

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
of the  
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
October 28, 2020**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 pm Wednesday, October 28, 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) via Phone  
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 1a            Approval of Minutes- September 23, 2020 - Regular Meeting

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING AS WRITTEN.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

Tab 1b            Approval of Minutes- September 23, 2020 - Final Budget Hearing

**Vice Chair Maimone MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 - FINAL BUDGET HEARING AS WRITTEN.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.



Tab 4 c. Approve USF Contract to Maintain Water Atlas

Ben Garcia

**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 2020-21.**

Tab 5 d. Office and Preserve Restroom Cleaning Purchase Order

Tracey Percoco

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS A BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER FOR FAITHWORKS TOTAL GROUND MAINTENANCE, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,600.**

Tab 6 e. Approval of City of Leesburg Electric Blanket Purchase Order

Tracey Percoco

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS A BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER FOR FY 2020-21 FOR THE CITY OF LEESBURG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000.**

Tab 7 f. Authorization for the Purchase of Two Marine Patrol Boats

Ron Hart

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$120,000 FROM 710-640 MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT TO 710-810 AID TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND REIMBURSE THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO MARINE PATROL BOATS, MOTORS AND TRAILERS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$125,740.**

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA**

Tab 8 a. Harris Chain Hydrilla Management Plan

Jason Danaher

Steve Crawford addressed the Board and introduced Nathalie Visscher with FWC to speak about their plans for hydrilla treatment this fall.

Nathalie Visscher gave a PowerPoint Presentation (*contained in backup documentation*) giving the results of their latest survey and evaluation of hydrilla and invasive plant growth in the Harris Chain of Lakes. She stated that they will be treating Lakes Harris, Yale, Dora and Griffin during the 2020-2021 fall/winter season.

She showed vegetation maps of each of the areas and talked about the size of each area and which areas they are planning to treat. She noted that it is still too hot to do any treatments at this time, and also noted that they also have to schedule the treatments around large fishing tournaments dates and duck hunting season.

Ms. Visscher stated that they hope to treat about 40 acres near Treasure Island in Lake Griffin as well as 20 acres near Picciola Island in the next couple of weeks. She stated that there is an area on the north side of Lake Griffin between Haynes Creek and Lake Creek in need of treatment, but

flow is still too high through the dam at this time and they are projecting a treatment date sometime in March of 2021.

She stated that they will tentatively be treating the Singletary Cove area of Lake Harris sometime in December or January. She noted that currently there are 300 acres of open water hydrilla growth in Lake Harris, that will be monitored over the winter and re-evaluate come February or March.

She noted that there are also 25 acres in Little Harris that they are monitoring and will re-evaluate and treat in March, after Duck Hunting Season is over.

Ms. Visscher stated that Lake Dora is scheduled in November as there are new infestation of hydrilla in areas totaling approximately 120 acres along Shirley Shores and Squirrel Point. She stated that this is new as they haven't previously needed to treat Lake Dora.

She noted that on Lake Yale they have treated a trail from the Marsh Park Boat Ramp out to the lake in order to open navigation from the boat ramp to the open water. She stated that the lake will be re-evaluated in January for early February 2021 treatment.

Ms. Visscher stated that Lake Eustis doesn't require any treatment at this time, nor does Lake Beauclair, as they have a lot of native plants expanding throughout the lake. She also noted that no treatment was needed in Lake Carlton.

Mr. Farner asked how much is currently budgeted for Lake County and Ms. Visscher stated that they have a budget of 2.6 million for the four lakes they are planning to treat. He asked how much more funding she projects they will need to do all the hydrilla treatment needed and she stated that she would know more in the spring after winter treatments.

Mr. Farner asked if the Board and staff could get a list of approved herbicides for treating hydrilla and other invasive plants. Ms. Visscher explained that residents can call her, and she will make a site visit to confirm the types of invasive plants. She stated that she can then issue a permit for the specific herbicides needed. She explained that you must have a permit in order to purchase the type of herbicides needed.

Ms. Visscher stated that she would send Mr. Hart the link to the FWC website with information on how to obtain a permit. She noted that the permit is free.

Ruthie Haffner of Grand Island and David Van Bibber of Umatilla each addressed the Board to voice their concerns regarding the algal bloom and hydrilla growth in Lake Yale.

Tab 9

b. Lake Apopka Water Quality Restoration

Jason Danaher

Erich Marzolf, Director, Division of Water and Lake Resources with St. Johns River Water Management District, gave a PowerPoint Presentation (*contained in backup documentation*) about the progress of wetland restoration on Lake Apopka and the watershed.

He stated that the restoration has been based on a multipronged approach focusing on reducing phosphorus entering the lake, which has included reducing the volume of water pumped from the

North Shore to the lake, as well as removing phosphorus from the lake by harvesting gizzard shad from the lake and operating the marsh flow-way to remove phosphorus and suspended solids.

Mr. Marzolf noted that as the water quality has improved, aquatic plants are coming back, and fishing has improved. He stated that the District's conversion of former farms back to wetlands has dramatically reduced phosphorous loading to the lake, and Lake Apopka has met its TMDL loading target for most of the past decade.

It was noted that while Lake Apopka may be meeting its 55 TMDL target, it is still higher than the 35 TMDL target for Lake Beauclair which is downstream.

Mr. Marzolf also spoke about the Marsh Flow-Way, which is located along the northwest shore of Lake Apopka and west of the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. He noted that it is built on subsided fields, and explained the collected solids are filling the hole agriculture left. He stated that it began operation in November 2003 with the goal of removing phosphorus and suspended material already in Lake Apopka water. He explained that the marsh flow-way treats water pumped through it from Lake Apopka. He stated that the lake's water has excessive amounts of phosphorus, algae and suspended matter and the area acts as a wetland and most of the cleaner, treated water returns to Lake Apopka, while the remainder flows downstream toward the NuRF.

He stated that the District is currently in the midst of a \$2.4 million project to relevel all the cells in the Marsh Flow-Way and has also just completed a major overhaul of the pump station and they expect the Marsh Flow-Way to be operational in about a year.

Board Members requested to have a District engineer come give a presentation on what has been achieved so far.

Mr. Farner asked about the City of Apopka withdrawing water from North Shore and Mr. Marzolf explained that would only be to augment their reclaimed water, but they haven't needed to.

Tab 10

c. 2019 FWC Creel Survey

Jason Danaher

Dr. Jason Danaher addressed the Board and stated that the Board had previously funded FWC to complete a Creel survey and that Scott Bisping with FWC is present to share the results of the survey.

Mr. Bisping gave a PowerPoint Presentation (*contained in backup documentation*) giving the results of the latest Creel Survey. He explained that the survey is to get an estimated effort, catch, and success rate of the anglers on Lake Dora and Lake Beauclair.

He stated that the survey was taken on random days and times from November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 which is during the peak season for bass and crappie anglers. He noted that during that time they counted 1,232 anglers and conducted 1,102 interviews.

He stated that of those interviewed, 67% were Florida residents and that 95% were fishing from a boat. He explained that the anglers had put in 39,225 hours of fishing effort, with 54% of their effort directed towards bass and 43% of their effort towards crappie.

Mr. Bisping stated that overall estimated use of the Lake Dora and Lake Beauclair during peak season (end Nov-end April) was 186,968 hours, with 59% being recreational boating, 22% angling and 19% commercial (Eco Tours).

Chairman Stone asked if could add county of residence as a question on the next survey and Mr. Bisping stated that they are planning to add a zip code survey the next survey

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RELEASE A PO FOR NOT MORE THAN \$5,000 TO FWC TO PERFORM ANOTHER CREEL STUDY ON LAKE DORA.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

Tab 11            d. NuRF New Dredges Bid Results

Jason Danaher

Dr. Danaher gave a PowerPoint Presentation (*contained in backup documentation*) on the bid results for new dredges at the NuRF.

He explained that staff received one response to the bid from Ellicott Dredge for a cost of \$937,649 to furnish, install and start-up two (2) floating dredges.

He explained that the amount budgeted for the FY 2020-2021 was \$650,000, and because less than two bids were received staff could negotiate on the best terms and conditions. He stated that after several weeks of negotiations and cutting some of the features they had hoped to have, they had agreed on a cost of \$705,320.50.

Dr. Danaher explained that even with the cuts the dredges would be a significant upgrade to the ones currently at the NuRF. He described some of the features that would be installed on the dredges including Bottom Sense and Solids Sense and the advantages of those features. He stated that the dredges could be operated from a Shore Panel as well as Remote Control.

Dr. Danaher stated that one of the things they had cut out of the bid in order to cut the cost was Lateral Sense. He explained that with Lateral Sense technology available, if staff is on a tractor or in another area of the NuRF when the dredge gets to the end of its run at its lowest depth, it will reset itself and begin the next pass on its own without staff having to reset it. He stated that with the current dredges, when they come to the end of the pass they stop, and staff has to manually reset the dredge for the next pass.

He stated that cutting that feature they were able to cut \$22,000 from the cost of the two dredges. He noted that feature could be added to the dredges in the future should they desire.

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ELLICOTT DREDGE TECHNOLOGIES AND PURCHASE TWO NEW DREDGES FOR THE NURF.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked what it would cost to just purchase one dredge and Dr. Danaher stated that it would cost half the negotiated amount.

Mr. Hendrick asked if they could get away with just purchasing one dredge since the new dredge would perform better than the ones currently at the NuRF, and just move it from pond to pond as needed.

Dr. Danaher stated that while staff is able to drag the current dredges from pond to pond with the Bobcat, the new dredges would be a lot heavier and wouldn't be as easily moved.

Mr. Hendrick stated that they only use one dredge at a time and Dr. Danaher stated that having the two new dredges would allow staff to dredge both ponds at the same time and remove material quicker.

Mr. Hendrick stated that in his opinion he would rather stay under budget and purchase just one dredge and only purchase as second one if and when they need it.

**Motion approved 5-1 with Mr. Hendrick in opposition.**

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$55,325 FROM 9898710-830340 TO 989710-830640 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW DREDGES. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Maimone stated if the additional cost of Lateral Sense technology is only \$22,000 for both dredges, she would like to suggest that they go ahead and purchase the additional technology at this time. Mr. Farner agreed.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he still didn't agree that they needed to purchase two dredges and that he would agree to spend \$11,000 to install Lateral Sense on one dredge but not both.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE AMENDED HER MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$78,325 TO INCLUDE THE COST OF LATERAL SENSE TECHNOLOGY FROM 9898710-830340 TO 989710-830640 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW DREDGES. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick stated again that Mr. Hendrick stated that he still didn't agree that they needed to purchase two dredges.

Dr. Danaher stated that if they were to purchase just one dredge at this time doesn't guarantee that they will get that cost if they were to want to purchase a second one at a later date.

Vice Chair Maimone noted that should one dredge break down, there would be a backup so they could keep dredging. She stated that she didn't like the idea of staff moving something that large between ponds as it would be a liability issue. She also stated that we need to be able to deal with another weather event like Irma.

Mr. Hart stated that there have been several times in the past three years where they have run both dredges at the same time and have hire Jahna to run one of the dredges 24/7 to pump to one of the wet disposal areas while staff ran the second dredge and the centrifuge at the same time.

He also explained that the new Lateral Sense technology available, if staff is on a tractor or in another area of the NuRF when the dredge gets to the end of its run at its lowest depth, it will reset itself and begin the next pass on its own without staff having to reset it. He stated that with the current dredges, when they come to the end of the pass they stop, and staff must manually reset the dredge for the next pass.

[VICE CHAIR MAIMONE AMENDED HER MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$78,325 TO INCLUDE THE COST OF LATERAL SENSE TECHNOLOGY FROM 9898710-830340 TO 989710-830640 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW DREDGES. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.]

**Motion approved 5-1 with Mr. Hendrick in opposition.**

Tab 12 e. NuRF Site Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Opinion

Jason Danaher

Dr. Danaher stated that staff would like to move forward with Phase 2 which is improvement to the processing technologies and additional flocculation storage on-site. He stated that since March, staff has felt the uncertainty of what comes next. He explained that the planned technology updates are basically for the addition of another centrifuge.

He stated that some of the Board members have suggested looking at alternatives to the addition of another centrifuge and to investigate totally different technologies and options. He stated that in order to move things forward staff feels it would be good to get a second opinion by a third party to review the Pegasus Engineering Site Evaluation with the understanding that they need to keep things moving forward.

He explained that it took a year for the Pegasus Evaluation to be completed and staff doesn't want to see things holding for another year. He stated that staff believes that the Pegasus report offers alternatives to the centrifuge and those can be reviewed along with other alternatives as well and the third party could recommend alternative methods should they think they are feasible.

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH WOODARD AND CURRAN TO PROVIDE A COST TO REVIEW THE ORIGINAL NURF SITE EVALUATION AND WHERE APPROPRIATE OFFER ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR ESTIMATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COST.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick and Mr. Farner both stated that would like to meet with them on site and participate in the process if possible.

**Motion approved 6-0.**



**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RELEASE A BID TO CONSTRUCT MODIFICATIONS AT THE VILLA CITY DAM.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DREDGING AND MARINE CONSULTANTS FOR BID MANAGEMENT SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$6,760.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A NEW 4-WHEEL DRIVE, ¾ TON, EXTENDED CAB, LONG BED PICKUP FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,500 AND A NEW FORD EXPLORER SUV FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$36,000 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SURPLUS THE 2003 FORD F-250 PICKUP, INVENTORY ITEM #282, AND THE 2007 FORD EXPLORER SUV, INVENTORY ITEM #317.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like staff to create a vehicle rotation policy.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FIELD STAFF WITH T-SHIRTS THROUGH A CONTRACTED UNIFORM SERVICE THAT INCLUDES WARRANTY REPLACEMENT, COLOR LOGO, AND FULL LAUNDRY FOR \$1,464.32.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick verified with Mr. Hart that staff was happy with the choice. Mr. Farner asked whether staff wanted the uniform blue jeans and Mr. Hart stated that staff preferred to purchase their own pants. It was noted that the Agency provides field employees with safety shoes.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED LCWA STAFF – FERAL PIG REMOVAL POLICY #015.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FILE THE LCWA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**7. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

Kevin Stone

Attorney Kevin Stone explained it was discovered that the property owner adjacent to the Burrell Lock and Dam property has encroached on the Water Authority property with the placement of a fence and shed. He noted that the Water Authority is in the process of transferring the Burrell property to the St. Johns River Water Management District, and staff has verified with the District that they are okay with the encroachment and the creation of an Encroachment Agreement.

He explained that the Water Authority as current owner of the property, is the is the Agency that needs to create and approve the Encroachment Agreement, which will be then be transferred to the District with the transfer of the Burrell property.

**VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hendrick for an update on the current dredging of the ponds.

Steve Crawford updated the Board on the status of the NuRF and informed that that the staff at the NuRF had taken delivery of the two new stainless-steel tanks and staff will be installing them within the next couple of weeks. He informed the Board that the centrifuge scroll had been ordered and will arrive sometime in March.

He stated that as for the dredging, the contractor has working through several issues, one of which is drainage of the containment area. He explained that contractor's staff has built a road into the containment area so that equipment would not sink in the muck and get stuck. He stated that for the two weeks it took to work out the drainage issues and complete the road, they were unable to dredge.

Mr. Crawford stated that with the drier weather we have been having now, they have dredged approximately two-fifths of the West Pond. He stated that the consistency of the floc in the bags is not quite what they had hoped for, the contractor has been able to work with it.

Mr. Hendrick asked about the drainage project that they had budgeted, and Mr. Crawford stated that the contract had been executed and that project should begin in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like to have a review of the targeted TMDL goals out of Lake Apopka and on Lake Beauclair on a future agenda.

He stated that he is excited to hear about the progress that the District has had on Lake Apopka and noted that hopefully someday there won't be a need for the NuRF. He asked if an engineer with the District could come and give a report on the sump pump, they've designed and how it's being used.

Mr. Farner also Dr. Danaher if he could put together information on flow rates and how long it would take to fill the ponds once they have been dredged down to twenty feet. Dr. Danaher stated that he would get the information from the Pegasus reports

Vice Chairman Maimone stated that as it was her last meeting, she would like to say thank you and goodbye to everyone.

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

### **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <u>Tab 18</u> | a. Staff Reports                              |
| <u>Tab 19</u> | b. Monthly Financial Reports - September 2020 |

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

Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 18, 2020 (3:30 pm)  
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

---

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

---

Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

---

Amy Stone, Chairman