

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**of the**  
**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**March 23, 2016**

1 The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held  
2 at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 in the Lake County Administration Building,  
3 County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

4 **Members Present-District #**

**Staff Present**

5 Peggy Cox, Chairwoman (#1)	Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
6 Adam Dufresne, Vice Chair (At Large)	Patricia Burgos, Environmental Prog. Mgr.
7 Charles Clark (#5)	Ron Hart, Water Res. Prog. Mgr.
8 John Harris, (At Large)	Sergio Duarte, Water Res. Proj. Mgr.
9	Ben Garcia, GIS Manager
10	Carole Barice, LCWA Attorney
11	Linda Marino, Administrative Assistant
12	Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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

15 **1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

16 The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of  
17 Allegiance.

18 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

19 **VICE CHAIR DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE**  
20 **LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY,**  
21 **FEBRUARY 24, 2016 - REGULAR MEETING.** Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

22 **Motion approved 4-0.**

23 **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

24 Mr. Perry gave the water level report and stated that Lake Apopka is currently above the  
25 Minimum Desirable and slightly below the Regulation Schedule. He stated that the St. Johns  
26 River Water Management District is still releasing water through the NuRF at about 17 cubic  
27 feet per second, which is slightly less than minimum flow.

28 He reported that the Middle Lakes/Superpond (Lake Dora, Lake Eustis and Lake Harris) has  
29 drifted below the Regulation Schedule over the last month due to drier conditions. He stated that  
30 the water level is still close to the Regulation Schedule and it will be interesting to see how the  
31 water levels fare now that we are going into the drier time of the year with low humidity, sunny

32 days and higher temperatures, which can cause up to evaporation of up to one quarter inch of  
33 water a day. He stated that most likely we will see the lakes continue to decline unless we get  
34 more rainfall.

35 He stated that Lake Griffin has also fallen below the Regulation Schedule after staying within the  
36 schedule through most of the late fall and early winter.

37 He explained that the lake level Regulation Schedule starts to drop for Lake Apopka starting  
38 March 1<sup>st</sup>, and for the Middle Lakes and Lake Griffin starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.

39 He reported that on the Clermont Chain, Lake Minnehaha in South Lake County is at or slightly  
40 above 97 feet mean sea level (msl). He showed a graph of the water levels over the past year and  
41 stated that the Clermont Chain maintained 97 feet msl throughout the fall and winter.

42 He showed a graph of water levels over the last five years and pointed out that lake levels have  
43 recovered substantially. He also showed a graph of the water levels since 1946 and noted the  
44 major fluctuation in water levels over the years.

45 He stated that Big Creek and Little Creek are starting to dry out and the combined flow coming  
46 out of the system is 44 cubic feet per second. He stated that this is half the amount of flow  
47 compared to this time last year. He explained that during the dry season last year, the flow stops  
48 completely and picks up again during the rainy season.

49 He stated that county-wide, rainfall is about 2.6 inches above where it normally is this time of  
50 year. He noted that year-to-date rainfall is at 150% of normal rainfall.

51 Mr. Perry also reported that the Clermont Chain Lake's Academy was a success with  
52 approximately 30 people in attendance. He stated that it was a mix of newer residents and  
53 longtime residents. He noted that there wasn't as many people in attendance as there was 2 years  
54 ago, but at that time the water levels were very low and people were wanting to know where all  
55 the water had gone and why the lakes were so low.

56 He stated that the outdoor event on Saturday was popular and the participants were quite  
57 enthused about getting into the water, learning how to sein and identify what they found.

58 He stated that next year's Lakes Academy is scheduled to be on the Harris Chain. He noted that  
59 staff might look at modifying the format as it is hard for people to devote two Thursdays as well  
60 as a Saturday morning to the class.

61 Mr. Perry noted that Tracy Hauserman had done an incredible job of handling the Kid's Fishing  
62 Clinic and getting sponsors for the event. He stated that she worked long and hard to put the  
63 event together and did an excellent job.

64 Mr. Perry reported on the A/C issues at the new office saying that the problems with the server  
65 room A/C have been solved, but there are still some issues with the building A/C and Mr. Hart is  
66 continuing to communicate with the builder regarding the problems.

67 He stated that the new sign has been installed at the entrance of Hickory Point. He showed a  
68 picture of the sign and explained that there is power to the sign but the data cable has not yet  
69 been installed.

70 Mr. Perry informed the Board that staff had posted the bid for the sale of the old office building  
71 and property. He stated that a copy of the posted bid was given to Lake County.

72 He also informed the Board that Senator Hays had stopped by the office to talk about Emerald  
73 Lakes and asking what can be done to help the community. He stated that he had informed him  
74 of the action that the Board had taken.

75 He stated that Senator Hay wanted to know what would happen if we were to lower the lake  
76 level to 96.5 feet and why the target elevation for the Clermont Chain was set at 97 feet. He  
77 stated that he is working preparing a response for Senator Hays.

78 Chairwoman Cox stated that the regulation of the water level in the Clermont Chain has worked  
79 well for very many years, with the exception of Emerald Lakes, which was built too low. She  
80 noted that there is a study being done to determine if lowering the lake levels would cause harm  
81 in other places and the study should determine whether lowering the lake levels by half of a foot  
82 would cause harm. She asked if the water would move downstream fast enough to lower the  
83 lake levels by half a foot if the structures were wide open.

84 Mr. Perry stated that over time it would, but during this time of the year (dry season) the lakes  
85 are also likely to decline and if they lowered the lake levels by a half a foot now, and the rains  
86 don't come, they we are starting a half of a foot in arrears.

87 He noted that as the Board hasn't directed him to take any action; staff would not be taking any  
88 action to lower the lake levels.

89 Mr. Perry also addressed the Board and stated that in the original USA Volleyball agreement  
90 with the Water Authority, they were to build a restroom and locker room facility for the  
91 Volleyball Complex at Hickory Point.

92 He showed a map of Hickory Point and stated that at the recent Tourism and Development  
93 Council (TDC) meeting, the discussion has now evolved into the possibility of a 4,000 square  
94 foot building under roof. The plans call for showers, lockers, training room, meeting rooms, plus  
95 kitchen and concession facilities. He stated that the Board could probably expect a visit or call  
96 from Commissioner Cadwell within the next couple of months. He noted that the TDC has  
97 authorized County staff to develop the design.

98 Chairwoman Cox stated that they had initially leased three acres and asked if there would be  
99 room within that area for the building. Mr. Perry answered that there would not be room within  
100 what the area they are currently leasing and the lease agreement would have to be amended.

101 Chairwoman Cox asked if the TDC was going to provide the funds and Mr. Perry stated that the  
102 TDC has authorized up to \$750,000 toward the building.

103 Attorney Barice asked if the training rooms and meeting rooms would just be for the County's  
104 use and Mr. Perry stated that this design is based on the requirements that have to be met in order  
105 to bring NCAA National and International competitions to the facility.

106 The Board directed that should Commissioner Cadwell or other County representative come to  
107 speak to the Board regarding the building of the Volleyball Training and Conference Center,  
108 representatives of the USA Volleyball Association should also be in attendance.

109 Mr. Perry noted there would probably more discussion in the future.

110 Chairwoman Cox spoke regarding the Clermont Chain Basin Study. She explained that under  
111 the Consent Agenda for the Lake County Board of County Commissions meeting of February 2,  
112 2016 was the request for approval to an agreement with DEP (Department of Environmental  
113 Protection) for DEP to give the County \$300,000 to perform Phase Three of the South Lake  
114 Regional Water Initiative, entitled the "Clermont Chain of Lake Basin Study".

115 She reminded the Board that Commissioner Parks and County Manager, David Heath had  
116 addressed the Lake County Water Authority Board about two years ago wanting the Water  
117 Authority to finance another study of the Clermont Chain of Lakes. She noted that their request  
118 was not well received and was denied by the Board at that time.

119 She explained that the summary of the agenda item stated the "Basin Study will evaluate why the  
120 Clermont Chain of Lakes dropped so significantly during drought conditions." She stated that  
121 the highlighted part of the summary is the part that worried her the most, as it stated that "the  
122 model will be utilized by Lake County and South Lake Regional Water Initiative (SLWRI) to  
123 make informed management decisions regarding the regulation of flow structures in response to  
124 changing rainfall, as well as pollutant load reductions efforts."

125 She stated that the regulation of flow structures is specific to the Lake County Water Authority,  
126 as the Water Authority owns the flow structures and regulates the flow of water. She noted that  
127 the Water Authority does not belong to the South Lake Regional Water Initiative.

128 She explained that Mr. Perry had emailed Brian Sheahan asking whether the Water Authority  
129 should be worried and she had also called Mr. Sheahan to discuss the wording of the agreement.  
130 She explained that according to Mr. Sheahan the language in the agreement would be changed  
131 to: "the model will be utilized to work with the Lake County Water Authority to make informed  
132 management decisions."

133 She stated that when the coversheet to the amendment was released the wording stated "the  
134 model will be utilized by Lake County and the SLRWI members to make informed management  
135 decisions in cooperation with the Lake County Water Authority, regarding the flow structures."

136 She stated that she didn't know just how the Water Authority fits into their plans. She noted that  
137 she and Mr. Perry had attended a meeting regarding Emerald Lakes with Commissioner Parks  
138 and County Manager, David Heath. She stated that at the meeting she had quite firmly stated  
139 that the Lake County Water Authority does not belong to the South Lake Regional Water  
140 Initiative, and the Water Authority has no local or Interlocal Agreement and was never given

141 membership or asked to belong. She noted the Mr. Perry only attends their meetings as an  
142 adviser and observer.

143 She informed the Board she had provided each of them with a copy of the actual grant. She  
144 stated that there are some good parts to the hydrologic study, but she is unsure of the end purpose  
145 of the study.

146 She stated that she and Mr. Perry felt that the County was putting incorrect language into the  
147 resolution and they didn't want the Commissioners to vote on something that isn't true. She  
148 stated that she's not sure the change in language was the best change, but it is better than it was  
149 and it acknowledges the Water Authority to some degree.

150 She explained that the first time it was supposed to be presented to the Board, the request was  
151 withdrawn for two weeks, so that the language could be revised, and it could be noticed in the  
152 paper before putting it back on the agenda.

153 She stated that Commissioner Parks had informed the Lake County Board of Commissioners that  
154 they were changing the language due to the fact that the Lake County Water Authority was not  
155 happy about the language regarding the hydrologic study and that he didn't really understand  
156 why the Water Authority was upset as they attend almost all of the SLRWI meetings.

157 She noted that Lake County, Clermont, Mascotte, Groveland, Minneola and Montverde are all  
158 members of the SLRWI and all may have an opinion on how the structures should be operated.

159 She stated that now that the language has been amended, the bid has been posted. She explained  
160 that once the bid is awarded, the study itself will take a year and a half.

161 Vice Chair Dufresne stated that when the SLRWI had addressed the Water Authority Board two  
162 years ago, they were asking about water run-off studies and not about flows. Chairwoman Cox  
163 noted that at that time they were also wanting to know the why the lake levels were so low.

164 She stated that now the SLRWI is talking about doing an inventory of all existing stormwater  
165 structures.

166 Vice Chair Dufresne asked where this leaves the Water Authority in regards to the structures and  
167 Chairwoman Cox stated that the Water Authority's legislative direction is very clear. She stated  
168 that she believes the SLRWI would have to get the Legislatures to change the language about  
169 who does what, in order to have any say so on how the structures are regulated.

170 Attorney Barice stated that the Water Authority does has the ability to enter into Interlocal  
171 agreements and it may be a situation where that might be the appropriate this to do.

172 Chairwoman Cox stated that she just wants the Board to be aware of what is happening and the  
173 fact that she and Mr. Perry had asked them to change the language. She noted that the SLRWI  
174 was not happy that the Water Authority had requested them to change the language.

175 Mr. Harris asked why the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) wasn't listed  
176 and Mr. Perry explained that the District doesn't have anything to do with flows or with the basin

177 in South Lake County. Mr. Harris stated that he was asking because the Water Authority needs  
178 the District's approval for changing water levels and Mr. Perry explained that the Water  
179 Authority does not need the District's approval in the Clermont Chain.

180 Mr. Perry noted that there have been three different studies of the basin in the past.

181 Chairwoman Cox stated that the SLRWI considers the District as a partner and member. Vice  
182 Chair Dufresne asked if the Water Authority is the only agency not involved and Chairwoman  
183 Cox answered, yes, as the original purpose of the SLRWI was about finding potable/drinking  
184 water sources.

185 Vice Chair Dufresne asked when the SLRWI changed direction and Mr. Perry explained that it  
186 appears to have changed when they decided that they might have to look at surface water, and  
187 more specifically the water that the Water Authority discharges out of the system as an option for  
188 potable water.

189 Vice Chair Dufresne asked that the topic be put on the agenda and brought back to the Board for  
190 further discussion. He stated that with the way the County has handled water issues in the past,  
191 he didn't want them to get their hands on the Clermont Chain of Lakes.

192 Attorney Barice stated that she would like to have a copy of the Interlocal Agreement.

193 The Board directed staff to put the Clermont Chain Basin Study on a future agenda and bring it  
194 back to the Board for discussion.

195 Mr. Perry informed the Board about a new development called Lake Minneola Landing. He  
196 stated that they are looking to get a zoning change on the property to the west of the PUD and  
197 will be going to the Planning and Zoning Board next week. He explained that they are  
198 requesting to add recreational and industrial zoning areas to the development along with a  
199 proposed boat ramp that will launch into the marsh by the Palatlahaha River. He stated that staff  
200 will be keeping an eye on the project and will keep the Board informed.

201 Mr. Perry also informed the Board that the owners of Extreme Groves, which is the property  
202 adjacent to Scrub Point Preserve, will also be going to the Planning and Zoning Board to request  
203 a future land use and comp plan amendment to change their property from rural to low density  
204 urban in order to develop the property. He stated that there are some issues involving setbacks  
205 that staff would like them to address and Ms. Burgos is going to contact the consultant to see if  
206 he is available to address the Board next month regarding the project.

207 Mr. Clark asked Mr. Perry where Emerald Lakes is located and Mr. Perry replied that the  
208 community is located on Lake Palatlahaha. Mr. Clark asked what lakes were at the same level at  
209 Lake Palatlahaha and Mr. Perry stated that the lakes in the Clermont Chain (Lake Louisa, Lake  
210 Minnehaha, and Lake Palatlahaha) are at the same level. He stated that if the Water Authority  
211 were to lower the water level of Lake Palatlahaha to accommodate Emerald Lakes, all the rest of  
212 the lakes would also be affected.

213 Mr. Clark stated that he has listened to Mr. Perry and Mr. Hart talk about how lake level  
214 fluctuations are good for the lakes. He wanted to know why these lakes are the exception and

215 why they would not benefit from fluctuations like all of the other lakes. He stated that the lake  
216 level fluctuation for Lake Griffin and other lakes in northern Lake County is not a natural  
217 fluctuation, as the levels are set by SJRWMD. He asked why the Clermont Chain of Lakes  
218 would not benefit from a natural fluctuation in water levels.

219 Mr. Perry stated that the Clermont Chain of Lakes have been experiencing a natural fluctuation  
220 in water levels due to the drought. He also noted that the Boards direction has been to keep the  
221 water levels as close to 97 feet as possible.

222 Mr. Clark stated that the reason why the Board chose to keep the Clermont Chain of Lakes at 97  
223 feet is what he would like Mr. Perry to include in the letter to Senator Hays, along with the  
224 reason the lakes would not benefit from the fluctuation that lowering the lakes brings. He noted  
225 that the lakes in northern Lake County are artificially fluctuated for the good of the lakes.

226 **4. CONSENT ITEMS**

227 **MR. HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Vice Chair  
228 Dufresne seconded the motion.

229 **Motion approved 4-0**

230 a. Brightwater Mitigation Lease Renewal

231 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RENEW THE IMPERIAL TERRACE**  
232 **WEST HOA LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE BRIGHTWATER MITIGATION**  
233 **PROPERTY THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017.**

234 b. Approval of Special District Public Facilities Report

235 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FORWARD THE SPECIAL**  
236 **DISTRICT PUBLIC FACILITIES REPORT FOR THE LAKE COUNTY WATER**  
237 **AUTHORITY DATED MARCH 2016 TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY**  
238 **COMMISSIONERS.**

239 **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

240 a. Disc Golf at Hidden Waters Preserve Agreement Renewal

241 Ms. Burgos stated that she wanted to discuss the renewal of the Disc Golf Course at Hidden Water  
242 Preserve.

243 She stated that after a year of use, the fairway looks nice and they have not had to trim any of the  
244 canopy. She showed picture of the disc golf course area and stated that as part of the renewal she  
245 would like to see the mats at each hole replaced with more permanent mats. She explained that  
246 she is also requesting that they revise the path of the first hole so that it is closer to the canopy, so  
247 that staff can do prescribed fires and plant and restore the area where there are gopher tortoises.  
248 She also noted that the Disc Golf Club is asking to expand the course to eighteen holes.

249 She noted that while visiting the property she has met several people who have made it their  
250 mission to rid the preserve of trash, sometimes digging out trash that has been buried for many  
251 years. She stated that between the Disc Golf Club members and other individuals in the  
252 neighborhood, there is a nice contingent of people keeping an eye on the preserve.

253 She informed the Board that she also talked to the Disc Golf Club regarding the signage for the  
254 course, saying that there needs to be better signage to direct people as to the location of the goals.

255 Adam Ashton with Lake County's Department of Growth addressed the Board and stated that  
256 Disc Golf is a growing sport and there is a lot of opportunity for the sport in Lake County. He  
257 stated that while there are a lot of people that play disc golf in the Central Florida area, there are  
258 not a lot of high caliber courses in the area. He stated that the County is looking at the potential  
259 for adding more courses around the county, with the course at Hidden Waters being a model  
260 course.

261 Mr. Harris asked if they are looking at any other sites at this time and Mr. Ashton stated that the  
262 City of Clermont is in the planning stages of putting a course at Lake Hiawatha Park and the cities  
263 of Eustis, Mt. Dora and Leesburg have also expressed an interest.

264 Ben Champion, Director of Florida Disc Golf Foundation addressed the Board and stated that the  
265 disc golf community feels very fortunate to have had the use of Hidden Water for the past year.  
266 He explained that the topography of the area makes it a very unique course.

267 He stated that the long term goal for the area is to create a Disc Golf Trail similar to the Blueways  
268 Trail for kayaking, with disc golf courses around Lake County. He noted that each disc golf  
269 course is unique and people will travel to try new courses. He stated that their goal is to increase  
270 tourism and provide recreation by building championship level courses. He noted that they will be  
271 holding their third tournament in Lake County called the Trail Blazer on May 14th and 15th. He  
272 stated that people from all over the country will be participating.

273 He stated that it has been a privilege to have use of Hidden Waters Preserve and to work with the  
274 Water Authority by helping to pick up trash and remove invasive species from the preserve.

275 Chairwoman Cox asked if there are many events with over 25 participants. Mr. Champion replied  
276 that the only time there are over 25 participants at one time is when there is a tournament and they  
277 do get additional insurance coverage through the Disc Golf Association for those events.

278 Gregg Hosfeld addressed the Board and stated that he is the primary designer on many disc golf  
279 courses and has designed about forty course in the United States and Italy. He stated that the main  
280 thing he looks for is natural fairways through mature trees in order to keep cutting to a minimum.  
281 He stated that he hopes they can continue being good neighbors in the preserve.

282 Mr. Champion stated that none of the equipment such as signage, mats and baskets will cost the  
283 Water Authority anything. He stated they were fortunate to have Mellow Mushroom of Mt. Dora  
284 donate nine baskets, but all of the new baskets and equipment will cost thousands of dollars and it  
285 would assist them greatly if they can amend the agreement to state that it is acceptable to have a  
286 sponsor's name on the tee signs and baskets. The Board stated that they didn't have a problem  
287 with the sponsorship.



288 Mr. Harris suggested that they might also have sponsorship logos on their scorecards at  
289 tournaments. Mr. Champion asked if the Board if they would like to also have the Water  
290 Authority logo on the signs and the Board stated that it wasn't necessary.

291 Mr. Champion stated that Water Authority staff would be able to approve any signs before they  
292 are placed on the course.

293 **MR. CLARK MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FLORIDA DISC GOLF**  
294 **FOUNDATION D/B/A LAKE COUNTY DISC GOLF CLUB TO OPERATE AN**  
295 **EIGHTEEN-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE, WITH LIABILITY INSURANCE**  
296 **COVERAGE FOR ANY EVENT OVER 25 PARTICIPANTS.** Vice Chair Dufresne  
297 seconded the motion.

298 **Motion approved 4-0**

299 **MR. HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**  
300 **EXECUTE A RENEWED AND UPDATED ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE**  
301 **FLORIDA DISC GOLF FOUNDATION D/B/A LAKE COUNTY DISC GOLF CLUB**  
302 **FOR AN EIGHTEEN-HOLE DISC GOLF COURSE ON HIDDEN WATERS**  
303 **PRESERVE.** Mr. Clark seconded the motion.

304 **Motion approved 4-0.**

305 b. Review of Current Use of Preserves

306 Ms. Burgos gave an overview of the usage of the Lake County Water Authority Preserves that  
307 are open to the public. She stated that she has provided the Board with a table listing all the  
308 activities and events at each of the preserves.

309 She informed the Board that staff had recently opened Wolf Branch Sink for one day and over  
310 600 people visited the preserve to see the sink and waterfall, and hike the preserve.

311 She noted that there have been over 100,000 visitors to the preserves during the ten years. She  
312 highlighted three of the preserves and stated that Crooked River is the smallest preserve at  
313 approximately 63 acres, Flat Island is the largest preverve at 2300 acres, and Hidden Waters in  
314 Eustis is 90 acres in size. She noted that the smaller properties are getting as much use as the  
315 larger properties and visits to Hidden Waters will probably surpass all the other preserves as far  
316 as usage. She stated that usage of Crooked River has increased as more people have discovered  
317 the preserve for kayaking, canoeing and hiking.

318 She noted that the sign at Crooked River has been updated and activity signs have been added to  
319 the sign for Crooked River at Hammock Ridge Road. She stated that now that the preserve has  
320 an ADA approved restroom and trail, the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) will allow the  
321 Water Authority to put a sign on US Route 27 and staff will be working to make that happen.

322 She also informed the Board that the small, faded FDOT signs to Flat Island Preserve on US  
323 Route 27 have been updated with large new signs with activity icons. She stated that staff is also  
324 looking to improve the signage to Sawgrass Island Preserve in the future.

325 Ms. Burgos also informed the Board that there has been some vandalism issues on a couple of  
326 the preserves. She noted that she had previously informed the Board about the target practising  
327 and shooting into the preserve that had been occurring at Sawgrass Island Preserve and stated  
328 that they are again experiencing this problem. She showed a photo of the sign that had been used  
329 previously for target practice, as well as a photo of another sign that is currently being used for  
330 target practice at Sawgrass Island Preserve.

331 She noted there has also been an issue with someone shooting into Sabal Bluff Preserve and  
332 showed a can shot full of bullet holes. She explained that the can was on Water Authority  
333 property just hanging on the fence without a target or backstop. She stated that the can had been  
334 removed by staff approximately two weeks ago and when she had driven by the the preserve the  
335 day before, there was another in its place.

336 Ms. Burgos asked for direction from the Board regarding the issues at Sabal Bluff, including  
337 loose pets, target practice and speeding golf carts.

338 Chairwoman Cox stated that with the recent changes in the gun legislature, backyard ranges have  
339 been outlawed if the property is of a certain density or if it involves shooting across public  
340 property. She stated that staff should call law enforcement and file a complaint as shooting into  
341 the preserve creates a safety hazard for people using the trails. She also suggested that staff ask a  
342 law officer to speak with them.

343 Mr. Harris stated it needs to be documented with law enforcement each time there is a new  
344 incident and staff should take a picture, leave the evidence alone and call law enforcement.

345 Mr. Harris stated that it is against the law to damage public property, and shooting the signs is  
346 considered vandalism. Chairwoman Cox and Mr. Harris stated that staff needs to report any  
347 incidents and let law enforcement handle them.

348 Vice Chair Dufresne stated that it is a felony to shoot into public lands. He stated that staff needs  
349 to speak to the site resident at Sawgrass Island Preserve to make him aware of the situation and  
350 staff also needs to file a report with the Sheriff's Department.

351 The Board directed staff to document any shooting incidents on the preserves and to contact Law  
352 Enforcement so they can handle the situation.

353 Ms. Burgos informed the Board that they are also having problems with people bringing dogs to  
354 the preserves. She showed a photo of the NO PETS and NO ALCOHOL signs that have been  
355 posted on the properties. She stated that there are two such signs at Hidden Waters Preserve, and  
356 while she was out at the preserve recently, a person walked right past both of the signs with a  
357 dog.

358 Ms. Burgos also updated the Board regarding Wolf Branch Sink and the Lake and Sumter  
359 MPO's proposal to run a Rails to Trails for biking through the middle of the preserve. She  
360 pointed out that the actual railway runs to the north of the property and she would rather see the  
361 Rail to Trails path placed along that route. She stated that she had spokent to TJ Fish and asked  
362 if he would come and speak to the Board.

363 The Board agreed with Ms. Burgos and requested that TJ Fish with the MPO come and speak to  
364 them about the Rails to Trail Project and the portion they want to put through Wolf Branch Sink  
365 Preserve.

366 c. Preview of New Web Site

367 Mr. Garcia gave a preview of the new Lake County Water Authority website. He explained that  
368 the old website uses a lot of Adobe Flash, which a lot of computers no longer support. He also  
369 explained that certain parts of the old website cannot be changed due to the type of programming  
370 it uses. He stated that the new website will be user-friendly for staff to edit and have a cleaner,  
371 simpler look. He noted that the new website will also be compatible with mobile devices. He  
372 stated that they are in the process of migrating everything over to the new site and hope to have  
373 everything on-line within a couple of weeks.

374 Chairwoman Cox stated that the new site looks simpler and cleaner and easier to navigate.  
375 Attorney Barice asked if computers with older operating systems would be able to use the  
376 website and Mr. Garcia stated that they would.

377 Vice Chair Dufresne asked if the icons on the front page are going to be updated as they look  
378 very simple and childish. Mr. Garcia stated that they can be changed, but for the most part,  
379 companies are opting for a simpler design that loads faster and is easier to maneuver.

380 Chairwoman Cox asked if people will be able to access the Water Atlas from the new site and  
381 Mr. Garcia stated that they would.

382 d. Old Office Building

383 Mr. Perry stated that the bid for the old office building is out and staff is trying to advertise it in  
384 as many places as possible. He stated that to be listed on the MLS, it would have to be listed by  
385 a realtor. He asked the Board if they have any other ideas on where to advertise the bid in order  
386 to get it out to as many people as possible. He noted that the bid date is April 22, 2016.

387 Mr. Harris suggested emailing the bid to any contractors the Water Authority has used over the  
388 past few years, as they may know someone who might be interested.

389 Attorney Barice stated that she thought they should try to list the property on the MLS listing  
390 with Ms. Maimone if possible, as long as no commissions will come out of the Water Authority  
391 proceeds.

392 Vice Chair Dufresne asked whether the City of Tavares or Lake County had expressed any  
393 additional interest and Mr. Perry stated that there hasn't been any additional interest shown as of  
394 yet.

395 The Board directed staff to email bid information out to the Water Authority's list of contractors  
396 and to put the listing on the MLS if possible, with the condition that any commissions do not  
397 come out of the Water Authority's proceeds.

398 e. Status of Lake Norris Acres Appraisal

399 Ms. Burgos stated that she had met the land owner of Lake Norris Acres, along with the Land  
400 Appraiser, Appraisal Reviewer, the Real Estate Representative, as well as an Environmental  
401 Scientist for St. Johns River Water Management District at the site to check out the property.

402 She stated that the Environmental Scientist had toured the property and checked out the  
403 hydrology. She noted that the Land Appraiser had stated that it would take approximately 30  
404 days to complete the appraisal, and that after the appraisal is completed, the Reviewer will need  
405 15 days to review the appraisal. She noted that a wetland deliniation has been done on the  
406 property and everything is proceeding well, and hopefully will be completed soon.

407 Mr. Perry noted that Mr. Bryant has asked that the Board not take any action unless he is in  
408 attendance.

409 f. Status of Bourlay House

410 Mr. Perry updated the Board on the repairs being done to the Bourlay House. He showed before  
411 and after pictures of the stairway and stated that they stairs now have fresh paint on the risers and  
412 the steps are sanded and stained. He stated that the next step is to sand and repaint the balusters  
413 and put them back in place.

414 The Board directed staff to purchase lower kitchen cabinets. They also directed staff to look at  
415 the existing upper cabinets and if they are not deep enough to hold dishes, staff is to look into  
416 replacing them also.

417 There was discussion on how to finish the kitchen floor, and it was stated that it might be  
418 possible to sand and refinish the floors, depending on their condition once the lower kitchen  
419 cabinets are removed.

420 **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

421 None

422 **7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT**

423 Attorney Barice reported on the progress of the Wolf Branch Sink Vacation Petition. She stated  
424 the Ms. Burgos has been able to obtain all the signatures needed except for the owners of the  
425 adjacent landfill. She explained that the owners have stated their agreement, but have not signed  
426 the needed document.

427 She noted that the landfill owners have asked if the Water Authority would support them if they  
428 were to also ask for a vacation petition for their property. The Board stated that they would have  
429 no objection to supporting their request.

430 She also reported that the Bill regarding recreational discharge of a fireman passed. She read  
431 aloud Chapter 2016.12, Section 790.15 regarding the discharge of firearms outdoors:

432 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:*

433 *Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 790.15, Florida Statutes, to read:*

434 *790.15 Discharging firearm in public or on residential property.*

435 *(4) Any person who recreationally discharges a firearm outdoors, including target shooting, in*  
436 *an area that the person knows or reasonably should know is primarily residential in nature and*  
437 *that has a residential density of one or more dwelling units per acre, commits a misdemeanor of*  
438 *the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. This subsection does not*  
439 *apply:*

440 *(a) To a person lawfully defending life or property or performing official duties requiring the*  
441 *discharge of a firearm;*

442 *(b) If, under the circumstances, the discharge does not pose a reasonably foreseeable risk to life,*  
443 *safety, or property; or*

444 *(c) To a person who accidentally discharges a firearm.*

445 Attorney Barice also read the section regarding public roads and right-a-ways:

446 *790.15 Discharging firearm in public or on residential property.-*

447 *(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) or subsection (3), any person who knowingly discharges*  
448 *a firearm in any public place or on the right-of-way of any paved public road, highway, or street,*  
449 *who knowingly discharges any firearm over the right-of-way of any paved public road, highway,*  
450 *or street or over any occupied premises, or who recklessly or negligently discharges a firearm*  
451 *outdoors on any property used primarily as the site of a dwelling as defined in s. 776.013 or*  
452 *zoned exclusively for residential use commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.*

453 Vice Chair Dufresne stated that if he is not mistaken, it becomes a felony because it is public  
454 land.

455 There was discussion regarding what can be done regarding the issue and Chairwoman Cox  
456 stated that it needs to be reported and the law enforcement departments will decide what is  
457 appropriate.

458 **8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

459 None

460 **9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

461 **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

462 a. Staff Reports

463 b. Monthly Financial Reports – February 2016

464 **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

465 - Freshwater Master Naturalist program at Hickory Point, Friday, March 18,  
466 2016 (9am to 3pm)

- 467 - Trout Lake Nature Center Spring Break Camp at Hickory Point, Wednesday,
- 468 March 23, 2016 (9am to 3pm)
- 469 - Water WONDERS – Venetian Gardens, Wednesday, April 6, 2016 (10am to
- 470 2pm)
- 471 - Water WONDERS – Umatilla Library, Thursday, April 7, 2016 (3:15pm to
- 472 4:15pm)
- 473 - Round Lake Elementary at Gilbert Park, Thursday, April 7, 2016 (9am to
- 474 1pm)
- 475 - Lake County Fair, April 7 through April 16, 2016
- 476 - Lake Sumter State College & Master Naturalists at NuRF, Friday, April 8,
- 477 2016 (9am to noon)
- 478 - Mt. Dora Earth Day, Saturday, April 16, 2016 (10 am to 4 pm)
- 479 - Board Meeting - Wednesday, April 27, 2016 (3:30 pm)
- 480 BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- 481 - Clermont Elementary 5th grade at Hickory Point, Thursday, May 5, 2016 (9pm to
- 482 1pm)
- 483 - Grassy Lake Elementary Science Night, Thursday, May 5, 2016 (5:30pm to
- 484 7:30pm)
- 485 - Minneola Elementary K-3 Science Fair, May 10, 2016 (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)
- 486 - Sawgrass Bay Elementary at Lake Louisa State Park, Friday, May 20, 2016
- 487 (9am to 1pm)

488 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

489 The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.