

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
September 23, 2020**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Amy Stone, Chairman (#5)
Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)
Trampis BonJorn (#2)
Peggy Cox (#1)
Keith Farner (At-Large)
Butch Hendrick (#4)
Courtney Stokes (At-Large)

Staff Present

Ron Hart, Executive Director
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Resources Director
Steve Crawford, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager
Brian Nagy, Field Services Manager
Tracey Percoco, Financial Analyst
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Kevin Stone, Attorney

A list of others present that signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Water Authority.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. and everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tab 1 - August 19, 2020 - Regular Meeting
- September 9, 2020 - Tentative Budget Hearing

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF - AUGUST 19, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Approved 6-0.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF – SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 – TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Approved 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Ms. Cox entered the meeting.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Hart gave a report on the rainfall and current lake levels. He noted that Lake Minnehaha is just under 97.1 msn at 97.06 msn. He stated that flows from Big and Little Creek are down from last year, which means that the lakes levels are holding steady.

He noted that we are entering the dry season with less water and total rainfall than last year.

Mr. Hart stated that the Harris Chain is well above regulation with the District discharging over the spillway at the Apopka-Beauclair Lock and Dam. He noted that the District has stated that they plan to lower the flow over the spillway sometime this week. He stated that due to this flow, Lake Dora is well above regulation. He noted that the District is also making significant discharges through the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam in order to keep Lake Griffin within regulation.

Maryann Krisovitch, Water Authority Education Contractor addressed the Board and noted the promotional items that had been placed at their stations. She noted that they would be given away at educational events over the next year. She explained that they will be including different venues and events than they have participated in in the past, in an effort to reach citizens that they might not have reached before.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA EXCEPT FOR 5, 7 AND 8 WHICH WERE PULLED AND PLACED ON THE REGULAR AGENDA. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 2 a. Approval of Site Resident Leases and Hickory Point Resident Lease

Ben Gugliotti

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH THE WATER AUTHORITY SITE RESIDENTS AT THE CROOKED RIVER PRESERVE, SAWGRASS ISLAND PRESERVE, BOURLAY HISTORIC NATURE PARK, FLAT ISLAND PRESERVE, THE M-5 WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE AND HICKORY POINT PARK.

Tab 3 b. Approval to Renew Agreement with Lake County For Citizens Lake Monitoring

Jason Danaher

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-2021 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE THE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOR THE LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000.

Tab 4 c. Approval of Agreement with USGS for Water Level Monitoring Jason Danaher

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-21 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE USGS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$153,930.

Tab 6 e. Approval of Blanket Purchase Orders

Tracey Percoco

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-21 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS FOR FY 2020-21 FOR THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES UP TO THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

Sumter Electric.....	\$120,500
City of Tavares.....	\$68,500
WEX	\$20,000
Lake County Board of County Commissioners	\$154,615
Florida League of Cities	\$72,275
Lake County Sheriff.....	\$457,900
Jani- King of Orlando	\$10,600
Comcast (Xfinity)	\$6,500
Verizon Wireless	\$7,000
Vonage	\$4,000
Star Security	\$4,000

Tab 9 h. Land Management Services Agreement Time Extension

Ben Gugliotti

AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT TIME FOR THE FOUR LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH ALSHOUSE & ASSOCIATES, LLC, GREEN ISLES GARDENS, INC., HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC, AND PROMISE HABITAT SERVICES, LLC THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

Tab 10 i. Prescribed Fire Services Agreement Time Extension Ben Gugliotti

AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT TIME FOR THE THREE PRESCRIBED FIRE SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH ATKINS NORTH AMERICA, INC., HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC, AND PROMISE HABITAT SERVICES, LLC THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

Tab 11 j. Approval to Extend Contract with Wendy Sellers, the HR Lady, For Outside Human Resources Services Ben Garcia

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-21 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXTEND THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH WENDY SELLERS, THE HR LADY, FOR OUTSIDE HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000.

Tab 12 k. Approval to Renew Contracts with Education and Naturalist Contractors Ben Garcia

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-21 BUDGET APPROVAL DIRECT THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH MS. MARYANN KRISOVITCH, EDUCATION CONTRACTOR, AND DR. MARC CRAIL, NATURALIST CONTRACTOR, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000 EACH.

Tab 13 l. Approval of Agreement with Trout Lake Nature Center Ron Hart

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-21 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND APPROVE THE DISBURSEMENT OF \$30,000 TO THE TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER.

Tab 14 m. Approval of Agreement with the Lake County Sheriff For Marine Patrol Deputies Jason Danaher

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-21 BUDGET APPROVAL, APPROVE THE AMENDED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR 4 MARINE UNIT DEPUTIES AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$457,900.

6. REGULAR AGENDA

Tab 5 d. Approval of Purchase Orders for Alum and Polymer Jason Danaher

- 1) **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION THAT PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-2021 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO CHEMTRADE FOR UP TO \$2,000,000.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendrick requested to reduce this to \$1,000,000

Motion approved 6-1 with Mr. Hendrick in opposition.

- 2) **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION THAT PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-2021 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR POLYMER TO FORT BEND SERVICES FOR \$145,000 AND NALCO FOR \$5,000.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 7 f. Approval to Transfer Funds to Cover Former Executive's Payout Tracey Percoco

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$35,000 FROM BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER 100-123 ADMINISTRATION – FINAL LV PAYOUT AND \$10,000 FROM BUDGET LINE ITEM 710-340 WATER RESOURCES - OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO 100-111 ADMINISTRATION – FINAL LV PAYOUT. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Mr. Hart explained that there had not been enough money in the proper department and line item to cover Mr. Perry’s Final Leave Payout and that in order to reconcile the budget, \$45,000 needed to be transferred into the proper line item.

Ms. Cox stated that she was against the Leave Payout. Mr. Hart explained that the money had already been paid to Mr. Perry, but funding needed to be moved around within the budget in order for it to balance.

Motion approved 6-1 with Ms. Cox in opposition.

Tab 8 g. Approval of Agreement with the USDA for Nuisance Wildlife Removal

Ben Gugliotti

MR. FARNERS MADE A MOTION THAT PENDING THE FINAL FY 2020-2021 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES FOR NUISANCE WILDLIFE REMOVAL AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021. Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion

Mr. Farner stated that he has no problems with continuing the agreement but would also like to look into allowing staff members that have indicated an interest in the removal of feral pigs to do so.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 15 a. SJRWMD Lake County Program Updates

Ron Hart

Dale Jenkins, Director for the Division of Projects for the SJRWMD gave a report on District Projects that effect Lake County, such as the flow-way and other projects to remove nutrients from Lake Apopka that would otherwise enter Lake County.

He also reported that the District has installed cameras at the Burrell Lock and Dam and the Harris Bayou. He explained that not only would this provide additional security, it will give them a real-time view of what is happening at each location and will help when adjusting the flow.

Mr. Jenkins also reported on several Cost Share Projects the District has participated in with different cities and government agencies in Lake County, as well as District Construction Projects such as the Lake Apopka Innovative TP Removal Project.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Jenkins for his presentation and update on current projects.

Mr. Farner asked Mr. Jenkins about the possible use of District land to provide a location for the discharge of alum waste from NuRF. Chairman Stone stated that she and Mr. Hart have a meeting scheduled with St. Johns next weekend and update the Board once they had that conversation.

Tab 16 b. LCWA Legislative Delegation Request

Ron Hart

Mr. Hart stated that staff is requesting that the Board give approval for the Chairman, or Mr. Hart to speak to our Legislative Delegation in regards to insuring that there is sufficient funding available for hydrilla treatment in the Harris Chain of Lakes and well as a request for funding of 50% of the proposed capital improvements at the Nutrient Removal Facility for an amount of \$2.25 million.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH OUR LEGISLATORS AND PRESENT A FUNDING REQUEST FOR 50% OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT

THE NUTRIENT REMOVAL FACILITY FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$2.25 MILLION.

Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner asked if this would tie the Agency into a certain design or plan and Mr. Hart stated that it would require us to make improvements to the facility improvements that would increase our ability to treat capacity and additional nutrients. In response to Mr. Farner, Mr. Hart explained that they are not submitting the request to be tied to any particular plan or methodology.

Motion approved 7-0.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH OUR LEGISLATORS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING IS APPROPRIATED FOR TREATMENT OF HYDRILLA IN THE HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES.

Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he has been talking Attorney Stone may be a way through legal means that by statute to compel the State to provide more funding that they have been.

Ms. Cox asked if they (the Water Authority) have included any funding in the budget for hydrilla treatment and Mr. Hart stated that there is no money in the upcoming budget for hydrilla treatment. She noted that there are some people and organizations that are against hydrilla treatment and have been lobbying some of our legislatures to no use this kind of treatment in our waterbodies.

Mr. Hart stated that unlike citizens on the Kissimmee Chain, Lake County citizens are generally supportive of controlling hydrilla. He noted that Florida Fish and Wildlife is aware that the citizens of Lake County have a different mindset than those on the Kissimmee Chain.

Motion approved 7-0.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS THE CHAMBER ALLIANCE OF LAKE COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR.

Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 17 c. Volleyball Site Improvements

Ron Hart

Mr. Hart informed the Board Lake County has been working on a plan to reduce stormwater runoff into the volleyball courts. He stated that they plan to install an underdrain beneath the courts that will allow for the storage and percolation of stormwater below the surface.

He stated that the County also will be providing improvements designed to enhance the facility such as a series of new sidewalks from the roadway to the courts and along the north and east edges of the sand courts. He stated that the sidewalks will be gently sloping to meet ADA requirements, except the stairs at the northeast corner. He noted that there will also be an adjoining short retaining wall that will serve as bench seating.

He stated that they also plan to place a giant volleyball at the entrance to the facility near the road, which will signify the entrance to the facility and serve as a photo opportunity.

Tab 18 d. Authorization to Release a Request for Information on NuRF Sediment Disposal

Jason Danaher

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RELEASE AN RFI TO SOLICIT RESPONSES FROM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ALUM RESIDUAL AND ITS REUSE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA.

Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 19 e. Request for Qualifications - Future NuRF Improvements

Jason Danaher

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REJECT ALL RESPONSES TO RFQ 2020-09 FOR NURF IMPROVEMENTS. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 20 f. Hickory Point Deck Repair Bid Results Ben Gugliotti

- 1) **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ESX CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE HICKORY POINT DECKING REPAIR PROJECT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$160,000.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

- 2) **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION THAT IF FOR ANY REASON, STAFF IS UNABLE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT WITH ESX CONSTRUCTION OR IF THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE NOT MET, AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JOHN MURPHY FOR THE HICKORY POINT DECKING REPAIR PROJECT FOR A COMBINED COST NOT EXCEED \$161,644.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

Tab 21 g. Centrifuge Repair and Pond Dredging Update Steve Crawford

Mr. Crawford gave PowerPoint presentation regarding the damage to the centrifuge and the different options available to make it operational.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A NEW SCROLL FROM WASFALIA, SHIP OLD SCROLL TO WESFALIA FOR EXCHANGE, AND CONTRACT GEA TO SERVICE THE EXISTING CENTRIFUGE BOWL AND DRY END IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 300,000. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

7. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Attorney Stone informed the Board that he has been working with staff on real estate issues regarding Scrub Point, Burrell Lock and Dam and the two properties near Lake Yale. He noted that he recently had a chance to visit the newly acquired property at Lake Denham.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hendrick asked Mr. Hart if he had heard anything regarding their request to tour the Phosphorous Free project on Lake Apopka. Mr. Hart stated that staff would speak with them again to see if they are open to giving a tour of facility yet.

Mr. Farner asked about the progress on his request for a list of Legislative Delegates contact information and the contact information for other departments that deal with hydrilla and invasive plant removal. He also asked for a list of approved herbicides that could be provided to the public.

Mr. Hart stated that Ms. Ely has been putting together for a list of contacts that handle invasive plant removal and a list of our Legislative Delegates. He stated that staff would contact Nathalie Visscher, with Florida Fish and Wildlife, for a list of approved herbicides. Mr. Farner asked that this topic be brought back to the Board on next month's agenda.

Mr. Farner also asked staff to look into providing uniforms and uniform cleaning service for Field Staff, so that the Agency has a unified look on the job site and are easily identifiable.

Mr. Farner stated that he had been speaking the Attorney Stone regarding hydrilla and possible legal means that would require the State to provide more funding for the control of hydrilla. He stated that he would like to direct our legal staff to look into any legal means that may be available.

Attorney Stone stated that he could look into that, but also noted that intergovernmental relationships are important to the Water Authority. He noted that Florida Fish and Wildlife is mandated by legislation to administer the invasive plant trust fund and carry out the terms of the Aquatic Weed Control Act. He stated that he understands that Mr. Farner would like him to look FWC's internal practices to determine how they carry out those mandates and to be fully informed as to what options there might be.

Ms. Stokes stated that she had nothing new to add other than the fact that she too has been receiving complaints about hydrilla.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

No additional items.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, October 28, 2020 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

Amy Stone, Chairman