

**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**(352) 324-6141**  
**REGULAR MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA**

<p><b>Wednesday, February 27, 2019</b> <b>3:30 pm</b> <b>Lake County Administration Building</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - County Commission Chambers</b> <b>315 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778</b></p>
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- 1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**
- Tab 1 **2. Approval of Minutes** - January 23, 2019 - Regular Meeting
- 3. Executive Director Report**
- 4. Consent Agenda**  
None.
- 5. Regular Agenda**
  - Tab 2 a. Approval to Award Stormwater Grants Ron Hart
  - Tab 3 b. Approval to Reinstall NuRF Dredge Trolley System and Bollards Jason Danaher
  - Tab 4 c. Alum Bid Responses for NuRF Jason Danaher
  - Tab 5 d. NuRF Update Jason Danaher
  - Tab 6 e. Authorization to Release RFP for Lake Yale Sediment Inactivation Project Jason Danaher
  - Tab 7 f. Authorization to Release Green Landings Boardwalk RFB Patricia Burgos
  - Tab 8 g. Authorization to Expend Budgeted Funds for Hydrilla Control In the Harris Chain of Lakes Michael Perry
- 6. Public Comment** (5:00 pm or as soon thereafter as possible)
- 7. Legal Staff Report** Carole Barice
- 8. Board Member Comments**
- 9. Board Member Items for Future Agenda**
- 10. Information Items**
  - Tab 9 a. Staff Report
  - Tab 10 b. Monthly Financial Reports - January 2019
- 11. Announcement of Upcoming Meetings and Events**
  - Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 27, 2019 (3:30 pm)  
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- 12. Adjournment**



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
DATE: February 12, 2019
SUBJECT: 2019 Stormwater Grant Recommendations

Regular Agenda

2019 Stormwater Grant Recommendations

In October, the Board of Trustees authorized staff to release the 2019 Cooperative Stormwater Grant Application. The Board included \$250,000 in its FY 2018-2019 budget for the Cooperative Stormwater Grant program. Copies of all the grants are included at the end of the memo. The following table is a list of the agencies that submitted grant applications and their funding request:

Table with 5 columns: Agency, Project Name, Total Project Cost, Funding Request, % of Total. Rows include City of Groveland, Lake County, City of Leesburg, Town of Montverde, City of Umatilla, and a Totals row.

Staff contacted the applicants for answers to any additional technical questions and project clarification. After receiving information from the applicants, the Lake County Water Authority Review Team: Ron Hart, Jason Danaher, and Cammie Dewey (SJRWMD) met to discuss the technical merits of each project and to average the application scores. After thorough discussion, the review team reached a consensus regarding each submitted project. The following table shows the scores, rankings, and funding recommendation followed by a brief synopsis of each project:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Table listing Board of Trustees members: District One (Peggy Cox), District Two (Trampis BonJorn), District Three (Carolyn Maimone), District Four (Robert Hendrick), District Five (Amy Stone), At-Large (Courtney Stokes), At-Large (Keith A. Farner).

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

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

This project involves reimbursing the City for 50% of their agreed construction cost with DOT for a portion of the Lake Harris Regional Pond. As mitigation for the Highway 19 Bridge, DOT is required to construct two wet retention areas that are 1.4 and 4.7 acres near the intersection of Highways 27 and 44. The ponds will be constructed in a wetland connected to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Canal which drains to Lake Harris. This is also the canal that residents have complained to the Board about floating islands and trash washing from the highway discharges. The total project is estimated to cost \$2,233,655. Leesburg’s portion of the construction cost is \$424,500. The project is estimated to remove **68.5 lbs. of Total Phosphorus annually**.

Staff feels comfortable recommending a 50% reimbursement to Leesburg for future expenses on this project. By utilizing the board-approved grant application, the overall project received an average score of 77.

#### **Executive Director Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% cost share agreement with the City of Leesburg for their water quality portion of the Lake Harris Regional Pond for an amount not to exceed \$212,250.

### **2. Lake County’s Lake Yale Marsh Park Stormwater Enhancement**

This project involves reimbursing the County for 50% of the cost to modify an existing canal in Marsh Park into a linear wet retention area. The project will treat a 66-acre area that includes runoff from County Road 452 and an adjacent wastewater spray field. This spray field area has been shown in our Lake Yale Nutrient Budget to contribute high Total Phosphorus loads (8,305 parts per billion) to Lake Yale during wet periods. The County estimates that the linear wet pond will remove approximately **12.18 lbs. of Total Phosphorus annually**. However, it is likely to

remove much more during wet years when the spray field is running. This funding request is for the cost of construction only.

Staff feels comfortable recommending a 50% reimbursement for future expenses on this project. By utilizing the board-approved grant application, the overall project received an average score of 73.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a 50% cost share agreement with Lake County for the water quality portion of the Lake Yale Marsh Park Stormwater Enhancement for an amount not to exceed \$62,500.

**3. Town of Montverde's Lake Florence Stormwater Improvement**

This project involves reimbursing the Town for 47% of the \$160,000 cost to install a nutrient separating baffle box on a 18" pipe that currently discharges water from an area around Lowery Road and Highland Avenue to Lake Florence. The plans submitted shows a residential area that currently flows through an old 18" corrugated metal pipe. The pipe ends well above the lake elevation and erodes a ditch to the lake. The Town proposes to add the sediment box along the Lowery Road right-of-way. They also plan to replace the old pipe and add a section along the eroded ditch. The project will treat a 11.8-acre area and is estimated to remove 0.60 lbs. of Total Phosphorus annually. This funding request is for the cost of construction only.

Because staff has exceeded the amount budgeted for Stormwater Grants, staff is not recommending approval at this time. By utilizing the board-approved grant application, the overall project received an average score of 67.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

No action is necessary.

**4. City of Groveland's Warner Street Drainage Improvements**

This project involves reimbursing the City for 50% of the \$180,000 cost to construct a French drain system along Warner Street. Warner Street currently has no drainage system and water sheet flows downhill through yards to the next street that does have culverts. Ultimately, water that does not percolate into the ground flows to a ditch that drains to an unnamed wetland. The project will treat a 3.6-acre area and is estimated to remove 2.0 lbs of Total Phosphorus annually. This funding request is for the cost of construction only.

Because staff has exceeded the amount budgeted for Stormwater Grants, staff is not recommending approval at this time. By utilizing the board-approved grant application, the overall project received an average score of 57.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

No action is necessary.

**5. City of Umatilla's Trowell Avenue Stormwater Improvement**

This project involves reimbursing the City for 100% of the \$150,000 cost to design and replace an existing failed sediment box at the outfall of Trowell Avenue. The current sediment box has a chain link screen structure that has collapsed resulting in large litter passing straight through to Lake Umatilla. Umatilla desires to design and install a nutrient separating sediment box that contains debris above the waterline when there is no flow. The project will treat a 29-acre area that is 28% impervious.

Because staff has exceeded the amount budgeted for Stormwater Grants, staff is not recommending approval at this time. By utilizing the board-approved grant application, the overall project received an average score of 52.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

No action is necessary.

**6. City of Groveland's Parkwood Street Drainage Improvements**

This project involves reimbursing the City for 50% of the \$450,000 cost to design and construct a French drain system along Parkwood Street. Excess water from the French drain would discharge to an unnamed wetland. Staff has visited the site and is concerned if a French drain would function appropriately due to the presently high groundwater level. The project will treat an 8.4-acre area and is estimated to remove **5.1 lbs. of Total Phosphorus annually**.

Because staff has exceeded the amount budgeted for Stormwater Grants, staff is not recommending approval at this time. By utilizing the board-approved grant application, the overall project received an average score of 50.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

No action is necessary.



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Christina Rider, Administrative Services Manager/Accountant
DATE: February 11, 2019
SUBJECT: Approval to Reinstall NuRF Dredge Trolley System and Bollards

Regular Agenda

Approval to Reinstall NuRF Dredge Trolley System and Bollards

At the November 14, 2018 Board Meeting Dr. Danaher informed the Board of the East Pond Slope Failure at the Nurf. The Board declared an emergency and authorized the Executive Director to expend up to \$400,000 to repair the East Pond Slope Failure. It has since been noted that the dredge trolley was damaged when the slope failure occurred. This repair was estimated by Dawson Excavating to cost approximately \$45,000. Dawson Excavating is already contracted to repair the east pond slope failure, and since Dawson is already mobilized, it will be most cost effective to have the additional work completed by them. This expenditure will exceed the authorized emergency amount of \$400,000 by \$21,500.

Section II.C.1. of the LCWA Financial Policies allows the Chairwoman to authorize expenditures up to \$25,000. Authorization was obtained from Amy Stone, Chairwoman and consistent with policy, staff is requesting subsequent approval of the additional emergency expenditure to repair the dredge trolley. Staff is also requesting approval of amendment two to the Dawson contract to increase the total amount by \$45,000 to \$421,500.

The inflow bollards at the NuRF have been discussed at previous board meetings in the NuRF Update agenda item. The bollards provide a barricade to block large debris and more importantly provide a safety buffer for boats experiencing engine problems. The bollards were damaged due to large material accumulations during the high flows resulting from Hurricane Irma. The LCWA wants to prevent objects from getting pinned up against the inflow culverts during high flow rates into the NuRF. Quotes were received for the bollards and Dawson Excavating, currently doing pond repair work at the NuRF, offered the best price for the bollards to be installed. The cost for demo of existing bollards and installation of eight (8) new bollards with dimensions of 18-inch diameter and 35 feet in length is \$19,200. These would be spaced 6 feet on center and create a 4.5-foot space between each structure. A separate agreement with Dawson Engineering will be prepared for the bollard installation.

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**Executive Director Recommendation:**

- 1) Subsequently authorize the Executive Director to amend the Dawson Excavating agreement by \$45,000 and raise the not to exceed amount on the east pond slope failure emergency repair to \$421,500.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to contract with Dawson Excavating for the demolition and installation of bollards at the NuRF for an amount not to exceed \$19,200.



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Jason Danaher, Water Resources Project Manager
DATE: February 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Alum Bid Responses for NuRF

Regular Agenda

The NuRF utilizes liquid aluminum sulfate (i.e. alum) to treat discharged water from Lake Apopka. The chemical reaction of alum in the discharged water results in flocculation and settling of sediment as well as reduced concentration of total phosphorus from treated water. Since the commissioning of the NuRF water quality has improved in Lake County water bodies downstream from the facility.

Prior to Hurricane Irma in 2017, the supply of alum was adequate to meet the needs of the NuRF. There were periods of time when the alum tanks remained full for prolonged periods of time because drought conditions did not require water discharge from Lake Apopka. However, after Hurricane Irma the St. Johns River Water Management District regularly discharged large volumes of water (> 200 cfs) requiring a reliable supply of alum.

In the time leading up to Hurricane Irma and at the present, the LCWA has not had a contract with an alum supplier. This has resulted in inconsistent supply and staff having to coordinate shipments from multiple vendors to try and meet the needs of the NuRF. There have been times the supply required could not be delivered to the NuRF and discharged water from Lake Apopka went untreated. The recent issue hasn't been a shortage in the supply of alum, rather the availability of freight vehicles to deliver the product is not sufficient to meet NuRF needs without a contract in place. Alum suppliers give priority to contracted customers first and then non-contracted customers.

In addition, with no contract in place the LCWA has experienced steadily increasing prices among all vendors for alum. It is important to note the vendor cannot just increase the price on the LCWA because they want to at the time. Their reasons have to be justified and the vendor needs to supply the LCWA with a copy of a contract with another governmental agency in the state of Florida showing the same cost for product. The LCWA is allowed to "piggyback" off of other state contracts for supply of alum. The LCWA staff started to weigh different options in order to secure a consistent supply of alum at a stable price. Staff released a bid in November 2018 to solicit responses for different options. These options were as follows:

Option A

A contract to purchase, deliver and unload alum at the NuRF from an existing alum production facility. The vendor is required to meet the full demand of the NuRF. In the event the supplier

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cannot supply the demand requirements they are responsible to arrange an interim alternate supply and compensate the LCWA for prices in excess of the contract price.

### **Option B**

The vendor will construct and operate an alum production facility within 20 miles of the NuRF to supply, deliver and unload product at required times to meet the LCWA needs. The vendor is required to meet the full demand of the NuRF. In the event the supplier cannot supply the demand requirements they are responsible to arrange an interim alternate supply and compensate the LCWA for prices in excess of the contract price.

Results of the bid responses received in January 2019 are listed below:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Option A</b>	<b>Option B</b>
Univar USA, Inc.	Did not bid	Did not bid
Affinity Chemical	Did not bid	Did not bid*
C&S Chemical	Did not bid	Did not bid*
Thatcher Chemical of Florida, Inc.	\$271/dry ton	Did not bid
Chemtrade	\$265/dry ton	Did not bid

\*Affinity and C&S expressed interest in this option.

The LCWA staff only received responses for Option A and no responses for Option B. Staff was surprised no bid responses for Option B were received as a couple vendors had expressed interest and spoke in length with staff regarding this opportunity.

In the summer of 2018, the LCWA was being charged approximately \$168, \$205 and \$235/dry ton by Chemtrade, C&S and Thatcher, respectively. But in December Chemtrade representatives notified LCWA staff the price was going to increase to \$209/dry ton. This increase was due to recent global volatility for raw product and a continued shortage of truck drivers. In addition, the price was only an interim that was expected to increase further. Although C&S did not bid, they did respond with a letter stating their new alum price would be \$255/dry ton for the first quarter of 2019. Prices continue to increase and the LCWA is still not guaranteed a consistent supply to treat discharged water from Lake Apopka.

Options the board may need to consider include:

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

**Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the lowest bidder, Chemtrade, to supply, deliver and unload liquid aluminum sulfate at NuRF from their Florida-based production plants as allowed by the LCWA annual budget.



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Jason Danaher, Water Resources Project Manager
DATE: February 12, 2019
SUBJECT: NuRF Update

Discussion Item

NuRF Updates

The following is a brief synopsis of critical equipment/infrastructure being repaired and operated:

Alum Tank

D&S Steel Inc. delivered the new 316L stainless steel tank to the NuRF. Staff is working on finalizing the installation of required tank plumbing to offload alum into the tank.

Inflow Bollards/Pilings

Bollards for the inflow canal will be removed and new ones installed. The existing structures are damaged from debris and elevated flows from past hurricanes. The new structures will help to prevent future debris and boaters from getting close to NuRF inflow canals.

Pond Bank Stabilization

Dawson Excavating is finishing up the pond embankment repairs on the west and south slopes of the NuRF's east pond.

NuRF Road Repair

The LCWA awarded road repair work to Valencia Construction Group located in Winter Garden. Company representatives have visited the site and LCWA staff is working to get them scheduled to begin work in the next couple of weeks as the work site becomes available with other projects ending.

Centrifuge Maintenance

The LCWA awarded centrifuge maintenance to GEA Westfalia located in Lakeland. Staff is working to with GEA to schedule maintenance on the centrifuge. It is estimated the work can be completed in one week's time and can begin in late February or early March.

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### **Dredging**

Dredging continues in the west pond. Staff is dredging last 10% of pond. Dredged material from the west pond is being sent to the centrifuge for processing.

### **NuRF Staffing**

The facility has operated twenty-four hours a day, five days a week since early January. Temporary staff has been brought in to fill shift work and cover for additional personnel on site, as needed.

### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

For information only. No action required.



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Jason Danaher, Water Resources Project Manager
DATE: February 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for the Control of Internal Recycling of Total Phosphorus Concentrations Present in Lake Yale Sediment

Regular Agenda

Authorization to Release Request for Proposals for the Control of Internal Recycling of Total Phosphorus Concentrations Present in Lake Yale Sediment

In June 2014, the LCWA staff requested proposals to develop a nutrient budget for Lake Yale with water quality improvement plans. The objective was to identify significant pollution sources in and around Lake Yale and to provide a ranking of areas with respect to annual nutrient loading. Environmental Research & Design, Inc. (ERD) located in Orlando, FL was selected to perform the scope of work requested. ERD performed a 12-month field monitoring program of Lake Yale after which they proposed water quality management plans to identify specific projects, both structural and non-structural, to maintain and improve water quality in the lake.

ERD concluded the primary objective of the water quality management plan for Lake Yale must include control of annual total phosphorus concentrations from stormwater runoff, groundwater seepage and most importantly internal recycling. Stormwater pond technology along with best management practices that could be implemented by homeowners and boaters to mitigate nutrient input and internal recycling were identified. However, more than 80% of the total phosphorus concentrations identified during the field monitoring program resulted from internal recycling of this nutrient. Throughout the year, phosphorus is either released from the lake sediment into the water column or settles to the lake bottom where it is available for recycling back into the water column. This recycling event can result in sub-optimal water quality for aquatic animals and negatively impacts recreational users of the water body.

ERD identified potential projects to physically remove phosphorus from the lake (i.e. dredging of sediment) or implimenting chemical (i.e. liquid aluminum sulfate) inactivation of the phosphorus from the sediment and groundwater seepage, which would permit the phosphorus to remain in the water body but make it unavailable to the ecosystem. ERD's assessment on total phosphorus removal indicates the cost of dredging (\$4,100/lb) exceeds chemical inactivation with alum (\$28/lb) making chemical sediment inactivation an attractive option for pro-longed internal recycling control of phosphorus.

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The LCWA Board has allocated funding for the control of internal recycling of total phosphorus in Lake Yale and expressed interest in moving this project forward. Staff would like to release a Request For Proposals and solicit responses from qualified vendors to review their proposed scope of work and technologies to control the internal recycling of phosphorus in Lake Yale. While alum has been commonly applied and has been successful in treating water bodies with elevated concentrations of total phosphorus, the LCWA staff is open to all proposed approaches and technologies and will evaluate them in an objective and unbiased manner.

**Recommendation**

Authorize the Executive Director to release a Request For Proposals for the control of internal recycling of total phosphorus concentrations present in Lake Yale sediment.



TO: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
FROM: Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
DATE: February 11, 2019
SUBJECT: Authorization to Release Green Landings Boardwalk Request for Bid

Regular Agenda

Authorization to Release Green Landings Boardwalk Request for Bid

Staff received a real estate prospectus in the summer of 2015 regarding the sale of the Brian Richards' 98 +/- acre property on Lake Norris. The attached map shows the location of the subject property located between the Water Authority's 194-acre Bear Track Preserve and the Seminole State Forest. The property is strategically located in the state-recognized Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Corridor.

Following were key points presented by the staff to the Water Authority board in 2015 to recommend the purchase of the Richards property:

- Provide the ability to close off the western access to prevent poaching and to secure the Bear Track Preserve;
• Provide the ability to install fire lines to facilitate burning the western side of Bear Track Preserve;
• Preserve the hydrologic connection between the Water Authority's Bear Track Preserve and Lake Norris;
• Provide access to Lake Norris more easily for the public, whereas through the Lake Norris Conservation Area owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District visitors must hike one mile in to enjoy the lake;
• Provide a group camping area and picnic area more easily accessible to the public; and
• Provide a protected public greenway corridor from the Water Authority's western Bear Track Preserve to Seminole State Forest for wildlife such as turkey, bear, and bobcat.

In December 2016, the Water Authority Board concentrated its purchase on the western 15 +/- acres of the Richards property for \$175,000 due to its access to Lake Norris, its protection of a pocket wetland, protection of the western boundary and road access. The Green Bank Foundation donated \$50,000 towards the total purchase price of this parcel and in return the Water Authority Board allowed the 15 acres to be known as the Green Landing.

In April 2017, the Water Authority Board committed \$225,000 towards a partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the purchase of the remaining 80 +/- acres, which FDEP is still working on currently. The 15 acres are managed by the Water Authority,

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but the 80 acres will be managed by the Seminole State Forest in the future if the acquisition is successful.

Lake Norris and the surrounding area is very popular with hikers, campers, fisherman and paddlers. The Water Authority's new 15 acre parcel within the Bear Track Preserve is an opportunity to allow the public for the first time to directly access Lake Norris seven days a week without prior reservations. Currently there is no public fishing pier, boardwalk or canoe/kayak launch site on Lake Norris. There is Camp La-No-Che owned by the Boy Scout Council of Central Florida, there is a primitive launch spot on Black Water Creek that allows anyone with a canoe or kayak to put in at the creek, but the access is seasonal. The other access point is within the Lake Norris Conservation Area owned by St. Johns River Water Management District; however, this launch site can only be accessed one mile in by foot with no vehicles allowed unless you have pre-registered to camp with the Water Authority at least 24 hours before the activity.

Currently Bear Track Preserve has unpaved trails through the Preserve; however, staff is hoping to add amenities at Green Landing, for example two (2) primitive campsites for overnights and a picnic area for day-trippers. Staff also approached the Water Authority Board in late 2018 to get permission to advertise a bid to construct a wetland boardwalk and canoe/kayak launch at the Green Landing within the Bear Track Preserve. Although the previous Board voted to allow staff to advertise the bid to contractors, staff felt that because the Board has new members it would be best to come back to the Board to receive direction regarding this project.

Based upon previous experience, particularly with the Crooked River Preserve and Sawgrass Island Restrooms, if the Board permits, staff would like to present the project to potential contractors as a "design-build," to reduce any complications with the permitting and design portion of the project. Staff is hoping to market this project to companies with a solid history of ADA boardwalk, fishing pier, canoe/kayak structure experience. The Request for Bid would also include an "add alternate" that is separate from the boardwalk and passive vessel launch structure that will allow contractors to present a price to construct a hard surface loading/unloading area and one (1) ADA hard surface parking spot if the Board should choose to proceed based upon the prices.

**Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Provide direction to the staff.



TO: Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees
FROM: Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
DATE: February 14, 2019
SUBJECT: Authorization to Expend Budgeted Funds for Hydrilla Control in the Harris Chain of Lakes

Regular Agenda

Authorization to Expend Budgeted Funds for Hydrilla Control in the Harris Chain of Lakes

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 Board's solution was to include \$1.5 million in its FY 2018-2019 budget to supplement the FWC's effort on the Harris Chain of Lakes. Staff was directed to work with FWC staff to monitor the FWC's progress in controlling hydrilla and determine a strategy for the Board's participation in hydrilla control. The Board stressed that any funds from the Water Authority are supplemental funds for Lake County as they don't want the legislature to perceive that the Water Authority will continue providing funding and decide they don't need to budget any money nor set a precedence or have other agencies relying on the Water Authority to take over the funding for hydrilla treatment.

FWC treated 640 acres on Little Lake Harris, 475 acres on Lake Harris and 470 acres on Lake Eustis during August and September 2018, continue to monitor the lakes after treatments. The maps of the treatment areas are included below. Water Authority staff met with FWC staff twice since then to discuss the effectiveness of their treatments, how the Water Authority could assist and priority areas for future treatment.

As of January 28, 2019, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has temporary paused its aquatic herbicide treatment program throughout the state. During this pause, FWC staff will work to collect public comment regarding the FWC's aquatic plant management program. Both the SJRWMD and the County have also paused any aquatic herbicide treatment until the FWC resumes its treatment program.

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On Thursday, February 21, 2019 Water Authority staff will attend the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting being held in Gainesville where Aquatic Plant Management is on the agenda (staff backup memo is attached). FWC staff will provide an overview and discussion on aquatic plant management, including efforts to engage stakeholders and the public.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019 FWC will hold a public meeting at the Eustis Community Center to gather input about the program. The FWC will gather the results of this and other stakeholder meetings around the state to determine how they intend to address aquatic plant management statewide. Until that time, it is unclear when, and in what form, future efforts for aquatic plant control will occur.

Water Authority staff will provide the Board with an update from these meetings and discuss how to proceed with Water Authority participation in hydrilla control in the Harris Chain.

**Executive Director Recommendation:**

Authorize the Executive Director to expend budgeted funds for hydrilla control in the Harris Chain of Lakes.