

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
January 23, 2019

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 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)
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, IT Manager
Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
Christina Rider, Executive Office 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 3:33 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 12, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry noted that for the sake of time, they were going to dispense with the Executive Report at this time.

He noted that Mr. BonJorn would be out of town at the time of the upcoming proposed Board Workshop and asked if the Board if they would like to change the date of the Workshop. It was decided to hold the workshop on February 20, 2019 at 3 pm at the Lake County Water Authority Office.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE TABS 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 AND 12 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

- a. Approval to Award Website ADA Compliance Bid

AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH REVIZE GOVERNMENT WEBSITES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,720 FOR THE FIRST YEAR TO COMPLETE WORK AS DESCRIBED IN THE RFB FOR WEBSITE ADA.

- b. Authorization to Surplus Inventory Item

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SURPLUS INVENTORY ITEM 356.

- c. Approval of No-Cost Time Extension to DMC for Villa City Design

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A NO-COST TIME EXTENSION FOR DREDGING AND MARINE CONSULTANTS FOR THE PALATLAKAHA RIVER VILLA CITY DAM MODIFICATIONS UNTIL APRIL 22, 2019.

- d. Approval to Purchase Replacement Truck Under State Contract

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO:

- 1) PURCHASE A NEW FLEET TRUCK FROM THE STATE CONTRACT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000;**
- 2) MAKE A BUDGET TRANSFER TO FIELD SERVICES MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT 9898730-860640 FROM WATER RESOURCES – LAND ACQUISITION 9898710-860610 FOR \$30,000; AND**
- 3) TO SURPLUS AND SELL THE 2003 SILVER FORD F250 TO THE HIGHEST INDEPENDENT OFFER.**

- e. Approval to Award CD Investment

APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INVEST \$2 MILLION IN A 12-MONTH CD WITH HANCOCK WHITNEY AND IF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARISE, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO GO TO THE NEXT HIGHEST QUOTE.

- f. Approval to Transfer Funds for CRA Payments

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$147,020 TO 9898100-880813 COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND REIMBURSEMENT FROM 9898710-830340 WATER RESOURCES – OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL MONIES DUE THE CRAS.

- g. Authorization to Transfer HR Consulting Services the HR Lady, LLC

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER THE REMAINDER OF THE AGREEMENT FROM BLACKRAIN PARTNERS TO THE HR LADY AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVE THE HR CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH THE HR LADY.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Authorization to Release an RFQ for Attorney Services

Mr. Farner stated that he didn't feel it was necessary to put out an RFQ for Attorney Services as Attorney Barice has done a great job representing the Water Authority.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND ATTORNEY BARICE'S CONTRACT FOR THREE YEARS. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Ms. Cox stated that Attorney Barice has done a wonderful job and has a wealth of knowledge on the workings of the Water Authority. She asked how long it would take if they were to put out an RFQ.

Mr. Perry stated that it would likely take at least four months, with a couple of months to get responses as they would need to put out an announcement/ad and then at least a month to review the responses, and another month to bring it back to the Board.

He noted that Attorney Barice's contract doesn't end until the end of September and stated that putting out an RFQ doesn't prohibit Attorney Barice responding to the RFQ, it just gives the Board an opportunity to see who else is out there.

Chairman Stone explained that as elected officials it is their duty to their constituents. She stated that just because they put an RFQ out, it doesn't mean that Attorney Barice can't submit. She stated that they need to be sure they are keeping everything in line with RFQs.

She noted that it wasn't anything against Attorney Barice, it's more about doing due diligence and getting more choices for the same process.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she agreed that they owe it to their constituents to see what is out there and who is available. She noted that everything else is put out to bid and that she didn't see why they shouldn't do the same for the attorney.

Motion failed 5 - 2 with Mr. Hendrick, Ms. Stokes, Chairman Stone, Vice Chair Maimone and Mr. BonJorn in opposition.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO RELEASE AN RFQ FOR ATTORNEY SERVICES AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH A SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSE. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Ms. Cox asked about the wording of the RFQ and Mr. Perry stated that they would probably just use the same one that was issued in 2007, but if more specific language is needed he would probably pull information from the RFQ from the St. Johns River Water Management District.

He stated that he would check with the Agency's HR Consultant as to whether a position description is needed or not.

Mr. Hendrick asked if the RFQ would be released in September and it was explained that it would be put out now, as it would take several months for the process, especially if the Board wished to do any interviews.

Motion approved 7-0.

b. Evergreen Development and Scrub Point Preserve

Ben Gugliotti addressed the Board and explained that the Water Authority owns and manages Scrub Point Preserve which is 93-acre preserve in south Lake County. He stated that it is located on a peninsula that extends north into Johns Lake and is just north of Hartwood Marsh Road and east of Highway 27.

He explained that staff was approached by Chuck Piper who is a developer and is working with property owners who are on the west side of our 75-foot access parcel to Scrub Point. He noted that Mr. Piper has also purchased property on the east side of that parcel.

He stated that Mr. Piper has already received approval from the City of Clermont to put a roundabout on Hartwood Marsh Road to access his project to the west, but he is having some issues with nearby homeowners on Sadler Road, Flynn Court and Champagne Court in creating access to the parcel to the east.

Mr. Gugliotti explained that Mr. Piper is requesting to put a road across the Water Authority's 70-foot parcel as access from the western development to the eastern part of the development, which would require the Board's approval. He stated that the current owners have an access easement that gives them the right to access their property across the parcel, but to build or construct anything Mr. Piper would need the Board's approval.

Mr. Gugliotti also explained that there is a conservation easement over all of Scrub Point Preserve with the National Park Service, which allows for public access roads to the preserve and managing it as a preserve, but this would be outside of that.

He stated that in speaking with the National Park Service, their recommendation was to do a land swap. The National Park Service would remove the conservation easement across that parcel in

exchange for another parcel owned by Mr. Piper, which would still allow for access to the preserve.

Ms. Cox stated that she has heard from some people that are not happy about the development and are concerned about the traffic that would be generated on Champagne Court.

Mr. Piper that speaking with the residents in that area, they have stated that they would not like to see any traffic on Champagne Court and Flynn Court and he agrees and stated that there will be other access to the development.

He stated that although the 70-foot access road to the preserve is dedicated the County, they do not maintain it, and that as part of the development of the property, he is willing to take over maintenance to the road down to Hartwood Marsh Road. He noted that the encroachment of the easement into his property to the west and to the north will remain where it is, and the City of Clermont has suggested that the Water Authority be allowed to continue to have that as a legal access to the property in perpetuity. He noted that there would also be a 50-foot buffer that the Board had previously requested and next to that is a retention pond, so the easement won't affect the overall development at all.

Ms. Cox asked if the Eddy Groves portion and the portion to the east side of the easement have been annexed into the City of Clermont and Mr. Piper stated that the Eddy property has been annexed into the city. He explained that the Evergreen property to the east is in the process of going through Lake County as it is part of the Wellness Way PUD at this time and they are trying to get the property removed from the Wellness Way PUD and create a PUD similar to the one with the City of Clermont. He stated that once that happens they will have a utility service agreement with the City of Clermont, and part of the City's requirement for providing utility services is usually that they also must annex into the City.

Ms. Cox asked the density of the proposed development and Mr. Piper stated that although the PUD with the County would allow four units per acre, they are planning to have just under three houses per acre which would be approximately 130 homes to the west of the 70-foot access parcel.

Mr. Piper explained that if they were to follow the Wellness Way plan, there are a lot more requirements for retail and commercial space which would increase the density, and he stated that he doesn't want that high of a density on the property.

Ms. Cox asked the density of the Eddy property and Mr. Piper stated that it has been approved for 323 homes on approximately 115 acres, which is just under three homes per acre.

Mr. Farner asked if the Water Authority has any plans for Scrub Point and Mr. Perry explained that Scrub Point is anticipated to be a passive preserve with picnic tables and trails. He stated that there is a five-acre parcel that would be used for a parking lot and to provide direct access to the preserve.

Mr. Gugliotti explained that staff was concerned that the Evergreen neighborhood to the east would possibly use the limestone access road as a shortcut to Hartwood Marsh Road instead of

going through the western development and the roundabout, so Mr. Piper has agreed to maintain the limestone road.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO APPLY FOR A LAND EXCHANGE WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FEDERAL LANDS TO PARKS PROGRAM AND IF THE PARK SERVICE APPROVES THE LAND EXCHANGE, AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. PIPER AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT PROPERTY OWNERS CONTINGENT UPON ALL THE FOLLOWING:

1. Mr. Piper will convey to the Lake County Water Authority the 25’ sliver (map 2, item #5) that runs south from the main preserve, east of the 70’ parcel and west of the 5-acre parcel (.36 acre) from.
2. An easement will be conveyed from the Eddy Trust to the Lake County Water Authority over the western encroachment (map 2, item #2) or deed it to the LCWA depending on what is needed to not interfere with any existing buffer/set back.
3. Mr. Piper will move the lime rock road in the eastern encroachment (map 2, area #3) into the 70’ parcel to align it with the proposed crossing at his expense.
4. Mr. Piper will be responsible for maintenance of the lime rock road from Hartwood Marsh Road to the proposed crossing. The maintenance responsibility will remain with the future owners of Mr. Piper’s property, through the developments HOA.
5. Both developments will have prescribed fire and smoke-shed language in their HOA covenants.
6. Both developments will have invasive-exotic plant language in their HOA covenants.

Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked about water to the development and Mr. Piper explained that they would be entering into a utility service agreement with the City of Clermont.

Attorney Barice state that ultimately what they would be seeking from the Department of Interior (*National Park Service*) would be an amended Conservation Easement.

Motion approved 7-0.

c. LCWA Role in Aquatic Plant Control

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and explained that currently aquatic weed control under the State Statute regarding Aquatic Weed Control and gives the State power delegate all or part of the program to any other government agency.

He stated that currently the County serves as a contractor for hydrilla under FWC to provide Aquatic Weed Control. The County also has the ability to address other non-hydrilla aquatic plant issues, which are directed and organized under the County directly. He noted that Mary Hamilton with Lake County Public Works has stated that they get about \$230,000 a year from the County’s General Fund for spraying of other invasive aquatics.

Mr. Perry explained that if the Water Authority wants to seek the delegated responsibility for aquatic plant control there would be many things the Agency would have to do such as mapping vegetation, developing a work plan, planning for the treatments, the mobilization of the contractors and coordinating with the stakeholders.

He stated that even within the stakeholders there are conflicts between boaters, fishermen, and hunting interest groups, as well as restaurants, as they don't see eye-to-eye on hydrilla and other aquatic plant control. He explained that the bass fishermen love hydrilla as it provides cover for the fish, yet the crappie fishermen require open water, without any aquatic plants, so even within the fishing community there are conflicts. He stated that duck hunters also like the hydrilla, while boaters don't. He stated that staff would also have to field the complaints from the public and would have figure out how to handle that.

Mr. Perry stated that we would most likely have to add staff and boats, etc. to accomplish the task, or we could have an agreement between the Water Authority and the County with them acting as a contractor as they have vessels and personnel.

He stated that Lake County likes being part of the process as it is mostly complaint driven, meaning they get a complaint from the public, send out a vessel with the County logo on it and it creates good PR.

Mr. Perry stated that if that is what the Board wants them to do, staff would take on aquatic plant control to the best of their ability, but whether FWC and the County would give it up is unknown. He advised the Board to remember that in the aquatic plant control business, nobody is happy, as it is always too much or not enough.

Mr. Perry stated that Nathalie Visscher with Florida Fish and Wildlife was present to answer any questions the Board may have.

It was noted that Mr. Perry and Chairman Stone have been meeting with legislative delegates regarding the hydrilla problem in the Harris Chain.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that she is in full support with helping financially if we can, and fighting for more treatment, but doesn't think it is the best thing as an Agency to take over the role of spraying hydrilla.

Ms. Visscher addressed the Board and explained that the County does spraying to control more than just hydrilla and that County money is used to spray in residential canals and areas that FWC does not cover.

Mr. Farner asked how many staff employees it takes to spray 1000 acres and Ms. Visscher answered that Lake County only have four boats and it can take anywhere from two days to a week depending on the amount of hydrilla, weather, etc. She explained that the major expense is herbicide and they have to rotate the types of herbicides they use depending on the conditions.

Mr. Hendrick asked about harvesting the hydrillas and Ms. Visscher stated that harvesteing is very expensive, with it costing way more than herbicides.

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Chairman Stone stated that in her opinion the Water Authority doesn't need to be doing aquatic plant control. She stated that there are already enough services in place to handle the problem, and the Agency has enough high priority projects that are more important to what the Water Authority does.

Mr. Farner stated that he doesn't think those agencies are getting the job done as it should be done.

Ms. Visscher stated that she understood his concerns, but they are doing the best they can under the circumstances. She also explained that one of the issues is the lack of stakeholder participation. She explained that when only fishermen show up at the public stakeholder meetings, it looks like people aren't concerned about hydrilla in the lakes. She noted that the latest meeting held in June was one of the first, where more citizens concerned about the amount of hydrilla in the lakes actually showed up.

She stated that there will be another stakeholder meeting on February 2, 2019 at Eustis Community Center from 6 pm until 8:30 pm. and they need concerned citizens to show up and voice their concerns.

Chairman Stone stated that these decisions happen in Tallahassee and the Water Authority does not have the power in Tallahassee that the Fish and Wildlife Commission does. She stated that on our own, the Water Authority is a very small dot and stated that it may not be what we want, but to do anything else is not feasible

Mr. Farner stated that he thinks the County employees should be working under the Water Authority, with the Water Authority managing the spraying. He stated that he thinks that Water Authority would be able to handle it if they were to hire more staff or absorb the existing County staff doing the job, but as things are now, he doesn't see the job getting done.

Mr. Hendrick asked what areas FWC directs currently and Ms. Visscher explained that they cover all the public lakes in Lake County and not just the Harris Chain.

Ms. Visscher explained that if the State Legislature were to give the Water Authority control over aquatic plant management and the funds, then FWC would only be handling the permitting. She stated that once you start dealing with the stakeholders, that will never go away.

She explained that if everything remained as it is, except for County staff working for the Water Authority and the Water Authority acting as a subcontractor for FWC, then FWC would still be making all the decisions on when and where to spray.

Chairman Stone stated that the Water Authority would still not be the decision maker and asked Mr. Farner just what he was asking to accomplish, and Mr. Farner stated that he wants the Water Authority to be the agency out there spraying.

Ms. Cox stated that she thinks they are missing a great source of funding as the tourism in Lake County is fishing, skiing, wakeboarding, and other water sports. She explained that she thinks they should be getting tourism money from the State toward spraying the lakes. She noted that

the cities also promote the lakes and use their waterfronts to draw tourism and they need to look at how to get tourism dollars for invasive plant management.

Mr. Hendrick asked what the magic number would be to get hydrilla under control and Ms. Visscher stated that they are at least 5 million dollars short, just for the Harris Chain.

Ms. Stokes stated that a lot of the Water Authority's concerns is that it is getting too out of control. She asked Ms. Visscher if the FWC had more money available now, would there be more hydrilla treatment or are the stakeholders saying they want the hydrilla.

Ms. Visscher stated that even if they had all the money they needed, they would still have to listen to the stakeholders. She stated that a lot of the fishermen want plants and hydrilla and they (FWC) have to compromise and work with all the stakeholders. She also explained that you can't treat all the time as a lot of things have to be taken into consideration such as water flow, weather, and other water conditions.

Ms. Stokes stated that she is concerned that the problem has become so big and the Water Authority wouldn't have the resources to take something like this over.

Mr. BonJorn stated that he has heard a lot about the problem but hasn't heard any solutions. He asked what they could do to make it better, and if there is a happy medium. He stated that there has to be a way to get it somewhat better.

Ms. Visscher stated that she needs the Water Authority's strong input on how they want hydrilla managed and staff and Board members need to attend the stakeholder meeting in Eustis and voice the Water Authority's concerns.

Mr. Perry stated that the Water Authority does not want to be the FWC, but rather looking at possibility of having the County operations under the Water Authority. He asked that the Board give him permission to speak with the County and the Tourist Development Council regarding additional funds and Mr. Farner stated that would be a good start.

Chairman Stone suggested that they open a conversation regarding having a more formal voice, possibly as a cooperator with FWC and having more of a voice/advisory role, as a possible alternative to taking on something the Water Authority doesn't have the resources for.

Mr. Farner stated that he wants to do everything we can to make sure job gets done right. They are dropping the ball and the Water Authority needs to get on top of it.

Ms. Cox suggested that they talk to the Lake County Manager and the County's Tourism and Development Department.

Mr. Perry stated that by creating cleaner water, we have encouraged the growth of hydrilla and then combined with the fact that after Hurricane Irma there was such a high flow of water that the hydrilla couldn't be treated, and that too has contributed to the problem.

Ms. Visscher agreed and stated that they are at the mercy of Mother Nature as they can't treat during storms, high flows and wind events. She stated that the Ph of the water also determines whether they can treat and what type of herbicides can be used.

She stated that after Hurricane Irma she has seen hydrilla in places that it has never grown before, such as in 15 feet of water. She also noted that they found hydrilla in Lake Dora for the first time this year, and it wasn't at a boat ramp, but on the west side of the lake.

Ms. Visscher Natalie noted that other areas where they have been battling hydrilla, native plants are starting to make a comeback. She explained that there is an area on Lake Griffin where it is very shallow where they have been battling hydrilla for many years, but now there is lots of eel grass and native plants coming back into the area.

d. Denham Muck Farm Partnership with City of Leesburg

Mr. Hart updated the Board on the proposed purchase of the Lake Denham Muck Farm. He stated that a month or two ago he and Maryann Krisovitch had discussed trying to find some joint funds from other agencies to help fund the cost of purchasing the muck farm. He explained that one of the concepts was because of the farm being located adjoining the City of Leesburg, is that they could speak with the City about providing funds for the project in exchange for some of the Nutrient Load Reduction Credits that the project will provide.

He stated that the City of Leesburg has a stormwater project that is currently under review along with a stormwater permit with the State that has certain load reductions that they would be required to meet for Lake Denham as well as Lake Harris. He stated that currently the City doesn't have any programs for stormwater that they are able to implement at this time that would help reduce those loadings within their city. He stated that this project would eliminate a huge amount of the loadings for the City.

He stated that he had explained to the City that if they tried to accommodate a similar amount of pollutant load reduction credits by implementing stormwater projects they would be looking at approximately 6.5 million dollars they would have to expend, but by participating in the purchase of property, they are getting the same amount of load reduction credits for only half a million dollars.

Mr. Hart explained that Ms. Krisovitch handles stormwater permitting for the City of Leesburg and she had spoken with the staff at the City regarding the project and recommended that they participate with the Water Authority in the acquisition of the property. He noted that when he and Mr. Perry went to speak the them, they were very open and willing to consider the proposal.

He stated that the staff at the City of Leesburg are recommending that the City provide a half of a million dollars toward the purchase of the property and it will be on the January 28th City Council's Agenda with a recommendation of approval.

He stated that the City Attorney and the City Manager have already reviewed the project, and everything seems to be moving forward positively, and that he thinks they there is a good chance of the funding being approved.

Mr. Hart stated that as things move ahead, he wanted to make sure that our Board was aware of the recommendation and approved of acquiring this funding. He stated that in exchange for the funding, the City of Leesburg is asking that a Conservation Easement be placed upon the property to ensure that the property will never be able to return to a muck farm, dump site, etc. in the future, that would cause the discharge of phosphorous loading from the site to go back into the lake.

He explained that staff is asking for the Board's approval to appear before the City of Leesburg's Council and hopefully get their approval to provide a half of a million dollars that would be payable to the Water Authority once they Water Authority has closed on the property, and the Board's approval to allow the Conservation Easement to the City of Leesburg. He stated that he had provided the Board with copies of the documents in the board memos but noted that there have been some minor changes in wording of the conservation easement and changes to the signature page, along with other minor changes, but there were no substantial changes.

Ms. Cox asked about whether all covenants and easements would run with the land and wouldn't end with any change in ownership and Mr. Hart stated that they do.

Mr. Farner asked if the Water Authority still plans to purchase the property, even if they don't get funding from the City of Leesburg and Mr. Hart stated yes, as long as the Board is still in approval. Mr. Hart explained that the Lake County Water Authority would be purchasing the property, and the City of Leesburg would be providing the Water Authority a half a million dollars in exchange for load reduction credits and conservation easement.

He noted that half a million dollars is approximately one-third of the cost of the property, so the City of Leesburg will be receiving one-third of the loading credits available on the property.

Mr. Farner asked if that means there will be more credits available in the future, and Mr. Hart stated that there would be and explained that he has approached the County about load reduction credits as they need even more loading credits than the City of Leesburg, due to septic tanks, but they don't having any funding in their stormwater program at this time to offset the credits that they need.

Mr. Farner asked when the Water Authority would close on the property and Mr. Hart explained that the Phase Two Environmental Study is being done now and they are waiting on results of tests which should be in around the end of February.

Mr. Farner noted that the Lake Denham Muck Farm is the largest point source of phosphorous entering the Harris Chain at this time. He stated that this purchase is the easiest and cheapest solution in solving this issue.

Mr. BonJorn asked if the additional credit left on the property could be sold at a future date and possibly be used to help with the hydrilla problem that we currently don't have the funds for and Mr. Hart stated that there is the possibility that we may be able to recoup additional money at a later date.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF LEESBURG. It was noted that a motion wasn't needed, and Ms. Cox withdrew her motion.

Mr. Perry stated that staff has sufficient direction without a motion and staff would talk to the City of Leesburg and to their Council, and if there are any changes, staff will bring them back to the Board.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Tuite addressed the Board and stated that he has attended several meetings of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council. He stated that in their 2018 End of the Year Report the Council is recommending the construction of a canal from Lake Apopka to Little Lake Harris.

He noted that there are representatives from several government organizations at these meeting, including FWC and DEP, and no one ever says anything in response to that recommendation.

He explained that he would like Lake County Water Authority's support to end this initiative. He stated that the Water Authority has put so much time and effort into the NuRF and cleaning the lakes, for a canal to be built that would be used to flush water from Lake Apopka into Little Lake Harris, in the event of another Hurricane.

He stated that that are several suggestions as to how to control the water, but this one is the absolute worst suggestion of what could be done.

Mr. Perry stated that he is on the Technical Advisory Committee to the Harris Chain Restoration Council and the reason there hasn't been something said is that the Council has been kicking this idea around for some time and it has never has had anything of real substance.

He stated that it sounds like that after their workshop at the Blue House, they would like to move forward with this concept. He stated that there would be a lot of technical issues they would have to overcome if they ever want to bring this concept to fruition.

Mr. Perry explained that this report is the Council's report to the Legislature which they are required to do, but it doesn't mean they have any authorization. He stated that it is very unlikely that this would ever be built as the Council has no money and no authority to build such a canal.

Mr. Tuite stated that he would like to make sure that this idea doesn't go forward and could use the Water Authority's help, as he doesn't know where you would go to make sure that it doesn't.

He stated as an aside, that he felt introducing carp into the lakes would be a good way to handle the growth of hydrilla.

Ms. Cox stated that the Water Authority would be absolutely against this and no one knowing the history of Lake Apopka would ever consider it.

Mr. Tuite asked if the Water Authority could put their opposition on record and Ms. Cox asked about getting a copy of the report. Mr. Perry stated that he would be able to get copies to

distribute to the Board. Ms. Cox stated that she was sure the Water Authority could draft a letter stating their opposition to the canal.

Ms. Cox and Mr. Farner stated that they would not be in favor of constructing a canal from Lake Apopka to Little Lake Harris. Mr. Farner also noted that he would not be in favor of introduction carp into Lake Harris to control the growth of hydrilla as Mr. Tuite had suggested earlier.

Joseph Bracciale addressed the Board and stated that he would like to re-establish communication between the community he lives in and the Water Authority. He stated that he feels they can discuss their situation and really try to find a solution.

He stated that he'd like to work with the Board regarding the Tammi Canal because it does affect the entire Chain.

He stated that there are 42 inches of muck across a 300-foot wide canal that is a state-owned waterway and not a residential canal, and the muck is just waiting to make its way into the rest of the Chain.

He stated that he understands that the Board has taken the position that they are not going to dredge that area, and his goal moving forward is to present the position of a lot of the individual residents of a borderline desire to take legal action.

He stated that a lot of people feel that a precedence was set when they dredged in 2010 and that it wasn't dredged out of the goodness of the heart, but because it was realized that there was a muck issue in the Apopka-Beauclair Canal.

Mr. Bracciale stated that in communications with the FWC and St. Johns River Water Management District it was specifically stated that "dredging to remove organic sediments from the Harris Chain of Lakes is an important lake management restoration tool. Removal of organic muck sediment from lake systems fosters the reestablishment of beneficial aquatic plants providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife."

He stated that his house is not affected but he feels like the muck is not just affecting whether people can get in and out.

He stated that with the precedence of the dredging in 2010 and the ownership of the Lake County Water Authority to dredge the canal, people have felt there has been negligence. He stated that the claims that yard debris could be a big part of it when a Board member essentially provided evidence of clearing areas of water and dumping it on the banks.

He stated that residents feel there has been negligence in addressing the issue and stated that he would be coming to more meetings and trying to understand what the Water Authority Board can and cannot do.

Chairman Stone stated that the Water Authority is not trying to be contentious over the issue, its merely a responsibility and a line in the sand.

She noted that what Vice Chair Maimone did was as a resident and citizen and was paid for by residents of the canal and there is precedence that they (*the residents*) have maintained the canal in the past. She also noted that at the time of the dredge, everyone signed a notice stating they understood (*it was one-time dredge*).

She explained that the dredging of the canals was an add-on to an existing dredging project in the same area, so there were no additional mobilization and demobilization fees. She stated that the Water Authority didn't just go out to dredge those residential canals.

Chairman Stone stated that she understands that it is not great to live on a canal that you cannot navigate, but the Agency has a duty to take care of the entire county and all the constituents of the county.

She stated that personally, as a taxpayer, she would be pretty upset if I thought somebody's canal was being dredged using my tax money, when I knew that money could be going to the restoration of Lake Yale or another project that would have a much bigger impact to more constituents of the county.

She noted that she knows that doesn't sound fair to someone that lives in that specific location, but they must look at it from a larger perspective.

Mr. Bracciale stated that his understanding is that because it is a state-owned waterway, technically all waivers that were signed from anybody living on that waterway were essentially waiving the liability of possible damage to their seawalls and docks, but technically not waiving the right to have the canal dredged, as there is no actual ownership by each individual homeowner. He stated that the residents couldn't sign away their rights to have it dredge as they don't own any part of that waterway.

He asked that if the Water Authority is not able to assist in the dredging of the canal, do feel they can help them find the resources to get grants or get help with dredging.

Mr. Perry suggested that he get with staff, and Chairman Stone stated that the Water Authority wants to be good neighbors and told Mr. Bracciale to please feel free to talk to staff regarding his concerns.

The Board took a break at 5:27 pm and returned at 5:50 pm.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION ITEMS:

e. NuRF Evaluation Proposal

Mr. Hart explained the procedure for awarding contracts for Engineering Services. He stated that there is a formal procedure called the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act that allows Agency's to solicit for engineering firms to perform work for the Agency. He stated that they are not allowed to select engineering firms by price, but instead much select them by their qualifications.

He explained that four years ago the Water Authority had released a proposal to contract for Engineering Services and had received responses from multiple firms, from which the staff and Board had selected four of the top firms that would best meet the needs of the Water Authority.

He stated that after the firms were selected, they then negotiated a price with those firms, based on labor hours for the different positions they have on staff, and those prices remain the same for the length of the contract.

Mr. Hart explained that over the last few years, the Water Authority has given multiple projects to the other companies under contract, but this is the first project the Agency is looking to award to Pegasus. He stated that one reason Pegasus was selected because they have Environmental Research and Design as a sub-consultant.

He explained that Environmental Research and Design is the firm that designed the NuRF and because they are not one of the four firms engineering firms the Water Authority has under contract, they cannot go directly to them to negotiate a contract, but they can work with them with them a sub under Pegasus.

Mr. Hart explained that the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act allows the Water Authority to hire a firm to perform any study or procedure that would provide recommendations to the Board. He noted that the amount that can be awarded for the study is limited to \$200,000 under the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act and explained that the Water Authority could award the actual project to the same company, as long as the projected cost of the project does not exceed two million dollars.

He explained that agencies do this because it saves time and money as they don't have to go out to bid and solicit proposals for every project they do repeatedly. He stated that this allows them to start work as soon as possible rather than going through a procedure each time that takes about six months or more to complete to the point of hiring a firm.

Mr. Hart explained that several months ago Mr. Farner had asked staff to look at the NuRF and see if there are ways to make improvements to the facility and resolve some of the issues we've had during the hurricanes and periods of high flow, as well as the flooding on site and the disposal of the wet material. He also wanted them to investigate any way to improve the efficiency of the facility and ways to improve the process so that they can process additional sediment.

Mr. Hart explained that if a project or process suggested in the study is two million dollars or less, it could be awarded to the designer or any of the other contracted engineers. He stated that if the cost is over two million dollars, then the project would have to go back out to bid.

Mr. Hart explained that the proposal includes five major evaluations:

- Recommendations of improvements to the disposal area
- Recommendations to the dredged processing facility (centrifuge area)
- Modifications to the alum mixing area (aeration area)
- Alternatives to reduce dredge equipment failures

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- Options to address inflow debris that accumulates on the inflow bollards and on the bottom of the ponds

He explained that staff has brought this to the Board as the quickest way to execute the process, but if the Board would rather put it out to bid, they can, but this process makes it quicker.

Mr. Farner asked if there was a timeframe for when the study would be completed, and Mr. Hart stated that it would probably be three to four months, contingent of the surveyor's schedule, with it taking up to six months at the most.

Mr. BonJorn asked if there are any expectations as to what we are trying to achieve, and it was explained that the direction being given is to see if there are better or more cost-effective technology and practical solutions available.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he would like to see it put out for an RFP or RFQ and see if there is something better out there. He believes there is new innovative technology out there. He stated that the St Johns River Water Management District does it all the time to see what is out there and to come up with new ideas.

It was explained that the plan is for Pegasus to look at two or three viable alternatives for each of the items being evaluated.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he would still rather put it out there for new ideas, put everything on hold for three months or so to look at any new technologies that might be available rather than spending money on repairs on something that they may not end up keeping.

Chairman Stone stated that hurricane season is coming, and we cannot afford not to fix the equipment while we look at options.

Mr. Farner stated that the NuRF is critical to the Harris Chain of Lakes and it needs to be operational. He stated that it was never meant to be a permanent solution, although it looks like we will have it for a while.

Chairman Stone explained that with this project with Pegasus, the Water Authority is asking Pegasus to come up with multiple solutions on the five major operations, not to design or engineer the project but to evaluate what needs, what can be done and what new technology may be available.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he wants to have the most efficient technologies and processes possible and Chairman Stone stated that is what the Board is doing with this process. She explained that Pegasus is being hired to do a study that will look at the whole process and then look for different ways of making it better. She stated that they would be bringing different alternatives and costs to the Board.

Mr. Hart stated that they could ask Pegasus to add chapter comparing new viable technologies to the report. The representative from Pegasus stated that they would add that summary into the study.

Chairman Stone noted that Pegasus is being hired to look at different options not to choose an option.

It was noted that the options for the Board's consideration are:

1. Contract with Pegasus Engineering for the work as proposed.
2. Negotiate a smaller contract with a reduced scope of work.
3. Create a new Request for Proposals and solicit firms to submit qualifications.
4. Take no action and continue to operate the facility as currently designed.

Option 1 would allow work to begin immediately. Option 2 would delay work by 2 to 3 weeks. Option 3 would delay work for at least 3 months and Option 4 would halt any professional review.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT OPTION 1. AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A WORK ORDER WITH PEGASUS ENGINEERING FOR THE WORK AS PROPOSED TO INCLUDE A FINAL CHAPTER ON NEW TECHNOLOGY AS DISCUSSED. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

f. Approval to Award Alum Residual Removal Bid

Mr. Hendrick stated that he felt they could go another six to eight months without having to worry about running out of storage area, and that he didn't think they needed to address this issue at this time.

Mr. Perry stated that the only bid received they had received was for \$145 per truckload which is \$45 more per load than what they are paying now. He stated that staff would like to reject all bids and consider other alternatives.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW STAFF TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OPTION TO DISPOSE OF ALUM RESIDUAL OFF-SITE. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

g. Approval to Award NuRF Centrifuge Maintenance Bid

Dr. Danaher informed the Board that the Centrifuge had hit 8,000 hours in December, making it time for a scheduled major maintenance and service to the centrifuge to replace major seals, etc. He stated that this maintenance is essential to prevent breakdowns and costly repairs.

He stated that he had spoken to manufacturer of the centrifuge and got list of the parts that would be required and put the request out to bid. He noted that one stipulation of the bid was that the work needed to be done on-site.

He explained that there was one bid response from GEA Westfalia Separator Inc. and the maintenance would take about four weeks to complete.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AWARD THE BID TO GEA WESTFALIA SEPERATOR INC. AS A RESTRICTED SOURCE TO PERFORM SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE ON THE NURF CENTRIFUGE IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$57,600. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked how long it is going to take to finish clearing the West Pond and Dr. Danaher estimated that it is going to take at least another three weeks.

Dr. Danaher noted that the scheduled maintenance to the centrifuge wouldn't start until sometime in February.

Motion approved 6-0

h. Approval to Award NuRF Roadway Around Ponds Bid

Dr. Danaher stated that they had gone out to bid and the bid responses are back. He explained that over the last year with the wet conditions the grass berms have eroded quite a bit and they need to improve the condition of the roadways around the berms. He stated that it is especially dangerous working at night and they don't want to have anyone going over the edge of the berms and into a pond.

He explained that BESH Engineering had created the design and helped with the bid documents and will provide some on-site support during the construction. He stated that the roadway would be a twelve-foot road around the perimeter of the ponds and between the ponds

He noted that staff had received three bid responses and are recommending Valencia Construction Group out of Winter Garden, as they were the lowest bidder.

Ms. Cox asked if BESH is confident that Valencia Construction would be able to do the job since their bid was so much lower, and Dr. Danaher stated that BESH is confident in Valencia's bid response.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he thought the only access they needed at this time was to the west pond. He stated that the center roadway is being used at this time to access and repair the slope failure and it not really needed at this time. He asked if it wouldn't be better to only do the part we need at this time and wait until they got the results of the study.

Mr. Farner stated that it would cost more to break the project into parts and Chairman Stone agreed.

Mr. Hendrick stated that a contractor would probably do the fifty-feet or so that he felt was needed, at a relatively low cost or staff could do it themselves. He stated that they don't need access to the north part of the pond at this time. He suggested if they could put it off until they get the report back from Pegasus, as they might have a better idea on what to do with the ponds and the roads.

Mr. Hart that they need to have access to the north side of the ponds when they are dredging that area as they need to be able to inspect the dredges to insure they are not hanging up on vegetation and to inspect the cutter heads. He stated that they also need access to stop and reverse the direction of the dredges when they reach the end of the pond.

Mr. Hendrick stated that there is nothing to dredge on the north side of the pond at this time and it would be quite a while before they would need to dredge that end of the pond.

Dr. Danaher stated that the west pond is pretty well cleaned out, but they are going to need to use the roadway to access the east pond and process the material in that pond.

Chairman Stone noted that hurricane season is coming, and Dr. Danaher stated that there was 7.5 inches of rain in December which just dried out, but another half-inch is predicted for tomorrow which will destroy the roadways again.

Dr. Danaher stated that when you are out there at 2 am and there is no one to call for help, it good to have confidence that you aren't going to get stuck.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he thought that they could probably put off repairing the roadway until after Pegasus completes their study, as it might all change if Pegasus comes back with a design that changes the design of the ponds and roadways.

Chairman Stone stated that the first stage is the study, but any project to upgrade the NuRF that might result from Pegasus' study would be at least four or five years away, as they would need time to budget and save for the project. She stated that they need to keep the site maintained until that time.

Mr. Hart stated the conditions are severe and the roadway is very slippery, and trucks are slipping sideways. He explained that they are still dredging the north end of the pond and need to use the road for access.

Dr. Danaher explained that staff also needs to access the outfall portion for water quality testing and they need to use the road between the ponds for that access. He also explained that many school groups and others visit the NuRF and staff uses a large trailer to take them for tours around the ponds and staff would not be able to do that safely with the road in the condition it is now. Ms. Stokes was in agreement.

Mr. Farner stated that his major concern is safety and he doesn't want anything to happen to staff or visitors.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AWARD THE NURF ROAD IMPROVEMENT BID TO VALENCIA CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC. AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$125,515. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion

Motion approved 6-0

- i. Approval of Budget Transfers

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER BUDGET FUNDS \$447,815 FROM 9898710-860610 LAND ACQUISITIONS AND \$250,000 FROM 9898710-830460 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER ABOVE NOTED FUNDS TO: 9898710-830340 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$120,000, SITE IMPROVEMENTS \$515,815, AND 9898710-860640 MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT \$62,000.

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS A CHANGE ORDER TO PURCHASE ORDER 20190785 DAWSON EXCAVATING TO RECLASSIFY THE EXPENDITURE FROM 9898710-830460 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE TO 9898710-860610 SITE IMPROVEMENTS. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked if the funds for the contract to remove the material was part of the money and Mr. Perry noted that it was just a small amount of \$20,000 that had to be put in the right place.

Motion approved 6-0

j. NuRF Update and Approval of Additional Slope Repair

Dr. Danaher updated the Board on the projects going on at the NuRF and reported that the west pond outfall gate actuator had been repaired and is back in place and the west outfall gate is able to open and close as it should. He noted that now that the west pond actuator is operational, the east pond actuator has been sent out for repairs.

Mr. Perry noted that in the process they have learned a bit more about how to better maintain the actuators and gears, so that they shouldn't have issues like that again.

Mr. Hendrick asked if the St. Johns River Water Management District remotely controls the gates and Dr. Danaher stated that they do. He explained that they have the ability to control the gates from off-site and the District controls the flow of water through the facility. He stated that the Water Authority maintains all the equipment, but this particular equipment is operated by the District.

Dr. Danaher showed a picture on one of the outfall canals and explained that a contractor was hired to grout and seal the leaks in the canals and stated that this project has been completed.

He also updated them on the east pond stabilization project. He stated that in October the Board had authorized an Emergency Declaration not to exceed \$400,000 to repair the 250 to 260 linear feet of the east pond embankment that had collapsed. He stated that Dawson Excavating out of Leesburg were contracted to do the work and showed a picture of the progress and explained the process.

He noted that that in December, another 100 linear feet of the slope in a different location had also collapsed from all the rain. He stated that this is at the inflow site and is crucial part of the slope and takes a lot of pressure from Lake Apopka rocking back and forth and needs to be repaired and reinforced.

He noted that there are several options for the repair, but because it's such a crucial site, rather than just bringing in fill material and recreating the pond slope, staff thought it best to install vertical beams and using the same techniques as the first repair. He stated that this repair would take an additional \$89,500 and would bring the total contractual services to the \$376,500 which is still below the original amount not to exceed of \$400,000.

Dr. Danaher stated that although it is hard to tell the hauling off of the muck continues, and over 100 loads have been removed.

He stated that another thing they are going to investigate is using crushed concrete blocks to pack down and tamp down parts of the storage area. He showed a picture of a small portion of the storage where the contractor hauling off the muck had used crushed block to pack down the mud in the containment area.

He explained that he has spoken to Jimmy Wise at the landfill on 561 and he stated that they have a lot of debris available that they can use to do the same to tamp down some of the current muddy conditions

Dr. Danaher stated that they are continuing to dredge in the west pond and are down to the last twenty percent to be dredged. He explained that this area hadn't been dredged or drained since the hurricane and it is packed down, making it a slower process.

He also noted that temporary staffing is back in place and explained that Water Authority staff and temporary staff are working two shifts a day, five days a week.

Mr. Farner asked how much is coming out of the centrifuge each day and suggested that the truck pick the material up straight from the centrifuge and Dr. Danaher explained that they are picking up two or three loads a day straight from the pad.

Mr. Hendrick stated that he felt that the storage area could be managed better, and Dr. Danaher noted that they have a newly retired volunteer that loves to drive a dozer and explained that he comes out 3 or 4 days a week to run the dozer and consolidate the piles of material.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EAST POND REPAIRS OF \$89,500 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH DAWSON EXCAVATING LLC IN TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$376,500. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

- k. Authorization to Submit a Speed Limitation Permit to FWC for Waterside Point

Mr. Hart explained that this request comes from the City of Groveland, Sean Parks, and residents of Waterside Point. He noted that Waterside Point is on the Clermont Chain just off Lake Minneola. He explained that there is a canal that runs along the north side of the development and residents are asking for a speed zone on that canal.

Ms. Cox asked what about the main canal into Lake Palatlahaha, and Mr. Hart stated that we cannot get a permit to the main canal and Florida Fish and Wildlife has stated that they will not permit that canal. He explained that in order to get a speed zone on the northern canal, they are not to mention the main canal, or they will not hear the request.

Mr. Hart explained that Florida Fish and Wildlife is responsible for issuing permits for speed zones and they have made it clear that they will not permit a speed zone on the main canal. He stated that staff has spoken with them several times and every time FWC has denied the request.

Mr. Farner asked who they have been speaking with and Mr. Hart stated that his name is Lamonte Nelson and explained that Mr. Nelson had stated that they will issue a permit for the north canal if it is requested.

Mr. Farner stated that the Water Authority could put their own sign up on the main canal and Mr. Hart explained that we would then be in violation of Florida Statutes and Florida Fish and Wildlife would then do an enforcement against the Agency.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE FOR GROVELAND'S APPROVAL THEN PERMIT AND INSTALL THE SIGNS FOR the REAR CANAL AT WATERSIDE POINT. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like to look further into the main canal as he doesn't recall the Water Authority requesting it through the proper channels.

Mr. Hart stated that he would provide Mr. Farner with that information. He explained that for the Florida Fish and Wildlife to even consider permitting a speed zone on the main canal, they would require the Water Authority to hire a consultant to do a traffic study over an extended period of time. He noted that conducting the traffic study would not guarantee that the permit would be issued, it would only mean that they would consider the request.

Motion approved 6-0.

Ms. Cox left the meeting.

1. Approval of new Site Resident at the M-5 Structure

Mr. Hart explained that at M-5 the Water Authority owns the property, however the site resident owns the mobile home on the property. He stated that the current site resident has purchased a home in another location and will no longer be living on the site.

He explained that the mobile home has been sold to another Lake County Deputy, Deputy Joshua Faust, and staff has informed him of the responsibilities of living on the site as well as the lease and \$500 deposit requirements.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN M-5 SITE RESIDENT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DEPUTY FAUST. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 6-0.

m. Authorization to Contract with the University of Florida for Alum Residual Research

Dr. Danaher stated that byproducts similar to the material produced at the NuRF have been used for agricultural purposes. He explained that the University of Florida does a lot of research to support farmers in the area and has agreed to evaluate the material for uses as weed management or container media.

He stated that there are lots of nurseries throughout Lake County that could potentially use the material to mix in the soil they use to grow their plants, which could potentially provide an alternative use for the material.

He explained that the research would support a Master student over the next year, to perform several trials on plant growth and health, to see if the material can be used for agricultural services.

MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, AS A RESTRICTED SOURCE, TO SUPPORT RESEARCH TRIALS USING ALUM RESIDUAL FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Peggy asked about the funding and Dr. Danaher explained that the research funding is already in the budget and allocated specifically for this research project.

Motion approved 6-0.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice stated that she had received an email from the attorney for the county that is in possession of the restrooms for Sawgrass Preserve and stated that they are ready to move ahead on it. She noted that she had previously sent him an email prior to the December Board Meeting asking whether they were in possession of the restrooms and what their position was and that she had never received an answer from them.

She stated that in December the Board had decided they were going to walk away from the deal, so when she received this email, she had responded that information to him and informed him that the Board had decided it wasn't going to move forward. She noted that she hadn't heard anything from the attorney in response.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that he had recently heard from a government agency in Tennessee that had lost \$100,000 to UBC Precast for restrooms that were never delivered.

Attorney Barice also noted that recently there was a dispute regarding the fence to the north side of the soccer field. She explained that the soccer club had removed and replaced the fence along that side and the adjoining property owner had objected.

She noted that the attorney for property owner had contacted her and she said informed him that the Water Authority did not intend to get into litigation over it.

She stated that she had spoken to Mr. Perry about the issues, and he had spoken to the soccer club and asked them to work with the property owner to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Stone stated that she would like to remind everyone to read their packets prior to the coming to the meeting and to call staff with any questions before the Board meeting. She also reminded them that there would be a Chairman’s Workshop on February 20, 2019 at 3 pm and it would be held at the Lake County Water Authority Office.

Mr. Perry stated that having this large of an agenda was unusual and that the Board did a great job working their way through it.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Farner asked that staff look into the possibility of a research grant with the University of Florida on chemical engineering and the possibility for a better solution to hydrilla.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – December 2018

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.