

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
July 22, 2020**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 pm Wednesday, July 22, 2020 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)
Keith Farner (At-Large)
Butch Hendrick (#4)
Courtney Stokes (At-Large))

Staff Present

Ron Hart, Executive Director
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Resources Director
Steve Crawford, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager
Tracey Percoco, Financial Analyst
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Kevin Stone, Attorney

A list of others present at the meeting is part 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

Tab 1 Approval of Minutes- June 24, 2020 - Regular Meeting

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2020 AS WRITTEN.

Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marty Proctor, of Groveland, introduced himself and stated that he is a candidate for the upcoming seat for the Lake County Water Authority in District #1.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Hart gave the rainfall report and reported that it has been another month of below average rainfall. He stated that although the water levels are lower that what they are typically this time of year, they are not abnormally low. He noted that while we are still about 5 inches below average rainfall, there has been just enough rain to keep water levels up near the regulation level.

He stated that Lake Apopka is slightly over the regulation level and the District is currently releasing about 50 cfs, and unless we receive additional rainfall over an inch, they will most likely be reducing the flow rate soon.

Mr. Hart noted that on Lakes Eustis, Dora and Harris the water levels went slightly above regulation which resulted in the District releasing water through the Burrell Lock and Dam at shorts bursts up to 400 cfs.

He explained that the flow through the Burrell Lock and Dam resulted in Lake Griffin going about regulation and water was released through the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam with pulses up to 800 cfs to keep Lake Griffin from going too far above regulation.

He reported that last year the Clermont Chain was about one-quarter of a foot below the regulation levels. He stated that this year we are about one-third of a foot over the minimum regulation level but still well below the maximum level.

Mr. Hart noted that there are several items on the list to be repaired and as projects are completed, he also adds new ones to the list. He read a letter from a nearby resident praising staff for the wonderful job they are doing at the park.

Mr. Hart also stated that they are requesting permission to hire an additional fulltime employee to help maintain Hickory Point. Chairman Stone asked if there used to be two employees at the park and Mr. Hart explained that there used to be three full time employees and one part time employee.

Board Members were in agreement with adding another employee at Hickory Point.

Tab 5 c. FY 2020-21 Budget Update – Set Proposed Tentative Ron Hart
Millage Rate

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO SET A PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AT 0.3557 MILS AND SET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 NO SOONER THAN 5:05 PM IN THE BCC CHAMBERS/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 315 WEST MAIN STREET, TAVARES, FLORIDA. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

Tab 6 d. Potential Alterations to the Cherry Lake Dam Jason Danaher

Dr. Danaher showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Cherry Lake Dam. He stated that the Clermont Chain offers a lot of recreational opportunities, and that while vessels can navigate from Lake Louisa up to Cherry Lake, but that is as far as they can navigate currently.

He stated that staff is looking to update the Cherry Lake Dam Structure as it is 64 years old and has budgeted for initial design upgrades in the proposed FY2020-2021 Budget. He explained that one idea staff is considering is also adding a lock to the proposed design, and staff would like to get input from the Board Members

He stated that there are six dams along the Palatlahaha that were built between 1956 and 1981, with four of them being fixed weirs and two of them having radial gates that can be raised and lowered to allow the flow of water.

Dr. Danaher noted that radial gates impede navigation, and explained that the Cherry Lake Dam used to have a manually operated boat lift to allow access to both sides of the waterway and allowed residents of Lake Emma, Lake Lucy, Lake Stuart and Hunt Lake to have access to Lake Minneola. He stated that as boats got bigger and heavier, it became unsafe to use and was removed because of liability reasons.

Vice Chair Maimone stated she was not familiar with that area and asked if there would be a heavy flow of traffic on the access road. Dr. Danaher stated that the only traffic is from the family that lives on the property on the other side of the dam.

Mr. Farner asked how many lakes this would open up to the public and Dr. Danaher explained it would give access to Lake Emma, Lake Lucy, Lake Stuart and Hunt Lake, and give residents in that area access to Lake Minneola.

Chairman Stone stated that this was something they should definitely look into and Vice Chair Maimone noted that it would increase property values in that area.

Mr. BonJorn stated that he has had several conversations with people on Lake Emma who would love to have access to the Clermont side of the chain, as well as people from both sides of the dam that would like to be able to navigate past the Cherry Lake Dam. He stated that this is definitely something they should look into.

Mr. Hendrick asked if the canals are navigable and it was noted that they are. Mr. Hart clarified that there have been times of severe drought where they weren't navigable but noted that it is that way on the whole Clermont Chain.

Marty Proctor addressed the Board and stated that he lives on Lake Emma and that it is a quiet lake with only about three boats per day. He stated that the canal leading to the lake is about four or five miles long and very narrow as it has never been channelized and that it would be improper to make them navigable by the public.

He stated that Lake Emma would become the end of the road, whereas there would be many people that would navigate to the end at Lake Emma, just to see what was there. He stated that there are a lot of people in the Lake Emma area that no desire to be able to navigate to the other lakes in the Chain. He noted that as the canal is narrow it is often difficult when two boats pass each other.

7. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Kevin Stone

Attorney Stone stated that he had received an update from Lake County's Attorney's Office stating that they are agreeable to the possibility of an ordinance to help regulate the behavior of the public at Scrub Point.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hendrick asked Mr. Hart where things stand regarding the Inter-Agency Advisory Board he had asked about and Mr. Hart explained that St. John's has stated that they would send someone in the next couple of months to update the Board on current projects, etc., but they are not willing to provide a staff person to come to every meeting, as they don't have the manpower to provide staff to attend other agency's meeting all the time. They are willing to have a staff member present should we have an agenda item that needs District input.

Mr. Hart stated that Fish and Wildlife had basically stated the same thing, that they would have a staff member come and update the Board and that they would be available should we need someone to advise the Board regarding fisheries, etc. He noted that DEP and University of Florida were not likely to provide someone on a monthly basis, as they have a very large area to cover with a very small number of personnel.

Mr. Hendrick also asked the status of the District's Lake Apopka Project and Mr. Hart stated that it is up and running, but at a reduced amount. He stated that the District is willing to do a tour for staff and board members. Chairman Stone stated that Board Members should respond to staff as to whether they would like to have a tour of the project. Mr. Hendrick suggested that rather than a tour, a representative could also come to one of the Board meetings and give a report.

Mr. Hendrick asked the status of the contract of pond dredging that was approved for the NuRF and Dr. Danaher explained that they are finalizing the insurance requirements at this time.

Mr. Hendrick also stated that he wanted to discuss the surplus of certain properties and Mr. Hart told him to let him know when it would be a good time and he would set a time to meet at the office to discuss the subject.

He also asked if Mr. Hart could provide him a copy of the prints from BESH for the remodel of the entrance tower. Mr. Hart stated that they have a draft and he can forward the draft to Mr. Hendrick.

Mr. Farner stated that his is looking forward to hearing from FWC. He also stated that he is really happy with the improvements at Hickory Point and noted that maybe they should think about having a landscape engineer come in and look at it. He stated that he wants the park to reflect our agency like it should.

Ms. Stokes stated that Hickory Point is looking tremendously improved. She noted that the larger print out of the Budget is great.

Chairman Stone stated that she is happy to see the Bourlay septic tank issue getting straightened out. She stated that she appreciates all the assistance that the City of Leesburg has given us.

She stated that she is proud of all that has been accomplished over the last 5 months. She also reminded the Board that they can talk to staff ahead of any meetings should they have any questions.

Vice Chair Maimone thanked staff for all their hard work.

Mr. BonJorn stated that Mr. Bronson had contacted him that morning about the wetlands between Waterside Point and Hiawatha Park and is interested in donating the property or making it a bird sanctuary. He stated that the property is about five or ten acres and he had informed Mr. Bronson that staff should be able to help and guide him.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Tab 7 a. Staff Reports
- Tab 8 b. Monthly Financial Reports - June 2020

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, August 19, 2020 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

Amy Stone, Chairman