

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**of the**  
**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**October 25, 2017**

The Final Budget Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 6:23 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

**Members Present-District #**

**Staff Present**

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

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  
Carole Barice, LCWA Attorney

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.

Chairman Dufresne stated that they were going to move things around on the agenda and put Lake Denham first, Eddy Groves second and the Draft Letter for the Speed Zone third.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MS. STONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 – REGULAR MEETING.** Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

**MS. MULLINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FINAL BUDGET HEARING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017.** Ms. Stone seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall report.

He reported that when Hurricane Irma came through it pushed the water levels in South Lake County above 97.5 msl. He stated that according to the Regulation Schedule we try to keep the lakes between 96 and 97.5 msl.

He noted that over the last couple of weeks Lake Minnehaha has continued to rise and stated that this was expected due to all the water that was dropped on the entire state during the hurricane. He explained that South Lake County had received nearly eleven inches of rain, which is 100-year, 24-hour storm event, and a very rare occurrence.

He noted that it takes a quite a while to that much water through the system. He stated that staff feels that it has finally reached a point where the lake levels will come back down. He stated that as of 1 pm this afternoon the level of the lake was about 97.4 msl which is one tenth of a foot below the upper end of the Regulatory Range, which means we are now able to move a little bit more water out of the system, than is coming in. He noted that the decline in the water level is a bit faster than staff would like to see it and they might have to slow the outflow down a bit.

He stated that the current combined flow from Big and Little Creeks is 248 cfs, which is down 60% compared to last month.

He noted that when the water reaches 97.1 msl, that will be when they make the decision as to whether to shut the flow down.

He stated that Lake Apopka has finally spiked and the water level has finally begun to go back down. He noted that at of that day, the lake is now at the top of the Regulatory Schedule.

Mr. Perry reported that the NuRF has been running at 325 cfs NuRF, which is the maximum designed capacity, for 2 months now. He stated that Ron Hart, Bill Guenther, Sergio Duarte, Brian Nagy, Evan Bump and Linda Richardson have been working double shifts late into the night to keep the facility running and moving the floc out of the ponds.

He stated that it is important to keep the floc moving out of the ponds, for if the get too full, the floc begins to escape downstream. He explained that while any polymer and nutrients would be encapsulated and suspended in the floc, it messes with the efficiency numbers and noted part of the agreement with the District is that the floc would remain on-site.

He stated that while there were alum supply issues just before, during and immediately after Hurricane Irma, alum is now in steady supply.

He stated that the NuRF has treated over 8 billion gallons of water since Hurricane Irma, which is equivalent to 12,000 Olympic-sized swimmy pools of water. He stated that staff are running day and night shifts moving the floc out of the ponds.

Mr. Bryant asked how long they expect to have to run at peak capacity and Mr. Perry stated that staff had spoken to the District about a week ago and asked a week ago if they would cut the flow from Lake Apopka in half. He noted that the District had stated they would be willing to drop the flow to 150 cfs starting next Monday.

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Mr. Perry explained that the District is still having to move water off the North Shore, so if the water level in Lake Apopka rises too high, they may have to increase the flow from Lake Apopka. He stated that should that happen they will have to adjust NuRF as needed.

He reminded the Board that staff would be holding an Open House at the NuRF on Sunday, October 29 from 10 am until 2 pm. He stated that staff has been busy mowing and preparing for the event, and stated that hopefully the dredge and centrifuge will both be up and running.

Ms. Mullins stated that she lives near the output of the NuRF and she can really tell a difference in the water going through as it is looking much clearer. She noted that there is also a visible current from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and that the NuRF is making a difference in the water quality.

Mr. Perry stated that staff has seen Secchi depths of 12 feet or better coming out from the ponds and noted that NuRF has removed approximately 8000 pounds of phosphorous in the last two months.

He reported on the water levels of the Harris Chain of Lakes and stated that Lake Dora is still at maximum desirable and has been since Hurricane Irma. He stated that the flow through the Harris Bayou was stopped on October 10 and noted that the flow through the Burrell Lock and Dam is between 600 and 700 cfs at this time.

He explained that Lake Griffin is still at maximum desirable and St. Johns adjusts the flow through the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam daily to keep Lake Griffin down at Maximum Desirable

He stated that with the added rainfall from Hurricane Irma, the year to date rainfall is at 116% of the average year to day rainfall. He noted that we are currently headed into the dry season and we can expect less rain as we head into winter.

Mr. Perry stated that the Clermont City Council has announced that they will close the current Clermont Boat Ramp on December 17. He stated that Water Authority staff has offered to help them locate a feasible site for relocation of the ramp. He stated that he would be meeting with Mr. Gray soon to discuss options.

He explained that Ms. Cox feels that the Bell Ceramic site would be the best site and she has asked that the Board come up with some recommendations for the City.

It was decided that this topic should be put on the agenda for the November meeting.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that after Hurricane Irma, the Agency hired tree removal contractors to remove the downed trees in the Dora Canal and the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. He stated that the Agency expended \$56,000 for the removal of trees in just those two areas.

He stated that the funds were well spent as it would have been too much for Water Authority staff to handle on their own.

He stated that hopefully the Water Authority can get some reimbursement from FEMA toward the cost and noted that Mr. Hart and Ms. Rider are working on that. He noted that even if the Agency should get a reimbursement, it may not be received for a few years.

Mr. Perry reminded the Board that holiday parades are coming up and noted that Ms. Cox had stated an interest in the Clermont Christmas Parade. He asked that Board Members to please let him know if they are interested in being in any of the holiday parades, so staff can get them registered.

He informed the Board that there are some issues involving staff and explained that Bill Guenther who runs the NuRF facility is having health issues and will be retiring soon. He also noted that Mark Wiley who is a Field Ranger has been with the Agency more than 20 years and is also having some health issues and might not be able to return to work.

Mr. Perry also informed the Board that there has been no response to the posting for the Facility Coordinator for Hickory Point and stated that staff is currently covering any rentals.

He noted that currently there are 15 people on staff and the Agency could use an additional employee. He stated that this is the first time in 15 years he has needed to add additional staff. He suggested using the money budgeted for someone to run the pavilion could be used to hire another Field Services employee instead.

Mr. Bryant asked if Mr. Perry could come back to the Board at the November meeting with a budgeting proposal and job description and Mr. Perry stated that this is usually the type of decision that the Executive Director has been allowed to make.

Ms. Mullins stated that they shouldn't put it off as the Agency needs another person now and Vice Chair Farnier stated that he agreed with Ms. Mullins.

Mr. Perry stated that at this point the need is for employees in the field and in the preserves, and for maintenance, and the pavilion. He stated that another member of Field Services is really what is needed, and then they would be able to work anywhere they are needed.

The Consensus of the Board was that they approved the hiring of an additional employee. Mr. Perry stated that he would report back to the Board as to where funding would fit into the budget.

#### **4. CONSENT ITEMS**

**MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT ITEMS.** Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

- a. Approval of 2018 Board Calendar

**AUTHORIZE STAFF TO FILE THE LCWA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.**

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. Lake Denham Ventures, LLC Access to Flat Island Preserve

Ms. Burgos addressed the Board regarding a parcel that adjoins Flat Island Preserve. She noted that Flat Island Preserve is approximately 2300 acres and is the Water Authority's oldest preserve.

She explained that the City of Leesburg had sent an notice stating that the property was going for development admendments.

She stated that she called the City and they had given her contact information for Mike Oliver and noted that he was present in the audience should the Board have any questions. She noted that the proposed development will be approximately 500 to 600 homes, and stated that she had called Mr. Oliver and explained that Flat Island is adjacent to the proposed development and asked if they could meet at the property to discuss any issues.

Mr. Burgos explained to the Board that during recession the Water Authority had been approached by Centex Homes (the owners of the property at that time) and aksed if the Agency would like to purchase the property. She stated that the Water Authority could not afford what they were asking for the property at that time..

She explained that she and Mr. Oliver had spoken about the possibility of a Trail Head on the subject parcel and leading into the into the preserve from the development. She pointed out the area in question and stated that there is currently a trail in that area of Flat Island Preserve that is not maintained as it a dead end into the weland. She noted that for several years this portion of the preserve was used by an anchery club, as it is out of the way of hikers and campers. She also noted that staff is currently restoring that area from a pasture area to a wildlife meadow.

She stated that she would like to get the Board's opinion regarding partnering with the developer to create a trailhead and allow access from an adjacent parcel. She noted that she also encouraged the devoloper to include the planting of native plant species along the adjacent border.

Mike Oliver, with Lake Denham Ventures addressed the Board and explained that this property was approved for development about 12 years ago. He stated that it was approved for 512 residential units and townhomes. He noted that at that time there was a restriction in place that did not allow for an age restricted development and stated that the zoning had recently had it amended to an active adult neighborhood.

He stated that prior to meeting with Ms. Burgos they had been contimplating the use of the existing canal to Lake denham in order for residents to utilize to access lake. He stated that in speaking with Ms. Burgos about the trailhead, he thought it would be a compatible project, and wanted to get a feeling of what the Board thinks of the idea or any concerns they may have.

Mr. Bryant stated tht he wouldn't think there would be much problem with the access, but stated that he was concerned regarding the type of plant species that would be planted along the border between the two properties

Mike Oliver stated that there will be a 25-foot natural buffer around the development and would be glad to work with Ms. Burgos regarding the types of plants within the buffer.

Mr. Bryant if the buffer would that be controlled by HOA and developer and Mr. Oliver stated that it would be in the HOA by-laws. He explained that there is an ordinance that requires that area to remain a natural buffer, as the property was part of the City of Leesburg's sprayfield many years ago.

Vice Chair Farner stated that he thinks it's a wonderful idea and would encourage staff to keep moving forward on this.

Mr. Oliver stated that he would get with the developer's attorney and work with Ms. Burgos regarding an agreement.

Attorney Barice stated that she would be interested in seeing what the development's attorney puts together. She noted the possibly a license agreement between the Water Authority and the developers.

Vice Chair Farner asked if this was going to be a gated community and Mr. Oliver stated that most of them are, and noted that the builder would make that decision.

Mr. Perry reminded the Board to keep in mind that over the years the Agency has tried to keep access to our preserves public, and try to discourage any property owner or development from having a private access to a preserve.

Mr. Bryant asked Ms. Burgos about the fact that the Water Authority performs controlled fires on Flat Island Preserve and Ms. Burgos stated that in the past the Water Authority has asked for language to be contained within the HOA covenants that explain that the adjacent property is under a prescribed burn schedule.

She stated that with a trail head and trail, burns in that area would be a bit more limited but the Agency does we have it on other preserves that are next to developments.

Chairman Dufresne asked that staff keep the Board updated on the progress of the development and any agreements they might request.

b. Eddy Groves and Scrub Point Preserve

Ms. Burgos explained to the Board that staff was approached by Meritage Homes last year regarding a proposed development on the Extreme Groves property, which never materialized.

She stated that she had recently received a notice that the property was changing zone from Lake County Urban Estate to Clermont Low Density Residential. She noted that the property will be annexed into the City of Clermont and the lot size will now be a minimum of five acres.

She noted that the Water Authority has owned the adjacent Scrub Point Preserve since 1996 and at this time it is only open for special tours as there are no improved roads and you have to have

a 4-wheel drive vehicle to access the property from land. She noted that the property can be accessed from John's lake from boat.

Ms. Burgos stated that she has some concerns regarding our Scrub Point Preserve and the adjoining Eddy property. She stated that Mr. Chuck Piper was there to represent the Eddy property and would be available to answer any questions.

She stated that to access Scrub Point Preserve, you take Hartwood Marsh Road north until it makes a turn to the left and enters the preserve.

She stated that she began working with the Lake County Water Authority in 1999 and at that time several property owners used the road to access their properties.

She stated that the Eddy's would use the road as well as Water Authority staff, each of them using the left or right side depending on the sandy condition of the road.

She explained that there is a proposed development is coming for the Eddy property and staff would like to do what they can to minimize the impact on the Water Authority property and to buffer the entrance to the preserve and protect the large historical live oaks trees.

Chairman Dufresne asked if the Water Authority easement is located where the large oaks growing and Ms. Burgos stated that the property had been previously surveyed, but citrus activities knocked the markers down and she is not sure they were put back in the correct place. She stated that the property would have to be resurveyed to determine the correct property lines.

She showed a copy of a survey that Mr. Piper has provided and pointed out the area of the well belonging to the St. Johns River Water Management District and noted the location of the limestone road.

Ms. Mullins asked how comfortable Ms. Burgos is with the existing survey in how it impacts the Water Authority's property.

Ms. Burgos explained that she had spoken with Attorney Barice and stated that Attorney Barice had stated that the Water Authority should get their own survey. She stated that once the survey is completed they would have a better idea of what their choices might be.

Chairman Dufresne and Ms. Mullins agreed that the Water Authority needed to get a survey before they could move forward.

Ms. Burgos pointed out that the two left lines on the drawing represent the 70-foot Water Authority easement. She noted that there is an adjacent 20-ft. easement shown on the plans.

Mr. Bryant asked who holds all the easements at this time.

Mr. Chuck Piper addressed the Board and stated that the property under contract is 115 acres and has been in the Eddy family name about a century. He stated that in 1953 there were four property owners that owned the area around Scrub Preserve.

He stated that the four property owners made an agreement between that there would be a 50-foot easement to provide access to the owner of the property that is now called Scrub Point. He noted that all four parties had agreed to a non-exclusive easement to be given to all four of the property owners.

He stated that in 1993 the Ackermann's owned the property that is now Scrub Point and there were discussions of doing a land swap that would provide for a wider 70-foot easement to the property. He stated that in 1995 the land swap took place and Ms. Eddy got land she needed and the Ackermann's got the 70-foot easement they wanted.

He stated that in the land swap agreement and the 70-foot easement was dedicated to the County and provided for a permanent access road.

He stated that in 2013, the Lake County Water Authority had agreed to a conservation easement on Scrub Point and noted that their survey indicates that the easement to Scrub Point now consists of crushed limestone.

Ms. Burgos explained that the Water Authority Board had given the St. Johns Water Management District approval to improve the easement and to install three monitoring wells on Scrub Point.

Mr. Piper stated that apparently whoever built the limestone road just followed the winding path, and it appears that a survey was not done and the road wanders onto the property of the proposed development. He stated that the road makes a slight encroachment on their property and goes through the area of their proposed stormwater pond. He stated that he was willing to work with the Water Authority regarding the issue.

Ms. Mullins asked what the density of the project would be and Mr. Piper stated that the Eddy's have limited the development to more than 340 homes.

Attorney Barice – because this is going through the annexation, rezoning and comprehensive stages she thinks it would be good for staff to express their concerns to the city as early as possible, in order to address buffering and access concerns.

Ms. Mullins stated that the Water Authority needs to get its own survey and needs to address comments with city as soon as possible.

Mr. Piper stated that in 1995 documents there is language that states that when the Ackermann property changes its use and is improved, the expense to maintain and improve would fall to the new owners.

Mr. Bryant noted that Mr. Piper had just set in on the previous discussion regarding a proposed development that would be adjoining one of your preserves, so he should know that there are times we work with adjacent owners to provide for betterment of both properties.

He stated that hopefully they can work together and he stated that he thought it would be advisable to sit down with whatever property owners are affected and discuss the options.

Mr. Piper stated that he doesn't believe the road is up to code for public access, and stated that he didn't believe that the County would sign off on the road. He stated that if the Water Authority could get Lake County to sign off on the road, he would be happy to sit down and continue this discussion.

Vice Chair Farner asked if the proposed development would this be aged restricted and Mr. Piper stated that he didn't have a definite answer, but most likely it would not be age restricted.

Vice Chair Farner asked if there were any specific plans on the horizon for Scrub Point and Ms. Burgos stated that it depends on when the Board decides it is feasible to develop the property.

She explained that the Eddy's, as adjacent property owners, had asked for the last five acres of citrus trees to remain, which meant that the Agency couldn't move the road while they were still there. She noted that plans include a trail head, parking lot and site residence for the property, once there a stable road for access by two-wheel vehicles.

She stated that depending on the budget and the Board's priorities, it could be one to two years before they add a site residence to the property.

Chairman Dufresne stated that he would direct staff to work with Mr. Piper and his attorney. He stated that that it may end up that the Water Authority will have to straighten the access to Scrub Point to remove any encroachment on the adjoining property.

Vice Chair Farner stated that maybe the Water Authority and the developer could work out an agreement if they would like access to the preserve from the development and Mr. Piper stated that they already have deeded access to the property.

Vice Chair Farner stated that while the Board doesn't want the public to have to drive through the development to get to the property, the Agency does need to have access to our property.

A drawing of the proposed development was shown and it was pointed out that the curve of the road is in the middle of the proposed retention pond.

Attorney Barice stated that the road could possibly be deemed a significant historical public access and as such, it would be able to remain as it is.

Mr. Perry noted that the Board had instructed staff to continue to work with Mr. Piper, to make comments to the City of Clermont regard the Agency's concerns and to get our own survey, or certify the survey that had recently been completed.

g. Draft Letter Regarding Palatlahaha River Speed Zone

Mr. Hart stated that last month the Board had directed staff to draft a letter and to bring it back to the Board for their comments before staff sent it out.

He explained that the channel is wider than 75 feet, but with the vegetation growth, the actual navigable portion of the waterway is less than 75 ft. He explained that Florida Fish and Wildlife has stated in the past that this is not something that they take into consideration, but it might be

possible that they will take it into consideration when it is added to all the other items they need to consider. He explained that he has also included the public's request to the letter.

Mr. Hart outlined the steps that are remaining before any pilings or signs would be installed. He noted that sending the letter of request to FFWCC is just the beginning of the process.

- 1) FFWCC determination that the requesting speed zone is permissible or not.
- 2) Public meeting by the LCWA with public notification that the speed zone is being considered. (local papers contacted)
- 3) LCWA Board determination following public comment on whether to proceed.
- 4) Staff drafting Lake County ordinance for review and comment by County Attorney.
- 5) Ordinance being scheduled for consideration and 2 public hearings by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners (BCC).
- 6) Upon adoption by the BCC, LCWA submits a permit application for the new speed zone.
- 7) When permitted, an order for the creation of the signs are placed.
- 8) Staff installs pilings and signs.

Vice Chair Farner stated that if he had been living along the canal when he was growing up he would have been swimming in the canal. He asked if Mr. Hart knew the actual length of the canal and Mr. Hart stated that the canal is approximately a half mile long.

Mr. Hart stated that even if boats were to go at idle speed through the canal, it would still be dangerous place swim due to the number of boats that go through the canal.

He explained that staff is requesting the Board to authorize staff to release the letter to Florida Fish and Wildlife and await a response back from them.

Adam Iaquinto addressed the Board and thanked Mr. Hart for doing such a good job of summarizing the resident's concerns. He talked about the dangerous conditions on the canal and stated that he had witness an elderly kayaker coming through the canal, a wake boat coming through the canal at approximately 30 miles per hour came through and almost knocked him out of his kayak.

He also spoke about his concerns for his own son's safety, when he is attempting to get on and off their jet-ski, or in and out of their boat, and the closeness of the boats passing through the canal.

Lloyd Render, Clermont, stated that he thinks staff presented an accurate picture of the type of activity that goes on in this canal every weekend and on holidays. He noted that there is a mixed use of all kinds of boats, from kayaks, sculls (single and team), paddle boards, personal

watercraft, magnums, and wakeboards through the canal. He stated that he has even seen a 20-foot cuddy cabin with twin Mercury engines that was going at full speed through the canal.

He noted that a couple of weeks ago there was a person on a personal water craft that was jumping the wake of a magnum boat and he lost control and ended up in marsh behind his (Mr. Render) daughter's house.

He stated that he truly supports and appreciates the Water Authority's concern and stated that it would be greatly appreciated if would send the letter to Florida Fish and Wildlife. He thanked the Water Authority for their time and effort.

Larry Robinson addressed the Board and stated that he lives at the house where the accident occurred where a young jet skier hit his dock and boat and was injured bad enough to require hospitalization. He stated that it takes approximately 5 minutes to traverse the canal at a No Wake speed.

He stated that the canal gets extremely busy on Sunday and there are a lot of people that train on sculls in the canal and they are almost swamped by the wake from other watercraft in the canal. He stated that he has seen cigarette boats and jet-skis going through the canal at 60 miles an hour.

He stated that he appreciates the Water Authority's letter and wanted state how important it is to get a Slow Speed/Minimum Wake Zone approved for the area.

**MS. STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SEND A LETTER REQUESTING A FFWCC DETERMINATION WHETHER A PERMIT WOULD BE ISSUED FOR A SLOW SPEED/MINIMUM WAKE ZONE ON THE PALATLAKAHA BETWEEN LAKE HIAWATHA AND STATE ROAD 50.** Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

*The Board took a break at 5:28 pm. They returned at 6:02 pm.*

c. The Villages West Lake

Ms. Burgos showed a map of the area south of Lake Denham and pointed out the location of the proposed Villages West Lake development. She explained that the development will be in the City of Leesburg and will have up to 8000 dwelling units.

She explained that the developer will be going to the City to put in their request to build an age restricted devopment. She stated that the developer is planning of starting to build in the next 5 to 7 years and it will take about 3 to 4 years to build out.

Ms. Burgos stated that this is the third time she has addressed the Board regarding this particular piece of property over the last few years. She stated that previously the City had tried to market the property as Aviation Industrial Park, but it never was built. She noted that there were also a couple of residential developments proposed, that never materialized.

She noted that there are questions regarding what impact the development might have on Lake Denham and what potential it might have regarding the purchase of the sod farm. She stated that just wanted to inform the Board of the potential development and stated that while it does adjoin Flat Island Preserve, she doesn't see the potential for any impact on the Preserve

Chairman Dufresne asked about the impacts to Bugg Spring and it was noted that the Navy is in discussions with the city.

Mr. Perry stated that the Navy is requesting that the development be contained away from Bugg Spring due to noise issues that would interfere with the operations at Bugg Spring.

Ms. Burgos noted that there is currently a conservation easement between the property and most of the Flat Island border due to the fact that the property was originally a sprayfield for the City of Leesburg.

Vice Chair Farner stated that he felt staff should continue on the same as was suggested for the last two developments discussed and make sure the Water Authority interests are protected.

Mr. Perry suggested the possibility of instigating discussions with the City and the developer for the Villages about the possibility of adding in the purchase of the Lake Denham sod farm in order to create a buffer to the lake itself.

Mr. Bryant stated that doing that would introduces a totally different dynamic to the Water Authority's involvement. He noted that a development of that size should require an environmental study.

It was noted that the development would need approval from St. Johns River Water Management, the Department of Environmental Protection, and a change in Zoning. It was stated that it would also need a Comp Plan Amendment to allow an age restricted development.

Ms. Stone asked if the Water Authority had a standard stance or statement of the Water Authority's expectations, that it takes regarding development of adjacent properties.

Mr. Perry stated that the Agency does not have a set statement and this type of thing is usually handled a case by case basis.

Ms. Stone stated that she thought the Water Authority should consider having a standardized statement listing items that are important to the Agency such as buffers, native plants, property access.

Mr. Perry stated that staff would on that and bring it back to the Board in a couple months or so.

d. Award Prescribed Fire Services Contracts

Mr. Bryant asked about the Purchase Order of \$87,000 and why there wasn't a PO cap on the Land Management Contracts also.

Ms. Burgos noted that both Prescribed Fire Services and Land Management Services involve the same companies, it will all be under the same cap.

**MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ATKINS NORTH AMERICA, INC., HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC., AND PROMISE RANCH HABITAT SERVICES, LLC FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE SERVICES. And AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO OPEN PURCHASE ORDERS WITH ATKINS NORTH AMERICA, INC., HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC, AND PROMISE RANCH HABITAT SERVICES, LLC, FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE SERVICES AND PRESERVE PREPARATION FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$87,000 WITH NO CAP PER VENDOR AS LONG AS THE TOTAL APPROVED AMOUNT IS NOT EXCEEDED and to AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO MOVE FUNDS BETWEEN THE PURCHASE ORDERS AS NEEDED.** Vice Chair Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

- e. Award Land Management Services Contracts

Ms. Burgos

**MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ALSHOUSE AND ASSOCIATES, LLC., GREEN ISLE GARDENS, LLC., HABITAT RESTORATION & WILDLIFE PROTECTION SERVICES, LLC., AND PROMISE RANCH HABITAT SERVICES, LLC FOR LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES.** Vice Chair Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

- f. Fertilizer Ordinance

Mr. Perry stated that Lake County's Fertilizer Ordinance will be going before the Lake County Board of County Commissioners for revision before the Water Authority's next Board Meeting. He noted that Peggy Cox had requested that the Water Authority Board discuss the possibility of sending a letter to the County stating the Water Authority's stance regarding fertilizer use.

He explained that during the summer the County's Board Meetings had adopted a Fertilizer Ordinance, with minimal restrictions following the DEP's current ordinance and Ms. Cox had wanted to talk about suggesting further restrictions similar to those adopted by Volusia and Seminole Counties.

He stated that Ms. Cox is concerned that without any significant restrictions and enforcement of violations, it was senseless to even bother adopting an ordinance.

Mr. Perry explained that Ms. Cox has asked that the Board review the ordinances Seminole and Volusia Counties have adopted that includes:

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- Summer Fertilizer Restrictions
- Slow-Release Fertilizers
- Wider Fertilizer-Free Zone, with no fertilizer within 15 ft. from top of bank of any surface water body, wetland or seawall
- Specific Ordinance Exemptions (she also suggests an additional exemption for fruit and vegetable gardens)
- Reduced fertilizer use where reclaimed water is being used
- Code Enforcement provisions for any violations to the ordinance

Mr. Bryant stated that he agrees with the use of summer blend and slow release fertilizers and a wider fertilizer free zone but he wasn't sure why the ordinance should exempt vegetable gardens.

He noted that Ms. Cox also recommends that it become part of the County Code for enforcement and stated that there are already provisions in place regarding enforcement and he didn't see that they needed to add an additional provision to the ordinance.

Vice Chair Farner stated that he thought that it might be hard time to regulate what is sold in stores and Mr. Perry stated that he thought the idea is that the markets will follow the local ordinances, if customers can't use certain fertilizers and don't buy them, the stores won't sell them.

Mr. Hart explained that the recommended revised Lake County Ordinance does contain additional restrictions. He stated that the ordinance establishes a prohibition period for fertilizer use during rainy season for residential areas. He stated that it also increases the buffer from 10 feet to 15 feet and removes the previous exemption for new plantings.

He noted that the revised ordinance does not affect agricultural uses.

Mr. Bryant stated that the Ordinance would only apply to unincorporated areas of Lake County and noted that several cities have passed their own ordinances or are in the process of creating their own ordinance.

Mr. Hart stated that he has attended several meetings regarding the revision of the ordinance and noted that the Board Members were free to speak with individual County Commissioners regarding their support of the ordinance moving forward.

Mr. Bryant noted that the Water Authority's mission is the protection of the water quality of the lakes in Lake County, and thus their view of the Fertilizer Ordinance is going to be more focused on provisions that protect water entering the lakes.

**MR. BRYANT MADE A MOTION AUTHORIZE THE WATER AUTHORITY TO ENDORSE AND RECOMMEND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE STAFF MEMO AND DIRECTED STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT, WITH ENDORSEMENT FOR THE SUMMER FERTILIZER RESTRICTION, THE USE OF SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER, WIDER FERTILIZER FREE ZONE, AND THE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER REQUIREMENT.** Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 5-0.**

h. Executive Director Evaluation

Chairman Dufresne thanked the Board for filling out the Executive Director’s Evaluation form and stated that the evaluations were good, with no cause for concern.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT**

Attorney Barice stated that the Water Authority had received the checks from First Green Bank and Duke Energy.

**8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The Board directed staff to order flowers for the Memorial Service for former site resident Dylan Thomas, that will be held on November 11, 2017 at 4 pm.

Chairman Dufresne reminded the Board that the NuRF Open House would be held from 10 am until 2 pm on Sunday, November 29, 2017.

Mr. Perry reminded the Board that the November Board meeting would be held on November 15, 2017, which is a week earlier than normal, due to the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday.

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

None

**10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

- Hidden Waters Preserve Hike, Saturday, October 14, 2017 (9 am to 11:30 am)
- ELC Day in the Park, Sleepy Hollow Rec Complex, Leesburg, Friday, October 20, 2017 (8:30 am to 1:30 pm)
- Umatilla Wildlife Festival, Saturday, October 21, 2017 (9 am to 4:00 pm)
- Lights on event, Grassy Lake Elementary, Thursday, October 26, 2017 (3:30 pm)
- NuRF Open House, Sunday, October 29, 2017, (11:00 pm - 3:00 pm)
- Board Meeting - Wednesday, November 15, 2017 (3:30 pm)  
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- 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)

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- 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 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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Neil Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer

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Adam Dufresne, Chairman