water through the system is about 100 cfs.

He stated that 100 cfs is not a lot of discharge for a system that was built to handle 500 cfs. He explained that 300-350 cfs is their sweet spot in terms of being able to move water downstream.

He stated that they've heard Mr. Perry's concerns and they are doing everything they can to adjust their guidelines to meet that 100 cfs criteria.

Mr. Watt stated that through Dorian the discharge was approximately 150-165 cfs and as soon as they could bring the discharge down to 100 cfs they did and then down to minimum discharge.

Mr. Farner asked how the 100 cfs was determined and Mr. Perry explained that this is the amount of flow through NuRF that staff can sustain and keep the ponds cleaned, etc. He also explained that the system was designed for an annual average of 50 cfs with short durations peaks of 300 cfs. He noted that they learned from Hurricane Irma, is that they cannot sustain 300 cfs for weeks at a time.

Mr. Farner noted that they can sustain 300 cfs for a short time, it is not an amount that can be sustained for a long time.

Mr. Perry stated that 100 cfs. the maximum flow that staff can maintain and keep ahead of the floc, etc.

Mr. Farner stated that he understands that, but NuRF can handle a lot more and it seems like once NuRF reaches 100 cfs and the District starts dumping it over the spillway and we get untreated water going downstream. He stated that he has an issue when the flow is only 100 cfs and they are dumping it over the spillway, when the NuRF can take the flow at that time.

Mr. Watt stated that the District is aware of that and they work with Dr. Danaher and other staff to determine what the NuRF can handle. He stated that understand Mr. Farner's concern and that the overall system is design is to handle approximately 300 cfs, and the District doesn't mind sending what the they can take through the NuRF, but they ultimately the District has to make a decision about how much water to put downstream and whether it goes through the NuRF or over the spillway. He stated that while they are happy to work with the Water Authority on

some type of agreement or protocol, the District still reserves the right to choose how the water flows, whether it is through the NuRF or over the spillway.

Mr. Farner explained that he just wants NuRF to be used to the maximum and Mr. Watt explained that the District understands.

Mr. Watt stated that he also wanted to talk about some current activities going on and explained that after February of 2018, Fish and Wildlife allowed the District more flexibility in what they can do on the Apopka North Shore.

He stated that although it is a big area, they can't put that much water on it. He explained that if they were to fill up the North Shore with water it would take over a year to empty it back out with the current systems they have, since they are trying to treat all the water being removed from the North Shore with alum before putting it back into the lake.

Mr. Watt stated that they are wrapping up a project to improve the perimeter levee which will help to allow them to store more water along the North Shore. He noted that in the next fiscal year they will be starting a project to do improvements to the North Shore internal levee system (the old farm fields) so they can improve the various cells and can get deliveries of alum and fuel to the pumps and systems and maintain infrastructure during high water levels.

He explained that all these projects will give the District a little bit more flexibility in how they can work with the Water Authority on getting their flood flows down to a manageable level that can go through the NuRF.

He also noted that in the future they are looking at the feasibility of improvements that could possibly increase the inflow/outflow capacity on the North Shore and well as modifying the operations /regulation schedule so that the hold on to water longer during the summer months/hurricane season and release it slower over time.

Mr. Watt stated that the final thing they are looking at are additional discharge pathways and if there are other ways to get water out of Lake Apopka as opposed to the Apopka Beauclair Canal. He noted that this is something that's very early in it stages that they are looking. He stated that there other obviously in other parts of the Chain of Lakes. He stated that the District will be presenting that to the Water Authority either before or at the same time as they present it to others, as they don't want the Water Authority to be caught off guard.

Mr. Hendrick asked if the alternate pathway was from Little Lake Harris to the prairie and Mr. Watt stated this is one of the options. It was also noted that his area is sometimes called the Double Run Swamp.

Mr. Perry explained that beside having to make the water flow uphill, there is a lot of private property and a lot of things that would be difficult to resolve in order to send water that direction. He stated that they are looking for an alternative discharge and there is only two ways for the water to go, either the Apopka Beauclair Canal or Double Run and not many other options.

He stated that for the Apopka Beauclair Canal, the amount of water in Lake Dora and the restrictions on the Dora Canal that limits the amount of water that can leave Lake Dora are

issues. He noted that a District engineer did a study of Dora Canal about seven or eight years ago regarding dredging it down and making it deeper in order to gain some conveyance, and to do so would only gain about 100 cfs.

Mr. Watt noted that you can only go so deep without going wider, and to do on the Dora Canal would undermine the cypress trees lining the canal and the Dora Canal would no longer be the Dora Canal it is now.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that study was one of the things that had been brought up to her by someone on the Harris Chain Restoration Council and noted that the Council will be asking the District to look into that again, and if they still have that information it might be good to try and find it. She stated that she too had spoken her concerns for the cypress trees when this topic was brought up to her.

Ms. Cox stated that the cost of sending water from Lake Apopka, through Double Run and into Lake Harris would be monumental. Mr. Watt stated that it is something that is not in the prevue of their budget and if it gained any support it would be something that would have to go to the legislature.

Ms. Cox stated that when the Dora Canal was dug over one hundred years ago, somehow the flow through Double Run was stopped and there is no real connection between the two lakes anymore.

Mr. Watt stated that part has to do with lowering the lake level itself and historically when the lake was naturally at a higher level higher the water could flow through, but it can't at the current lake level. He noted that there would need water quality issues and there would need to be another NuRF type facility if something like that is done.

Mr. Farner thanked Mr. Watt coming and stated that he wanted to make sure the Water Authority's NuRF project is maximized and it can handle those higher flow levels for a short period of time. He stated that it is very frustrating when we are 100 cfs through NuRF and the District is dumping another 100 cfs over the spillway.

He noted that the Water Authority is spending millions of dollars to clean the water and literally contaminated before it even leaves the lock area.

Mr. Watt stated that he understands that, and their goal is to send all the water that the Water Authority wants to accept through the NuRF through the NuRF, whatever that may be on a given day.

Mr. Watt explained that their plan is that when it is at minimum flows as it is right now and they anticipate water levels coming up, the first step would be to take the NuRF up to 100 cfs with zero going over the spillway, and then continue to ramp up from there.

He stated that what usually happens in response to a rain event is a rapid increase in the lake level and they really do have to put their foot on the gas and ramp it up to 300 cfs for the NuRF and 50 cfs over the spillway. He stated that his instructions to his operators is work with staff at

the NuRF, and if they can to increase the amount going through NuRF and lower the water going over the spill way.

Chairman Stone stated that are just trying to smooth out the ups and downs of the flow.

Mr. Hendrick stated that his goal is to shut the NuRF down completely, so let's fix Lake Apopka.

Mr. Watt stated that if they can get to the point that all their stakeholders agree and the they can manage the average lake higher, then it will be good for everybody. He stated it would give them storage for flooding and it keeps the flocculent material from going downstream and helps everybody achieve their goals.

Mr. Farner asked if it is possible to have some type of written memorandum of understanding that the water won't go over the spillway when we have the capacity for it to go through the NuRF.

Mr. Watt stated that he thinks it could be possible to develop some type of document, similar to other smaller water districts where they have developed a protocol document that both parties have signed off on. He noted that the District is going to be very reluctant to give up any flood capacity it has for flood discharges, but for it to say that they will put everything through the NuRF that it can take before putting any over the spillway shouldn't be an issue.

Chairman Stone stated that some type of protocol document would make Mr. Farner happy.

Mr. Perry stated that something the Board should keep a watch for in the future are any changes that might come to the regulatory schedule. He stated that one of things being talked about is possibly shifting it to the left a little bit so there would be more storage available during hurricane conditions compared to the current schedule that starts bringing the lake levels up at this time, when we are in the peak of hurricane season.

Mr. Watt stated that the District considers Lake County Water Authority a primary stakeholder and the Water Authority has a seat at the table for any discussions.

b. Turkey Lake Ditch Update

Mr. Hart gave an update on the Turkey Lake system and stated that the water comes in from the Palatlahaha River, crosses the Turnpike and enters Dilly Marsh. He stated that from that point it crosses Highway 27 and from there it goes into a series of wetlands and slues and other water bodies that all go downstream and crosses Punkin Center. He noted that there is a culvert that is owned by the County that allows water to continue to discharge into two other lakes downstream.

He explained that historically there was another culvert that went to another lake to the north and eventually into Lake Harris, but this culvert has rusted out decades ago and the property owner removed whatever was left of the culvert. He also noted that there is a large hill that is over 50 feet in elevation that the water would have to over so the water no longer will go out to Lake Harris in that direction.

Mr. Hart stated that the Water Authority is involved in this because we permitted this water system and own a structure at Dilly Marsh that can be opened and shut to control flooding. He explained that during very wet periods the overflow from the Palatlahaha system can flow downstream and flood those lakes downstream because there is no place for the water to go. He noted that the water level can rise over ten feet downstream and it has historically flooded Number 2 Road and put it under water. He explained that to avoid this from happening the Water Authority installed the gated culvert that we can open and shut to control flooding. He stated that presently the structure is open and actively flowing.

He pointed out the series of ditches that have replaced some of the open wetland area over the years and explained that the residents of Punkin Center were concerned about an activity that had occurred along one of the ditches in 2009 when someone had filled in part of the ditch creating a way that the owner could cross from the southern part of his property to the northern half without having to go out on Highway 27.

Mr. Hart stated that this fill blocked the water from flowing through the ditch and into Turkey Lake and as a result Turkey Lake is forever kept in a drought type condition. He stated that it would take a very high flood event to overcome that blockage, which we have, so water levels have returned to their normal elevations in Turkey Lake at this time.

He explained that this has caused problems with other residents, particularly Mr. Massey who has had cattle ranging out on the bottom of Turkey Lake, and now with Turkey Lake full again he has lost his most productive cattle grazing area; so you make one person unhappy while the other residents who used to row out on the lake are all happy because the lake has finally returned.

He explained that the residents had approached the Board asking for assistance in opening the blocked ditch, and the Board had directed him (Mr. Hart) to assist them. He stated that he had determined the property owner and contacted them. He explained that one of the owners is Don Nicholson, who is on the Harris Chain Restoration Council had gotten back with him and he had explained the situation and informed him that the residents are willing to assist him in doing whatever it takes to improve that site so it is no longer causing a blockage.

Mr. Hart stated that Mr. Nicholson was extremely cordial and offered to address the problem. He stated that he had explained that the residents were willing to provide the equipment and all they needed was for him to provide a culvert to place in the culvert at the location of the blockage.

He noted that at this time water is flowing over the blockage and Turkey Lake at this time. He explained that they will have to wait until the dry season to put in a new culvert.

Mr. Hart stated that Don Nicholson had been concerned about any liability if it were to cause flooding and Mr. Hart stated that he had explained to him that the Water Authority has a structure they can close to control flooding.

He stated that they have a workable solution and he has spoken with the residents and they are happy.

c. Historic NuRF Operating Expenses

Dr. Danaher stated that he and other staff members got together and pulled together cost information for the NuRF for the past four years. He explained that costs were broken down into salaries, utilities, supplies, alum and polymer.

He stated that categories were totaled and then averaged for those years as well. He noted that salaries includes just the base salaries and doesn't include benefit costs.

Mr. Farner stated that looking at the repairs and maintenance for 2018-2019, it is obviously the cost of repairing the centrifuge. He asked if staff is keeping track of the hours and doing scheduled maintenance, and Dr. Danaher stated that staff is keeping track of run-time hours and doing preventative maintenance as necessary. He stated that the centrifuge is working well, but is not currently running due to a piece of machinery downstream, that chews up large material before it reaches the centrifuge, that had failed. He noted that they have had the motor rebuilt and a team is coming out next week to replace seals, etc.

Chairman Stone stated that it is important to note that for several years no repairs were required as we weren't really running the NuRF, not to the level we were in 2017-2018.

Dr. Danaher explained that some of the largest repairs were the dredges, the Bobcat, the East Pond culverts as well as the pond actuators.

Mr. Perry stated the reason this information was provided to the Board is because they had asked staff to look at these costs, because an interest had been expressed in possibly privatizing the operation. He asked the Board for direction on how they wanted proceed with that topic.

Chairman Stone stated they would continue this discussion after taking public comment.

Martin Proctor, a resident on Lake Emma in Groveland, addressed the Board. He stated that when he looks at the costs regarding the NuRF, he sees a giant elephant in the room. He stated that of the six million is costs, more than half of that is alum and polymer in a single year. He stated that he doesn't understand how is it possible that one year could be so much higher than all the other years.

Chairman Stone explained that Hurricane Irma and the fact that NuRF was running at 350 cfs for weeks/months at a time, compared to a couple of the years when NuRF didn't run at all.

Mr. Farner explained that if there is no flow, NuRF done not run, and there was a couple years when there was no flow coming through. He stated that then all of a sudden we got a big storm event and NuRF was running at such a pace that it just wore out.

Chairman Stone explained that the costs are directly related to the flow coming into the chain.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that Hurricane Irma dumped a lot of rain and we had to treat all that water before it could come into the chain. She stated that because the NuRF couldn't take all the water coming in, there was some water that had to go over the lock and dam.

Mr. Proctor questioned if this were to occur on a more frequent basis they would be looking at a 3.5 million dollars cost on an annual basis and the Board stated that it would continue to have such costs until Lake Apopka is cleaned up.

Mr. Farner stated that the NuRF was only designed to be a temporary fix to improve the water quality coming out of the Lake Apopka Flowway, but the way things are going it looks like it might be a term type project, until Lake Apopka is cleaned up. He stated that until Lake Apopka is cleaned up, we can't have untreated water coming into the Harris Chain, as we've come to far getting these lakes cleaned up.

Ms. Cox asked how much the cost varies for alum and polymer and whether if it varies a great deal.

Dr. Danaher explained that over the past year there have been price increases for alum and polymer and because the heavy on the gas, hard on the break situations we experience, it costs more in order insure a steady supply.

Ms. Cox explained to Mr. Proctor that when they are running 24 hours a day it takes truck after truck of chemicala to pull the nutrients out of the water, which is a big part of our annual budget. She stated that the good news is that the lakes downstream are actually cleaner and clearer in a lot of places.

It was also explained that hopefully there isn't a big storm event like Hurricane Irma every year, but that the Board is well aware of what those costs could be.

Chairman Stone stated that if you looked at millage rates, it was higher last year to to help recoup from Hurricane Irma and noted that the Water Authority has brought the millage back down for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Proctor stated that he didn't think the Clermont Chain was getting enough attention compared to how much attention is given to the Harris Chain.

## **7. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

Attorney Stone informed the Board that they should be closing on the acquisition of the Lake Denham property before the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the paperwork is prepared and ready for signatures.

He noted that a few of them have asked him for information and he would be talking to them on an individual basis and would be setting aside time to call and speak with each of them over the next week or two.

## **8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hendrick stated that he would like to have a discussion on privatizing the NuRF and would like to put it on the agenda for a future meeting. He stated that he would like to see a comparison of costs comparing flow versus no flow.

Chairman Stone suggested that he let staff know what he would like to see, so they can start looking for those numbers. She stated that the topic could be put agenda, just not for the next month, as it would take some number crunching.

Mr. Farner stated that he would staff to fly the drone up highway 46 and Wolf Branch Creek and to Lake Joanna and look at the flow, as he doesn't think the problem of Lake Joanna degrading has been resolved yet.

He also noted that there is a lake in Sumter County called Lake Okahumpka and he would like staff to fly it over the lake so everyone could get a good look at the lake and the damage hydrilla can do, since that lake is totally unusable now because of the hydrilla growth. He stated that you can't get a boat in the lake. He stated that they could possibly see it during the next meeting, or it could be put on our website where everyone could see it.

Vice Chair Maimone asked if you can fly drones that close to an airport as there is an airport near Lake Joanna. Mr. Perry stated that staff would looking into any limitations

Ms. Cox stated that cattle grazing at the NuRF is not as simple as it sounds as there are many requirements and it can cost a lot of money. She suggested talking with a cattleman regarding the costs, etc. She stated that she is not so sure that it the best use of the land.

Vice Chair Maimone suggested to the other Board Members that they look over Executive Directors' contract. She stated that she did take a good look at it and there is a part of it that she is confused about, so when they discuss what the future options are, they need to take a good look at some of the options. She stated that the Water Authority is not letting Mr. Perry go, he is retiring, so they need to take a good look at the options.

Attorney Stone stated that he shares some of her thoughts, and he will be calling each Board member to discuss those concerns.

*The Board took a short break at 4:55 pm and returned at 5:05 pm for the Final Budget Hearing. Final Budget Hearing was adjourned at 5:08 pm and the Board continued the September Regular meeting.*

## **9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

There were no additional items.

## **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, October 23, 2019 (3:30 pm)  
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building



**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.