



TO: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
FROM: Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
DATE: August 7, 2018
SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for Sabal Bluff Preserve Gopher Tortoise Habitat Grant

Consent Item

Authorization to Apply for Sabal Bluff Preserve Gopher Tortoise Habitat Grant

Staff attended a Gopher Tortoise workshop for government entities on July 20th. Not only did they give an update on permitting and land management issues, but they also advertised a grant to assist government landowners (blank form attached).

The Water Authority applied for this grant back in 2010 for \$4,812.50 to hire a contractor to assist with controlling invasive exotic species on the 55-acre Sabal Bluff Preserve (map attached). Staff would like to receive permission from the Board to apply for this habitat management grant again for the 2018-19 year. Staff is hoping to apply for funds that will allow the Water Authority to contract with an outside vendor to control exotic species and to mulch approximately 10-15 acres. No local match is required for the grant. The agency has the potential of applying for up to \$15,000. The due date for the grant application is August 24, 2018.

Sabal Bluff Preserve on the southeastern shore of Lake Griffin was donated to the Water Authority in 1999 by Arthur "Buddy" Bourlay III to be maintained as a public park. In addition to trails, information kiosk, trailhead garden, benches, and picnic tables, the Water Authority partnered with FWC to allow up to 13 waif tortoises to permanently reside at the Preserve (newspaper article attached). Restoration activities on the Preserve consider benefits for the tortoises and the visiting public.

Executive Director's Recommendation:

Authorize staff to apply for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Gopher Tortoise Habitat Management Assistance Funding Grant for 2018-2019.

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TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager/Financial Coordinator
DATE: August 13, 2018
SUBJECT: Authorization to Increase Purchase Orders for Alum

Consent Item

Authorization to Increase Purchase Orders for Alum

At the September 2017 meeting, the Board approved alum purchase orders with Thatcher Chemical (\$1,000,000), Chemtrade (\$1,000,000), C & S Chemicals (\$500,000), and Affinity Chemicals (\$500,000).

At the February 2018 meeting, the Board voted to increase C & S from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 and Chemtrade from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. The Purchase orders for Thatcher to \$370,000 and Affinity to \$100,000 were decreased to allow for the increases for the two companies with less expensive product.

To date, the Water Authority has purchased alum valued at \$475,782 from Thatcher, \$1,159,009 from Chemtrade, \$947,020 from C & S, and \$79,637 from Affinity. The total purchased this fiscal year to date is \$2,661,447.

Staff is requesting to increase the Thatcher Purchase Order by \$250,000 and the C & S Purchase Order by \$100,000 to cover purchases through September 30th.

Executive Director Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to increase Purchase Orders for C & S Chemicals from \$1,000,000 to \$1,100,000 and increase Thatcher from \$370,000 to \$620,000 to cover purchases through September 30th.

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TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager/Financial Coordinator
DATE: August 13, 2018
SUBJECT: Authorization to Transfer Budget Funds for NuRF Operations

Consent Item

Authorization to Transfer Budget Funds for NuRF Operations

The NuRF has been operating at near maximum capacity since Hurricane Irma hit in September of last year. It is difficult to budget for a Hurricane and as such several line items require budget transfers as listed below:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Utility Services (\$30,500), Operating Supplies (\$8,000), Alum and Polymer (\$1,200,000), and Overtime (\$9,500 and \$10,500). Total: \$1,258,500.

Two projects (Lake Yale and ABC AG Diversion) were budgeted in Line Item 9898710-830340 Contractual Services however will not be completed this FY. As such, staff is recommending a budget transfer of \$1,258,500 from this line item.

Executive Director Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to transfer budget of \$1,258,500 for the NuRF overages from 9898710-830340 Other Contractual Services to:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Utility Services (\$30,500), Operating Supplies (\$8,000), Alum and Polymer (\$1,200,000), and Overtime (\$9,500 and \$10,500). Total: \$1,258,500.

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**Lake County
WATER AUTHORITY**

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director • Gary J. Cooney, Interim Secretary - Treasurer

27351 SR 19 • Tavares, Florida 32778-4251 • (352) 324-6141 • Fax (352) 324-6364 • email: info@lcwa.org • www.lcwa.org

TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
DATE: August 13, 2018
SUBJECT: Award Insurance Bid

Discussion Item

Award Insurance Bid

The Florida League of Cities has been the Water Authority’s provider of insurance for over twenty years. The Board directed staff to determine if there is better coverage available in the current market. In July 2018 staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Various Insurances of the Lake County Water Authority. Two responses were received by the August 3, 2018 due date, the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (League of Cities) and Brown and Brown (as Broker for the Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust). The summary quotes are provided below:

	Brown and Brown (PGIT) Quote	FMIT Quote
Property	14,622.00	13,734.00
Inland Marine	576.00	included
Crime	1,000.00	included
General Liability (includes Drone)	2,998.00	5,060.00
POL/EPL	8,038.00	9,020.00
Automobile Liability	2,710.00	3,618.00
Automobile Physical Damage	1,044.00	included
Workers Comp	13,327.00	11,948.00
Total:	44,315.00	43,380.00
Return of Premium		(865.00)
Net Total:	44,315.00	42,515.00

In general, the limits are higher, and the deductibles are lower, for the coverage provided by the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (League of Cities) however, the RFP requested the respondents to describe any ancillary services such as training classes, Human Resources support services or evaluating current property values. The Brown and Brown (Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust) proposal has a larger list of training classes including HR and safety topics and more robust HR helpline that staff and the Board could draw upon that exceeds that of the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (League of Cities). Based strictly on insurance coverages, the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (League of Cities) would be the recommended provider.

Executive Director Recommendation:

Accept the quote for insurance coverages from the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (League of Cities).

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TO: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
FROM: Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
DATE: August 10, 2018
SUBJECT: Hickory Point Volleyball Agreement Amendment

Consent Item

Hickory Point Volleyball Agreement Amendment

The Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority entered into a lease agreement with the Lake County Board of County Commissioners in April 2014 to allow a 20+ sand volleyball court facility within Hickory Point Park. In April 2017 the Water Authority Board approved the Amended and Restated Lease Agreement for the Volleyball Facility that would now include the construction of a fieldhouse with restrooms, locker rooms, and concession, kitchen, storage and training areas. As part of this Amended and Restated Lease Agreement, the Water Authority would receive among other considerations, \$50,000 for capital improvements to the park.

The Water Authority staff recently requested that the lease agreement be further amended to allow more time, from six months to two years, to decide on the appropriate capital improvements for the park and rather than list specific projects within the agreement, which could change over time, simply rework the language that would reflect categories of capital improvements (i.e., structural, infrastructure, landscaping).

A copy of the amendment is included for Board review.

Executive Director's Recommendation:

Approve the First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Lease Agreement for the Volleyball Facility at Hickory Point Park.

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TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager/Financial Coordinator
DATE: August 13, 2018
SUBJECT: Authorization to Transfer Monies from Seaside Bank Money Market Fund

Action Item

Authorization to Transfer Monies from Seaside Bank Money Market Fund

Balances in the Money Market Account and Certificate Deposit as of July 31, 2018 are:

Seaside Money Market \$6,498,535.58
First Community Bank CD \$2,035,962.63

As of August 13, 2018, the reconciled SunTrust Bank Balance was \$910,000. The taxing entities, like the Water Authority, typically do not begin getting remittances from the Lake County Tax Collector for ad valorem taxes until December. Staff is forecasting the following expenses through November 2018.

Beginning Balance	\$910,000
Alum	\$ 910,000
Polymer	\$ 38,000
Payroll	\$ 387,450
Regular Expenses	\$ 322,000
Generator	\$ 43,000
Jahna Dredging	\$ 725,000
Woodard and Curran	\$ 20,000
USGS	\$ 37,000
<u>CRA Payments</u>	<u>\$ 151,450</u>
Estimated Expenses	
Through November 2018	\$2,633,900
Amount need to Transfer	<u>\$1,723,900</u>

Executive Director Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to transfer up to \$1,725,000 from the SeaSide Money Market Account.

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TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
DATE: August 13, 2018
SUBJECT: Assistance to FWC for Hydrilla Treatment in Harris Chain

Discussion Item

Assistance to FWC for Hydrilla Treatment in Harris Chain

At the July 2018 Budget meeting and again at the July Regular Board meeting the Board discussed the status of hydrilla in the Harris Chain. The board was shown the work plan the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is proposing to spend the funds available to the FWC from the state. It was noted that there still is not sufficient funding to address the hydrilla currently in the Harris Chain of Lakes. The Board expressed a concern that if this exotic, invasive plant was not adequately controlled that the problem could intensify and the cost for the treatment and control could quickly become unmanageable.

The Boards solution was to consider supplementing the effort of hydrilla control through providing additional funding either directly to the FWC or to the Lake County Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Control. The County's preference was to provide the funding directly to the FWC. The Board directed staff to contact the FWC and work to have senior FWC staff attend the August meeting to discuss this issue.

Water Authority staff contacted the FWC to attempt to get their Executive Director to attend the August meeting and speak with the Board (see attached email string). Water Authority staff heard from Mr. Lawson Snyder Deputy Director, Operations and Program Development and Matthew Phillips, Leader, Invasive Plant Management regarding this topic and stated that they would be willing to accept the additional funds, however they would have to go to the legislature to seek additional spending authority to actually use the funds. There was also a concern about the appearance to the legislature that the FWC is seeking and receiving supplemental funds from local sources that may result in further reduction in state funding in the future or that existing funding could be redirected to other areas in the state.

Water Authority staff contacted Mary Hamilton, Lake County Environmental Services Manager to discuss this topic again. The Lake County Aquatic Plant Management Section manages invasive aquatic plants for all users of public water bodies in order to minimize flooding situations, restore navigation, and help maintain the natural integrity of these water bodies with respect to aquatic vegetation. They presently have 3 boats and 3 staff in the Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Control. Ms. Hamilton states that the County program is essentially a contractor to the FWC. Lake County would submit an annual work plan for aquatic plant management

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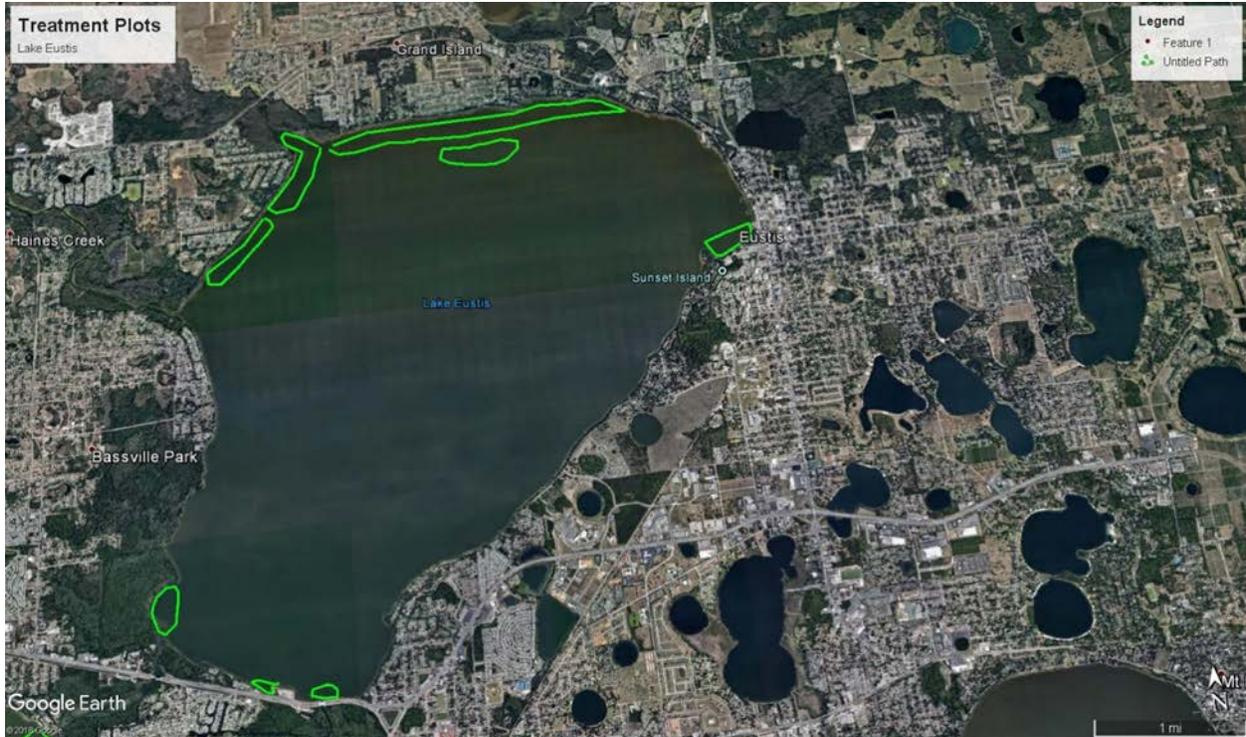
activities to the FWC for review. Afterward, the County and FWC approve a contractual agreement for determination of funds to be allocated for these activities.

Ms. Hamilton also referenced a meeting that occurred in Howey in the Hills on Monday, August 12th where the FWC staff stated that based on the input from public meetings and survey in conjunction with hydrilla conditions/projections within the Harris Chain of Lakes while also considering their statewide budget, the FWC has finalized the best treatment plan to manage the Harris Chain at this time of the year.

FWC will treat 640 acres on Little Lake Harris, 475 acres on Lake Harris and 470 acres on Lake Eustis during August and September, weather permitting and will continue to monitor the lakes after treatments. The maps of the treatment areas are below. The FWC will treat the hydrilla with Aquastrike™, which has no restrictions for fishing, swimming or irrigation. Aquastrike is approved for use in lakes by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Treatment areas on Lake Harris and Little Lake Harris



Treatment areas on Lake Eustis

Staff from the FWC will attend the Board meeting to discuss the status of hydrilla control and how additional resources that may become available could be utilized most effectively.

Executive Director Recommendation:

Provide direction to staff regarding any supplemental funding for hydrilla control in the Harris Chain of Lakes.



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
DATE: August 10, 2018
SUBJECT: FY 2018-19 Budget

Discussion Item

FY 2018-19 Budget

Staff presented the draft budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 at the July 5, 2018 Board budget meeting. At that meeting, staff provided an overview of the budget and discussed each budget section and identified any changes made since the budget was distributed at the June 27, 2018 regular Board meeting.

At the Board's regular meeting on July 25, 2018, the Board reviewed the changes and discussed the need to supplement the FWCs activities to control hydrilla in the Harris Chain of Lakes. Pending further discussion with FWC Executive staff, the Board took action to establish its tentative millage rate at 0.4900. The tentative rate reflects the highest rate the board intends to consider. The board can still lower the millage rate as it continues with the budget process; however, it can go no higher than the rate set on at that meeting.

At this meeting, the Board will have an opportunity to continue to review its budget and provide staff with direction in preparation for the Tentative Budget Hearing scheduled for September 12, 2018 no sooner than 5:05 pm.

Staff is providing a summary of changes discussed at the July 27, 2018 Board meeting and will review those changes at the regular August meeting. The changes made to the FY 2018-19 budget are highlighted in [redacted]. The following are changes to the FY 2018-19 budget as discussed by the Board at the July 27, 2018 Board meeting:

- 100-365 - Commissions - Tax Collector - Administration
Based on a calculation, the commission to the Tax Collector for .4900 mills (Line No. 31) would be \$108,093
710-340 - Other Contractual Services - Water Resources
Staff increased the Lake Yale Whole Lake Alum Application (Line No. 303) by \$1,396,562 (from \$1,148,109 to \$2,544,683).

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- **710-810 - Aids to Government Agencies - Water Resources**

In accordance with Board direction, staff added a line item for Supplemental Hydrilla Treatment the 2018 Stormwater Retrofit Grants (Line No. 403) for \$1,500,000.

Executive Director Recommendation:

Provide staff with direction regarding changes to the budget to be made in preparation for the Tentative Budget Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2018 no sooner than 5:05 pm in the BCC Chambers/Administration Building.

TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
DATE: August 8, 2018
SUBJECT: NuRF Emergency Pond Dredging Update

Action Item

NuRF Supplemental Pond Dredging Update

At the June Board meeting, the Executive Director was authorized to enter an agreement with Jahna Dredging by piggy-backing off Jahna’s existing contract for services being provided to the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) to dredge the two NuRF settling Ponds for a cost not to exceed

\$723,873. Staff also was scheduled to have further discussions with the District for authorization to utilize the F & G cells for disposal of the dredged material (Figure 1). Staff met with the District and was informed that they were extremely busy and would not have the time nor the resources to evaluate our proposal and make the necessary modifications with the Army Corps of Engineers’ (ACOE) and the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) permits. The District recommended that we utilize the expertise of Dr. Michael Coveney who works for Wood, formerly known as AMEC. Dr. Coveney is a former employee of the District and was responsible for managing the Apopka North Shore projects. Because of his

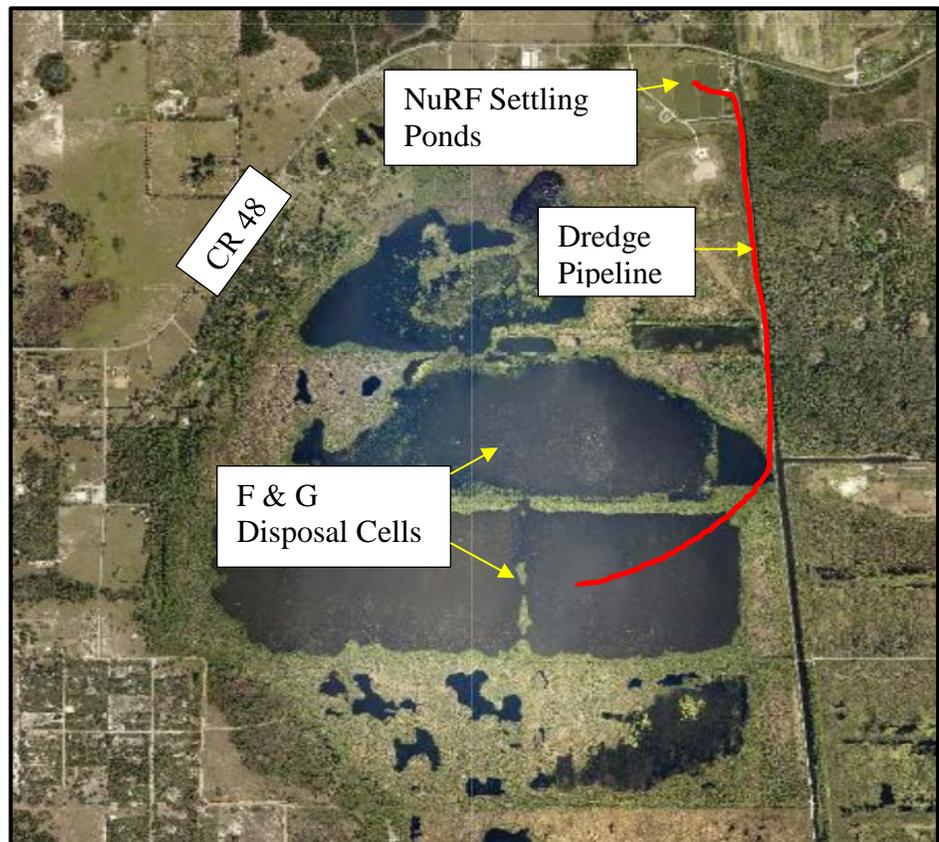


Figure 1. Dredge pipeline alignment from the NuRF settling ponds to cells F & G.

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former relationship with the District, his recommendation and approval regarding the site would carry significant weight at the District.

Staff contacted Wood and solicited a proposal to evaluate the pond conditions and submit a letter requesting an emergency pumping permit from the both the ACOE and the DEP for a cost of \$9,700 (see attached proposal received 7/12/2018). Wood anticipated that the permit agencies would require sediment testing that would include organic pesticides. This would be a concern due to the 3-week time period required to analyze the samples. Wood made preliminary contact with the permit agencies and was informed that there could be a concern regarding avian botulism. Because of these potential issues and the likelihood of a lengthy protracted permit modification negotiation, the Executive Director was uncomfortable proceeding with this proposal.

Staff evaluated several proven methods that would keep the dredged sediments on-site including belt presses and geotubes. Again, Jahna Dredging was contacted and asked that they modify their proposal utilizing these alternate disposal methods. Jahna recommended the use of geotubes because of the lower cost. These large woven textile bags retain particulate sediments while passing water (Figure 2). Dredge material pumped into the bags will be dosed with polymer to assist in the settling and retainage of sediments.



Figure 2. Photograph of large geotube like those proposed for the NuRF.

Jahna proposed utilizing 40 bags each 90' by 100' or larger. The bags will be placed on the site as indicated on the photograph below (Figure 3). Up to 55 bags can be placed in the location indicated by stacking the bags if necessary. The site will need to be graded flat to prevent the bags from rolling. Jahna proposed to utilize this alternate method at the same cost as pumping to the F

& G Cells. The downside is that the LCWA will have an additional cost to remove the sediment after the bags dry out. On the positive side, work can begin within 2 weeks.



Figure 3. Photograph of the proposed geotube site layout at the NuRF.

To reduce cost, staff recommended to Jahna the Water Authority purchase the geotubes directly from the manufacturer. Jahna agreed that this would save the LCWA 22% due to their markup and taxes. The geotubes are estimated to cost around \$250,000, resulting in a savings of approximately \$55,000. However, the direct purchasing makes us responsible for getting the bags on-site and ensuring that they will function correctly. Dr. Jason Danaher has considerable experience working with geotubes and is very comfortable working with the manufacturer to ensure their success. Dr. Danaher has sent the manufacturer dredge material for testing and the manufacturer will provide staff on-site during the testing period to work out any issues that arise.

Jahna utilized the previous Lake Beauclair Dredging Contract as a boilerplate for their attorney's consideration and provided a copy for signature on 7/30/18. Since this date, the contract has bounced back and forth between the LCWA and Jahna repeatedly over the last 8 days. Attorney Barice did not like the boilerplate from Lake Beauclair dredging and instead wanted the recent NuRF Temporary Worker Contract used instead. Director Perry changed the contract over to the new format and it was forwarded to Jahna for approval. On Monday, August 6, 2018, I was requested to participate in a phone conference with the executive director, chairman, and LCWA attorney. During this meeting, multiple issues were raised by our attorney regarding the contract and regarding proceeding with the project. Some of our attorney's concerns were:

- Not going out to bid
- Not getting several quotes
- Not including a “not to exceed” amount in the contract
- Accepting liability for the performance of the geotubes
- Not hiring an engineer to sample soils and dredge sediments and having them design the disposal method and oversee the implementation.
- Not getting a modification to our lease or a written statement from the SJRWMD that we have approval to use the site for this purpose.
- Not having a written statement from the permitting agencies indicating the work proposed does not require a permit.

By the end of our phone meeting between the executive director, the chairman, our attorney, and myself most of the issues were able to be resolved. Director Perry modified the contract as requested and the most recent draft was forwarded to Jahna for review (see attached). Some issues such as liability related to the function of the geotubes still remain and are unchanged in the most current Jahna Contract.

Regarding the last two issues, staff informed all participants in our phone meeting that we had previously met on-site with David Watt (Bureau Chief at SJRWMD) and he verbally approved utilizing geotubes at the site indicated on the maps. The Water Authority may be able to get a written approval sometime soon. However, getting a written statement from the permit agencies that no permit is required is likely to be an extremely difficult and long task. I have been through this process many times in my 25 years of experience implementing projects and the response is almost always the same. You have to submit a complete and thorough application for their consideration before a determination can be made as to whether a permit is required. The application could require signed and sealed drawings by an engineer and could take a lengthy time for a response with several requests for additional information. Adding a dredge would also seem preferable rather than allowing sediment to be discharged downstream because the ponds are at capacity.

The executive director followed the meeting with an immediate email to Erich Marzolf (Division Director at SJRWMD) for a response on these last two issues. As of the writing of this memo, 48 hours following our phone conference, we have not received a written response. Staff will update the Board at our August meeting of any additional information that comes available between now and then.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to enter an agreement with Jahna Dredging by piggy-backing off Jahna’s existing contract for services being provided to the St. Johns River Water Management District to dredge the two NuRF settling Ponds for a cost not to exceed \$723,873.

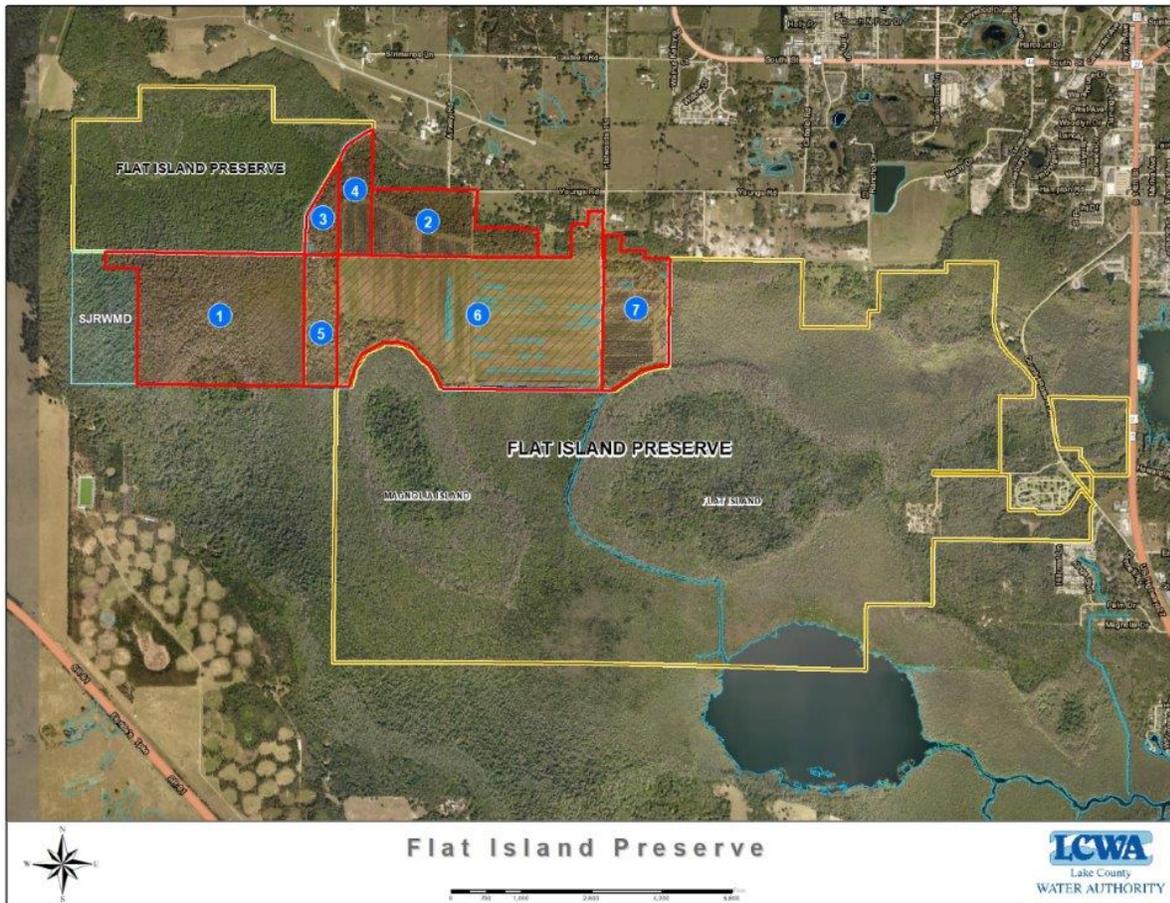


TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Ron Hart, Water Resources Program Director
DATE: August 14, 2018
SUBJECT: Lake Denham Acquisition Update

Discussion Item

Lake Denham Acquisition Update

The Lake Denham Muck Farm lies adjacent to the Water Authority's Flat Island Preserve. The farm consists of 344 acres of muck cropland, 407 acres of wetlands, and 18 acres of agricultural homesite and camp cabins. The farm is estimated to export 1,100 lbs of Total Phosphorus annually to Lake Denham and its associated Harris Chain of Lakes. Previously the Board has authorized staff to work with the St. Johns Water Management District (District) in having the site appraised.



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In July, the District hired two appraisers and a third to review the results. Staff was going to present the results of the appraisals at the August Board meeting. However, the District stopped all work on this acquisition project. When staff inquired as to why the work was halted. Staff was informed that the plug was pulled because it was believed the Water Authority would not have the money or the commitment to proceed due to recent financial issues. Staff sent the District the following email to ensure that the project gets back on track:

Ramesh,

The acquisition of the Lake Denham Muck Farm is extremely important to our Board of Trustees. It represents the largest remaining controllable source of TP (1100 lbs/yr) to Lake Harris and its contributing basin because of constant pumping from the farm. Our Board committed over \$1 million in this year's budget towards the acquisition of the site.

At last week's budget workshop, the Board directed Mike to add another million dollars toward acquisition of the site. This would bring the total of committed LCWA funds to over \$2 million. The Board feels that this project along with a couple others are important enough to justify a substantial increase in our millage. In addition, I personally have been directed by some of our board members to have the purchase completed before the election and the end of their current terms.

As to the long-term maintenance of the site, the LCWA owns and maintains the adjoining 2300+ acre Flat Island Preserve. The LCWA is committed to maintaining the site along with our adjoining properties. We will seek support from sister agencies where there are some common benefits. Such as restoring part of the site utilizing the SJRWMD managed DOT mitigation funding. We will also seek assistance from FFWCC for public access (boat ramp and fishing structures) as well as vegetation management and fish stocking. I have already been in contact with DEP and discussed site construction activities that could be funded under TMDL grants. In addition, we have had several discussions for a potential partnership with the City of Leesburg. As you can see, we are committed to following through with this acquisition and are also committed to ensuring the management of the site provides a direct positive benefit to the residents.

The worst-case scenario is that the muck farm is not acquired and it continues to pump 1100 lbs of TP/yr into the Harris Chain. If acquired with your assistance, the worst-case scenario is that no improvements to the site occurs and the farm in the middle of the wetlands is allowed to flood. Under this scenario, no pumping will occur and the pollutant loading to the Harris Chain is dramatically reduced.

The Lake County Water Authority appreciates the assistance you have provided and it has been a pleasure working with you and Ryan Spohn. This project will be a success. The only way it will not be successful is if the acquisition does not occur. If there is anything we can do to continue this positive progress toward eliminating this large source of nutrients, please let me know and I will get it done.

Ron Hart

Water Resources Director
Lake County Water Authority

Following the District's consideration of this email and additional discussion with District staff, the appraisers were directed to continue work on this project. However, two weeks were lost during this stoppage period.

The current schedule has the appraisals to be delivered by August 24th and the review to take about 10 days. This would mean that the final product would not be available until approximately September 4th. Staff will return to a future Board meeting, most likely the October meeting, to discuss this issue further.

Executive Director Recommendation:

For information purposes only. No action required.