

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
May 24, 2017

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Adam Dufresne, Chairman (At Large)
Keith A. Farner, (At Large)
Diana M. Mullins (#3)
Doug Bryant (#4)
Amy Stone (#5)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Patricia Burgos, Environmental Prog. Mgr.
Ron Hart, Water Res. Prog. Mgr.
Ben Garcia, IT Manager
Carole Barice, LCWA Attorney
Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MS. MULLINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY, MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING. Ms. Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry gave the water level report and stated that Lake County and all of Central Florida have been experiencing a period of very dry weather.

He stated that Lake Apopka has fallen considerably below minimum desirable. He stated that the lake is currently 1.2 feet below the regulatory level and almost a foot below minimum desirable. He noted that flow through the Apopka-Beauclair has been at zero since May 17, 2016

He also stated that the Middle Lakes/Superpond (Lake Dora, Lake Harris and Lake Eustis) has also fallen below minimum desirable. He noted that is .25 below minimum desirable. He stated that conditions are the same on Lake Griffin and there has been no flow out of Moss Bluff Lock and Dam since May 20, 2017

Vice Chair Farner asked about the Burrell Lock and Dam structure on Haines Creek, and Mr. Perry stated that there has been no flow through Burrell since April 29, 2017.

Mr. Perry noted that the only rainfall in April fell during the early part of the month. He noted that rainfall was more than 5 inches below the typically average rainfall.

He stated that the water levels in the Clermont Chain continue to decline with the water currently 1¾ foot lower than last year at 95.35 msl compared to 97 msl this time last year. He noted that Big Creek and Little Creek are at zero flow at this time, and there has been no flow coming into the Clermont Chain for the last couple of months.

Mr. Perry stated that renovations to the M-6 structure are under way. He noted that the contractors hope to have it done in June before the rainy season begins.

He also informed the Board that Representative Metz' legislation regarding the duties of the Water Authority had passed through both the House and the Senate. He stated that the Governor had until May 29 to deny it otherwise, it becomes law.

Mr. Perry stated that July 12, 2017 was the date of the upcoming Budget Workshop, and stated that they needed to decide on what time to hold the meeting. He also asked if the Board had any interest in holding a Chairman's workshop before that time. Chairman Dufresne stated that the afternoon of July 12th would be the best time for him for the Budget Workshop.

Mr. Perry also informed the Board, that at a recent Leesburg City Commissioners meeting, the Commission agreed to sell the 1100-acre former spray field to the Villages. He explained that the property had previously been slated for the LEAF project. He stated that the property is south of Flat Island Preserve and noted that the Water Authority is the largest adjacent property owner.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

MS. MULLINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Ms. Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

- a. Renewal of Agreement for Brightwater Mitigation Site

AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RENEW THE IMPERIAL TERRACE WEST HOA LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE BRIGHTWATER MITIGATION PROPERTY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2018.

- b. Change Order to Hickory Point Floating Dock Contract

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$3,450 FROM BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER 9898710-830460 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE TO 9898400-860630 SITE IMPROVEMENTS.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Disc Golf at Hidden Waters Preserve

Chairman Dufresne stated that the Disc Golf Association had withdrawn their request to extend the Disc Golf Agreement at Hidden Waters Preserve. He noted that they would be removing their equipment from the preserve by the end of June.

Dr. Patrowicz addressed our Board and stated that for the last 20 years he has enjoyed the beauty of Hidden Waters. He commended the Board on acting to preserve Hidden Waters and stated that he was pleased to hear that the Disc Golf Course would be removed from the preserve.

 3:53

He also commended Ms. Chris Howell (*who was not in attendance*) for her tireless efforts in helping to keep Hidden Waters Preserve clean. He stated that she has been picking up trash around the park for twenty years.

He presented a folder to each of the Board Members stating the concerns of local residents regarding the preservation of Hidden Waters Preserve and gave a personal poetic tribute to the preserve.

 4:00

Dr. Roger Rath addressed the Board and stated that he and Dr. Patrowicz had received nearly 1,000 signed petitions in opposition of the disc golf course. He stated that the original petition recorded approximately 600 signatures, and presented the remaining 350-400 petitions to the Board.

VICE CHAIR FARNER MADE A MOTION TO NO LONGER PURSUE EXTENDING THIS (THE RENEWAL OF THE DISC GOLF COURSE) AGREEMENT OR ANY DISC GOLF ON OUR PROPERTIES. Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

Mr. Bryant stated that Hidden Waters Preserve is the preserve he visits most often and he has mixed feelings about the loss of the Disc Golf Course. He noted that he was amazed at the outpouring of concern expressed for the preserve.

Vice Chair Farnar acknowledged and thanked Ms. Chris Howell (who was not present at the meeting) for her many hours spent removing litter from Hidden Waters Preserve. He asked that it be put on the Board Agenda to formally recognize her for her service.

Ms. Mullins thanked all those in the audience who had taken the time to come together to protect Hidden Waters Preserve.

Chairman Dufresne stated that it has been a pleasure to work with both parties, (*the Disc Golf Organization and the residents of the area*).

David Gantz, of Eustis, stated that he and his family love Hidden Waters Preserve and that he was grateful for the Board's decision.

[VICE CHAIR FARNER MADE A MOTION TO NO LONGER PURSUE EXTENDING THIS (THE RENEWAL OF THE DISC GOLF COURSE) AGREEMENT OR ANY DISC GOLF ON OUR PROPERTIES. Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.]

Motion approved 5-0.

b. Lake Yale and Trout Lake Hydrologic / Nutrient Budgets and Water Quality Management Plans - Final Report

Mr. Perry introduced Dr. Harvey Harper, with Environmental Research & Design (ERD), to address the Board regarding the Hydrologic and Nutrient Study at Lake Yale and Trout Lake.

Mr. Harper stated that Trout Lake and Lake Yale are both located in the Upper Ocklawaha Chain of Lakes, and both are connected to the system. He explained that the scope of the project was to develop hydrologic and nutrient budgets, locate and measure the sources of the nutrient loading in Trout Lake and Lake Yale and to provide the Water Authority with possible solutions.

He presented a PowerPoint Presentation showing the results of the study and explained that ERD had performed a bathymetric survey to look at water and muck depths in each of the lakes, as well as a twelve-month field-monitoring program of surface water, ground water and in-flows into the lakes. He stated that they also looked at historical water quality and watersheds, along with hydrologic modeling. They developed hydrologic and nutrient budgets and looked significant factors impacting water quality and what could be done to mitigate those.

He explained that two-thirds of Trout Lake's shoreline is hydrologically connected to a wetland system much of the year, with the other third being bordered by a mobile home park a highway and some commercial activities.

He stated that Lake Yale is a large lake at 4,000-acres in size and is also hydrologically connected to wetland areas. He noted that most of the watershed area around Lake Yale at this time is undeveloped. He stated that the maximum water depth in the lake is about eleven feet with the sides of the being mildly sloped.

He explained that the first thing they did was look at the water and muck depths in the lakes, and collected probing samples in several locations on Trout Lake. He stated that Trout Lake is 106 acres in size and the mean depth is approximately 7.5 feet. He explained that the maximum muck depth was 7 feet and was located near the center of the lake. He stated that overall the average muck depth is about 2.2 feet.

Mr. Harper stated that they did the same thing for Lake Yale, with Lake Yale, being a much larger water body. He stated that the depth of the water in some areas of the lake is in excess of twenty feet with the mean depth being 10.7 feet.

He showed the muck depth contours for Lake Yale and stated that the average muck depth in the lake is about 5.2 feet. He stated that the muck is having a substantial impact on the water quality in Lake Yale.

He stated that they took 15 core samples of the sediments in Trout Lake, and noted that most of them. He explained that some areas have a little more sand than other areas, with those areas mainly being around the perimeter of the lake.

He stated that they collected samples at 32 sites in Lake Yale, with the most common type of sediment samples being unconsolidated organic muck. He explained that the organic muck is primarily a result of vegetation growth and decay accumulating in the bottom of the lake. He noted that like Trout Lake the samples around the perimeter of the lake contained more sand.

Mr. Harper explained that they also looked at historical water quality and noted that data for Trout Lake is available from 1993 through 2015. He pointed out that there has been an increasing trend in concentrations of total nitrogen and total phosphorous in the lake during that time.

He noted that Chlorophyll-A and Secchi depths in the lake have remained relatively constant over time, with the Chlorophyll-A being very elevated. He stated that they discovered that the amount of Chlorophyll-A in Trout Lake is regulated by the color of the water, rather than by the nutrients in the water. He explained that the color of the water prevents light penetration, which in turn regulates the Chlorophyll. He stated that the lake has more than enough nutrients in it to support a much larger algal population that it has. He noted that Trout Lake also has trouble with dissolved oxygen.

Mr. Harper explained that prior to the 1990's, Lake Yale had low concentrations of both total phosphorous and total nitrogen. In the 1980's Hydrilla began to grow in the lake and there were attempts to control it using chemical means as well as mechanical harvesting.

In 1987, Florida Fish and Game introduced 20,000 Grass Carp into the lake in an effort to control the Hydrilla. He noted that this was a stocking rate of five fish per acres, which was two to three times the current recommended rate.

He explained that because the lake was overstocked with fish, the fish ate all the vegetation in the lake, including the beneficial vegetation. He stated that before the Grass Carp were introduced into the lake, the entire bottom was covered in submerged vegetation, much of which was beneficial vegetation. He noted that as a result of that, the bottom of the lake was reduced to muck, and in the late 1990's phosphorous concentrations spiked and algal growth increased in the lake and clouded the water column and made it impossible for the lake to re-establish the vegetation that was once there. He stated that because of that, the lake is maintained in a eutrophic state, where it once was an oligotrophic lake with very clear water. He noted though that the shoreline vegetation and the extent of that vegetation is the best he has seen in compared to any lake in Florida.

He explained that the water level in Lake Yale is controlled by an outfall weir with water entering through a canal, with the water eventually enters Lake Griffin after going through a series of control structures along the way.

He noted as part of the study they looked at monthly changes in water elevation versus monthly rainfall. He explained that the minimum rainfall needed monthly in order to maintain a stable water level in the lake is 3.88 inches per month (46 inches per year).

There was continued discussion regarding the possible causes of the high nutrient and phosphorous levels in the lakes and Mr. Harper gave examples of a few things that could be done to correct the issue.

Mr. Bryant asked about the runoff from the Eustis Commerce Park and Mr. Hart explained that the Eustis Commerce Park near Lake Yale has two nutraceutical facilities. He explained that staff at Lake County had stated that there had been complaints about the facility and when they had tested the runoff, it was astronomically high in phosphorous levels.

Mr. Bryant asked if staff would find out whether the Commerce Park near Lake Yale is under the jurisdiction of Lake County or the City of Eustis, and what regulations there are regarding the facility. Mr. Hart stated that he would check into in and come back to the Board with ideas on how to proceed. It was noted that they needed to get copy of the facilities' permits.

It was noted that treating Trout Lake would also benefit Lake Eustis. In response to a question regarding the alum facility in Trout Lake, Mr. Perry and Mr. Hart explained that the project was funded by a grant from the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Perry stated that the grant only provides funding for the facility for five years, after which time other funding would need to be secured.

Mr. Perry explained that once they start working on the budget, there would be a variety of different options included for discussion.

There was a discussion regarding the Grass Carp and it was noted that Fish and Wildlife has tried to remove the Grass Carp by several methods, but have not been successful. It was stated that some of them weigh from 20 to 40 pounds.

Vice Chair Farner stated that as a Board, they should focus on point source treatments. He stated that he didn't know just what the Water Authority could afford to do, but they need to do something to address the issue.

Ms. Stone stated that she felt they could make a bigger difference in a shorter time in Lake Yale. She stated that they needed to develop a plan of action and Mr. Hart stated that he would look at putting the topic on the Board Agenda for June. Ms. Stone suggested holding a Chairman's workshop prior to the next meeting.

Attorney Barice asked if it would be possible to remove any of the muck from Lake Yale and Mr. Hart stated that it would cost 330-million dollars to dredge Lake Yale.

Mr. Perry noted that it would be hard finding a place to put dispose of the muck, as it would require 10,000-acres.

MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE AN EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & DESIGN WITH A NEW DEADLINE OF JUNE 30, 2017. Ms. Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Bryant, with Trout Lake Nature Center, addressed the Board and stated that she is Head of Building Committee for the Center. Build a classroom, provide parking and build a museum.

She gave a PowerPoint presentation (*contained in the backup documentation*) describing the services provided by Trout Lake Nature Center and the different groups and organizations that use their facilities, along with artist renderings of the proposed expansion to the center.

She explained that Trout Lake Nature Center is asking the Water Authority for a contribution of \$100,000 toward the new facility, as well as a pledge of \$100,000 for the following year.

She thanked the Water Authority for everything they have done to support Trout Lake Nature Center in their mission to educate the public about the natural world.

Mr. Perry explained to the Board that no action was required as it was not on the agenda. He stated that this was something they could consider and discuss as they work their way through the upcoming budget process.

The Board took a break at 5:46 pm. They returned at 6:30 pm and the meeting was continued.

c. Approval to Award NuRF Centrifuge Control Update

Mr. Duarte addressed the Board and gave an update on the proposal to upgrade the controls for the Centrifuge at the NuRF. He explained that the Centrifuge was imported from Germany and is the most important piece of equipment at the facility as dewateres and processes the alum floc.

He stated that the control screen is basically the brain of Centrifuge. He explained that the current controls were installed in 2007 and the technology (*electronic cards and modular processors*) used at that time is going out of date.

He explained that there have been two recent failures of the controls (*December 2016 and February 2017*) that has staff concerned about the availability of replacement parts. He stated that the electronic cards are no longer available except for refurbished parts.

Mr. Duarte explained that staff is proposing to replacement of the control screen and the old card technology. He stated that they are also proposing to update of the input and out signals, software and hardware, and incorporate a HDMI connection for future updates and expansion.

He stated that staff had obtained 3 written quotes with Analytical & Diagnosis Services, being the the lowest and most responsible contractor. He noted that this company were also involved in the installation of the original equipment.

Vice Chair Farner asked if Analytical & Diagnosis Services had performed these types of upgrades before and Mr. Duarte stated that they have.

Chairman Dufresne stated that his only concern is that the Centrifuge is running enough to justify the cost of the updates.

Mr. Perry explained that staff would be meeting with St. Johns River Water Management District and Florida Fish and Wildlife the following week to discuss changing the discharge schedule

from Lake Apopka to a small regulated discharge rather than stopping and starting water discharges based on water levels.

VICE CHAIR FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO CONTRACT WITH ANALYTICAL & DIAGNOSIS SERVICES, LLC FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,538.00 TO UPGRADE THE CONTROLS OF THE CENTRIFUGE AT THE NURF. Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Farner asked if the Centrifuge is in working order at this time and Mr. Duarte answered that it is.

Motion approved 5-0.

d. Review of 2016 Annual Report and Five Year Plan

Mr. Perry stated that Board Members should have each received a copy of the Annual Report and Five Year Plan. He explained that while the Five Year Plan has a draft budget attached to it, it is only a draft and the budget will change drastically before it is completed.

He asked the Board Members if they had any comments and explained that they could choose to approve the Report as it stands, or they could delay approval until next month if they wanted additional time to read and comment.

MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FIVE YEAR PLAN TO THE SENATE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDING LEGISLATION. Vice Chair Farner seconded the motion.

Mr. Bryant asked which locally elected officials are sent copies of the Annual Report and Mr. Perry explained that the report is sent to the Lake County Commissioners and to city mayors.

Motion approved 5-0.

6. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice stated that at the previous Board Meeting she had mistakenly reported that the proposed Legislation regarding Ethics Training and the Registration of Lobbyists has passed the House and Senate. She stated that this information was incorrect and that neither Bill passed.

She stated that the Public Records Act did pass through both House and Senate; is “enrolled” at this time and is waiting for final approval by the Governor.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Farner thanked Ms. Stone regarding her comments about Lake Yale, stating that they were very helpful. He stated that he is grateful that the Disc Golf topic is over.

Ms. Mullins stated that she would be out of the country from June 26, 2017 through July 6, 2017.

Chairman Dufresne thanked Ms. Stone for dinner, Ms. Ely and Mr. Perry for the pies and wished Mr. Farner a Happy Birthday.

8. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Bryant suggested that the Board have a field trip to Trout Lake and Lake Yale, before making any decisions. It was suggested that they have the field trip in the morning and follow it up with a workshop at Trout Lake Nature Center. Date chosen was June 22, 2017.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – April 2017

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 28, 2017 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Neil Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer

Adam Dufresne, Chairman