

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
April 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, April 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
Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
Christina Rider, Administrative Services Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Carole Barice, 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 - MARCH 27, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE MARCH 27, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING. Vice Chair Maimone 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 March was a very dry month and currently rainfall is almost three inches shy of where it ought to be this time of year. He stated that this is about 65% of the expected year-to-date rainfall.

He noted that when last Friday's rainfall came through, Lake Apopka popped up to the maximum desirable and the District has been sending water over the spillway on the Apopka-Beauclair Canal at over 300 cfs. He noted that the lake is now almost down to minimum desirable.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2019

He stated that the flow through Burrell Lock and Dam is currently at 18 cfs.

He reported that on the Clermont Chain stating that the flows from Big and Little Creeks have been declining since March, but bumped up a bit with last Friday's rain, and are back down again.

He stated that we could anticipate some rainfall as fronts pass through and stated that the rainy season starts in June. He noted that Cherry Lake Dam has been closed since March.

Mr. Hendrick asked about the recent flow of 300 cfs over the spillway from Lake Apopka and Mr. Perry stated that it was at 300 cfs for a short time. He noted that no water is being treated by NuRF at this time and all water is going over the spillway.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that originally the repair to the centrifuge was expected to be completed sometime in July, but Dr. Danaher had spoken to the contractor explaining the urgency of the situation and they have agreed to have repairs completed by June 2nd. He noted that once the repairs have been completed, the part then must be shipped to us and installed.

Mr. Perry also reported that the pond roadway work has been completed and noted that the yearly cleaning and coating of the storage tank is expected to be completed shortly.

He informed the Board that Hickory Point staff has been working on replacing the lights throughout the park with LED lights. He noted that Beach and Boat Ramp bathroom lights area have also be replaced. He stated that this has all been done in-house by Travis Snow and Daniel Kewharding and has saved the Agency approximately \$20,000. He also stated that the new lights are providing much brighter with fewer fixtures and hopefully will also save on electricity.

Mr. Perry also informed the Board that he had provided each of them a packet with Nathalie's schedule for treatment with information on the location, acreage and chemicals. He explained that she intends to start on Lake Dora first near the City of Mt. Dora boat ramps and then the western side of Lake Harris and Singletary Park.

He stated that other areas to be treated are the Lane Park Cove near the Hideaway, the southern end of Lake Eustis, Herlong Park on Lake Griffin, Marsh Park on Lake Yale and approximately 100 acres at the mouth of Lake Beauclair and the A/B Canal.

He explained that FWC is providing some additional funding and which will provide for additional treatment areas on Lake Harris on the other side of Long Island near the Hideaway and portions of the Dead River Canal.

He noted that Ms. Visscher is hoping to have all treatment completed within the next month before the weather gets too warm.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that Lake County will be providing the labor at no cost and stated that he had thanked the Lake County Board of County Commissioners at their Board Meeting yesterday.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2019

He stated that previously the Board had asked whether there were signs at the public boat ramps regarding the transference of hydrilla between lakes. He noted that there are signs at Herlong Park and Venetian Garden in Leesburg, but they are old signs by FL Dept. of Natural Resources (which is no longer in existence) in among a jumble of other signs.

He stated that there are no signs at the Hickory Point boat ramps, and staff is looking into putting something together. He explained that while they can have them done at the Lake County Sign Shop, they are not able to do graphics. He stated that it needs to be a sign that is large enough to get boaters attention and with the right verbiage.

Chairman Stone suggested that they look into using a different vendor and Vice Chair Maimone was in agreement. Ms. Cox suggested having the signs a different color than white, such as a green sign with words in white.

Mr. Farner stated that he thought there might be a state statute making it illegal to transport invasive plants between lakes, and if so he would like to see the statute number and penalties on the signs.

Vice Chair Maimone suggested a cleaning station near the boat launch area of Hickory Point so that boats could be cleaned off before leaving the park.

Mr. Perry suggested that the staging area might be a possible location. He stated that it would need to be somewhere visible and accessible where the water wouldn't run back into the lake with any invasive plants. He suggested the possible placement of signs directing boaters to the cleaning station.

Mr. Perry also informed the Board that in cooperation with FWC, green underwater lights have been installed at the Hickory Point fishing pier and are up and operating. He stated that Hickory Point is the only public fishing facility in Florida to have submerged lighting.

Mr. Farner asked about having a Press Announcement regarding the new lighting and Mr. Perry stated that could be done once they are sure everything is up and running as it should.

Mr. Perry noted that Ms. Stokes has a scheduling conflict with the date of the July Budget Workshop and he asked the Board about choosing another date that would work for everyone. He explained that there is no set date that the meeting needs to be held by and the only thing required for July is to set the tentative millage at the Regular Board Meeting later in the month.

After a bit of discussion, it was decided to hold the Budget Workshop on Wednesday, July 17th at 11 am in the Lake County Water Authority Office Conference Room.

Ben Garcia addressed to the Board and gave a brief presentation regarding the new website update. He showed a screenshot of the current website, the first redesign that was suggested and a peek at the final design.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

First item on the consent agenda “Revision of Board Personnel Manual regarding Firearms” was moved to the regular agenda.

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

Motion approved 7-0.

- a. Approval to Remove Sediment from NuRF Outfall Canal

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH DAWSON EXCAVATING, LLC, AS A RESTRICTED SOURCE, TO REMOVE AQUATIC VEGETATION AND SOFT SEDIMENTS FROM NURF OUTFALL CANAL FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000.

- b. Revision to Structure Operations Manual Clarifying Target Elevation for Clermont Chain of Lakes

REVISE THE PALATLAKAHA RIVER DAM OPERATION MANUAL TO SPECIFY THE 97.0 FT. MSL LAKE LEVEL AS A FORMALIZED TARGET ELEVATION AND DIRECT CURRENT AND FUTURE STAFF TO MAINTAIN THE CLERMONT CHAIN AT THE UPPER END OF THE REGULATORY RANGE.

- c. Authorization to Transfer Funds for Sabal Bluff Improvements

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$100,000 FROM 9898720-860630 SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO 9898720-830460 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE FOR SABAL BLUFF PRESERVE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Attorney RFQ Short List Interviews

Mr. Perry informed the Board that a representative from each of the law firms, Bowen, Schroth, Mazenko and Broome, P.A., Crawford, Modica & Holt and Stone & Gerken, P.A. were in attendance to make their presentations to the Board. It was decided that presentations would be made alphabetically by the firm’s name.

Zack Broome of Bowen, Schroth, Mazenko and Broome, P.A. addressed the Board and stated that that his primary practice areas are business and land use, but he also does contractual work, litigation and government work. He noted that Agency represents the Sheriff’s office as well as the Town of Astatula, City of Eustis and the Town of Lady Lake. He stated that the represent the City of Tampa as a Special Magistrate in land use matters.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2019

He stated that their office has eleven attorneys, which makes them the largest law firm in Lake County, and they also handle everything from estate planning, trust work and bankruptcy. All types of legal needs.

He stated that he primarily does land use and business and he thinks he would be a great fit for the Water Authority, noting that he studied environmental and land use law at UF.

Ms. Cox stated that she understands that he has been admitted to practice in front of the US District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, and Mr. Broome confirmed that information.

She also asked whether their rate would be still be \$175 per hour with no charge for travel and Mr. Broome stated that it would.

Mr. Hendrick asked if he would be the person to attend the Water Authority Board meetings and Mr. Broome stated that he would be the primary council, with Mr. Schroth as his back up.

Jimmy Crawford with Crawford, Modica & Holt addressed the Board and stated that he has been an attorney in Lake County for 25 years. He explained that he has been practicing land use and environmental law the entirety of his career as an attorney.

He stated that his Under Graduate Degree was in Forestry and he practiced forestry in the south before going back to law school. He stated that he went back to law school because he was intrigued by the lack of regulations on the cutting of timber. He stated that he attended Lewis and Clark University which at that time was the number one rated Environmental Law School in the country and received his degree in Environmental Land Use Law.

He explained that he then moved to Florida and practiced Environmental Law and in 1994 he moved to Lake County to practice Land Use Law. He stated that has been the attorney for several governmental agencies including the Lake County Water Authority.

He introduced his para-legal Jennifer Koch and stated that they would come as a team. He stated that she is his Administrative Assistance and right-hand person for everything.

Ms. Koch addressed the Board and stated that she graduated Stetson University with a bachelor's in environmental science and political science. She stated that she had previously worked for DEP in their State Lands and Environmental Resource Permitting for approximately five years. She stated that she worked with Nathalie Visscher while at DEP.

She stated that she has also worked for Lake County as an Environmental Specialist and Planner in the Planning Department before moving to the private sector and the legal side of it. She stated that she has been a para-legal for Mr. Crawford for about two years.

Mr. Crawford stated that while his rate is at \$200 per hour versus \$175 of some of his competition, he and Ms. Koch come as a team with his rate being \$200 and hers being \$125 and she can be doing a lot of the work that an attorney would be doing if they don't have a specially trained para-legal planner with them. He stated that they will also be adding an associate this

summer whose rate will be at \$150, and he believes that their blended rate should be less than their competitors.

He stated that he felt that during the years he was with the Lake County Water Authority they were able to have some good accomplishments. He stated the Water Authority and Lake County had sued Polk County and got a successful settlement that stopped water diversion from Lake Lowery which was preventing water from coming into Big and Little Creek which was causing the Clermont Chain to suffer.

He stated that they also successfully defended a challenge by then Lake County Property Appraiser Ed Havill to the Water Authority's Tax-Exempt Status as operating outside of our enabling legislature. He stated that this was won at the trial level and was not appealed.

Mr. Crawford stated that they handled two different bid protests successfully without extended litigation and also handled the approval, design and construction of the NuRF project.

He noted that it was an immensely satisfying time in his practice and he would love to come back again. It was noted that he was the attorney for the Water Authority for close to eight years.

He stated that if at all possible they try to reach a settlement without litigation, but if they have to go to litigation they can.

Kevin Stone with Stone & Gerken, P.A. and stated that although their last names are the same, he was no relation to Chairman Stone. He stated that his firm consists of six attorneys and they represent several local governments and special districts. He noted that he is a Board-Certified Local Government Lawyer.

He introduced Francesca Marcus and explained that she recently joined their firm as a lawyer and has a master's degree in LOM, which is an enhanced law degree in environmental law.

Mr. Stone that the culture on their law firm is that they want to prevent problems before they happen rather than having to solve problems. He noted that while he doesn't know what the Water Authority's legal budget is but between 2018 and 2019 he saw a line item go from \$60,000 to \$110,000, and if a lot of that is legal, it shouldn't be increasing at such a rate.

He stated that he was introduced to conservation efforts at an early age, as his parents were part of volunteers helping to insure the protection of a local river. He stated that you have to solve the issues of protection of local resources before any issue even starts and this carries over into his legal philosophy of solving problems before they become a problem.

He noted that the Water Authority staff can't do their jobs if they are worried about internal and external politics and legislation they don't understand, and if you don't have your lawyer solving your problems before they become problems. He stated that he wants the Agency to be able to flourish without those distractions.

Ms. Cox asked how long Stone and Gherkin been practicing in Lake County and Mr. Stone explained that the Stone and Gherkin was formed in 1992 with Lewis Stone being their longest practicing attorney as he has been practicing since 1981.

It was noted that Francesca Marcus has a master's degree in LOM (environmental law) which is a degree you get after getting your law degree.

Mr. Hendrick asked who from the firm would be representing the Water Authority and Mr. Stone stated that he would, but if he were absent it would be Lewis Stone or Scott Gherkin, both of whom have substantial experience with municipalities and special districts.

Mr. Perry stated that the Board has heard from the three firms they requested to hear from and it is now up to them to make a decision as to which firm or whether to go back out to look at others.

The representatives of the three firms left the meeting.

Mr. Farner asked when is Attorney Barice's contract was up and it was noted that her contract was up at the end of September and/or sixty days from notice. He stated that since Mr. Crawford has been the Water Authority's attorney in the past and is familiar with what the Water Authority does, he believes that it gives him a leg up on the other two agencies, although they all seem to be good attorneys.

Ms. Stone noted that Stone and Gherkin now has Ms. Marcus on staff with her expertise in environmental law. It was noted that Ms. Marcus is an associate with the firm which would make her rate less than Mr. Stone's rate of \$225.

Ms. Cox stated that she thought Stone and Gherkin's rate was probably negotiable. She stated that while she likes Mr. Crawford, she is inclined to bring someone new in to move the Agency into the future. Mr. Hendrick stated that he agreed with Ms. Cox.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she personally thought any of the three firms would do a good job for the Water Authority. She stated that while she thinks Mr. Crawford is a great guy she agreed that they should bring in someone new. She also noted both the other firms are located closer than Mr. Crawford's firm.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he likes Stone and Gherkin and feels that Ms. Marcus comes highly qualified and would be nice to have her to go to for reference.

Mr. BonJorn stated that he was leaning toward Mr. Crawford because he thought Mr. Crawford's experience with the Water Authority brought some value. He stated that any of the three firms would be great.

Mr. Farner stated that the Water Authority is not trying to reinvent the wheel and noted that the legally things are going to be pretty consistent in the future as they were in the past. He stated that he would defend Mr. Crawford and his firm and noted that he has been in Lake County for 25 years and knows lots of people. He stated that a lot of the work involved would be negotiating and knowing people and how to get things done. He noted that they shouldn't rule

him out just because he worked for the Agency in the past and just because he did a great job in the past does not mean he won't do so again in the future.

Ms. Cox noted that the other law firms have been around quite a while too. Vice Chair Maimone noted that unfortunately they can't hire all three firms and they were going to have to bring their choice down to one firm.

Mr. Hendrick stated that in talking to our local legislatures, one of them leans more toward Stone and Gherkin.

Ms. Cox noted that Bowen and Schroth are certified to practice in front of the Court of Appeals and US District Court and it was noted that probably is something all three firms are certified to do.

MR. HENDRICK MADE A MOTION TO HIRE STONE AND GHERKIN AND NEGOTIATE THE HOURLY RATE DOWN. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Chairman Stone stated that Kevin Stone is a reputable attorney and doesn't mine for work.

Motion approved 7-0.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE MOTION TO GIVE 60-DAY NOTICE FROM THE END OF THE MONTH TO OUR ATTORNEY. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-2 with Mr. Farner and Ms. Cox in opposition.

b. Status of Lake Denham - Phase II Environmental Assessment

Mr. Hart stated that since last month he and Mr. Perry had met with representatives from the Central District of DEP and they had stated that they did not foresee that their agency would require any cleanup on the site based on the levels of contaminants on the site and the planned usage of the Lake Denham property.

He noted that they did recommend that we speak with the Tallahassee DEP office as they have staff there that are more knowledgeable regarding pesticide contamination and they could provide a better recommendation as to whether we should move forward or not with the additional Phase II Analysis.

He stated that around 5pm yesterday he received a letter from DEP in Tallahassee which stated that there were portions of the additional analysis that they do not feel are necessary and can be eliminated, but they are also recommending that we increase some of the sampling around the sites where there is the presence of some contaminants. He explained that they are suggesting that the testing areas in those locations be expanded in size and they also suggested a vertical profile be done to determine the depth of the contaminants.

He explained that he has not been able to get exact price from the consulting firm for the additional testing as the person who handles that is on vacation. He noted that these changes are

reflected in a revised recommendation to the Board, so that they can continue to move forward between now and next month with a new negotiated sampling cost.

Mr. Hart stated that he also wanted to address some comments that came up last month comparing the Lake Denham property to Lake Apopka.

He showed a comparison chart of the analysis of the Lake Denham Property and the Apopka Muck Farm sediments and noted that the chemicals that mostly responsible for the harmful effects on wildlife, bird and fish were at a minimum of 200 times higher in concentration than any of the sites at Lake Denham. He noted that in some locations, the Lake Apopka numbers are over 13,000 times higher in concentration than any of the sites on Lake Denham.

He stated that you can't use the data from the Lake Apopka site to elicit concern about the Lake Denham when you don't have the data.

Ms. Cox asked when the Lake Apopka data was taken, and Mr. Hart explained that the data was collected right after the bird kills when the District had dried out the site. He stated that he doesn't have the data from any initial sampling that might have been done before they began restoration.

He explained that some of the issues involving toxaphene were because it was not known what potential effects it could have bird or aquatic life because there weren't any prior case studies at that time to show those impacts. He noted that the bird deaths were not just related to the presence of toxaphene, but to a whole mix of pesticides that were used on the site.

Mr. Farner stated that he felt the Water Authority is exercising the due diligence that we should and that there is no comparison between Lake Apopka and Lake Denham, but at the same time we are doing everything to make sure we are making the right decisions.

He asked about the type and depth of the samples on Lake Denham and Mr. Hart explained that some of them are ground water table testing and some are soil borings that are fairly shallow. He explained but what they don't know is what is a lot further down and stated that there is probably not much further down because there is not a lot of peat deposits left and the pesticides tend to attach to organic sediments and are more likely to be right at the surface. He noted that it was in the top layer of organic sediment that all the pesticides, etc. were found on Lake Apopka.

He explained that we are getting close to the critical window where if we don't start moving toward being prepared to close, our contract will expire. He noted that the contract expires at the end of October and he hates to postpone things such as surveys when you don't know how long it is going to take to survey a large piece of wetlands.

Mr. Hendrick asked if they were only going to test the hot spots and Mr. Hart stated that is the intent based on the recommendation from DEP to focus on those areas to determine the size and scale and insure that there is not a greater concentrated area off to the side.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REVISE AND EXECUTE AN ADDITIONAL PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WITH AEROSTAR SES ON LAKE DENHAM

MUCK FARM FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Approved 7-0

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTE DIRECTOR TO SOLICIT QUOTES FOR A SURVEY ON THE LAKE DENHAM MUCK FARM. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Attorney Barice stated that they need to be sure they comply with the competitive quotes act and Mr. Hart stated that this is the same contract the Agency has been using for years, which does comply.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that the Executive Director knows what needs to be done.

Motion approved 7-0.

c. Review of Annual Report and Five-Year Plan

Mr. Perry stated that a copy of the Annual Report and Five-Year Plan had been included in their packet. He explained that it is a requirement by law that this report is done each year and sent to the appropriate legislatures and elected officials.

He explained that now would be the time to make any comments or suggest any changes to the report, or they could approve the report as presented.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO THE SENATE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDING LEGISLATION. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

d. Revision of Board Personnel Manual Regarding Firearms

Mr. Perry stated that last month they talked about the revisions to the Board's policy related to staff's ability to carry concealed weapons on Water Authority property. He explained that the County currently made some changes to their policy and the Board authorized him to make the same changes to the Water Authority policy and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Ms. Cox stated that she was under the assumption that provisions b and c would allow an employee to carry a concealed weapon in our office, and Mr. Farner stated that he wants staff to be able to carry in the office.

Mr. Perry stated that there would be no restrictions placed on location if the employee complies with state statutes.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE REVISIONS TO THE SECTION 5 OF THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES EMPLOYEE MANUAL REGARDING POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OR FIREARMS. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he wants staff to be able to protect themselves should the need arise, and Chairman Stone noted that there have recent instances at the office.

Mr. Perry explained that in the last couple of weeks there have been two separated instances where visitors to the office were verbally abusive to office staff and staff didn't feel safe. He noted that Mr. Hart was able to diffuse one situation, but one altercation could not be diffused and necessitated the calling of the Sheriff's office. He explained in that instance the person was issued a No Trespass Warning.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that if the public knows that staff is allowed to conceal carry they may be less likely to try to intimidate staff and cause trouble. Mr. Farner stated that this is a good idea. He stated that wants to keep staff safe and wants them to be able to protect themselves.

Motion approved 6-1 with Ms. Cox in opposition.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vance Jochim addressed the Board and stated that Mr. Perry had given a good presentation at the Lake County Board Meeting with facts that he has never heard before and the fact that no one has been tracking broken sewer lines. He stated he would recommend that the Water Authority track that type of thing also.

He stated that FWC had recently held a public stakeholders meeting on hydrilla in Tavares. He noted that Mr. Perry was in attendance and questioned why no Board Members had attended. He stated that he felt they should have been there.

Mr. Jochim stated that it was his opinion that the Water Authority should get back to focusing on water quality issues and get out of running Hickory Point Park and transfer it to Lake County. He stated that the Board should do the same with the 7,000 acres of preserves the Agency owns and transfer them to the County.

He also stated that he would recommend that the full agenda with all the back-up documentation be posted to the website, and not just the summary. He also suggested that the agenda tabs have the corresponding page numbers to the staff reports.

Ms. Cox stated that much of the property owned by the Water Authority are wetlands and many were donated to the Agency to keep the property undeveloped and protect the adjacent lakes. She stated that when growth runs right up to any body of water there is a threat to the quality of the waterbody.

She stated that she doesn't think the County does a good job of it managing the lands they already have and that she wanted Mr. Jochim to understand why we have some of the properties.

Mr. Perry stated that any time the Board chooses to purchase property it is to protect adjacent or nearby water bodies.

It was noted that the Water Authority was in land acquisition to protect quality of the water bodies in Lake County way before Lake County ever recognized the need. It was stated that Hickory Point is a waterfront park that was specifically designed for effectively launching fishing tournaments.

Mr. Farner stated that Hickory Point is the jewel in the crown of the Water Authority and Lake County.

Susan Fetter addressed the Board and stated that she just wanted to let the Board that she has submitted her application for a position on the St. Johns River Water Management Board.

Mr. Jochim stated that he had looked into the application process and felt that it is an extremely convoluted process in order to find out about Board vacancies and how to go about applying. He stated that he has created a how-to video of the process and put it on his YouTube channel.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice stated that she had nothing new to report and that it has been an honor to represent the Water Authority the last 10 years.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hendrick thanked staff for tour the tour of Lake Apopka and Ms. Stokes stated that she was glad to see hydrilla treatments being scheduled.

Chairman Stone stated that she will not be at the June meeting and Vice Chair Maimone stated that she will not be at the May meeting.

Mr. BonJorn asked if they could set the level for the Clermont Chain to the original 97.10 msl instead of just 97 msl and it was noted that the level had already been approved on the consent agenda at 97 msl.

He also asked that staff inform the Board any time we start letting water out through the Cherry Lake Dam, so they can be prepared when the public calls with questions.

Ms. Cox stated that while they can try to keep the lake at that level, it is still a natural system and there will be some variance.

Mr. Perry stated that the manual was created to provide clarification for future staff and Board Members. He noted that the Water Authority operates the Clermont Chain of Lakes structures and the St. Johns River Water Management District operates the Harris Chain of Lakes structures.

Mr. Farner requested to have a presentation at a future meeting on managing the lakes levels in the Clermont Chain.

Vice Chair Maimone noted that the consent agenda has already been approved as is. She stated that once the staff gives their presentation, then the Board can decide if they want to make any changes.

Mr. Hendrick asked about the scheduled hydrilla treatment in the private canal locations and Mr. Perry stated that those are being funded by FWC, not with the money provided by the Water Authority.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.