

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
September 27, 2017

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Keith A. Farner, Vice Chair (At Large)
Peggy Cox (#1)
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.
Sergio Duarte, Water Res. Proj. Mgr.
Ben Garcia, IT Manager
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, AUGUST 23, 2017 - REGULAR MEETING AND OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 – TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry gave the water level reports and stated that at this time, all water coming from Lake Apopka is going totally through NuRF and for the past week or so, Mr. Hart has been able to get sufficient alum supplies in order to treat 100 percent of the flow.

He stated that it has been no small feat to get the supplies needed and Mr. Hart has done an incredible job coordinating the deliveries. He also noted that Ron Hart, Bill Guenther and Sergio Duarte have done an outstanding job keeping the NuRF running.

He showed pictures (located in the backup documentation as an exhibit) and explained that a berm downstream of the NuRF on the Apopka-Beauclair Canal was breached during Hurricane

Irma and about 10 to 15 cfs flowed into Lake Jem Farms and the sod farm is totally under water and crops are completely flooded. He stated that the owner of Lake Jem Farms is trying to repair the berm, but at this time everything is still very soggy and it make take a while for the berm to be repaired.

He also showed pictures and noted that a berm to the North Shore was also breached during the storm and both the Apopka North Shore and Apopka Flow-Way are flooded. He stated that because of this, the water level on Lake Apopka has decreased slightly. He noted that NuRF is working at peak capacity and probably will be for at least another week or longer.

Mr. Perry reported that the Middle Lakes/Superpond (Lake Dora, Lake Harris and Lake Eustis) spiked up substantially during the hurricane Lake Harris and Lake Eustis are on their way down and are almost back to normal. He stated that Lake Dora is still about a quarter of a foot above maximum desirable and a foot above regulatory schedule. He explained that the difficulty getting water out of Lake Dora is the Dora Canal because it a small and narrow canal.

He stated that there was substantial flow out of the Burrell Lock and Dam and it was flowing over 900 cfs at one point, along with 1000 cfs flowing through the Harris Bayou. He noted that water flowing from Lake Harris through the Harris Bayou flows directly into Lake Griffin.

He explained that all the excess water flowing through the Harris Chain ends up in Lake Griffin and fortunately the Moss Bluff Spillway can move as much as 2500 cfs through the structure. He stated that Lake Griffin is back at regulatory schedule and the Moss Bluff Spillway is still open as there is still water moving through the system. He noted that it may take a while to move all the excess water out of the system.

Mr. Perry reported that with the rainfall through the end of August, we are now at 107% of the average year to date annual rainfall. He noted that this does not include the month of September and Hurricane Irma. He stated that he expected to come back next month with even higher figures.

He gave an update on the Clermont Chain and Lake Minnehaha (which is the reference lake for the Clermont Chain) and stated that at the beginning of the summer the lake level had fallen below 95.5 feet msl. He noted that with the rainfall, the lake began to approach 97 msl and staff had begun releasing water on August 24 to allow for more rainfall. He stated that Hurricane Irma dropped a foot of rain throughout Lake County and Lake Minnehaha is approximately 97.5 at this time, which is the upper end of the regulatory range for the Clermont Chain.

He stated that with the continued from Big and Little Creeks the water level drifts up a bit and staff will continue to let water out through the system until the flows from Big and Little Creeks have come down. He stated that the current combined flow out of Big and Little Creeks is 552 cfs with Big Creek at 318 cfs and Little Creek at 234 cfs.

Vice Chair Farner asked how much the Clermont Chain is above the regulatory schedule and Mr. Perry stated that it is approximately .15 of a foot above regulatory schedule at this time.

Mr. Perry also noted that the Astor area is in a flood stage as the St. Johns River is about 2 feet higher than flood level.

Mr. Perry stated that it wasn't long ago that people were begging for more water in Lake Minnehaha. He showed a graph depicting historical rainfall levels in the Clermont Chain and noted that 2002 was a year of severe drought with the lowest recorded water levels.

He stated that following Hurricane Irma, the flow coming from Big Creek maxed out at 409 cubic feet per second (cfs), and is currently at 352 cfs. He stated that Little Creek maxed out at 302 cfs and is currently flowing at 248 cfs.

Mr. Bryant asked how well the reconstructed dams on the Palatlahaha River had worked and Mr. Perry stated that they had worked as they should.

Mr. Perry gave an update on the Water Authority staff's activities since Hurricane Irma. He showed pictures of trees down in Apopka-Beauclair Canal and explained that staff and contracted crews have mobilized crews to clear the canal. He stated that the canal is now navigable and the flow is no longer restricted.

He noted that staff hired a contractor to clear most of the Dora Canal. He stated that a few days after the storm another large tree fell across the canal and Brian Nagy, Linda Richardson and Evan Bump worked hard to clear it from the canal. He showed pictures of the tree across the canal and staff at work. *(Included in the backup documentation)*

Mr. Perry informed the Board that staff has gotten several calls from citizens regarding fallen trees blocking residential canals. He stated that the Board has always instructed staff to concentrate on keeping the canals and waterways between lakes clear and passable.

He stated that staff has received several calls from a citizen on a residential canal near Lake Beauclair regarding a tree that had fallen across the canal from his own property, and asking the Water Authority to remove it. *(Picture of tree included in backup documentation.)*

Mr. Perry stated that he had visited the site and noted that Dockmasters had already been through the canal and cut out a large portion of the tree and made the canal passable, as they needed to get down the canal to reach a job. He informed the Board that the tree is not impeding the flow of water and no longer creating a navigational hazard.

He stated that he had also received calls regarding of a large tree down across a residential canal in Fruitland Park *(Pictures of tree included in backup documentation.)* He stated that when visiting the site, he found that the water flow was not impeded and there was room to navigate around the tree.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that because of the number of call the Water Authority and the County have been receiving, Chairman Dufresne had asked him to look into the number of residential canals in Lake County. He explained that the County and the Water Authority have been getting calls from citizens with trees down in their private canals who are expecting government agencies to come out and take care of it.

He showed a map/aerial of the residential canals in Lake County and stated that there are 280 private canals, totaling 106 linear miles within Lake County. He also noted that there are 245 linear miles of canals that connect waterways.

He stated that he was instructed by Chairman Dufresne to mention this to the Board and to get some direction on what the Board wanted the Agency to do.

Vice Chair Farner stated that he thought that could be a discussion item for the future, but he is not comfortable changing a policy without a lot more information. He noted that the Water Authority has a policy that clearly states the Agency's primary responsibility is keeping the priorities and responsibilities regarding the clearing of trees from canals.

Mr. Bryant stated that the Water Authority has stayed away from clearing trees from private canals in the past and stated that he felt they needed to continue to do so. He stated the Agency has a small crew to begin with and they are very busy with the operation of NuRF and clearing of downed tree in the public canals and the Water Authority preserves.

He stated that he could see where there might be some exceptions to the policy, but at this time staff has many other jobs that are higher priority and they should stick to Board policy at this time.

Ms. Mullins stated that she didn't think they needed to change the policy, considering the number of miles of canals.

Ms. Cox stated that she didn't think the Water Authority should change its policy at this time, but maybe they should review the policy, as the State may actually own the land underneath some of the canals that are considered private canals, possibly making them under the Water Authority's responsibilities.

Mr. Perry stated that they would have to research each individual property along each canal to determine which canals are totally private and which ones might be considered state-owned.

Ms. Cox stated that if there are canals that are state-owned property, the Water Authority might want to consider managing those canals.

The Board agreed to leave policy regarding residential canals as it is for now. Vice Chair Farner asked that the Board's policy regarding residential canals be put on the agenda at a later date for discussion.

Mr. Perry stated that Patricia Burgos, Ben Gugliotti and Tracy Hauserman as well as the rest of the field staff have been working hard getting the preserves ready to reopen after the Hurricane Irma. He noted that four preserves are open at this time; Hidden Waters, Hickory Point, Crooked River and Sabal Bluff.

He stated that they are trying not to overwork staff and are concentrating on just getting the most popular preserves open first, before moving on to the other preserves.

Vice Chair Farner and other members of the Board stated that they would like for the public to have a chance to see the NuRF in action. They requested that staff have an open house, and stated that they would leave the date up to staff.

Mr. Bryant stated that the Board is very appreciative of everything staff has been doing and thanked everyone for their efforts. He asked that this sentiment be passed along to staff.

Members of the Board stated that they have received calls from residents of Venetian Village complaining that the nearby wastewater plant is overflowing, and stating their concerns that sewage is flowing into the wetlands.

It was noted that the water does not contain raw sewage and as it is private property, the residents need to contact DEP with their concerns.

Vice Chair Farner asked staff to also contact DEP and Mr. Perry replied that DEP had already been contacted. Vice Chair Farner asked that staff follow up with DEP.

Mr. Perry explained that the Sheriff's Labor Force would be bringing in deputies and prisoners to help with cleanup of the City of Tavares' boat ramp area that was destroyed during Hurricane Irma, and stated that he had received a request from Mr. Drury, with the City of Tavares, requesting to borrow the Water Authority's barge.

Mr. Perry noted that he wanted to touch base with the Board before committing.

The Board was agreeable to the City borrowing the barge if it didn't interfere with Water Authority staff's ability to do their own work.

Mr. Perry stated that one of the staff, Bill Guenther who is the NuRF operator, had several very large trees fall on his property during the hurricane and noted that several staff members had volunteered their own time to help clear the trees.

Mr. Perry stated that the Board would find an envelope at their desks containing blank Director Evaluation forms. He asked that they fill them out and mail to the Water Authority office in the stamped envelope provided by October 18, 2017 so it could be handled at the October meeting.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT ITEMS. Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

- a. Approval of Site Resident Leases and Hickory Point Resident Lease

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH THE WATER AUTHORITY SITE RESIDENTS AT THE CROOKED RIVER PRESERVE, SAWGRASS ISLAND PRESERVE, THE M-5 WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE AND HICKORY POINT PARK.

- b. Approval to Renew Agreement with Lake County for Citizens Lake Monitoring

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PENDING THE FINAL FY 2017-18 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE

THE FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOR THE LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000.

- c. Approval of Agreement with USGS for Water Level Monitoring

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2017-18 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE USGS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$144,190.

- d. Approval of Purchase Orders for Alum and Polymer

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REIMBURSE C & S CHEMICALS AND AFFINITY CHEMICALS FOR THE COST TO DELIVER ALUM AND ATH POST HURRICANE IRMA.

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDERS TO THATCHER CHEMICAL FOR \$1,000,000; CHEMTRADE FOR \$1,000,000; C & S FOR \$500,000; AND AFFINITY FOR \$500,000.

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER FOR POLYMER TO FORT BEND SERVICES FOR \$100,000.

- e. Approval of Request from the City of Tavares for a No-Cost Time Extention of the Downtown Stormwater Treatment Project

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A FINAL NO-COST TIME EXTENSION FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES DOWNTOWN STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECT BY EXTENDING THE FINAL CONTRACT DEADLINE TO MAY 31, 2018.

- f. Approval of Blanket Purchase Orders

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2017-18 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS FOR FY 2017-18 FOR THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES UP TO THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

Sumter Electric.....	\$83,000
City of Tavares	\$64,500
WEX.....	\$20,000
Lake County Board of County Commissioners	\$136,425
Florida League of Cities	\$66,530
Lake County Sheriff	\$228,955

- g. Approval of Contract with USF for Lake Atlas

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2017-18 BUDGET APPROVAL, AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S FLORIDA CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN AND RESEARCH (USF-FCCDR) FOR THE BASIC MAINTENANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER ATLAS PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18.

- h. Approval of Agreement with the USDA for Nuisance Wildlife Removal

AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE APHIS/USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES FOR HOG, COYOTE AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE REMOVAL AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18.

- i. Approval to Renew Contracts with Naturalist and Education Contractors

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2017-18 BUDGET APPROVAL:

- **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MS. MARYANN KRISOVITCH, EDUCATION CONTRACTOR FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,500.**
- **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. MARC CRAIL, NATURALIST CONTRACTOR FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,500.**

- j. Approval to Renew Agreement with Trout Lake Nature Center

PENDING THE FINAL FY 2017-18 BUDGET APPROVAL:

AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER AND APPROVE THE DISBURSEMENT OF \$41,000 TO THE TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER - \$7,500 TO FUND THEIR FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE AND PERSONNEL; \$2,000 FOR SCHOOLS THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD WOULD NOT OTHERWISE FUND TO ATTEND PROGRAMS AT TLNC; \$6,500 FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE TLNC; AND \$25,000 TO OFFSET COSTS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTING THEIR EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

- k. Financial and Purchasing Policy Update

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2017-02, ADOPTING REVISED FINANCIAL POLICIES.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Benthic Invertebrate Monitoring Annual Report

Ms. Hanlon-Breuer gave her yearly report on lake conditions and showed a PowerPoint presentation (*included in the backup documentation*).

She explained that Bioassessments of the lakes are done using the LCI (or lake condition index) which is a biological assessment tool developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to indicate ecosystem health and identify impairment in Florida lakes through the use of macroinvertebrates.

She stated that pollution tolerant macroinvertebrates indicate poor conditions, while the presence of pollution sensitive macroinvertebrates indicate the waterbody has more desirable conditions.

Ms. Hanlon-Breuer stated that Lake Beauclair East maintained a poor rating while Lake Beauclair West improved from a **very poor** rating to a **poor** rating on the LCI. She noted that a small amount of eel-grass, a beneficial native submersed aquatic plant, was found in two benthic grabs on Beauclair West.

She stated that the overall LCI scores increased over last year's scores on the East, the Center and West portions of Lake Dora. She noted that Lake Dora East had improved from a **very poor** rating to a **poor** rating and Lake Dora Center and West had maintained **poor** (but improved) ratings on the LCIs.

She reported that Little Lake Harris improved from a **poor** to a **very good** LCI rating with macroinvertebrate species going from 20 species in 2014 to 26 species in 2017. She stated that eel-grass and southern naiad were found growing in Little Lake Harris this year, in addition to the invasive exotic Hydrilla. She noted that Hydrilla had not been observed Little Lake Harris in 2014 although it was found in Lake Harris.

Ms. Hanlon-Breuer reported that Lake Harris East improved to a **very good** rating and Lake Harris West maintained a **good** rating. She stated that twenty different macroinvertebrate taxa were collected on Lake Harris West and twenty-seven different taxa were collected on Lake Harris East.

She noted that in 2011, Lake Harris West had the exotic submersed plant Hydrilla present in three of the twelve samples taken. It was the first time Hydrilla had been encountered on Lake Harris since benthic sampling began in 2005.

She stated that in 2014, no Hydrilla was seen during sampling on Lake Harris, however, in 2017 hydrilla was abundant in most of the east and west portions of the lake and collected in the benthic samples on both sides of the lake.

She noted that Hydrilla was abundant in all parts of the lake and there were large amounts of Hydrilla entangled on the anchor at multiple sampling stations. She also noted that Lake Harris East also had some native submerged vegetation in the benthic samples including eel grass and muskgrass.

Ms. Mullins stated that she had recently attended a meeting where she was approached by a citizen regarding the different kinds of submerged plants in Lake Harris and asking what they were and whether they were good or bad for the lake.

Ms. Hanlon-Breuer explained that there is a mixture of good and bad vegetation, but Hydrilla is really taking a hold on the lake. She stated that if it is not managed it can take over everything else and becomes problematic. She noted that the invasion of Hydrilla appears to have begun in the Venetian Gardens area and spread out from there.

Vice Chair Farner stated that when Nathalie Visscher, with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) had given her report to the Board, she had stated that they (FWC) were going to be aggressive in treating the Hydrilla in the Harris Chain in order to keep it under control.

Ms. Cox asked if the recent improvements in the lakes was attributable to the increase in rain and Ms. Hanlon-Breuer stated that the increase in rain can make a difference as well as the increase in good vegetation as it starts to take hold in the deeper water.

Mr. Bryant asked Ms. Hanlon-Breuer if each lake is sampled every three years and Ms. Hanlon-Breuer stated yes, except for Lake Beauclair, which is being sampled every year at this time.

Vice Chair Farner asked Ms. Hanlon-Breuer if she also monitors clarity and she stated that she does and she can add it to her reports. She stated that her field sheets are available to staff and the Board should they wish to see them.

Vice Chair Farner noted that Lake Beauclair should be the first lake to benefit from the NuRF, and Mr. Hart stated that Lake Beauclair will be a tough one to judge, because just before and during the hurricane there were some alum supply issues.

Mr. Hart explained that due to the hurricane in that hit Texas, a lot of truckers were tied up driving chemicals to Houston, which left a shortage of drivers locally when we needed alum supplies for the NuRF. He also stated that one alum factory broke down and was unable to supply any alum when it was needed.

He stated that because of supply issue, it took an extended time to ramp up NuRF and then there were several days where we ran out of chemical before the next supplies were delivered.

He stated that there were several days that some very terrible water went through the Apopka-Beauclair canal without being treated. He stated that in once instance the water quality was so bad there was a fish kill in the canal and all the fish in the canal died.

Mr. Hart stated that he will address the issue of keeping a good supply of chemicals on demand at a future board meeting.

MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MS. HANLON-BREUER TO PROVIDE BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE SAMPLING ON LAKES BEAUCLAIR, GRIFFIN, EUSTIS AND YALE FOR \$16,000. Ms. Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

- b. Lake Denham Ventures, LLC Access to Flat Island Preserve

Postponed.

c. Clermont Stormwater Grant

Mr. Hart addressed the Board and stated that the City Engineer, the Community Development Director and the Consultant from the City of Clermont were there to answer any questions the Board may have.

He gave a summary of the project and how it's different from the original proposal from 2016 and showed a drawing that was submitted in the original 2016 proposal (*included in the backup documentation*). He noted that it was not a completed and full design drawing, as they were early in the phase where the City was putting together a proposal and idea of what they planned to construct off Lake Minneola.

He noted that in the original design they had planned for a pond that would straddle the roadway as well as wetland features. He stated that they had also noted that there is an existing pipeline that connects West Lake with Lake Minneola. He explained that the pipeline is important because it also factors in the final design and future design.

He explained that because Lake Minneola is at a higher elevation than West Lake, you can't think of West Lake as being separated from Lake Minneola because the water can flow between the two water bodies during periods of higher water elevations so any poor water quality can transfer between the lakes.

Mr. Hart showed a second drawing (*included in the backup documentation*) and explained that the contours for West Lake are shown, as well as some areas of lower elevation that the City plans to use for additional compensating water storage. He pointed a site that was being considered for future development.

He stated that with the original proposal in 2016 also contained a Master Plan and there were indications in their application that something was being planned for the current boat ramp area and the downtown area. He showed a drawing from the Master Plan and pointed out the West Lake area and a green space where the current boat ramp is located. He noted that the name of the project has been changed from West Lake to Victory Pointe.

He also noted that the original Master Plan shows a boat ramp area on what is referred to as the Bell Ceramic site. He pointed out the improvement to the lake and downtown area on the conceptual drawings and stated that there are weirs, wetland areas, and an outfall meandering creek.

He showed a table with loading calculations and talked about the new projections. He stated that with the existing conditions, the water in West Lake is not being treated, and the water discharges out into Lake Minneola. He explained that because of this, the loading coming from West Lake is considered the mass loading going out to Lake Minneola.

He compared the original plans to the updated plans and talked about the changes in the loading calculations. He explained that St. Johns River Water Management District had asked the City to change the model they were using to run their nutrient loading projections. He stated that the new model shows significant drop in nutrients being discharged.

He explained that Water Authority Stormwater Grants do not cover stormwater plans for future development, they only cover the retrofit of existing stormwater systems, wo the Water Authority will only fund the portion of the project that is directly related to the handling of the existing amount of nutrient loading.

Ms. Cox asked where are the City is planning for high-density areas. Shannon Schmidt, with City of Clermont, stated that there are four parcels that have been identified as possible high-density sites, one of which is the current CBS lumber. She stated that the property lease for CBS lumber expires in 2019.

Mr. Levy with the City of Clermont stated that he has been involved in the public information process and developing the Master Plan for the city. He talked about the impacts to the city and what would be involved in moving the boat ramp. He explained that the City of Clermont held an open forum for input from the public and several residents in area had expressed concerns regarding the relocation of the boat ramp to the Hiawatha Park location.

He stated that the City of Clermont has decided to no longer pursue the relocation of the boat ramp to Hiawatha Park. He stated that at this time there is no resolution as to where it will be moved. He noted that the City has opened dialogue with the Water Authority staff, for find help in finding an appropriate location.

Ms. Cox stated that Cypress Cove is not even five acres in size and doesn't provide room for growth. She noted that the water is also shallow in that area and it would need substantial dredging to make it a viable site.

Mr. Perry stated that if it comes to a point where someone must stand up and take command of the situation, it may have to be the Water Authority. He recommended that, if it gets to the point that there is not no boat ramp, the Water Authority could step in and help locate a place.

Ms. Cox noted that the Water Authority had previously rewarded \$643,000, and asked what staff is recommending regarding the additional funding the City of Clermont is requesting.

Mr. Hart stated that staff doesn't think that the changes warrant any additional funding at this time.

Mr. Bryant asked Mr. Hart if staff is confident with the new loading projections based on the new information and the new projections.

Mr. Hart stated that originally, he was concerned that the changes to the project would not meet the previously approved nutrient loading reduction, but with the new information received from the City of Clermont he feels confident that it is meeting the requirements and he doesn't have an issue with continuing the current grant.

d. Palatlakaha River Speed Zone

Mr. Hart stated that this item involves the request for a speed zone near a community on Lake Hiawatha. He showed an aerial (*included in the backup documentation*) of the location of the requested speed zone and stated that the community is where the old mine pit was located.

He stated that new residences that have been built along the Palatlahaha and they are experiencing multiple problems involving boat wakes and erosion issues, speeding boats causing damage by rocking docked boats and damage to boathouses.

He explained that the Agency has received repeated requests from property owners about putting in a speed zone, and staff has informed them that a speed zone cannot be created to protect from erosion due to waves. He stated that such a speed zone is not allowed under the legislation that determines a permissible speed zone in the State of Florida.

He stated that residents have changed their request over time to more of a safety issue. He explained that to be considered a safety issue there must be a documented history of boating or traffic accidents that occur at the site, to warrant the creation of a speed zone, and stated that Water Authority staff informed the residents that there haven't been any documented boating accidents.

He stated since that time there have been documented accidents, one of which was severe enough to send someone to the hospital. He explained that two girls on a jet ski were coming into the Palatlahaha from Lake Hiawatha and a pontoon boat was coming out of the Palatlahaha and the girls lost control of the jet ski and impacted the dock at a relatively high speed. He stated that one of the girls was transported to hospital by ambulance and there was also a lot of damage to the dock and the boat parked there.

Mr. Hart stated that Officer Whitney with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) had visited him at the Water Authority office after the accident and asked what the Water Authority was doing about the issue. He explained that he informed Office Whitney that staff has been in touch with FWC and that their permit staff has indicated that they wouldn't issue a permit for this site as it doesn't meet the necessary criteria for a speed zone.

He stated that she left the office and called the permitting office, and when she returned to the Water Authority office she stated that even with the most recent accidents there is still not enough documented history to warrant a speed zone for public safety at that location.

Mr. Hart stated that even so we are still getting requests from residents and we have a site that we know is dangerous and we are not taking any action, although we have been repeatedly asked to do so. He stated that it might be advisable for the Agency to put in a request in writing to FWC asking for them to do a permit determination. He noted, with that the Agency would have something written back from them, whether it be yes or no, in order to protect the Water Authority.

He explained that the Water Authority wouldn't be liable should another accident occur, but he thinks media-wise if there is a bad accident and the residents can show that there is a long history of complaints without the Water Authority taking any action, it would make the Water Authority look very bad in the public eye.

He stated that asking for a determination by FWC would protect the Agency should they determine that it doesn't qualify. He noted that if FWC should make the determination that a speed zone would be permissible, the Board would have to make a decision as to whether to permit a speed zone at that site.

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Mr. Hart advised that he would recommend at that time, that the Water Authority makes sure to give adequate notice that the Agency is considering permitting a speed zone at that site, in order for residents and boaters to have an opportunity to comment as to whether they are in favor or against creating a speed zone. He stated that then the Board would be able to make an informed decision.

Ms. Cox stated that Waterside Pointe is built on swamp that has been filled in. She noted that that canal always scared her when she would go boating. She stated that the canal had never had a speed zone and now that the sand mine is no longer there, it is even more dangerous.

Vice Chair Farner stated that the canal does not look very long and it was noted that it is only 1/4 of a mile long. He stated that the Water Authority should take the position that the FWC should make the determination as to whether it warrants a speed zone.

Ms. Cox stated that future growth will only put more boats in the system.

Ms. Mullins stated that Mr. Harts' suggestion to send a formal request to FWC is a good idea and Ms. Stone stated that while making a form request for determination is good idea, the statute has clearly stated requirements.

Vice Chair Farner stated that as the Water Authority Board they have a right to state their position.

Mr. Hart stated that there is a possibility FWC will soften their position, if the Water Authority makes a formal request for determination.

Deborah Robinson addressed the Board and stated that she owns the dock and boat where the accident occurred. She stated that there was \$10,000 in property damage to the dock and their boat was totaled. She stated that people keep asking if someone has to die for this to change.

She stated that the Marine Patrol Officer had told her that he felt that hitting the boat had saved the girl's life, otherwise the jet ski would have hit the dock, which would have been fatal.

Ms. Cox stated that residents should also contact the FWC to state their opinions. She noted that Mr. Hart could provide them with contact information. Ms. Mullins stated the more people that would contact FWC the better the chances of getting approval.

Mr. Perry stated that if it gets to that point, there is more than one opinion on the issue and the public should have their time to speak and voice their opinions.

Ms. Robinson asked how canal width is determined and Mr. Hart explained that canal width is measured from bank to bank.

Adam Iaquinto, resident at Waterside Pointe addressed that Board and stated that while he agrees that they must follow the law, he thinks they need to follow due process and that putting the issue to FWC would protect the Water Authority.

Mr. Iaquinto stated that some of the boaters are trying to slow down, but it is making the problem worse due to the wake created as they slow down.

Ms. Cox stated that jet skis are like motorcycles and any time there is a collision they are going to be that lose as the risk is so much greater. She stated that she hopes FWC will do something about it.

Gregory Cashmere stated that he lives on Lake Minneola and can sympathize that it can be a dangerous situation at times. He questioned whether there should be any docks built on canals. He stated that speaking from a boater's perspective, he wouldn't like a no-wake zone at that location.

Vice Chair Farner asked why he was not in favor of a wake zone and Mr. Cashmere stated that because of the length of time it would take for people to transition from one lake to another.

Mr. Cashmere also stated that he thought Lake Palatlahaha at would be a good location for boat ramp as there is already a park. Ms. Cox stated that was a good option, and noted that the State also owns property in that area. Mr. Cashmere pointed out that it would take some of the traffic off of this canal.

Cindy Davis stated that she lives on Lake Minneola and wanted to inform the Board that there are lots of the signs are down on the lake. Mr. Hart stated that there are many signs down and staff has a large task ahead replacing and repairing them.

Attorney Barice read the State Statute to the Board and noted that they clearly have the right to request that FWC make the determination as to whether there should be a speed zone.

Mr. Hart recommended that they continue to use the process that the Water Authority and Lake County have used for the last 25 to 30 years.

He explained the process and stated that the Water Authority has always been the agency to send the initial request for speed zones and no-wake zones to FWC.

He stated that once FWC has approved the request, the Water Authority would then hold public meetings, so that the public would be able to state their opinions and concerns. He explained that following the public meetings, the Water Authority Board would then make their decision as to whether to create the speed zone or no-wake zone.

He stated that once the Board had approved the speed zone or no-wake zone, staff would then take the request to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners and it would be up to their Board to approve an ordinance creating the speed zone or no-wake zone.

Ms. Stone stated that she would recommend that staff request a determination from FWC before going to the County. She stated that without FWC's approval and permit there would be no reason to go to the County and waste their time.

It was noted that without FWC's approval and permit, an ordinance would be useless, as the Water Authority would not be able to post or enforce the ordinance.

Vice Chair Farner suggested delaying any decision for another month so that staff can draft a letter and bring it back to the board for approval.

MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE FFWCC FOR A DETERMINATION ON THE WHETHER A PERMIT WOULD BE ISSUED FOR A SLOW SPEED/MINIMUM WAKE ZONE ON THE PALATLAKAHA BETWEEN LAKE HIAWATHA AND STATE ROAD 50.

Motion died for lack of a second and Ms. Cox withdrew her motion.

Ms. Cox withdrew her motion and asked that staff draft a letter to FWC and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Attorney Barice read the procedure outlined in the statute and stated that she understood that the request for determination to FWC should come from the County.

Vice Chair Farner noted that the Water Authority has had great success with the current procedure, and that he felt they should continue using that procedure.

The Board asked that staff create a draft letter to Florida Fish and Wildlife, asking them for an official determination regarding the creation of a Speed Zone/No Wake Zone, and bring it back to the Board for approval before mailing.

The Board took a break at 6:00 pm. They returned at 6:23 pm and the Final Budget Hearing was held...after which time the meeting was continued.

e. Fertilizer Ordinance

Ms. Cox asked to postpone the Fertilizer Ordinance until the October meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comment.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice reported that the documents needed from the Bourlay Trustees giving approval of the Duke Energy easement had been received, and the easement agreement had been executed.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Farner stated that he wanted to complement Water Authority staff on the wonderful job they have done dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and getting the NuRF up and running.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

No additional items.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Hidden Waters Preserve Hike, Saturday, October 14, 2017 (9 am to 11:30 am)
- Board Meeting - Wednesday, October 25, 2017 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Umatilla Wildlife Festival, Saturday, October 21, 2017 (9 am to 4:00 pm)
- Sawgrass Island Preserve Long Hike, Saturday, November 18, 2017 (3:30 pm
- 7:30 pm)
- Lake Norris Conservation Area Dog Nature Hike, Saturday, December 2,
2017 (9 am to 11:30 am)
- Flat Island Preserve Long Hike, Saturday, January 20, 2018 (9 am to 12:00
pm)
- Pre-Sweetheart Open House Hike at Wolfbranch Sink Preserve (if waterfall is
present), Saturday, February 10, 2018 (8:30 am to 3 pm) or Alternate
Hike at Crooked River Preserve (9 am to 12:00 pm)
- Flat Island Preserve Bat Hike, Saturday, March 10, 2018 (5 pm to 10 pm)
- Hidden Water Preserve Nature and Fitness Hike, Saturday, April 14, 2008
(8 am to 11:30 am)

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Neil Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer

Adam Dufresne, Chairman