

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
of the  
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
August 19, 2020**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 pm Wednesday, August 19, 2020 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

**Members Present-District #**

Amy Stone, Chairman (#5)  
Trampis BonJorn (#2)  
Keith Farnar (At-Large)  
Butch Hendrick (#4)  
Courtney Stokes (At-Large)  
Peggy Cox (#1)

**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- July 8, 2020 – Budget Workshop

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2020 AS WRITTEN.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

Tab 1b            Approval of Minutes- July 22, 2020 - Regular Meeting

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2020 AS WRITTEN.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marty Proctor addressed the Board and spoke about the Clermont Chain and the smaller lakes Emma and Lucy which are on the other side of the Cherry Lake Dam. He talked about the length of the canal and how narrow it is.

He stated that there is a public boat ramp that is easily accessible and stated that anyone living in the Clermont Chain have easy access to that side of the dam and noted that it is never very busy at the boat ramp.

*Mr. BonJorn entered the meeting during the Executive Director Report.*

#### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Director Hart stated that it has been wetter this month, but rainfall is still below the average rainfall.

He explained that while the Clermont Chain has been responding to the rainfall, there is very little run off coming in from Big and Little Creeks, so even with spikes of rainfall the water level drops once the rains stop.

He noted that the Lake Apopka area received enough rain that the lake went above regulation and the District started releasing through the NuRF and over the spillway. He stated that the District had been putting 125 cfs to 150 cfs over the spillway, but as of today Lake Apopka is at regulation and 100 cfs is going through the NuRF at this time with no water being sent over the spillway.

Mr. Hart stated that Lakes Eustis, Harris and Dora have been staying close to regulation, with Lake Dora being slightly higher than the other two because of the flow from Lake Apopka.

He also stated that Lake Griffin has also been staying close to regulation with adjustments to the flow through the Burrell and Moss Bluff Dams.

He noted that the Lake County Marine Patrol held a diving exercise at the Hickory Point Boat Ramp and showed picture of the items found while diving, such as license plates, props, a battery and assorted sunglasses.

Mr. Hart reported to the Board that the District's contract with BankUnited has expired and the District had moved the funds in the NuRF Escrow to a new account with Seacoast Bank. He noted that the interest rate of the new account is lower, as all interest-bearing accounts are at this time.

Mr. Gugliotti addressed the Board and gave an update on the issues at Scrub Point. He showed pictures of the new signage at the shore (*included in the backup documentation*) and noted that it cost approximately \$200 for the two signs and the hardware needed to place them there. He stated that the signs are about 30 feet from the shore on both sides of the beach, where the grass line starts.

He explained that they were installed on a Wednesday and by Sunday there were gone. Staff was able to locate them in the water on Monday and they had reinstalled them on Tuesday, and one is missing again as of today.

He noted that there hasn't been any littering of the shoreline at this time but there was evidence of a campfire on the shore even though there is a fire ring just a few feet away. He also noted that someone had installed another rope swing, which staff cut down and removed.

It was noted that the Sheriff's Dept is still doing increased patrols of the area, but as there is only one public boat ramp, it is obvious when they are out on the lake so there hasn't been anyone there when the Marine Patrol Deputies are out.

Chairman Stone stated that the Sheriff had told her that they also have signs available that might help deter some of the vandalism. She also noted that staff is still working with the LCBCC to create an ordinance pertaining to what is prohibited on all Water Authority preserves.

Mr. Farner suggested putting signs such as "Pack It In, Pack It Out" telling people what they can do rather than what they can't do might help improve the situation.

Mr. Gugliotti noted that someone (possibly with the Johns Lake HOA) did install keep clean signs below our Scrub Point Preserve signs and they have remained, but any other signs the Water Authority has installed have been destroyed immediately.

Deputy Pendergrass stated that Marine Deputies are out there five or six times a week, depending on the manpower available. He noted that he has also been coming in from the land side and driving in the beach area, but each time he has been out there, there hasn't been anyone at the beach.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

**MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

Tab 2            a. Notice of Transfer from Money Market to Checking Account            Tracey Percoco

**THE BOARD WAS NOTIFIED THAT ON JULY 30, 2020, \$1,000,000 WAS TRANSFERRED FROM BANK UNITED MONEY MARKET TO THE SUNTRUST CHECKING ACCOUNT AND ANOTHER \$1,000,000 WILL BE TRANSFERRED IN AUGUST.**

## 6. REGULAR AGENDA

Tab 3            a. FFWCC Project Updates            Steve Crawford

Mr. Crawford introduced Dan Nelson with Florida Fish and Wildlife who is part of the FWC research team on the Harris Chain of Lakes.

Mr. Nelson informed the Board that he works out of the Eustis Freshwater Fisheries Section. He gave a PowerPoint Presentation (*included in the backup documentation*) and highlighted several of their long-term monitoring projects including annual spring bass sampling and summer vegetation mapping.

Tab 4                      b. Lake Minneola Algal Treatment    Jason Danaher

Dr. Danaher stated that once Governor DeSantis was sworn into office, he had created a Green Algae Task Force to solicit companies and agencies to try and come up with innovative technologies to try and come up with ways to address the blue green algae issues happening throughout state waterbodies.

He stated that the Task Force had initially awarded funding for a proposed project from the St. Johns River Water Management District and Blue Green Water Technologies, Inc. for a project for Lake Yale, but when Lake Minneola began to have problems with algal blooms the project was transferred over to Lake Minneola.

He explained that the plan is to treat the lake with a new hydrogen peroxide-based product that is encapsulated and floats on the surface and is applied at the first sign of an algal bloom. As the product floats when applied to the water body it stays in contact the blue green algae longer, and attacks the blue green algae cell, causing them to self-destruct.

Dr. Danaher stated that the project will begin in September and last six months, ending in February. It was noted that the product is not harmful to people and should not have any direct effect on fish unless the algal bloom itself disrupts natural plant growth.

He stated that Water Authority staff has spoken with the District's project manager and informed them of the 12-month contracted Wood study that would be going on at Lake Minneola during the same time. He explained that Water Authority staff, SJRWMD, nor Wood foresee any issues or conflicts between the two projects.

He stated that Water Authority staff will remain in contact with the District's project manager as both projects progress. He noted that a final report will be issued once the project is completed.

Tab 5                      c. Alum Tank Bid Results    Steve Crawford

Mr. Crawford showed a picture of the two alum tanks (*included in the backup documentation*) that are leaking and explained that one has a leak near the top that they have currently plugged with a large bolt type plug and that the other one has a leak near the bottom and had to be taken offline.

He stated that the Board had given staff approval to release a bid for replacement of the tanks and the Bid Opening was held Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. He noted that they had received four bids for poly tanks and three bids for stainless steel tanks. He showed a chart listing the two lowest bidders for each type of tank.

Chairman Stone stated that she doesn't recommend the purchase of poly tanks at all, unless someone else on the Board would like to consider them, as they can't be repaired, and the longevity of a steel tank is much longer.

Mr. Crawford explained the cost differences and noted that the lowest bidder for steel tanks is a local company out of Tavares. He explained the option of adding an additional hatch toward the bottom of the tank to allow for easier access for inspecting and cleaning of the tanks and explained that to have the additional hatch would also be much safer for staff. He stated that staff is requesting that they approve the lowest bid with Vision Conveyor with the addition of another hatch near the base of the tanks for greater safety of staff.

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VISION CONVEYOR FOR TWO STEEL TANKS WITH ADDITIONAL HATCH NOT TO EXCEED \$90,375.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0**

Mr. Crawford stated that there is currently \$49,000 in the account to purchase a tank and staff is recommending the transfer of \$42,000 from the Repair & Maintenance account 9898710-830460 to Site Improvements account 9898710-830630 for a second tank.

**MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE REPAIR & MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT 9898710-830460 TO SITE IMPROVEMENTS ACCOUNT 9898710-830630 FOR A SECOND TANK.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

Tab 6            d. Two Potential Property Donations

Ben Gugliotti

Mr. Gugliotti explained that Mr. Hart had been contacted by John Miklos with Bio-Tech Consulting regarding the possible donation of two properties, one area adjacent to Double Run on Lake Harris and another one on Lake Yale approximately three quarters of a mile from Sawgrass Island Preserve. It was explained that these properties had originally been purchased by Bio-Tech Consulting to use as mitigation credits and are no longer needed.

Mr. Gugliotti explained the types of vegetation on each property and noted that staff is recommending the acquisition of the property adjacent to Double Run on Lake Harris.

He explained that staff was originally interested in the property on Lake Yale because it contains a portion of the canal that connects Lake Yale to Lake Griffin and there are structure along that canal that need repair, but unfortunately the property doesn't include that section of the canal. He noted that it does include several feet of road frontage along CR 452.

Mr. Farner stated that the property is the primary connection between Lake Yale and Lake Griffin, and it is important that the property is protected.

[MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCEPT THE DONATION OF THE LITTLE LAKE HARRIS PROPERTY THROUGH BIO-TECH CONSULTING, INC. AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCEPT THE DONATION OF THE LAKE YALE PROPERTY. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.]

Ms. Cox asked that they be voted on separately and Mr. BonJorn withdrew his second and Mr. Farnar withdrew his motion.

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCEPT THE DONATION OF THE LITTLE LAKE HARRIS PROPERTY THROUGH BIO-TECH CONSULTING, INC.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 6-0.**

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO PURSUE THE ACQUISITION OF THE LAKE YALE PROPERTY THROUGH BIO-TECH CONSULTING, INC.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5 to 1 with Ms. Cox in opposition.**

Tab 7 e. Minneola Speed Zone Update

Jason Danaher

Dr. Danaher gave an update regarding the proposed Minneola Speed Zone. He explained that one of the last options available is a vessel traffic study which Florida Fish and Wildlife has stated that they can't do until after the Covid-19 situation is resolved. He explained that our staff asked about doing our own study but FWC had stated that they have no written methodology that they could provide, but they are willing to visit the location and observe traffic after covid-19 situation is resolved.

Mr. Farnar asked about the ordinance they were working toward with the County and Attorney Stone explained that the County has informed him that the Water Authority needs to let them know what we want in the ordinance and they would evaluate it and take it before their Board.

Mr. Farnar stated that he would like staff to pursuing the ordinance.

Mr. Hart explained that even though we could possibly have the County create an ordinance, they would not be able to put up any signage or do any enforcement without signage.

Attorney Stone stated that if the Board wishes they can start the discussion back up with the County attorney's office to work toward the ordinance while they also look into getting the District's Board to reconsider. There was consensus of the Board for Attorney Stone to continue working with Lake County, while they explore other options.

Mr. Hart explained that people on the Jupiter River were also at the District's State Board Meeting requesting that they reconsider their position regarding a denied Speed Zone in their area. He stated that he would be following their request and if they are able to work through the

process and get approval, it might be easier for the Water Authority to get them to reconsider our request.

Tab 8                    f. NuRF Technology Process Upgrades RFQ                    Dr. Danaher

Dr. Danaher noted that this request is to release an RFQ only for the engineering design work and not the actual completion of the proposed project.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like to find an alternative dump site such as pumping straight to cells and pumping just floc and not polymer and eliminate the centrifuge. Mr. Hart stated that he had talked to Eric Marzolf with the District and Mr. Marzolf will be getting back with him.

**MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RELEASE AN RFQ FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES TO ADDRESS ADDITIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR PROCESS TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AT NURF.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion

**Motion approved 6-0.**

Dr. Danaher gave an update and showed photos of the dredging/dewatering project (*included in the backup documentation*) and stated that C & M has been busy doing the earthwork and piping needed and setting up the geo-textile tubes that will hold the dredged material and allow it to dewater. He stated that the actual dredging will get underway next Wednesday on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

He stated that staff is going to be talking to County Finance in regard to expediting payments on invoices for this project which could save the Water Authority \$40,000-\$50,000.

Dr. Danaher explained that about a week and a half ago, the centrifuge developed a violent wobble that even shook the concrete legs.

He explained the flow of water into the centrifuge and noted that all incoming water flow goes through a sewer chewer which grinds and breaks up any large clumps, and then from there through the pump and into the centrifuge.

Dr. Danaher stated that GEA came in to disassemble and take a look inside, and they found that one end of the scroll had peeled away from the center shaft by over a foot and was bent 90 degrees. He stated that GEA is saying something big had to have passed through the centrifuge to cause the damage, but no one can figure out what or how something could have gone through. He noted that whatever passed through had also destroyed the counterbalance teeth and scraped the inside of the bowl that contains the scroll. He stated that thankfully the damage to the bowl was not enough for it to have to be replaced. It was also noted that there was no damage to the sewer chewer or to the pump, so it is unknown as to what could have damaged the flight on the scroll.

Mr. Farner asked how long it took to repair the scroll last time and Dr. Danaher stated that it took four months.

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In response to a question from Mr. Farner regarding the maintenance schedule, Dr. Danaher replied that they hadn't even put enough hours on it since the last repair to even need a minor maintenance.

Dr. Danaher stated that as they are not able to run anything from the East Pond through the centrifuge to be processed at this time, staff is dredging from the material from East Pond into the West Pond. He noted that as the dredging from the East Pond to the West Pond is likely to go on for a prolonged time, staff will be talking to C&M Dredging on how they are going to distinguish their project to dredge the West Pond to geo-tubes from the amount being added from the East Pond.

When Board Members asked if there was a maintenance fund to handle something like this, Mr. Hart explained that \$500,000 is budgeted each year in case for a major repair. He noted that if they were to have a failure of the large sludge tank, it would take the whole \$500,000 to replace, so hopefully there won't be two large failures in any one year.

Members of the Board encouraged staff to move forward as quickly as possible to find how much it will cost to repair or replace the parts needed. Mr. Hart stated that when they get answers staff can send an email to Board Members. It was noted that the Tentative Budget Meeting is only a couple of weeks away, and they should have more information by then, should they need to make any decisions at that time.

Mr. Hendrick stated that Mr. Farner had a good idea and agreed they should try thinking outside the box such as finding an alternative dump site.

Tab 9                  g. Hickory Point Tower Bid    Ron Hart

Mr. Hart showed pictures of the wood water damage to the entrance tower to Hickory Point (*included in the board memo*) and explained that the estimated cost to repair and restore the building is \$100,000.

Mr. Hart noted that the tower has office on first floor that used to be used by park personnel and that the building also serves as the hub for all the electrical service going into the park.

Mr. Hendrick and Mr. Farner both stated that they thought it would be better to remove the tower and start over and build something safer such as a modern one-story guard shack type building that could serve as an office and electrical hub.

There was discussion on the design of the exterior of the building and Ms. Cox suggested matching the exterior design to the office building rather than trying to match the wood structure of the pavilion at the park.

Chairman Stone stated that she would rather not spend the estimated \$100,000 to repair the old structure if they could build a one-story building that would look nice at a reasonable price.

There was a consensus of the Board that Mr. Hart should get a new proposal for smaller building.

Tab 9                  h. FY 2020-21 Budget Update    Ron Hart



Mr. Hart stated that there have been no changes made to the budget since the previous meeting.

Chairman Stone stated that she would really like them to look at reducing the millage to the roll-back rate. It was noted that the roll-back rate is 3.32 mils and to reduce the millage from the current 3.557 to 3.32 would mean an approximate \$400,000 decrease in the budget.

Mr. Farner noted that they could still reduce the millage at the Final Budget Hearing if they don't reduce it during the Tentative Budget Hearing.

**7. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

Kevin Stone

Attorney Stone stated that he had nothing new to report.

**8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hendrick asked about the tour and presentation he had requested from Phosphorous Free on their Lake Apopka project. Mr. Hart stated that due to Covid they are not allowing any tours of the site and are not allowing staff to travel and give presentations.

It was suggested that staff check into a possible ZOOM presentation and Mr. Hart stated that he would check into it.

Mr. Farner noted that he has been getting calls about hydrilla again and about an algae bloom on Lake Harris. He suggested that we instruct residents to call their Legislators, Fish and Wildlife and the Lake County Aquatic Vegetation Management Department. Mr. Farner asked for a list of the Legislative Delegation's phone numbers as well as Florida Fish and Wildlife and Lake County's Aquatic Plant Management be created and made available for the public. Mr. Hart stated that staff would put together a list of contact information and send it out to Board Members.

Mr. Farner suggested that they ask the District to return the Water Authority's fund to restore the NuRF property and Chairman Stone stated that staff is already talking with the District about attaining ownership of the NuRF property, in which case the fund would go away.

Mr. Farner stated since that could be a while, they can at least make a request of the District's Board and let them make the call.

He also stated that he would like to find an alternative dump site and completely bypass the centrifuge and suggested talking about pumping straight to one of the cells on the District's property that needs capping.

Ms. Cox asked about creating a program for the public regarding the Fertilizer Ordinance and the correct use of fertilizer. Chairman Stone explained that Maryann Krisovitch had just created a podcast on that topic and once it has been edited, she would be getting it out to the public and we would also put a link to it on the Water Authority website.

Mr. BonJorn asked whether Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions has been able to get any samples for Lake Minneola and Dr. Danaher stated that they have gotten their first samples and he hopes to have some information soon.

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

**10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Tab 10            a. Staff Reports  
Tab 11            b. Monthly Financial Reports - July 2020

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

- Tentative Budget Meeting - Wednesday, September 9, 2020 (5:05 pm)  
    BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Board Meeting - Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (3:30 pm)  
    BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Final Budget Meeting - Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (5:05 pm)  
    BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

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Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

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Amy Stone, Chairman