

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**of the**  
**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**February 26, 2020**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 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**

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  
Brian Nagy, Field 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 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE JANUARY 15, 2020 - BOARD WORKSHOP.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE JANUARY 22, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**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 currently at regulatory schedule and the flow is 94 cfs with it all going through NuRF.

He noted that both Lake Eustis and Lake Dora and Lake Griffin are also at or near regulatory schedule with flow through the Burrell Lock and Dam at 18 cfs and flow through the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam is at 21 cfs.

He informed the Board that rainfall for the year is currently at 1.6 inches below average and that we are at about 35% of the average year-to-date rainfall. He stated that the Clermont Chain has responded to the rainfall with the water levels spiking up with the rain and then dropping back down once the rainfall ceases. He stated that staff has been working to hold the lake level at 97.1 msl which is the target level set by the Board.

Mr. Perry noted that the combined flow from Big Creek and Little Creek is at 43 cfs and noted that the Cherry Lake Structure is closed at this time.

He informed the Board that there was an Agenda Add-On item pertaining to the repair of the centrifuge gear box.

Chairman Stone informed the Board that she had spoken to Dr. Ann Shortelle with the St. Johns River Water Management District and they had discussed the fact that the water coming into the Harris Chain from Lake Apopka has gone through a lot of treatment before it ever gets to the NuRF.

She explained that both the Water Authority and the District agreed to do a little bit of homework on both sides and then get together for another meeting to discuss options. The District agreed to be a bit more careful in how they open and close the gates

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

None

**6. REGULAR AGENDA**

- a. Lake Minneola Algal Bloom and
- b. Innovative Technologies to Treat Cyanobacteria on Lake Yale or Lake Minneola

Mr. Perry spoke regarding the recent algal bloom in Lake Minneola. He stated that starting in January in January there have been reports of algal blooms Jan in several areas of the lake. He stated that since then the bloom has pretty much expanded completely around the lake. He noted that depending on which way the wind blows, different areas will appear to be more impacted than others.

He stated that Blue-green algae is found naturally in waterbodies and could be in the water all the time. He stated that unfortunately it is difficult to determine or predict where and when a bloom will occur, the intensity of the bloom or how long it will last. He explained that increases in nutrients can increase the duration and intensity of the blooms and noted that warm temperatures, reduced water flow and lack of animals that eat algae can also affect the blooms.

Mr. Perry stated that although they can occur at any time, blue-green algae blooms are most common in Florida during the summer and early fall when there are high temperatures and abundant sunlight

He stated that some, but not all blue-green algae can produce toxins that can contribute to environmental problems and affect public health and noted that little is know about exactly what environmental conditions trigger toxin production. He stated that over time any toxins are diluted and eventually break down and disappear.

It was noted that even non-toxic blooms can harm the environment by depleting oxygen levels in the water column and reducing the amount of light that reaches submerged plants.

Mr. Perry stated that in January and early February the Florida Department of Environmental Protection preformed sampling of the algal blooms in the lake and while algae capable of producing toxins have been, no evidence of toxins were present in the samples.

He noted that mid-February one sampling did detect Microcystin, but it was well below the current EPA recreational standards. He stated that no Anatoxin-a or Saxotoxin was detected at that time.

He stated that people should use common sense and avoid contact with the water until it dissipates, especially small children, pets and adults with respiratory issues or with sensitive skin. He stated that FDEP has a 24/7 hotline for reporting algal blooms as well as hotline for reporting fish kills.

Mr. Perry explained that there is not a lot that can be done to get rid of the bloom as so little is known about what triggers the algae to release its toxins.

He noted that FDEP and the Governor have created a Blue-Green Algae Task Force and one of the Task Force's main recommendations was investing in innovative technologies to combat Harmful Algae Bloom (HABs) that are cost-efficient and environmentally safe.

He stated that in the fall of 2019 FDEP solicited responses and awarded funding to the St. Johns River Water Management District and Blue Green Technologies, Inc. He explained that their

joint proposal was to treat occurrences of the HAB populations in Lake Yale with a new surface-applied, slow-release hydrogen peroxide-based product that would kill the blue-green algae

He stated that in mid-February LCWA staff met with SJRWMD, FWC and representative from Blue Green Technologies and while they initially were focused on treating HABs in Lake Yale, Mr. Hart asked if they could shift the project to Lake Minneola, to which everyone in attendance agreed.

He explained that Florida Fish and Wildlife had noted that while the product they plan to use has been approved by EPA and has been used in Ohio, it has not been approved for use in Florida at this time and will require appropriate review and approval prior to a permit being issued for the project. It was stated that hopefully the permit could be fast-tracked and that in the meantime the SJRWMD is going to speak with FDEP representatives from the Task Force and see if they would agree with changing the treatment site to Lake Minneola. They are hoping to get started on the project whether on Lake Yale or Lake Minneola in the next four months.

Authorize staff to begin a more robust water quality monitoring program to establish a nutrient budget for the lake and determine the sources of nutrients that may be contributing to the bloom.

Flow up with the SJRWMD and FDEP representatives from the task force and see if they will be flexible in altering the treatment site from Lake Yale to Lake Minneola.

Mr. Perry also informed the Board that there is not a real robust water quality monitoring program in order to establish a nutrient budget for Lake Minneola and determine the sources of nutrients that may be contributing to the bloom. He stated that staff is asking the Board to authorize that them to begin this program.

He noted that staff will be following up with the SJRWMD and FDEP and see if they will be able to change the treatment site from Lake Yale to Lake Minneola.

He stated that at this time, staff is asking the Board to authorize that them to begin the water quality program. He noted that staff has already been in contact with a couple of our existing contractors regarding the cost of the program

Mr. Hart addressed the Board and explained that the projected cost that he had just received was for \$48,000 to sample twelve sites, some in the lake and some stormwater discharges, over the next month, and trying to catch any potential storm events. He stated that they would take a minimum of 48 samples and have them analyzed within a month of having the contract executed, and then come back to the Board and make a recommendation on how we should proceed.

He stated that the intent is that by this summer is to have a concept for a project that could address the issue.

**MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 TO PERFORM INTENSIVE SAMPLING OVER THE NEXT MONTH ON LAKE MINNEOLA IN THE CLERMONT CHAIN.** Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked about who the contractor would be, and Mr. Perry explained that it would be with one of our five approved continuing contractors.

Mr. Hart explained that if the cost they project is unacceptable, staff we can go back and renegotiate or move on to another contractor.

Mr. Farner noted that at \$48,000 the cost for 48 samples would come out to be \$1000 per sample and Mr. Hart stated that the need for immediate response is pushing up the price, plus they need to be able to set up quickly for sampling during significant rain events etc.

Mr. Hart also noted that hopefully the results of the sampling will help to clarify what steps need to be taken.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that the only way to determine where this is originating is to test then there are heavy rainfall and water flow.

Mr. BonJorn noted that the lake has never looked this bad, and everybody is very concerned.

Chairman Stone noted that Mr. Hart has been following all of Finance's requirements, so we can go ahead and move forward with the project.

Mr. Farner stated that it may be a natural event, but it doesn't look natural.

Mr. Hart stated that algal blooms are extremely unusual on the Clermont Chain, they seem to be happening more often and with more intensity.

[MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 TO PERFORM INTENSIVE SAMPLING OVER THE NEXT MONTH ON LAKE MINNEOLA IN THE CLERMONT CHAIN. Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.]

**Motion approved 6-0.**

c. NuRF Centrifuge Gearbox Repair

Mr. Perry stated that a couple of weeks ago the NuRF took a significant power surge from SECO and we were down for a while trying to recover all the equipment. He stated that while they were putting all the equipment back together after the power outage it was discovered that there were metal shavings in the oil reservoir that services the centrifuge primary and secondary gearboxes.

Mr. Perry stated that usually when there is metal found, there will be more, and they could either continue to operate until they fail or take care of it now. He stated that Dr. Danaher has been on the phone with suppliers to get replacements for the gearboxes. He explained that it takes a couple of weeks to get the parts as they come from Germany.

He stated that if they were to wait until next month to get an actual quote and then to order, it would be well into April before they received that part and the centrifuge could end up being down for several weeks.

He stated that staff recommendation is to authorize staff to expend up to \$125,000 to repair the piece of equipment and return to the board to give the exact cost and tell them what repairs had to be made.

Mr. Perry stated that it should only take about a week to repair if the technicians are available when the parts arrive.

**MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXPEND UP TO \$125,000 TO REPAIR THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH THE COST OF REPAIR.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Dr. Danaher explained that GEA has come to the site and has verified that there is damage to both the primary and secondary gearboxes. He stated that the approximate cost is \$110,000 for materials and labor, plus the cost of shipping the parts from Germany. He stated that he expects the cost of shipping to be less than \$15,000.

Mr. Farner asked the total number of hours on the machine since the last rebuild and asked whether it was time for a service.

Dr. Danaher stated that they have put 1,555 hours on the centrifuge since the rebuild and explained that a minor service would be due at 4,000 hours and a major service needs to be done at 8,000 hours. He noted that these components were not part of the last service.

Vice Chair Maimone asked if there were any other parts that needed to be considered and Dr. Danaher explained that the damage is only on the dry end of the centrifuge. He noted that the technicians didn't find any damage was found on the wet end.

**[MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXPEND UP TO \$125,000 TO REPAIR THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH THE COST OF REPAIR. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.]**

**Motion approved 6-0.**

d. Burrell Structure Site Residence

It was noted that the cost of demolition and removal would be paid by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SJRWMD TO DEMOLISH AND REMOVE THE CARETAKER’S RESIDENCE AT THE BURRELL LOCK & DAM.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

e. Approval to Annex the Lake Denham Property into the City of Leesburg

Mr. Hart explained that when the Water Authority purchased the Lake Denham property with assistance from the City of Leesburg in the form of a half-million dollars, it was with the understanding that it would be at their discretion as to whether we would annex the property into the City.

He explained that there are benefits to annexing in the city, as the rest of our Denham property, which is known as Flat Island, is currently in the city limits of Leesburg. He noted that the newly acquired property in not within the city limits of Leesburg, as well as an additional portion of Flat Island are not, and by annexing those portions, if we need to call for police assistance or have someone patrol the parking lot for any reason, we would only have to call on one agency.

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO WORK WITH THE CITY OF LEESBURG TO ANNEX THE LAKE DENHAM PARCELS AND THE FLAT ISLAND NORTHWEST PARCEL INTO THE CITY.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Maimone asked if there were any negatives to annexing the property into the City of Leesburg and Mr. Hart stated there weren't. He noted that the City would be waiving any annexation fees.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

f. Approval to Release RFB/RFP to Remove Permanent Alum Floc from NuRF Ponds

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Dr. Danaher stated that he was requesting to release a bid or proposal for contractors to dredge the ponds at the NuRF. He explained that the ponds are pretty full, and that it takes staff approximately three months, 24/7, to dredge one pond. He noted that currently they can only dredge to a depth of twelve feet, which leaves a six to eight-foot layer of permanent floc material in the ponds.

He stated that this lessens the capacity of the ponds and inhibits being able to receive a long-term flow. He explained that even if they were to move forward with obtaining new equipment, the permanent floc layer is going to be much harder to dredge as the alum reaction with the sediment in the water creates a crystalline material that has been in there for ten years. He stated that even with new dredging equipment it would take a considerable amount of time to remove and process through the centrifuge.

He stated that he is recommending to release a bid or request for proposals to contractors to come in as a third party, to dredge the ponds to get them down to the original design specs. He noted that then if we ever go through the Phase 1 for the NuRF, the ponds are going to be to their original design and with the potential for new equipment that could reach the full depth of the pond, the material at the bottom of the ponds would be a softer material that what is there now.

**MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RELEASE AN RFB/RFO FOR REMOVAL OF ALUM FLOC FROM THE NURF PONDS AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH A RECOMMENDATION FOR QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS IF FAVORABLE RESPONSES ARE RECEIVED.** Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked how they were going to write the RFP and was the RFP going to take into account where the dredged material is going to go, or if it was going to be left on site, and how it was going to be dewatered, or are we just going to put it out there to dredge the pond?

Dr. Danaher stated that there are a couple of options, and it would come down to potential permitting. He explained that if the St. Johns River Water Management District was agreeable with the floc being sent up to Cells F & G (where we have sent dredged material before) then they would also be looking at having to permit through DEP and Army Corp of Engineers, as that would be considered a dredge and fill event. He stated that could end up being a long process.

He also explained that there are four or five acres of uplands on site can could potentially be used for geo-textile technologies and to pump the material into for dewatering. He stated that this would give us the ability to ship the material off-site or stored on-site.

He stated that all of that could be built into the RFB/RFP.

Mr. Farner stated that he has been suggesting a wet containment area for quite some time, so that we could run both dredges at one time and he is okay with what has been proposed, but he would like to sometime in the future to talk about upgrading to dredges that would be able to dredge to the full depth. He stated that by not being able to dredge to the full depth they are giving up half of the ponds' containment area.

He stated that upgrading the dredges to be able to be able to get down to the twenty feet and keep the ponds clean would increase the capacity of the ponds during maximum flows and the ability to be able to handle longer flows.

Chairman Stone noted that upgrading the dredges was something they would be looking at in the near future.

Mr. Farner asked if it would be coming back to the Board next month, and Dr. Danaher stated that he would work hard to get the RFP/RFB out but it will take a bit of time and he didn't think he would be able to bring it back by next month

**Motion approved 6-0**

**56:16**

g. Approval of New Executive Director Contract

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CONTRACT WITH RON HART AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE WATER AUTHORITY.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick stated that the Agency is lucky to have Mr. Hart, but in his opinion, Mr. Hart's starting salary should be \$110,000, and he sees no added value to him obtaining a master's degree. He stated that he also didn't want any additional add-ons, and to approve it just as is.

Mr. Farner stated that he is okay with the contract as it is, and he supports the new director and wants him to do well. He pointed out that in the contract regarding the degree, where it looks like a redundant line, it is not, as there is a difference between a master's certificate and a master's degree, \$5,000 being awarded for each accomplishment. He stated the just wanted to clarify that everyone had understood that.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that there are spelling errors in the draft and asked that they be corrected. She also stated that she doesn't agree with Mr. Hendrick, regarding Mr. Hart's master's pursuit. She stated that she has known Mr. Hart almost her whole life and she's seen a big change in the way he looks at things and approaches things and he's getting a whole new

level of education that he didn't have before, that is way beyond his biological and water education, and she does believe it has value, and she wanted to put that on record.

**Motion approved 6-0**

**59:11**

h. Executive Director Transition

Chairman Stone stated that now that the contract has been approved with Mr. Hart, it is up to the Board to decide when they want to end Mr. Perry's contract.

MR. HENDRICK MADE A MOTION THAT MR. HART TAKE OVER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HAVE MR. PERRY REMAIN AS REGULAR EMPLOYEE IN AN ADVISORY ROLL THROUGH THE END OF MAY 2020, THEN AFTER THAT MOVE MR. PERRY TO ADMINISTRATIVE PAY CLASSIFICATION THROUGH THE END OF HIS CONTRACT PERIOD. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Attorney Stone asked Mr. Hendrick to repeat the terms and Mr. Hendrick stated TO HAVE MR. HART TAKE OVER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE TOMORROW THE 27<sup>TH</sup> (2-27-2020), MOVE MR. PERRY TO REMAIN AS REGULAR EMPLOYEE IN AN ADVISORY ROLL THROUGH THE END OF MAY 2020, THEN AFTER THAT MOVE MR. PERRY TO ADMINISTRATIVE PAY CLASSIFICATION THROUGH THE END OF HIS CONTRACT PERIOD. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Maimone asked what Mr. Perry's responsibilities during that administration period would be and Mr. Hendrick stated that Mr. Perry would be available for anything that comes up, should there be a question, he would be in an advisory role per his contract

Mr. Farner stated that they must pay Mr. Perry's contract out anyway and Chairman Stone stated that they don't, and if they cancel his contract, they only have to pay four months' severance, per the rules. She stated that they could cancel his contract March 1<sup>st</sup> and cancel his contract and he would get four months' worth of severance pay as per the contract.

Chairman Stone stated that she was just correcting misinformation. Mr. Farner stated that he understood, but he didn't agree with it and would like Mr. Perry to serve out his contract and that he is sure that Mr. Hart will find something for him to do and be productive.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she doesn't mind someone staying on the payroll as long as he is doing something to earn the payroll. She stated that she wanted that person to be in the office and doing something, that she didn't want to pay somebody to sit at home. Mr. Farner stated that he agreed.

She stated that she has known Mr. Perry a very long time and she adores him and thinks he's done a great job, but being fiscally conservative herself, she couldn't agree with the paid administrative advisory role being suggested.

Attorney Stone stated that you are not allowed by policy in the State of Florida to give someone compensation beyond what is in their contract. He explained that clearly the contract can be terminated at any time and the price for that is four-months' pay.

He stated anything other than that, where Mr. Perry would accept some other role in the organization, they might ask Mr. Perry, as he would have to accept that and negotiate some other employment, and he (Attorney Stone) doesn't know what that would be. He stated that if there is a role for Mr. Perry that is not Executive Director, they should probably discuss that with both Mr. Hart and Mr. Perry and find out what that would be.

Attorney Stone stated that they haven't established a start day for Mr. Hart. He stated that they have approved a form of contract they are going to offering Mr. Hart and as part of all of this, at some point during this meeting, they should clarify what his start day would be, as they can't have two executive directors.

Mr. Perry stated that he wants Mr. Hart to be successful and would like to make this transition as smooth as possible. He suggested staying on to assist Mr. Hart through May or June. He stated

that he saw three possible solutions and suggested that they could pay out the balance of his contract in one lump sum or he could begin receiving his four-month severance pay and the remainder of his contract could be paid in one lump sum or over time in installments. He stated that anything prior to June would not be what he considered would make for a smooth transition.

Chairman Stone stated they (*members of the Board*) are appointing someone who has been with the Agency longer than the current director and he is perfectly capable of doing the budget and directing the Agency.

Chairman Stone stated that the Board understands that it would be in Mr. Perry's best interest to continue to work, but that she thinks they have a team that is ready to move forward in a new direction, and to keep Mr. Perry on would be a hindrance to the Agency. She stated it is time to move on, make a clean break and move forward.

[MR. HENDRICK MADE A MOTION THAT MR. HART TAKE OVER TOMORROW WITH MR. PERRY AS REGULAR EMPLOYEE THROUGH THE END OF MAY 2020 – THEN ADMINISTRATIVE PAY UNTIL THE END OF HIS CONTRACT PERIOD. Mr. Farner seconded the motion]

**Motion fails 4-2 with Mr. BonJorn, Vice Chair Maimone, Chairman Stone and Ms. Stokes in opposition.**

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO TABLE THIS DISCUSSION UNTIL A FULL BOARD IS PRESENT.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

**Motion fails 3-3 with Chairman Stone, Vice Chair Maimone and Ms. Stokes in opposition.**

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION THAT WE MAKE MR. HART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE 3-1-2020 AND PRESENT MR. PERRY WITH HIS 4 MONTHS' SEVERANCE PACKAGE AS STATED IN HIS CONTRACT (AS OF MARCH FIRST).**

Attorney Stone stated that the implication there is that she is making a motion, both with respect to Mr. Hart and terminating Mike Perry without cause as of opening of business March 1st (3/1/2020) which would trigger the severance.

**CHAIRMAN STONE REQUESTED TO MAKE THAT EFFECTIVE MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AND VICE CHAIR MAIMONE WAS OKAY WITH THAT.**

Vice Chair Maimone asked Attorney Stone if his comment was a question or a statement and he replied that he was just asking her to confirm that he clarified it correctly.

Attorney Stone explained that the key thing is what she is asking the Board to do is to terminate without cause, keeping in mind that there are different ways you can terminate, with cause, without cause or not terminate at all. He clarified that there is no misconduct leading to the termination and Chairman Stone agreed with the clarification. He restated that would then trigger the four-month severance package.

Chairman Stone stated that was a motion and asked if anyone had seconded it. Vice Chair Maimone stated "not yet". Chairman Stone asked for a second.

Mr. BonJorn asked if he could ask a question and it was stated that there could be no discussion without a second. It was noted that the motion could be seconded for sake of discussion and could always be voted down just like any other motion.

**[VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION THAT WE MAKE MR. HART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE 3-1-2020 AND PRESENT MR. PERRY WITH HIS 4 MONTHS' SEVERANCE PACKAGE AS STATED IN HIS CONTRACT (AS OF MARCH FIRST). CHAIRMAN STONE REQUESTED TO MAKE THAT EFFECTIVE MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AND VICE CHAIR MAIMONE WAS OKAY WITH THAT.]** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion for sake of discussion.



Mr. BonJorn asked why they keep using the term “terminate” and Chairman Stone explained that Mr. Perry either must finish the contract or we have to cancel the contract. Mr. BonJorn stated that no matter what he is going to be terminated unless he gets paid through his contract.

Mr. Hendrick noted that it was not a bad thing and Chairman Stone agreed.

Mr. Farner stated that he had a suggestion and that would be to split the difference, if we can vote NO on this motion he will make a motion that we establish Ron as Executive Director as of June 1<sup>st</sup> and that will get them time to get everything organized and we split the difference.

Mr. BonJorn stated that he still had a question as to the date of Vice Chair Maimone’s motion and Vice Chair Maimone stated March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Monday). He asked the date on Mr. Hendrick’s original motion and Mr. Hendrick stated May of 2020. Mr. BonJorn asked Mr. Hendrick whether he had intended for the severance to start after May of 2020 and Mr. Hendrick and Mr. Farner stated “yes”.

Mr. BonJorn questioned whether all the discussion was over just a three-month difference and Chairman Stone stated no, the original motion was for Mr. Perry to stay there until May 2020 for the transition and then staying on in some sort of administrative position until the end of his contract.

Mr. BonJorn stated that he had misunderstood, and he had wanted to make sure they weren’t just talking about three months difference, and Chairman Stone stated that it was a difference of \$113,000 and whatever the amount of the four-months’ severance.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he could amend his motion to meet in the middle and Chairman Stone stated that there is already a motion and a second on the table and called for a vote.

[VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION THAT WE MAKE MR. HART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE 3-1-2020 AND PRESENT MR. PERRY WITH HIS 4 MONTHS’ SEVERANCE PACKAGE AS STATED IN HIS CONTRACT (AS OF MARCH FIRST). CHAIRMAN STONE REQUESTED TO MAKE THAT EFFECTIVE MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AND VICE CHAIR MAIMONE WAS OKAY WITH THAT. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion for sake of discussion.]

**Motion approved 4-2 with Mr. Farner and Mr. Hendrick in opposition.**

Chairman Stone apologized for all the difficulties and stated that it was never going to be an easy conversation.

## **6. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

Attorney Stone stated he had nothing new to report.

## **7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board members thanked Mr. Perry for his many years as Executive Director and stated that they appreciated all the work he’s done for the Water Authority. They wished Mr. Hart congratulations and good luck in his new position as Executive Director.

Mr. Farner stated that he is pleased that we might be able to identify and handle the problem with the algal blooms in Lake Minneola.

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

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she would like to have an update on Hickory Point and the improvements being completed.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he would like to have an update on the algal bloom situation on Lake Minneola.

## **9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – January 2020

**10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 25, 2020 (3:30 pm)  
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm

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Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

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Amy Stone, Chairman