

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
February 27, 2019

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

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 3:35 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 23, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE JANUARY 23, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall reports. He stated that Lake Apopka has been flirting with maximum desirable a few times at which time the District would open the spillway into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal to bring it back down to the regulatory schedule.

He explained that the regulatory schedule will start down March first, which means the District will be holding less water in the lake until summertime to provide for storage for the typical wet season.

He stated that Lake Dora is over the regulatory schedule at this time primarily due to the District letting so much water out of Lake Apopka. He noted that Lake Eustis and Lake Harris are right around the regulatory schedule, but the regulatory schedule won't start down until May or June first and will stay that way until August.

He noted that Lake Griffin has also been bumping up against the upper end of the regulatory level, but they have been able to bring that back down.

Mr. Perry stated that in January Lake Minnehaha was creeping up toward the upper end of the regulatory range, but with the lack of rainfall over the past month, it has started to recede a little.

He stated that the gate at Cherry Lake is open and water is flowing at approximately 180 cfs, while water coming in from Big and Little Creeks has a combined flow of 108 cfs as of the morning. He noted that this is incredibly high compared to the past few years. He stated that the Clermont Chain has been within the regulatory range for the past full year and except for the periods during Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma, the water levels have been low.

He explained that typically this is the driest time of the year usually until rainy season kicks in in June, so we could see the lake levels decline a bit. He stated that the high flows coming out of Big and Little Creeks concern him a bit, so they will have to be cognizant of that.

He stated that currently we are at about 150% of normal rainfall and on the heels of two consecutive high rainfall years. He noted that the groundwater levels are at 20-year highs and there is nowhere for the water to go.

Mr. Perry noted that the Chairman's Workshop was held on the 20th and they had reviewed Water Authority funding and some of the larger projects that might be on the upcoming budget.

Mr. Perry stated that it was noted that he has been remiss in recognizing Mr. Hart, Ms. Rider and other staff members on all their hard work to bring funding to the Agency. He noted that Mr. Hart was instrumental in working with the City of Leesburg to bring \$500,000 for the Lake Denham acquisition, and Ms. Rider has been working hard to get FEMA money for Hurricane Irma. He stated that currently she has been able to get about \$80,000 but we are looking at another securing another \$1,000,000.

He noted that the Volleyball Fieldhouse grand opening was held last weekend and Chairman Stone was there to represent the Water Authority.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that they had hired someone to pressure wash the Bourlay house to remove years of algae and mold. He showed pictures showing before and after pictures.

He also informed the Board that he had attended several FWC meetings regarding hydrilla (Gainesville, Astor and Eustis) and stated that while fishermen and duck hunters love the hydrilla in the lakes, most agree that hydrilla needs to be controlled in some way, but the public thinks it should be by harvesting instead of chemical controls.

He stated that there would be more discussion this topic later in the meeting.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

None

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Approval to Award Stormwater Grants

Mr. Hart addressed the Board and stated that the Agency received a total of six Stormwater Grant Applications.

He explained that the Technical Review Team reviewed the applications and if there were any questions after reviewing the applications staff contacted the applicants for answers to the questions and project clarification. He stated that the projects were then scored and ranked them as shown in the table below.

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Staff Recommendation</i>
1	77	City of Leesburg	Lake Harris Regional Pond (Leesburg portion of DOT project)	\$212,250	\$212,250
2	73	Lake County	Lake Yale Marsh Park Stormwater Enhancement	\$62,500	\$62,500
3	67	Town of Montverde	Lake Florence Stormwater Improvement	\$75,200	Wait
4	57	City of Groveland	Warner Street Drainage Improvements	\$90,000	Wait
5	52	City of Umatilla	Trowell Avenue Stormwater Improvement	\$150,000	Wait
6	50	City of Groveland	Parkwood Street Drainage Improvements	\$225,000	Wait
			Totals	\$814,950	\$274,750

Mr. Hart gave a brief description of each project in the order of highest scoring to lowest, and the Board could then decide which grants they wished to award.

1. City of Leesburg’s Lake Harris Regional Pond (Leesburg portion of DOT project)

Mr. Hart stated that DOT will be constructing two wet retention areas that are 1.4 and 4.7 acres near the intersection of Highways 27 and 44. He explained that the City of Leesburg is requesting a stormwater grant for 50% of their agreed upon \$450,000 construction cost with DOT for construction of the two ponds. He noted that the ponds will be constructed in a wetland connected to the 9th Street Canal which drains to Lake Harris.

He stated that this grant request has the highest phosphorous removal score of any of the stormwater grants requested and staff is recommending approval.

Ms. Cox asked if this is the same area as the canal with the floating islands and tussocks and Mr. Hart stated that it is. It was noted that eliminating the trash entering the canal and lowering the phosphorous amount of the water runoff should help improve the condition of the canal.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A 50% COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LEESBURG FOR THEIR WATER QUALITY PORTION OF THE LAKE HARRIS REGIONAL POND FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$212,250. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

2. Lake County's Lake Yale Marsh Park Stormwater Enhancement

Mr. Hart stated that this request from Lake County is the result of a study that was done for the Water Authority by Harvey Harper to identify nutrient loading to Lake Yale.

He noted a wastewater spray fields used by Florida Foods and its proximity to Marsh Park. He explained that during wet weather the spray field area becomes completely saturated and whatever is being sprayed on the spray field goes right into the wetlands and it can't perk into the ground because the groundwater is all the way at the surface.

He explained that during the study the phosphorous was 3,300 parts per billion total phosphorous which is an astronomical amount and the County has also been out there on several occasions when water was flowing and had measured amounts even higher.

Mr. Hart stated that the County has proposed this project to help address this issue and noted that this is a project was one that the Water Authority had originally contemplated addressing on our own because it is one of the worst loading sites to Lake Yale.

He explained that County plans to modify an existing canal in Marsh Park into a linear wet retention area. The project will treat a 66-acre area that includes runoff from County Road 452 and an adjacent wastewater spray field. He stated that the County estimates that the linear wet pond will remove approximately 12.2 lbs. of Total Phosphorus annually. However, it is likely to remove much more during wet years when the spray field is running. This funding request is for the cost of construction only.

Mr. Hart explained that Lake County is asking for 50% match of the \$125,000 cost (\$62,500) and staff is recommending approval.

Mr. Hart noted that there is \$250,000 in the stormwater budget and the grants to the City of Leesburg and Lake County would add up to \$275,000. He explained that money left from the Tavares stormwater grant would cover the additional \$25,000 without having to do any budget transfers.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A 50% COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOR THE WATER QUALITY PORTION OF THE LAKE YALE MARSH PARK STORMWATER

ENHANCEMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$62,500. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

3. Town of Montverde's Lake Florence Stormwater Improvement

Mr. Hart stated that the Town of Montverde has area on the south side of Lake Florence, where they want to treat a stormwater outfall that's going into the lake.

He explained that the Town wants to install a nutrient separating box that on a pipe that currently discharges water from an area around Lowery Road and Highland Avenue into a ditch that then discharges the water into Lake Florence. He explained that the Town proposes to add the sediment box along the Lowery Road and replace the old pipe and add a section of pipe along the eroded ditch to the lake.

He explained that normally the Water Authority does not fund the replacement of any existing pipe and would typically only fund the sediment box and any improvements that must be made to connect it into the existing stormwater system.

Mr. Hart stated that staff is not recommending this project because it is past the threshold of what the Agency has budgeted. He noted that for comparison the estimated load reduction for this project is .60 lbs. of total phosphorus per year, which is much lower than some of the other projects.

There was no action taken on this request.

4. City of Groveland's Warner Street Drainage Improvements

Mr. Hart explained that this project involves reimbursing the City for 50% of the \$180,000 cost to construct a French drain system along a residential street. He stated that there is no drainage system along this road and the water sheet flows downhill through yards to the next street that does have culverts.

He stated that by constructing a French drain system it would provide an area for the water to percolate into the ground before entering the wetland system. He noted that it is in an area that doesn't have a lot of public use. He also noted that the Water Authority does not provide funding for flood protection.

There was no action taken on this request.

5. City of Umatilla's Trowell Avenue Stormwater Improvement

Mr. Hard explained that this project is for the design and replacement an existing failed sediment box at the outfall of Trowell Avenue. He stated that the current sediment box is one of the older sediment boxes that have fencing inside of it and not a nutrient separating baffle box that holds the leaves and sediment above the water table.

He explained that the chain link screen structure inside the baffle box has rusted and the brackets have broken free and all the debris is and is in large litter passing straight through to Lake Umatilla.

He explained that the City of Umatilla wants to install a nutrient separating baffle box and are requesting 100 percent funding for \$150,000. He stated that they did submit their nutrient calculations for removal, but they used a different method than any other agency to calculate the nutrient removal, so the calculations don't fit in with the normal amount of loading reduction would be.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she would like to see this project come back next year and for the City of Umatilla to calculate the phosphorous count with a conventional method.

There was no action taken on this request.

6. City of Groveland's Parkwood Street Drainage Improvements

Mr. Hart noted that the City of Groveland is requesting funding to design and construct a French drain system along Parkwood Street. He explained that Parkwood Street is very low in elevation and the existing drains are undersized.

He stated that he doesn't have a lot of faith that this would function well because of the high

There was no action taken on this request.

b. Approval to Reinstall NuRF Dredge Trolley System and Bollards

Dr. Danaher stated that he is asking approval for additional funding to wrap up a project at the NuRF. He stated that in November he came to the Board to ask for Emergency Authorization to repair a pond embankment that had failed, as well as the repair of the trolley system for an amount not to exceed 400,000.

He explained that in the interim the south embankment of the east pond also failed and once both pond embankments had been repaired, there wasn't enough funds remaining in the original emergency authorization to repair the trolley system. He stated that staff is asking for authorization to spend an additional \$21,500 over the initial \$400,000 that was approved.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AMEND THE DAWSON EXCAVATING AGREEMENT BY \$45,000 AND RAISE THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT ON THE EAST POND SLOPE FAILURE EMERGENCY REPAIR TO \$421,500. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

Dr. Danaher stated that the inflow bollards at the NuRF also needed repair and staff got several quotes for their repair. He explained that the original bollards were six inches wide and approximately 20 feet in length, and what staff was able to find to replace the originals were

significantly larger and sturdier at eighteen inches wide and thirty-five feet in length and will be able to handle any debris coming into the facility at a much better rate.

He explained that because Dawson Excavating was already on-site they were chosen for that work as well, as the mobilization costs were much less because they were already on-site.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH DAWSON EXCAVATING FOR THE DEMOLITION AND INSTALLATION OF BOLLARDS AT THE NURF FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,200. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

c. Alum Bid Responses for NuRF

Dr. Danaher explained that they use aluminum sulfate to treat the incoming water and dependent on vendors for this supply and that prior to Hurricane Irma they really didn't have an issue with obtaining the supply needed for the facility.

He stated that sometimes the alum would sometimes sit in the tank long enough to crystalize when the water would evaporate off. He noted that once Hurricane Irma hit we had high flows due to the amount of water being discharged by St. Johns River Management District from Lake Apopka. He stated that it then became hard to obtain a steady supply of alum, not necessarily because the alum couldn't be produced, but a lot to do with the availability of freight vehicles to deliver the product is not sufficient to meet NuRF needs without a contract in place.

He stated that with no contract in place the LCWA has seen increasing prices for alum. He explained that the vendors cannot just increase the price on the LCWA because they want to and their reasons have to be justified and the vendor needs to supply the LCWA with a copy of a contract with another governmental agency in the state of Florida showing the same cost for product. He noted that the Water Authority is allowed to piggyback off of other state contracts for supply of alum.

Dr. Danaher stated that staff released a bid in November 2018 to solicit responses for different options.

Option A

A contract to purchase, deliver and unload alum at the NuRF from an existing alum production facility. The vendor is required to meet the full demand of the NuRF. In the event the supplier cannot supply the demand requirements they are responsible to arrange an interim alternate supply and compensate the LCWA for prices in excess of the contract price.

Option B

The vendor would construct and operate an alum production facility within 20 miles of the NuRF to supply, deliver and unload product at required times to meet the LCWA needs. The vendor is required to meet the full demand of the NuRF. In the event the supplier cannot supply the

demand requirements they are responsible to arrange an interim alternate supply and compensate the LCWA for prices in excess of the contract price.

He explained that after releasing the bid staff only received responses for Option A and no responses for Option B. He stated that staff was surprised no bid responses for Option B were received as a couple vendors had expressed interest and spoke in length with staff regarding this opportunity.

Dr. Danaher noted that without a contract the cost of alum has been going up and stated that the lowest bidder was Chemtrade at \$265/dry ton which is considerably higher than their \$209/dry ton non-contract price.

He explained that because we are unlike a typical water treatment plant, and our need is dependent on the weather and may be high or low depending on the water flows, it is reflected in the cost.

He stated that the options the Board may want to consider include:

- 1) Enter into a contract with alum supplier to ensure a steady supply from single vendor and treat as annual budget allows.
- 2) Continue to piggyback cost of alum off of other state contracts and treat discharged water from Lake Apopka as annual budget allows and alum and trucking become available to the NuRF.
- 3) Look at increasing storage capacity at NuRF to reduce the number of daily truck deliveries, which may affect the cost per dry ton by reducing freight logistics volatility on supplier's side.

Dr. Danaher explained that the current storage capacity of liquid alum at the NuRF is Liquid alum 72,000 gallons and at peak flow they use over 40,000 per day. He stated that during peak flow they got 10 to 12 truckloads per day with delivery from 2 am to 10 pm delivery.

Ms. Cox asked if Chemtrade would be able to supply that much alum if we are operating around the clock and Dr. Danaher explained that they have the alum, and it is the shortage of truck drivers that drives the price up. He noted that in the contract if they can supply us with the alum needed whether it is because they cannot produce the alum, or they cannot find a freight line to deliver it, they would have to source it from someone else and pay the difference.

Mr. Hendrick asked how much is needed at peak flow and Dr. Danaher explained that 40,000 gallons allows them to treat flows of 300 cfs for 24 hours. He stated the average flow for the past year was over 150 cfs. Mr. Perry explained that the system was designed based on an annual average at 50 cfs.

Vice Chair Maimone asked how long NuRF was not running before Hurricane Irma and Mr. Perry stated that it was approximately four years. Vice Chair Maimone noted that four years would be a long time for a company to sit with a facility with no orders.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER, CHEMTRADE, TO SUPPLY, DELIVER AND UNLOAD LIQUID ALUMINUM SULFATE AT NURF FROM THEIR FLORIDA-BASED PRODUCTION PLANTS AS ALLOWED BY THE LCWA ANNUAL BUDGET. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Attorney Barice asked if this would be an annual contract and Dr. Danaher stated that it would, with the option of annual extensions up to three years.

Motion approved 6-0.

d. NuRF Update

Dr. Danaher updated the Board on activities at the NuRF facility.

He noted that D&S Steel Inc. had delivered the new stainless-steel alum tank and it has been installed.

He stated that the existing 6-inch inflow bollards have been removed because they were damaged due to past flow and past hurricanes and the new 18-inch square bollards have been placed about 12 feet into the sediment. He explained that they were then cut to be about 4 foot above water level. He noted that they are 6 foot on center with a gap of approximately 4 1/2 feet and will help to prevent future debris and boaters from getting close to NuRF inflow canals.

He explained that Dawson Excavating has completed the pond embankment repairs on both the west and south slopes of the NuRF's east pond and both ponds are full at the moment so there should no longer be a risk of slope failure. He noted that gates and actuators are in working order and ready for any future water flow.

Mr. Danaher stated that the Board had previously approved GEA to perform the needed centrifuge maintenance. He stated that all the material dredged from the ponds goes through the centrifuge where it is dewatered and formed into a cake. He explained that the centrifuge is like a big washing machine turned on its side and all the material is spun to the sides and squeezed through the centrifuge with a scroll. He noted that the scroll is about 12 feet in length and weighs about 3,000 pounds.

He explained that GEA started performing the general maintenance of repairing the bearings, belts and gaskets that are required after so many hours of service, and once they removed the scroll they found that the ceramic tiles that keeps it balanced had worn down over time and if we were to continue to use the centrifuge under these conditions it could be thrown out of balance, break the shaft and break out of its housing, which could be very dangerous to anyone nearby.

He stated that in addition to the wear and tear on the ceramic tiles, the welds for the shaft itself have broken and cracked which could cause the shaft itself to break and spin out of control and cause significant damage.

He explained this was discovered just a couple of days earlier and they been discussing possible ways to remedy the situation. He stated that due to the size of our machine and the fact that it is very specialized, you cannot readily purchase or rent another scroll to replace it.

He stated that there is the possibility that it can be repaired, but it cannot be repaired on-site. He explained that the scroll will have to be shipped to New Jersey to see if it can be repaired or if it will have to be decommissioned and replaced.

Dr. Danaher noted that repairs can be done in New Jersey, but if they must purchase a new scroll the lead time is approximately 30 weeks/7 1/2 months as it will have to be manufactured and shipped from Germany.

He stated that they are not sure of the exact cost to repair or purchase at this time, but it could have been catastrophic to the centrifuge itself. He noted that the centrifuge itself costs more than a million dollars, and if the scroll had broken or come apart, it could have easily destroyed the centrifuge and severely injured any nearby employees or students on tour.

He explained that he has been talking to the team from GEA regarding estimated costs for repair or replacement and that currently the cost of repair is estimated to be \$75,000 to \$100,000, with the cost of replacement being as high as \$300,000, not including shipping.

He explained that he is requesting approval to expend up to \$500,000, to cover any costs without having to come back to the Board, which would mean even further delay. He stated that hopefully it will cost much less than that, with the best scenario being that the scroll can be repaired and back to the NuRF within the next couple of months.

Mr. Farner asked how soon they would be able to get the part to New Jersey, so they can give us an estimate of costs and Dr. Danaher replied that he just received the paperwork and he will complete that and get with GEA to see if they can arrange transport to New Jersey since they are familiar with dealing with freight companies. He stated that he doesn't have a time estimate at this time.

Mr. Farner and Vice Chair Maimone asked how long they would be able to run the NuRF before they would need the centrifuge.

Dr. Danaher stated that currently the east pond would be able to handle current flows for approximately three or four weeks before it is filled to capacity.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she wished that had known this when they were down for slope repair and Dr. Danaher explained that during that time they were still dredging the west pond and using the centrifuge. He stated that the problems were not discovered until GED began maintenance of the machine.

Mike noted that during that time the centrifuge appeared to be working normally with no noticeable vibration.

Mr. Farner stated the sooner they can get it to New Jersey, and after looking at the scroll, he believes it can be repaired.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he agreed they should get it sent to New Jersey but didn't think they should approve any expenditures yet.

Vice Chair Maimone stated if they were to find out next week that it can do something, and it is three more weeks before the next Board meeting, they would not be able to make a decision until the Board Meeting.

Dr. Danaher stated that once it gets to New Jersey they should be able to let him know quickly if it is repairable. He noted that if it is repairable they should be able to move forward with the repair fairly quickly, and if it is not repairable they need to be able to place an order as quickly as possible.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE OR REPAIR DAMAGED NURF CENTRIFUGE COMPONENTS IN TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000; THIS WORK IS TO BE PERFORMED BY GEA MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT US (AS SOLE-SOURCE). Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick was concerned about approving the full \$500,000 and suggested approving enough to recover the repair and to bring it back to the Board for approval if they need to order a replacement from Germany.

Vice Chair Maimone and Mr. Farner both expressed their concern about adding three more weeks to the process should they need additional funding.

Mr. Farner asked how long it takes the empty the ponds once they are filled and Dr. Danaher stated that it takes approximately two months running 24 hours a day once the ponds are filled.

In response to a question by Mr. Hendrick, Vice Chair Maimone noted that approving the funding does not tie up the \$500,000 if it is not expended.

Ms. Cox stated that she would leave her motion at \$500,000 as stated.

Vice Chairman Maimone noted that staff will keep the Board informed as soon as they have any additional information.

Attorney Barice stated that it also needed to be sure and put in writing that GEA Mechanical Equipment US is the sole source to cover the procurement policy.

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

e. Authorization to Release RFP for Lake Yale Sediment Inactivation Project

Dr. Danaher stated that the Water Authority had previously contracted with ERD (Environmental Research and Design) to do a twelve-month study on Lake Yale to determine nutrient inputs from different areas around the lake and what may be occurring within the lake.

He explained that based on the data collected ERD was to provide some recommendations on how to improve the water quality in the lake.

He stated that what they found through their sampling was that much of the pollution is recycling of phosphorous within the lake itself which results in sub-optimal water quality and is bad for aquatic life and recreational uses.

He explained that based on the internal recycling they provided recommendation on how to potentially remove that source of phosphorous. He stated that one of the recommendations was to remove it through dredging, which would be extremely expensive, or by chemical inactivation which is cheaper and may also benefit the lake.

Dr. Danaher stated that based on that report, the Board had begun to allocate funding in its annual budget to address this situation and staff would now like to release a request for proposals from qualified vendors for them to offer their strategies, technologies and scope of work to control the internal loading in the lake.

He noted that while the report from ERD recommended several solutions, we will not be limiting the RFP to specific physical or chemical inactivation of the phosphorous in the lake.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE CONTROL OF INTERNAL RECYCLING OF TOTAL PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATIONS PRESENT IN LAKE YALE SEDIMENT. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he was in favor of the motion, but he would also like some more data about the lake such as Secchi depth, water clarity, etc.

Motion approved 6-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Erica Viskup stated that she lives on Tammi Drive and her house is the fourth house off of the Apopka/Beauclair Canal. She showed a picture of the property across the canal from her home and stated that this area is where the leaves and twigs in the canal have come from. She showed a video from July 10 of 2018 and stated that it showed sediment traveling into the canal from the NuRF and the Apopka/Beauclair Canal, a full year after Hurricane Irma.

She stated that the canal is full of nine feet of muck with only two and a half feet of water above the muck. She stated that when the water levels go down, there will be no water.

She asked why the Water Authority has only completed core samples of the Apopka/Beauclair Canal and haven't done any of the Tammi Canal.

Linda Moss of Tammi Drive and the Lake Jem Clean Water Project addressed the Board and read her notes from the February 2018 Water Authority Board Meeting stating that there was no storage capacity left in the ponds and staff can't remove the floc. She stated they had exceeded any ability to keep the floc within the ponds and NuRF and are discharging alum downstream.

She stated that the Board had discussions month after month on how to empty the ponds, and in June of 2018 Mr. Hart stated that the ponds were full, and the sediment is discharging out the pipes. She stated that in August 2018 the Water Authority proposed to St. Johns River Water

Management that they take the sediment from the ponds and dispose of them at Cells F and G and the District asked for the sediment to be analyzed before they would approve the disposal.

She stated that Lance Lumbard contacted the Army Corp of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection and their concerns over organochlorides, pesticides and avian botulism. She stated that the Water Authority decided to wait and not do the testing at that time to dispose of the sediment at Cells F and G.

She stated that she had pictures showing the removal of the east pond gate and stated that the entire contents of the nine-acre pond then drained into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and ran into residential canals. She stated that it came out of their sprinklers and onto their lawns and shrubs and made them all sick.

She stated that environmental attorneys say that whether the gate came up by itself, was taken off or was broken makes no difference and the Lake County Water Authority is at fault for putting the toxic material downstream into their canals and Lake Beauclair.

Linda Moss requested that the Water Authority please dredge their canals, or she would have to have an attorney ask.

CONTINUATION OF REGULAR AGENDA:

f. Authorization to Expend Budgeted Funds for Hydrilla Control In the Harris Chain of Lakes

Mr. Perry reported to the Board that FWC has placed a state-wide pause on hydrilla treatment, in order to hold public meetings to hear from people around the state regarding their concerns and wishes regarding hydrilla.

He stated that he had recently attended the public meetings in Gaineville, Astor and Eustis. He noted that the Gainesville meeting was mostly about south Florida, water lettuce and floating vegetation.

He stated that during the meetings a lot of fisherman expressed their opinions on how the hydrilla makes good habitat for fish and is good for fishing and many duck hunters were also in favor of the cover that it provides for duck hunting. He noted that they also heard from fishermen who didn't like the growth of hydrilla in the lakes.

Mr. Perry stated that, after attending the last couple of meetings, he feels that FWC is going to continue with hydrilla management, but with possible changes to their management practices.

He stated that in addressing the FWC, he had asked them to please restart hydrilla management in the Harris Chain, even if they continue with the pause in treatment in the south Florida region.

Mr. Perry explained that the memo was written before FWC had imposed the pause on hydrilla treatment, with the hope of working with them to provide additional treatment.

He stated that there are very few tools to handle the hydrilla problem in the Harris Chain and from his experience, harvestors are non-selective, scooping up whatever plants and animals are

in front of them, and historically the use of harvesters has been much more expensive than herbicides.

Mr. Perry stated that when he wrote the memo he was expecting to ask for authorization to expend the budgeted funding but currently there is a imposed pause on hydrilla treatment, although that could change at any time.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she is wondering how they plan on rounding up all the little pieces of hydrilla as it breaks really easy and each piece is able to propagate and grow, which spreads the growth of hydrilla. She stated she doesn't know how any technical advances of mechanical harvesters would be able to address that.

Ms. Stokes stated that there were specific things they mentioned that didn't make her comfortable and that she is not confident in their ability to gather the little cuttings of hydrilla. She noted that from her experience harvesting spreads the growth of hydrilla. She stated that it would be interesting to see if the mechanical harvester contractors can back their claims up with any data.

Mr. Farner stated that the use of harvesters is usually the last resort to cut paths for people to get out and use the lakes and means they have given up on any control.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that one person has drowned so far when he jumped in the lake to clear his prop and became entangled in the hydrilla.

Ms. Stokes stated that she had attended the Eustis public meeting and that a lot of the comments from people were about the use of chemicals, with many falsehoods and misunderstandings about the chemicals used. She stated that chemical control is the best way to control hydrilla and is backed by data. She stated that there are very stringent controls on the types of chemicals that can be used and they have been thoroughly tested to be proven safe.

Ms. Cox stated that hydrilla completely ruins a lakes eco-system and that mechanical harvesting is not effective in the control of hydrilla.

Mr. Farner stated that they've all determined that harvesting is ineffective and noted that our local state Legislatures are in agreement with the Water Authority's stance on controlling hydrilla.

He also noted that he has been reading legislation regarding the control of invasive plants and explained that the Army Corp of Engineers also has a legislative responsibility, and so, might provide another path for obtaining federal money to help in the control of hydrilla.

Mr. Farner stated that they need to find out when and where the FWC Board/Council meets and write them letters as a Board and as individuals voicing our concerns.

Vice Chair Maimone also noted that FWC also has a specific address email for voicing opinions regarding invasive plan management.

Ms. Cox asked Mr. Perry if Lake County Tourism is aware of the issue and Mr. Perry stated that Lake County Tourism is holding back and watching other people take the lead at this time. Ms.

Cox noted that if the hydrilla problem doesn't get under control it will eventually effect the fishermen.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that hydrilla can spread from lake to lake if any is left on a boat motor, etc. and if it is introduced to a small non-chain lake it would quickly take over the lake and destroy its eco-system.

The Board instructed Mr. Perry to get with FWC and make sure their Commissioners understand the Water Authority's stance and concern regarding hydrilla and encourage them to lift the pause on treatment at least in Lake County.

They also instructed him to speak with Lake County's Department of Development and Tourism regarding the possibility of additional funding through their department for the control of hydrilla.

The Board also suggested that Mr. Perry talk to mechanical harvesting companies regarding their current technologies and techniques.

Mr. Perry noted that while out on Lake Harris he has found hydrilla in the middle of Lake Harris near The Hideaway and Long Island in 12 ½ feet of water and the hydrilla is less than a foot from the surface.

He stated that FWC spent a lot of time and effort on treating Little Lake Harris this past year and that he was hoping to speak to Nathalie Visscher sometime this week to see how effective the treatments were on the hydrilla.

g. Authorization to Release Green Landings Boardwalk RFB

Ms. Burgos explained that the Boardwalk at Green Landing had been approved previously, but due to changes in the Board, expenses and other priorities, she wanted to get the Board's direction as to whether they want to do anything at the Green Landing at this time.

She informed Mr. Farner that she is still waiting to hear if the Green Foundation wants to hold a sign unveiling and the location.

She explained that the 194 acre Bear Track Preserve was donated to the Water Authority in 1999 and 2001 and the smaller adjacent area was purchased in 2017. She noted that the Water Authority has a Special Use Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District for the last 20 years or more to manage the camping and canoeing at the nearby Lake Norris Preserve.

She explained that the Board and staff has been looking at the possibility of putting in a boardwalk and canoe and kayak launch at the Green Landing portion of the Bear Track preserve and she wanted to know if the Board is interested in doing anything at this time.

She stated that the boardwalk would have to be approximately 300 feet long across the wetlands and would cost approximately \$80,000.

After a brief discussion, it was decided not to do anything at this time.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice stated that she had nothing new to report.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Farner stated that he had been out to NuRF within the last few days and that it is looking greatly improved. He suggested that with the warm weather and sunshine, that staff who work out in the sun be provided with pith helmets or other headgear to reduce exposure to the sun.

Ms. Cox stated that she hasn't seen any signs of hydrilla in the Clermont Chain yet, but there was small problem with algae for a while. She also informed the Board that the permitting has been submitted for the new boat ramp in Clermont. She stated that hopefully it will be completed by the end of summer and once it's completed it will have double the capacity of the old boat ramp.

Mr. Bonjorn stated he feels even more concerned about the hydrilla issue after attending the FWC meeting and stated that the Water Authority needs to do everything it can do to educate the public.

There was discussion as to whether there is signage at the boat ramps around Lake County warning about transferring invasive vegetation between the lakes. It was noted that we need to do everything we can do to educate the public.

Mr. Farner stated that maybe when they do decide to expend some of the hydrilla funds that might be something they could do.

Ms. Cox stated that they needed some kind of educational handout that they could had out at Earth Day events and other events that the Water Authority attends.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 27, 2019 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2019

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

Amy Stone, Chairman