

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
January 24, 2018

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Doug Bryant, Chairman (#4)
Amy Stone, Vice-Chair (#5)
Keith A. Farner, (At Large)
Adam Dufresne (At Large)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
Biagio Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ben Garcia, IT Manager
Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Carole J. 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017 REGULAR MEETING. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall report. He reported that Lake Apopka is currently near maximum desirable with flow through the NuRF at 75 cfs.

He stated that Lake Eustis and Lake Harris are currently at maximum desirable, while Lake Dora is just slightly below maximum desirable. He reported that the flow through the Burrell Spillway is currently at 18 cfs and noted that Lake Griffin is close to maximum desirable with flow through Moss Bluff at a minimum of 30 cfs.

He stated that total rainfall year-to-date is 54.57 inches, which is 4.08 inches above the historical average of 50.49 inches, and is approximately 108% of the expected year-to-date rainfall.

He reported that the water level for Lake Minnehaha is at 97.02 msl, which is approximately the same level as it was at this time last year.

He noted that the combined flow through Big and Little Creeks is 17 cfs, which is normal for this time of year. He stated that Little Creek is currently flowing at 7.46 cfs, down from its peak flow of 302 cfs during Hurricane Irma. He stated that Big Creek is flowing at 9.71 cfs, down from a peak flow of 409 cfs. He noted that all structures have been closed since Nov 17, 2017.

Mr. Perry updated the Board on the Clermont Boat Ramp Issue. He explained that after considerable public complaint about the closing of the existing boat ramp, the City of Clermont agreed to temporarily keep the existing boat ramp open until a new ramp is constructed.

He reported that the City of Clermont voted to locate the new boat ramp at Lake Hiawatha Preserve even after considerable public input in opposition. He stated that a number of citizens have joined together and are looking at taking legal action to prevent construct of the boat ramp at the Preserve.

He also updated the Board on operations at the NuRF. He stated that the flow through the Apopka-Beauclair is at 75 cfs and staff are again working around the clock, and rotating the use of the ponds, to keep up with the floc. He reported that so far, this fiscal year, the Agency has spent approximately \$1,200,000 on alum, and the NuRF has removed 6,103 lbs. of phosphorous.

Mr. Perry stated that he recently was at the NuRF checking the clarity of the water and stated that Secchi depths in the discharge canal are at 6' and 13' in the flock settling pond.

He noted that he had also checked the clarity at Lake Jem Park and the water was clear there also. He stated that he will try to get out on water in that area within the next week or two and get Secchi depths.

Mr. Perry also updated the Board regarding staffing changes. He showed a copy of the updated Organizational Chart (*included in the backup documentation as an EXHIBIT*) and explained the changes in staff.

He explained that Sergio Duarte had to leave to take over his family's business and after interviewing several applicants, they have made an offer to Dr. Jason Danaher, and he has accepted. He stated that Dr. Danaher will probably start the middle of February.

He noted that Bill Guenther, who operates the NuRF, will retire on Feb. 2nd. He stated that Bill's replacement, Eli Willis, has been training for a few weeks and is doing well.

Mr. Perry explained that there is an issue regarding the scheduled date of the March Board Meeting. He explained that both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman will be out of town. He stated that Board Members could choose to move the meeting to another date or cancel it for the month of March.

He stated that they could also choose to hold a Chairman's Workshop earlier in the month, rather than the regular monthly meeting. He noted that there wouldn't need to be a quorum for the

workshop, and it could be held at the Water Authority office. He stated the Ms. Cox expects to be able to attend both the February and March meetings.

After some discussion, the Board decided to cancel the Regular March Board Meeting and to hold a Chairman's Workshop instead.

Chairman Bryant stated that he would be out of town for an entire month beginning March 15th. There was some discussion on whether to hold the workshop on March 14th and Chairman Bryant stated that if they are going to hold the workshop on that date, they needed to make it early in the day. Vice Chair Stone stated that she will be at trade conference the early part of March, but if they were to hold it on March 14th, she could come home early from the conference to attend the meeting.

Chairman Bryant stated that they need to coordinate available dates during first two weeks in March. He asked that Board members email Ms. Ely or Mr. Perry with the dates they would be not be able to attend.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

There were no Consent Items.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The order in which the Discussion Items were discussed was rearranged to b, e, f, a, c and d.

b. Tussock Harvesting at Marsh Park Boat Ramp Quotes

Mr. Hart reminded the Board that Sergio Duarte had spoken to them regarding removing the floating tussocks that are blocking navigation at the Marsh Park Boat Ramp on Lake Yale.

He showed an aerial of the area and pointed out the access from the boat ramp to Lake Yale. He pointed out the area where the floating tussocks break loose and block any access to and from the boat ramp.

He explained staff has been working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, who has a continuing contract with four different harvesting contractors. He stated that Water Authority staff was able to utilize the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's RFP and had a bid produced with quotes from three different contractors. He presented a chart showing the costs submitted by the three companies (*contained in the backup documentation as an EXHIBIT*).

He explained that the project is based on two different areas and pointed out an area highlighted in blue and stated that the blue area is four acres in size and is the portion that will be funded by the Lake County Water Authority. He noted that the area highlighted in light green (6.1 acres) will be funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Mr. Hart explained that once the contractor is mobilized, they will complete the area being funded by the Lake County Water Authority before moving on to the area to be funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. He stated that the Lake County Water Authority and the

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission will have separate contracts with the harvesting contractor.

He stated that of the four companies contracted with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, only three of them submitted bids. He noted that the lowest bid for both Lake County Water Authority and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission was submitted by Texas Aquatic Harvesting, and staff is recommending that the Board approve awarding the contract to Texas Aquatic Harvesting for an amount not to exceed 27,089.20. He noted that this is different from the recommendation in the Staff Memo in the Board Book, as things have proceeded differently since that time.

Mr. Farner asked if it would be any cheaper if the bid was on the total acreage instead of being broken into two bids, and Mr. Hart explained that the bid is on the entire acreage, and that the Lake County Water Authority and Florida Fish and Wildlife would both be paying the same rate of \$6,771.80 per acre. He noted that the Lake County Water Authority will be paying for the four acre area and Florida Fish and Wildlife will be paying for the 6.1 acre area, as noted on the map (*in the memo*).

Mr. Bryant asked the likelihood of having to hire someone to harvest tussucks again next year and Mr. Hart stated that while it could happen, the likelihood decreases significantly by having these areas harvested at this time.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE MOTION TO AWARD THE LAKE YALE AQUATIC PLANT HARVESTING CONTRACT TO TEXAS AQUATIC HARVESTING FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$27,089.20. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

e. Sawgrass Island Preserve Restroom Update

Mr. Gugliotti addressed the Board and gave an update on the Sawgrass Island Preserve Restroom Project. He explained that in April, the Lake County Water Authority entered into an agreement with UBC Precast, to provide two vaulted restrooms for the north and south parking areas at Sawgrass Island Preserve. He stated that as part of the agreement with UBC Precast, the Water Authority was to handle the permitting for the restrooms.

He stated that while staff was working to obtain the zoning clearance, the Planning and Zoning Department recommended that staff also talk to the Health Department and the Building Department.

Mr. Gugliotti stated that the Building Department staff had informed him that the Water Authority could not pull a commercial building permit and that the permit would need to be pulled by a General Contractor, certified in the State of Florida.

He also explained that after talking to the Health Department, that there was only one pre-approved vaulted restroom design, and UBC Precast was not pre-approved. He stated that he was told that the design used by UBC Precast would need to a variance.

He stated that he had emailed the vault certification requirements to UBC and they said they would work on the certification.

He noted that in the meantime, staff began searching for a Certified General Contractor that could oversee the project and apply for the building permits.

Mr. Gugliotti explained that the zoning permits were approved in early November and are good for 18 months. He stated that since that time, staff has been trying to contact UBC Precast, but they have been silent for months, not returning phone calls or emails.

He stated that after trying to contact UBC several times and receiving no answer, staff spoke to Attorney Barice in December to begin the process of developing a notice of termination of the agreement.

He asked Board Members what they wanted staff to do, and noted that staff and the Attorney are prepared to serve UBC with the notice, should the Board wish to do so. He stated that should they terminate the agreement, the Water Authority could also pursue damages for the partial payment already made to UBC, as well as delay damages and any additional costs to complete the project.

Vice Chair Stone asked if UBC Precast is still in business and Mr. Gugliotti stated that from their website, they appear to still be in business. Attorney Barice stated that she did some online research and found that it appears that the company is still registered and active in the State of Idaho, but emails are going unreturned. She stated that she could try to reach them through some alternate contacts and see if she can get through to them.

Attorney Barice explained that the Notice of Termination hasn't gone out yet, but what it basically states is that under the contract, UBC is responsible for reimbursing the Water Authority for whatever costs are necessary in order to prosecute this contract to completion. She stated that this means that UBC would be responsible for any additional expense over what the Water Authority had contracted with their company.

She stated that the Board has many choices regarding how to proceed, including sending the letter of termination and following it through to court should they need to, or going with the second lowest bidder. It was noted that should they go with the second lowest bidder, his price has gone up since the bid process. She stated that there are all kinds of variables to the issue and asked the Board how they wanted to proceed.

There was a brief discussion regarding the different options available, such as whether to move ahead with, or cancel the Sawgrass Restroom Project, whether to continue to try and work with UBC Precast, or to go with the second lowest bidder.

Chairman Bryant asked if UBC Precast has any completed buildings and whether the Water Authority could negotiate to get one that is already completed. It was noted that a third party had previously sent a picture and verified that the buildings have already been constructed, and UBC Precast was supposed to be working on getting the vault certified.

Board Members stated that they would prefer to resolve the issue with the current contract before giving approval to enter into a new contract with another contractor.

The Board instructed Attorney Barice to send a letter of intent to terminate to UBC Precast, stating that they (UBC Precast) needed to contact the Water Authority by February 16, 2018.

Mr. Perry stated that the letter would be sent and staff would bring any updates back to the Board in February.

f. Approval to Contract for Technical Services at the NuRF

Mr. Hart informed the Board, that with Bill Guenther's upcoming retirement, the Water Authority will lose a lot of knowledge about the equipment at the NuRF, and how to rebuild and troubleshoot any problems. He stated that while Mr. Guenther's replacement, Eli Willis, has a lot of electrical experience, he doesn't yet have the in-depth knowledge of the equipment at the NuRF, nor the skills that Mr. Guenther has troubleshooting issues and rebuilding equipment.

Mr. Hart stated that staff is recommending that the Water Authority enter into a Technical Consultant Agreement with Mr. Guenther, in order to be able to call on him, on an as needed basis, should they need his knowledge and skills to help troubleshoot or maintain the equipment.

MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MR. BILL GUENTHER, NURF TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000. Vice Chair Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4 -0.

a. Eddy Groves and Scrub Point Preserve Road

Mr. Gugliotti stated that the status of this topic hasn't really changed since last month. He explained that survey points on the property are not lining up, and surveyors are still trying to rectify the survey issue.

He stated that once the survey has been completed, staff would need to survey the trees that would be impacted and come up with the cost and environmental impact of moving the road. He noted that at least one environmentally endangered plant species has been found in the area likely to be impacted.

The Board asked that staff bring a copy of the proposed subdivision to the next meeting so that they could see exactly what area would be impacted.

Mr. Farner asked how often staff goes out to Scrub Point and Mr. Gugliotti stated that they go out there about two to 5 times a month. He noted that the preserve is open to the public by boat, and that in addition to normal maintenance and upkeep, staff likes to keep check on the preserve.

Chairman Bryant asked the minimum width they would need to access the preserve and Mr. Gugliotti stated that they would need a cleared easement at least 20 feet wide to keep from brushing against trees.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that Mr. Piper had received the needed approvals from the Clermont City Council the day before. He stated that the topic would be on the agenda again in February and staff would have more information and more detail.

Attorney Barice noted that Lake County may have the authority to require a certain width of right of way, etc., and that it might be a good idea to check with them.

Mr. Gugliotti was asked to check with Lake County regarding the minimum width required for an access road/easement.

c. Bear Track Preserve/Lake Norris Acres – Easement Issue Update

Mr. Gugliotti updated the Board regarding the issues with the purchase of the remaining 80 acres of Lake Norris Acres.

He stated that in November a meeting was held at the LCWA office with Brian Richards, Chairman Bryant, Attorney Carol Barice (through conference call), Mr. Perry, and himself. He explained that staff had informed Mr. Richards that it was his responsibility to get with Lake County and get documentation that the conservation easement was not accepted and there were no other encumbrances on the property

Mr. Gugliotti explained that Mr. Richards had stated at that time that he did not believe that the conservation easement was in effect, but he did not have any documentation to prove that. He noted that Mr. Richards had stated that he did have a letter from Lake County stating that he had full vested development rights on the entire property, and he felt that having vested rights was proof the conservation easement was not in effect, but that he could not find the letter at the time of the meeting.

Mr. Gugliotti stated that Water Authority staff had reiterated that it was Mr. Richard's responsibility to go to Lake County and get documentation that the conservation easement was not accepted and there were no other encumbrances on the property, especially if there is any hope of resurrecting the deal with the state.

He stated that in the meantime the Water Authority staff did contact the Lake County Attorney's office and the Attorney's office had informed stated that they don't track conservation easements, and told them to contact the Property Appraiser's office. He noted that he is still waiting to hear back from the Property Appraiser's Office.

He noted that in the meantime, Anna Ely, who used to work for Lake County, was able to find an Affidavit recorded October of 1998, that states that the environmental easement was erroneously recorded, and never accepted by Lake County and is therefore void.

He also noted that a contact of Ms. Ely, who works in Lake County Planning and Zoning, found a Certification of Granting of Vested Rights in the Wekiva River Protection Area, that was

addressed to Marc Carson, the person who had originally signed the environmental conservation easement.

Mr. Gugliotti explained that this document stated that he had full rights to develop the property. He noted that staff forwarded the two documents to Attorney Barice as well as Mr. Richards. He noted that while those documents appear to prove that there isn't a conservation easement encumbering the property, staff still has not been able to get anything in writing from Lake County, stating that. He explained that the problem appears to be that nobody wants to take the responsibility to sign such a document.

Chairman Bryant stated that in January, Michelle Wilkinson, at Lake County Attorney's office, had written that she would check with the County Attorney. He asked Mr. Gugliotti to get with Ms. Wilkinson to see if she had obtained an answer from the County Attorney.

Mr. Farner asked which of the Lake Norries properties were involved and Mr. Gugliotti explained that the conservation easement in question was over the majority of the parcels, those already purchased by the Water Authority, as well as most of the 80-acre parcel that the Water Authority is working to acquire.

Chairman Bryant stated that he would like to see this put on the priority list for staff, as he would like there to be some kind of resolution to in getting the Conservation Easement resolved. He stated that he would like to see something concrete by the next meeting.

Attorney Barice stated that the Water Authority still needs something in writing from Lake County, stating they are not holding or enforcing any easements on the property.

Chairman Bryant asked Mr. Gugliotti to work with Attorney Barice regarding the type of documentation needed.

d. Education Budget Overview

Mr. Perry showed a table illustrating the budget expenditures versus the 3.5% of the ad valorem collected since FY 2005-2006. He noted the amount budgeted for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Farner thanked Mr. Perry and stated that didn't want to make any changes at this time. He explained that he was just wanting an update of the education spending limitations and the amount that the Board had budgeted for the year. He noted that the amount being spent is well below the allowed amount, and if the Board wished to spend more next year, they have plenty of room in the limitation

Chairman Bryant asked for an update on Alum expenditures and Mr. Perry stated that the Agency has spent close to 1.5 million. He noted that they had budgeted approximately 2.5 million and that costs would likely approach the budgeted amount by the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Perry stated that he has asked Mr. Hart to look at alum usage at the NuRF and make some projections regarding alum for the next month, three-months or six-months, assuming the flow remains at 75 cfs. He stated that staff would bring that information back to the Board.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Hecimovich addressed the Board and stated that he lives on Tammi Drive in Venetian Village along the Golf Course Canal. He stated that five years ago, the Water Authority had dredged several of the canals in that area, including the Golf Course Canal. He stated that recently, during Hurricane Irma, a lot of muck flowed out of Lake Apopka and clumped up the canal.

He stated that while the muck and material has settled and the water is clear again, the canal is not as deep as it used to be. He noted that the additional muck will cause problems when the water levels drop.

He asked if the Board is aware of how much muck had settled in the canals. He asked what the Water Authority could do, as it appears the canal needs dredging again. He stated that it looks like this might be an ongoing problem anytime there is a big storm such as Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Perry stated that staff has briefed the Board each month about the ongoing situation and the flow around and through the NuRF. He stated that the majority of the floc/material that flowed from NuRF continued all the way down into Lake Beauclair, but because of the unique current at the mouth of the Golf Course Canal, a portion did enter the canal.

He explained that when the canal was last dredged, the purpose of the actual project was to deal with years of accumulated sand/sludge in that area of Lake Beauclair. He explained that the canals that were dredged, were done as a courtesy to the residents in that area, and were not related to the actual project. He stated that of the 9.2 million spent at that time, only sixty or seventy thousand dollars of the cost was related to the dredging of the canals.

Mr. Perry stated that he, Water Authority staff, and the Sheriff's deputies have been out several times to keep tabs on the issue.

Mr. Hart noted that unlike other canals in the area, the Golf Course Canal has some flow to it, which moves water down into the canal. He showed an aerial of area and explained that because the NuRF was not capable of treating the entire first flush of material coming out of Lake Apopka, years of accumulated sediment went down Apopka-Beauclair Canal and a lot of it went into Golf Course canal and down past the first four or five houses.

He stated that along with the sediment, there was also peaty and twiggy material, and approximately two to three inches of excess alum that flushed through the system. He also noted that prior to the hurricane, a resident had called to report that a floating island had sunk at the mouth of the canal.

Mr. Hecimovich stated that the floating island and the debris that flowed into the canal are acting as a plug to the canal and no one can get in or out. He stated that he has noticed that there is dredging going on in Lake Apopka at the mouth of the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and wondered if the Golf Course Canal could also be dredged.

Mr. Perry explained that the St. Johns River Water Management District is clearing out the mouth of the Apopka-Beauclair Canal to create a sump area.

Chairman Bryant asked Mr. Hart if staff has spoken to the St. Johns River Water Management District about the canal. Mr. Hart explained that he had spoken with District staff and let them know about the situation and that District staff had stated that they would send their own staff to investigate. He stated that he has not heard back from the District since then.

He noted that during their conversation, District staff had stated that they had no plans to take responsibility of the canal and as it is a residential canal they do not provide any funding for dredging.

Chairman Bryant asked if this was something that FEMA would help with and Mr. Perry stated that the upcoming Monday is the deadline for FEMA. Ms. Rider explained that FEMA would need to make a site visit and a work order would need to be submitted before that deadline.

Chairman Bryant stated that historically, the Water Authority has not expended funding on residential canals for dredging or tree removal. He noted that the circumstances regarding the Golf Course Canal at this time are a bit unusual, in that the canal is right off the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and there was a hurricane that pushed the sediment into the canal.

Mr. Hart stated that unfortunately the structure of the Golf Course canal is such that it is ideal for the muck coming from Apopka-Beauclair Canal during high flows, to make a turn and settle into the canal. He noted that this canal is unusual in the way it creates a flow into the canal and takes the sediment further into the canal than is normal.

Mr. Perry explained that the rainfall with Hurricane Irma was an extraordinary event and was unprecedented in the history of the NuRF. He stated that under normal conditions the NuRF catches and processes that accumulation.

Chairman Bryant asked if staff had any idea how much it would cost to dredge the canal. Mr. Hart replied that dredging the canal would have a much higher cost than previously, as the Water Authority doesn't have a project going on at this time, and would have to use a smaller dredge and dumpster method, which would entail lots of labor and time. He stated that he would expect it to cost in the \$100,000 range or higher.

Mr. Farner noted that the Golf Course canal is a very long canal. He stated that now that flow from the NuRF is lower, it is possible that a good hard rain could blow it clean, but also noted that if we were to have another big storm, blockage of the canal could become a reoccurring event. He noted that the Water Authority has a firm policy when it comes to dealing with private canals.

Mr. Hecimovich stated that he didn't consider the Golf Course Canal a private canal and noted that the Water Authority sprays the plants in the canal.

Mr. Hart explained that the term "private canal" is utilized within the Water Authority to identify canals the Agency does not maintain. Mr. Farner noted that the canals maintained by the Water Authority are the canals that connect lakes together.

Mr. Hart explained that the dredging being done at the mouth of the Apopka-Beauclair on Lake Apopka is being done by the St. Johns River Water Management District and stated that the

Water Authority doesn't have any control over the District or their projects. He noted that when he had spoken to the District, they were not agreeable to dredging the Golf Course Canal.

Mr. Perry stated that staff would speak with the District again regarding the situation. He also explained that Water Authority doesn't do any spraying for aquatic plant control, and stated that it is handled and funded by other agencies.

It was also explained that while the State helped fund the dredging of Lake Beauclair, they would not fund any portion of the dredging of the canals. It was noted that the canal portion was completely funded by the Water Authority.

Chairman Bryant stated that there are many "private canals" in Lake County and the Water Authority doesn't have the funding to clear every canal, thus the policy of restricting the maintenance of the canals to the ones that connect lakes together. He stated that it is a good policy and one they try to follow, but he also understands that this is a unique and unusual situation.

It noted that it is probably too late for the residents to get any assistance from FEMA.

The Board requested that Mr. Hart speak with the St. Johns River Water Management District regarding the possibility of their agency adding the dredging of the Golf Course Canal to the current project on Lake Apopka and report back to the Board.

They also asked Mr. Hart to provide the Board with an estimate of what percentage of the muck/settlement can be attributed to the output of floc from the NuRF, and how much can be attributed to the hurricane and other factors.

No were no other comments from Board regarding the Golf Course Canal issue.

Kathy Wainwright addressed the Board regarding access to Sawgrass Island Preserve. She stated that she and a few of her neighbors would like to put in 4-foot gate to allow residents with horses to access the Sawgrass Island access road. She stated that this would insure a safe route to the preserve, and keep them from having to ride along Thomas Boat Landing Road.

Mr. Farner stated that this kind of request is not uncommon, and noted that the Board has always denied those requests in the past. He stated that he would like staff to investigate this.

Mr. Dufresne stated that the Board understands Ms. Wainwright's concerns and her request. He stated that the Board, the Attorney, and staff would need to discuss the issue before making any decision.

Mr. Gugliotti noted that the access road is not a public road, but is part of the preserve and the outer fence is the boundary line of the preserve. He explained that the easement is to allow the public access the preserve parking lot and that the inner fence it to keep people from traversing across the preserve in vehicles.

Chairman Bryant stated that, as this topic is not on the agenda, the Board and staff would have to look at the Agency's policy as it pertains this this request, before they can make any decision.

He asked Ms. Wainwright to provide Water Authority staff with any information that she thinks might be helpful.

Mr. Perry asked Mr. Gugliotti if this request is near the location where someone keeps cutting the fence and Mr. Gugliotti answered that it is located about two properties over from Ms. Wainwright's requested location. He noted that staff has put up no trespassing signs in that location and repeatedly had to repair the fence and replace the sign.

There was no other public comment.

Mr. Farner left the meeting.

The Board took a short break at 5:45 pm. They returned at 6:10 pm and the meeting continued.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice correct phone number

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Dufresne thanked Mr. Hart and all the staff working around the clock to keep NuRF up and running.

Chairman Bryant informed Board Members of an upcoming Master Naturalist Program pertaining to Coastal Water, Fresh Water and Uplands. He stated that he plans on attending the program and noted that the Fresh Water component will begin on February 19 and run for six Mondays in a row, from 9 am to 4 pm, should any other Board Members be interested.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that starting February, there will be a reorganization of the Agenda. He stated that any agenda items needing action will be separate from discussion items and will be addressed before discussion items.

He also reminded the Board of the March Chairman's Workshop and stated that staff will let them know as soon as a date is chosen.

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

There were no additional items.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Spring Creek Elementary STEM Night, Tuesday, January 16, 2018 (6:30 pm)
- Astor Community Science Night – 1st Baptist Astor, Thursday, January 18, 2018 (6:30 pm)

- Flat Island Preserve Long Hike, Saturday, January 20, 2018 (9 am to 12:00 pm)
- Spring Creek Elementary Career Day, Thursday, January 25, 2018 (10:00 am to 2:00 pm)
- Treadway Elementary Career Day, Friday, January 26, 2018 (10:00 am to 12:00 pm)
- Grassy Lake & Minneola Elementary 1st – 3rdgrade STEM night, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 (6:00 pm to 7:30 pm)
- Montverde Academy at NuRF, Wednesday, February 7, 2018 (9:00 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)
- Lakes clean up Hickory Point, Saturday, February 24, 2018 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
- Flat Island Preserve Bat Hike, Saturday, March 10, 2018 (5 pm to 10 pm)
- Master Naturalists at NuRF & Hickory Point, Monday, March 12, 2018 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- Hickory Point Fishing Clinic, Saturday, March 17, 2018 (8:00 am to 12:00 pm)
- Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 28, 2018 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Lake Envirothon – Hickory Point, Thursday, March 29, 2018 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- Round Lake Elementary 5th at Gilbert Park, Friday, March 30, 2018 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- Hidden Water Preserve Nature and Fitness Hike, Saturday, April 14, 2008 (8 am to 11:30 am)

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

Neil Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer

Doug Bryant, Chairman