

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
June 24, 2020**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 pm Wednesday, June 24, 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 Farnar (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
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Kevin Stone, Attorney

A list of others present at the meeting is part filed in the permanent files of the Water Authority.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. and everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MISS MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF MAY 27, 2020 AS WRITTEN. Mr.

BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Hart gave a report regarding water levels and NuRF discharges.

He reported that the Clermont Chain and Lake Minnehaha noting the that water levels had begun dropping after March with the lack of rainfall and are currently at 97.1.

He explained that over the last few months Lake Apopka water levels had been declining due to lack of rainfall. He noted that there were a few days of significant rainfall in May which brought

the water levels back up in the lake, to which the District had responded by increasing water flow through the NuRF. He explained that now that Lake Apopka water levels back in place the District would be returning to minimum flows tomorrow.

He stated that water levels in Lake Harris, Lake Dora and Lake Eustis responded similarly to the lack of rainfall over the last few months. He stated that overall the rainfall in April was well below average and noted that we have a 4.75-inch deficit in rainfall at this time.

Mr. Hart stated Lake Griffin area had a bit more rain and the lake went above regulation and water is being discharged through Moss Bluff Lock and Dam at about 300-350 cfs at this time.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

- a. Authorization to Adopt BCC Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REPLACE SECTION 2 - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY OF THE WATER AUTHORITY'S PERSONNEL MANUAL WITH THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY.

- b. Authorization to Exchange Employees' Birthday and Floating Holidays for Personal Holidays

AUTHORIZED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REVISE SECTION 21.5 - HOLIDAYS POLICY OF THE WATER AUTHORITY'S PERSONNEL MANUAL BY ADOPTING THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S POLICY REGARDING PERSONAL HOLIDAYS.

- b. Proclamation Making July Lake Appreciation Month

APPROVED THE PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF JULY AND DIRECT STAFF TO TRANSMIT THE PROCLAMATION TO THE APPROPRIATE ENTITIES IN JULY 2020.

PROCLAMATION LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH JULY 2020

WHEREAS, Lake County's landscape is home to more than 1,400 lakes, ponds and rivers that are critical components of our environment, enhancing the quality of life and providing sources of recreation, scenic beauty, and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, these bodies of water are valuable economic resources for Lake County businesses, tourism, and municipal governments, with uses ranging from flood control and water supply to agricultural purposes and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, these beneficial uses have been of vital importance to Lake County's history, growth, and financial health; and

WHEREAS, our lakes, ponds and rivers improve the quality of life for all of Lake County's residents and their importance should not go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the health of our lakes is the responsibility of everyone. The Lake County Water Authority recognizes the need to protect these lakes ponds and rivers for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, in special recognition of the vital role our lakes, ponds and rivers play in our environment and the well-being of our county, WE, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority, do hereby proclaim July 2020 as LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH. We encourage all citizens and communities to actively participate in the protection and preservation of our lakes, ponds and rivers.

6. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Stone stated that the Regular Meeting was being paused in order to hold a meeting of the Auditor Selection Committee.

7. CALL TO ORDER/AUDITOR SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

a. Review and Approve Ranking of Firms

Chairman Stone stated that MSL does the County's auditing and she thought that the they would be the best choice as our finances are handles by the Clerk's department and it would be advantageous to use the same firm as the County.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO RANK TOP THREE FIRMS IN RANKING ORDER OF 1) MSL, 2) JAMES MOORE AND 3) PURVIS GRAY. Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

8. ADJOURN SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Stone adjourned the Auditor Selection Committee meeting.

9. CALL REGULAR MEETING BACK TO ORDER

Chairman Stone called the Regular Meeting back to order.

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE RANKING, AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TOP RANKED FIRM. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

10. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. Authorization to Contract for the Development of Bid Documents to Enhance the Lake Denham Property

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH WOOD ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS, INC. THROUGH OUR CONTINUING SERVICES CONTRACT AGREEMENT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$20,000, TO DEVELOP BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE LAKE DENHAM MUCK FARM SITE IMPROVEMENTS.

Ms. Maimone seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he thought it was a terrible idea. He stated that he had toured the property recently and that all the Water Authority needed to do is to turn off the water pumps that are being used to keep the property dewatered.

He stated that to terraform the property would mean that the property would have to be continued to be dewatered for a lot longer. He asked that the other Board member vote no in response to the motion.

Mr. Hendrick asked how long it would take to terraform the Lake Denham property to create a lake and fishery area and Dr. Danaher stated that it would take five to seven years.

Chairman Stone explained to the Board that this is not a motion of approval to terraform the Lake Denham property, but is for the approval to hire Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions to create a scope of work for the project.

Dr. Danaher gave a PowerPoint showing the suggested scope of work, which would include demolition and remediation of the current site, mining the site and terraforming it into a lake with deep and shallow fishing areas. He noted that the plans would also include transporting sediment from the NuRF for use in terraforming the site, which would also benefit the NuRF.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like to hear from Fish and Wildlife regarding their thoughts. He also asked why this topic keeps coming back before the Board.

Vice Chair Maimone stated that the Water Authority specifically bought this property to do what they are asking the contractor to create a Scope of Work for and that the reason it keeps coming back is because Mr. Farner keeps asking to delay the topic.

Mr. Farner stated that he will be contacting the Attorney General if this motion passes.

Motion approved 4-3 with Mr. BonJorn, Mr. Farner and Mr. Hendrick in opposition.

b. Additional Minneola Water Quality Analysis Phase II

Dr. Danaher explained the type of studies that would be included in the 12-month studies which include water column sampling, seepage analysis and sediment analysis. He stated that the water sampling tests would be more robust than the currently water sampling being done and that up to 15 seepage meters would be deployed around the lake to potentially locate any nutrient concentrations entering the lake from surrounding property.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO 1) AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH WOOD ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS, INC., THROUGH A CONTINUING SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT, TO PERFORM PROJECTS 1, 2 AND 3 ON LAKE MINNEOLA AND IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$135,510. Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner asked about partnering with the city of Clermont and Dr. Danaher explained that he had spoken with Clermont and they had stated that would have to take a look at their budget.

Ms. Cox stated that Clermont should participate, as this lake this is one of their focal points and central to their image.

Mr. BonJorn stated that the City of Minneola should also be asked to participate.

Motion approved 7-0.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO 2) AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$135,510 FROM OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT 9898710-830340 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT 9898710-830310. Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

c. Scrub Point Preserve Educational Signage

Ben Gugliotti talked about the damage being done to the property including the vandalism of signs, leaving behind trash, damage to locks, and damage to plants along the shore. He showed pictures of the beach area where the signage would be placed.

Ms. Cox noted that this type of thing is happening all over the area, and she didn't want to see the property totally destroyed.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO DIRECT STAFF TO INSTALL TWO, SIGNS TO DEFINE THE BEACH AREA AND EDUCATE BOATERS. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

c. Selection of Firms for Continuing Engineering Services

VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE CONTINUING ENGINEERING SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH WOOD ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS, PEGASUS ENGINEERING, DREDGING & MARINE CONSULTANTS, BOOTH, ERN, STRAUGHAN & HIOTT, AND WOODARD & CURRAN. Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

e. Responses to NuRF Pond Dredging

Dr. Danaher explained that a few months ago the Board had given staff permission to release a bid for qualified contractors capable of dredging the NuRF ponds back to their originally designed depths.

He explained that currently the dredging operation is limited in its ability to fully clean the ponds and the current dredges can only reach a depth of 12 feet. He noted that as each pond is approximately 20 feet in depth dredging to the depth of 12 feet leaves the ponds with at least 6 to 8 feet of sediment remaining in the bottom and limits storage in times of prolonged rainfall and flows.

It was noted that new dredges that can dredge to the full depth of the ponds have already been approved but won't be arriving for at least six months, so once the ponds have been dredged and the new dredges installed, it will enable staff to maintain the ponds at their full depth.

Dr. Danaher stated that staff held a mandatory pre-bid meeting at the NuRF on May 20 and hosted several individuals representing different companies who were interested in the project. Bid Responses were received from several companies and the bid opening was held June 19. The bid allowed for companies to also present a viable alternative method.

There was discussion of the different methods presented and the pros and cons of each alternative method which included the use of geotextile bags and the use of a portable centrifuge.

Mr. Farner stated that he was afraid that the ponds would just fill back up again before they got the new dredges installed and he would like the new dredges to be installed and ready to go before they have the ponds dredged.

It was noted that the length of time that it would take to get the ponds dredged was approximately the same length of time it is going to take to get the new dredges.

MR. HENDRICK MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AWARD THE BID TO DREDGE THE NURF PONDS TO SYNAGRO.

Motion died for lack of second.

MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH C&M DREDGING TO DREDGE THE NURF PONDS AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,493,600.

Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-2 with Mr. Farner and Mr. Hendrick in opposition.

9. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Kevin Stone stated that he had nothing new to report.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hendrik stated that he had spoken to Mr. Hart regarding the creation of a Technical Advisory Board similar to what the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council has done, such representatives from UF, DEP and St. Johns.

He also stated that he would like to take another look at the Lake Apopka project again, get more detail and possibly visit the site.

He also wanted to have further discussion regarding about the possible surplus of some of the property owned by the Lake County Water Authority.

Mr. Farner stated that he was disappointed regarding Lake Denham vote and would like to use our legal staff to question the Attorney General, to make sure we are on legal ground.

Attorney Stone stated that he would suggest that he (Attorney Stone) look at the Water Authority's Enabling Legislature and give Mr. Farner his thoughts. He stated that if Mr. Farner then wanted something further, the Board could vote to make a formal request for an AGO (Attorney General Opinion) before deciding whether to go to the Attorney General.

He noted that the Attorney General may or may not accept the request.

Mr. Farner asked about the utility bills for the Lake Denham property and stated that he would like to see them.

11. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – May 2020

13. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Budget Workshop – Wednesday, July 8 Budget (11 am)
Tavares Public Utility Administration Building
1000 Captain Haynes Rd, Tavares, FL

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, July 22, 2020 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

Amy Stone, Chairman