

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING AND CHAIRMAN'S WORKSHOP
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
March 6, 2018**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 11:24 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 in the Lake County Water Authority Office, 27351 SR 19, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present-District #

Doug Bryant, Chairman (#4)
Amy Stone, Vice-Chair (#5)
Peggy Cox, Chairwoman (#1)
Keith A. Farner, (At Large)
Adam Dufresne, (At Large)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Biagio Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
Jason Danaher, Water Resources Prog. Manager
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 11:00 a.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None. The February Regular Meeting minutes and the March Board Meeting/Chairman's Workshop will be provided at the April Board meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave an update on the lake level statuses. He stated that the levels have really declined on Lake Apopka and the NuRF is functioning at approximately 8 cfs.

He stated that Jahna will be ending their dredging on Friday and Water Authority staff will go back to 10-hour shifts during the week and there will be more double shifts. He noted that staff is doing very well at getting caught up on dredging the ponds.

He informed the Board that the Superpond/Middle Lakes, as well as Lake Griffin, are at or below regulatory schedule at this time.

He noted that Lake Minnehaha is at 96.85 msl and the Cherry Lake Dam has been closed for about a week. He also noted that the combined flow of Big and Little Creeks is approximately 6 cfs.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

None. Consent items were removed from consent for discussion and vote.

a. Bear Track Preserve/Lake Norris Acres – Easement Update

Mr. Gugliotti updated the Board regarding the status of the Bear Track Conservation Easement and TDR.

He stated that Ms. Burgos had emailed the Lake County Attorney's Office and they had responded that they weren't sure they could help, and had directed us to contact the Property Appraiser's Office. He explained that he then contacted the Property Appraiser's Office, who directed us to Public Works/Right of Way, and from there to the Clerk of Courts and Planning and Zoning.

He noted that after contacting each department, they each stated that they didn't have anything in their data, but none of them could/would say definitely that there was no conservation easement or TDR.

He stated that Chairman Bryant then contacted the Lake County Attorney and explained that the Water Authority really needed to have something in writing in order to resolve the easement issue. He stated that the County Attorney felt a Resolution approved by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners would be the best way to resolve the issue.

It was noted that March 8 is the deadline for submitting anything for the March Board of County Commissioners Meeting.

MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION AND DIRECT STAFF TO FORWARD THIS RESOLUTION TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ACTION. Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

Motion Approved 5-0

b. NuRF Floc Removal Alternatives

Mr. Hart addressed the Board and explained that during the February Board meeting they had discussed alternative solutions to the floc issue at the NuRF. He stated that the cheapest alternative to remove the sediment from the bottom of the ponds was to continue with our usual method of dredging and placing the floc in the dry storage area, and for Jahna to attach to our second dredge and run that at the same and transport the floc to the sludge storage area and containment area. He explained that the clean water is then pumped to the outfalls.

He stated that this has been happening for a few weeks now and staff is asking the Board to approve the current expenditures to give staff the ability to pay for the work that was done. He explained that Jahna's mobilization costs are \$12,641 and operating cost are \$ 11,037 per week. He noted that demobilization cost will be \$8,770, when it comes time for them to dismantle their equipment. He explained that the cost is the same as the negotiated costs between Jahna and the St. Johns River Water Management District, for the dredging being performed on Lake Apopka.

He is asking the Board to approve the continuance of that operation until Friday, March 9, and give the Agency the ability to pay the contractor for the work they have completed.

Attorney Barice asked if the agreement would be ending at the end of the week and Mr. Hart explained that is what is planned at this time. He noted that staff is not expecting to have need Jahna again, any time soon. He stated that it would be well into the rainy season before it would be likely that they would need Jahna's assistance again.

Attorney Barice stated that her only thought is that they should have a contract in place should they need to utilize Jahna's services again in the future.

Mr. Hart explained that the Water Authority could continue to use the contract that Jahna has in place with the St. Johns River Water Management District.

He noted that Chairman Bryant has also suggested other alternatives, such as talking to the District about creating a separate and permanent containment area there on site.

Ms. Cox asked if staff is going to preplan for that possibility before next hurricane season and Mr. Hart stated yes.

Mr. Hart stated that these last few months have been a learning experience, as this severe of an event was never anticipated, and there was a lot of assumption that the need for a flow of 300 cfs would only happen for a short duration.

He stated that they now know that this is likely to occur again sometime in the future, maybe not in our lifetimes, but it will happen again, and the Agency needs to prepare and be ready when it does happen.

Mr. Perry stated that one of the other alternatives being discussed is the possibility of connecting to the St. Johns River Water Management District's Cells F and G to dispose of the material there as well. He stated that staff will be talking with the District regarding that option. He stated that staff is looking at several options, so that the Agency doesn't end up in a similar situation.

Mr. Farner stated that he would still like to explore purchasing the pipeline and Mr. Hart stated that he had sent an inquiry to Jahna, but hadn't yet received a response. Vice Chair Stone stated that the cost to purchase comparable new pipe is approximately \$12 per foot.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE UTILIZING THE SJRWMD CONTRACT WITH JAHNA DREDGING, TO REMOVE SLUDGE FROM THE PONDS AT THE NURF THROUGH MARCH 9, 2018 AND TO PAY ANY INCURRED CHARGES. Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Citizens Lakes Academy, April 2018, in Clermont

Mr. Perry stated that Ms. Cox is wanting to hold a Citizens Lakes Academy focused on the South Lake County area in Clermont sometime in April or May.

Ms. Cox stated that with the Clermont Boat Ramp controversy, and other issues in South Lake County there should be plenty of people interested in attending.

She stated that the rather than several evenings, she felt that one day event would be best, with the morning being an informational meeting, and possibly an afternoon boat ride.

Ms. Cox also noted that she would also would like to have table at the City of Clermont's April 21st Earth Day in south Lake County. Ms. Rider volunteered to help Ms. Cox man the booth. Ms. Krisovitch stated that she has already contacted the City of Clermont and confirmed a spot for at least one table. Vice Chair Stone stated that it is always good when they could provide citizens with information regard Lake County's Water Resources.

Members of the Board stated that they were in agreement with holding a Citizen's Lakes Academy in South Lake County.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

c. Status of Clermont Boat Ramp

Mr. Perry stated that Ms. Cox wanted to make sure the rest of the Board Members knew the current status of the City of Clermont Boat Ramp. He showed pictures of the current boat ramp area and point out that most of the parking had been demolished and removed to make room for Victory Point.

He pointed out that the only parking is to an off-site parking area, west of the boat ramp. He explained that the area is a grass lot with just 17 makeshift parking slots. He noted that overflow parking is at least 3 blocks away.

He stated a group of people had gotten together and filed a challenge against the St. Johns Water Management District to the permit the District had issued to the City of Clermont, to relocate the boat ramp near Lake Hiawatha Preserve.

Ms. Cox explained that the group challenging the permit were granted an Administrative Hearing date and immediately the City of Clermont has suspended the project and filed for a six-month extension.

Mr. Perry stated that most likely nothing is going to happen until everything is sorted out.

Ms. Cox stated that Mr. Perry had done a magnificent job speaking to the Clermont City Council regarding the Agency's concerns.

Ms. Cox noted that the permit would have also allowed the City of Clermont to dredge 2,400 cubic feet from the lake bottom at the site, just to get started. She also noted that the original plan called for 30 parking spaces, and has now been revised to only 21 parking spaces.

She stated that Lake County actually owns the road (CR 561), and in order to build the boat ramp the way they want, the City of Clermont is going to have move the road further to the west, as well as cutting into some of Preserve.

She stated that Lake Hiawatha Preserve was purchased as a passive park, and a boat ramp doesn't fit within that description. She stated that it is because of these issues that the second suit has been filed against Lake County and the City of Clermont. She explained that there is an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Clermont and Lake County for Lake Hiawatha Preserve. She noted that Lake County put five million dollars into the project, along with Grant money that was received, and the City of Clermont's contribution.

She stated that the Army Corp of Engineers also have a voice in the placement of the boat ramp due to navigational issues. She noted that they had also scheduled a hearing, but have called a halt to their hearing until all other issues are resolved.

Ms. Cox stated that she knew of other properties that might be available and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission does have grants available and stated that she would be looking into them. She stated that she can't see 10,000 acres of public water being off limits to the public for several years. She noted that she doesn't think the issue will be resolved any time soon because there are so many people that are angry with the whole situation, and they have the money to fight.

She stated that the Board is on record as being opposed to the Lake Hiawatha Preserve site as proposed per the St. Johns Water Management District Permit because of the dredging and the maintenance that would have to be done to keep the depth of the area. She stated that it would be a constant issue to ensure that the water would deep enough to launch a boat.

She stated that should it be needed, she would recommend that the Water Authority Board consider being an intervener in the St. Johns River Water Management District appeal, as being in opposition to the District issuing the City a permit.

She noted that the permit would take out a lot of wetlands, as well as oak trees in the only area left of native wetlands on Lake Minneola that aren't impeded upon by development.

Mr. Hart informed the Board, that due to Hurricane Irma, there is an opportunity that the Water Authority, Lake County and the City of Clermont to apply for funding from FEMA. He stated there will be a minimum of 14 million dollars available to government agencies in Lake County to fund the top hazards within the county.

He stated that one possible option is that the Water Authority, the City of Clermont, and Lake County could work cooperatively to buy out Emerald Lakes, and use the area to build a new boat ramp at State Road 50. He stated that it would be the best possible scenario in solving with both the boat ramp issue and the issues at Emerald Lakes.

Mr. Hart explained that in order to accomplish that, one approach would be to do a condemnation of Emerald Lakes, but due to changes in our Legislation, the Water Authority no longer has any condemnation ability. He noted that City of Clermont does have the ability and would be able to handle the condemnation.

He explained that they could also do a voluntary buy out of the community. He stated that one company owns the majority of the lots, and it would take only one purchase transaction to purchase the majority of the property. He noted that all other lots would have to be purchases individually from their owners.

Mr. Hart stated that currently there is no other multi-million-dollar project being proposed in Lake County. He noted that there is a joint meeting of Water Authority staff, Lake County staff and City of Clermont staff later in March. He explained that funding must be in place by August in order to qualify for the FEMA funding.

He noted that money will be also be available to other counties and explained that any money that doesn't get distributed, would be divided and distributed among those that do have their funding in place by the deadline.

In response to questions, Mr. Perry stated that the market value of the Emerald Lakes community is approximately 9 or 10 million.

Mr. Hart stated that he wasn't putting any pressure on the Board and would drop the idea should the Board say that they are not interested.

Ms. Cox stated that it would be a great opportunity to possibly bring money to the table to buy out Emerald Lakes. She noted that the City of Clermont is closing the entire existing boat ramp area to create a starting location for triathlons. She stated that she also understands that a large steakhouse restaurant will be built next to the area.

Mr. Hart explained the process, stating that Lake County would present possible co-operative projects to FEMA based on a project list put together from the meetings with the Water Authority and the cities. He stated that individual agencies and cities could also submit their own projects. He explained that FEMA will be making the decision as to which projects would receive funding. He stated that for large projects they need to work together with other agencies rather than individually on projects.

Ms. Cox asked if the City of Clermont was in agreement and Mr. Hart stated that City staff is, but he couldn't speak for their elected officials. He noted that staff had indicated that some of their elected officials are receptive to the idea.

Members of the Board were in agreement with staff pursuing the proposal. It was noted that if a motion was needed in the future, staff could bring it back to the Board for approval. Mr. Hart stated that he would keep the Board informed on any new developments. Ms. Cox noted that the Residential Co-Op would probably have the most resistance to any buy-out plan.

Ms. Maimone stated that she had spoken with a City of Clermont Councilman, who had informed her that Mr. Perry would be getting a public apology for the way he was treated at their meeting.

7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Chairman Bryant stated that everybody in attendance has at least some knowledge of a grievance that has been filed within the Agency. He stated that when the complaint was received, it was felt that there couldn't be a fair internal investigation, so Mr. Hamilton was hired to do the investigation. He stated that Mr. Hamilton comes highly recommended.

He stated that at this time there is a tentative agreement/memorandum of understanding between the two principals involved. He stated that there are still details to be mapped out and there has been an enormous amount of discussion to get to this point. He noted that he is hoping that things will be able to move forward in a positive manner and noted that neither party would be completely happy with the agreement/resolution. He stated that it is an agreement in principle only, and had details that still needed to be spelled out.

Chairman Bryant stated that he does not have a problem speaking privately with staff, but noted that he would only discuss the process and not any of the details or possible resolution.

Attorney Barice stated that as the Agency's attorney, she would strongly recommend that they do not pursue any public comment, as it would not be beneficial to the agency at this time.

Ms. Cox asked if the Board Members would receive a summary of the agreement when it is finalized and agreed upon, so that they will know how the issue was resolved.

Chairman Bryant stated yes and no, as some of the resolution/agreement will come to the Board for Board action, but the remainder of the agreement would remain private between the two parties.

Vice Chair Stone asked if everyone on the Board had a copy of the complaint and the results of the investigation. Some Board answered to the affirmative, while others stated that they did not.

Attorney Barice requested that everyone treat the subject as confidential and sensitive, as any discussion here will be creating a public record.

Vice Chair Stone stated that it was unfair to staff to completely ignore their concerns.

Chairman Bryant stated that anyone is welcome to talk to individual Board Members. He stated that there is a very fragile agreement at this time that has not been finalized or signed by the parties involved, and they needed to be aware of that, if they want it to be resolved.

Mr. Farner stated that if the two parties can come to an agreement, he would like to give them the opportunity. He stated that he would like to discontinue the discussion at this time, and give them time to resolve the issue.

Vice Chair Stone stated that it is highly discontiguous to completely ignore staff, as the impact of the complaint goes far beyond the two parties.

Chairman Bryant stated that he could not discuss the Memorandum of Understanding item by item, but he could say that this being addressed in the agreement.

Ms. Cox stated that she agreed with Mr. Farner, and that it is to the Agency's advantage to let the parties involved attempt to come to an agreement. She asked that staff let the parties complete the process and then if it is apparent that it is not going to work out, then they (staff) could speak up and bring it to the Board, etc.

Chairman Bryant would agree with Ms. Cox and stated this is just the beginning stage of the agreement. He stated that it may be a colossal failure, but he is asking that staff and the Board give them a chance at a resolution and see where it goes.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of staff provided the Board with written statements and voiced their concerns regarding the grievance issue.

Ms. Cox stated that she was surprised as anyone to see the complaint. She stated that she hears and understands staff's concerns, and that she has also heard the concerns that have been noted in the past. She stated that her main concern is the nature of the complaint and if it was to be filed with the EOC it would be devastating to the parties involved. She stated that while she understands the validity to what staff is saying, she still agrees with Mr. Farner, that she would rather see agreement between the two parties rather than putting it out in public.

Vice Chair Stone noted that the investigator's report stated that there was no proof shown to validate the complaint.

Chairman Bryant stated that while it is one thing to disagree on the issues and possible solutions, the one thing that he doesn't want anyone to make a mistake about, is that fact that the Board Members do have the best interest of the Water Authority and staff in mind.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

10. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. None. Staff reports and Financial Reports for March will be included in the April 2018 agenda package

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- 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)
- 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)
- Mascotte Elementary STEM Night, Tuesday, April 3, 2018 (5:30 pm to 7:00 pm)
- Hidden Water Preserve Nature and Fitness Hike, Saturday, April 14, 2008 (8 am to 11:30 am)
- Board Meeting - Wednesday, April 25, 2018 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Leadership Lake Environmental Day @ NuRF & Hickory Point, Wednesday, May 9, 2008 (9:00 am to 2 pm)

13. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

The Board took a break at 1:00 pm. and resumed at 1:36 pm.

14. CHAIRMAN'S WORKSHOP

Mr. Perry stated that the following topics were proposed for discussion, and there was no specific order or priority to the list.

- **Requests for Alternative Access to Preserves**

Mr. Perry reminded the Board of the group of residents adjacent to Sawgrass Island that had requested a private gate/access to the preserve.

Mr. Dufresne explained that there are eight property owners along an easement that ends at the edge of Sawgrass Preserve. He stated that he had told that he told them they would need to make their access easement at least 50 feet wide for ingress, egress and emergency vehicle access.

He explained that they had asked him that if they were to do that, would they be able to get an access gate into the preserve at the end of their easement where it meets the preserve.

It was stated that to allow this would open the Agency up to more requests for private access to the preserve, as well as other preserves. It was noted that a developer adjacent to Scrub Point is also asking for private access to Scrub Point into the new development.

Ms. Cox stated that Water Authority preserves should not be used as an amenity by developers to promote their developments. Mr. Dufresne stated that if they were to do so, it would snowball into other issues.

Mr. Gugliotti showed an aerial and pointed out the requested location at the end of Trails End Road and the boundary of Sawgrass Preserve.

Chairman Bryant stated that any access given would have to be a public access, not a private access and Mr. Farner was in agreement. Chairman Bryant asked how flexible the Board wanted to be, whether to deny all requests for additional access or whether they want to have a written policy that they could direct people to when requests are made.

Ms. Cox stated that if they were to create a policy, they would need to create a policy for each preserve, as some of the preserves are more environmentally sensitive and some preserves already have stipulations on the use of the land.

She noted that to grant them additional access to Scrub Point would open the Agency up to many more requests. She stated that she felt that she thinks it would be best to leave things as they are, since each request would still have to be considered on a case by case basis because of the uniqueness of each preserve.

Vice Chair Stone stated that, personally, she doesn't want to have anything more than the official entrance to each preserve. She stated that she doesn't want developers using alternate accesses to add value to their developments, etc.

Mr. Gugliotti stated that it would become overwhelming for staff if they were to need to close several access points to the secure a preserve or several preserves, in case of storms, prescribed fire, etc. He stated that by having limited access, they can kiosks with important information and can close the preserves much quicker, when needed.

Chairman Bryant stated that he felt it would be best to leave everything as it is now, with minimized access and by considering each request on an individual case by case basis.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that the residents adjacent to Sawgrass Preserve have already given staff a formal request to bring it to the Board. He stated that her paperwork is incomplete at this time, but it may come to the Board in April.

Mr. Farner asked if staff should let them know that they shouldn't waste their time coming to the Board meeting. He stated that he didn't want to give them a false hope, if they weren't even going to consider their request.

Chairman Bryant stated that while there are certain things the applicants need to get together, they don't want them to go to the expense of hiring an attorney, doing surveys, etc., if the Board is just going to tell them no.

Mr. Gugliotti stated that he has informed them that although he could tell them what they would need to provide when making their request to the Board, it would be up to the Board to decide whether or not to approve their request.

Mr. Perry stated that what he is hearing is that the Board is not saying no to all requests, but would consider any access requests on an individual case-by-case basis.

- **Review of Residential Canal Policy**

Mr. Dufresne stated that he has meetings coming up with Sean Parks and a couple of other Commissioners and is going to suggest to them the possibility of using Tourism dollars to help fund the removal of tussocks from the Ninth Street Canal.

Vice Chair Stone stated that she thought that last year the Board had told the residents to request Stormwater Grant.

Mr. Perry stated that the stormwater is being resolved, but they want is the tussocks removed from the canal.

Vice Chair Stone stated that it would be out of the Water Authority's scope to remove the tussocks from the canal and Mr. Dufresne stated that was why he was going to speak to the Commissioners regarding using Tourism funds.

Vice Chair Stone stated she is not agreeable with getting involved and Mr. Farner stated that it is a private canal and he doesn't want to change the Board's policy.

Ms. Cox asked who owns the land under the canal and it was stated that it was most likely the State.

Mr. Dufresne stated that the County is always taking about the economic impact of the bass tournaments have on the County. He stated that possibly the could work with the County to put a dent in the amount of tussocks in the area, so at least the owners can get out of their canal and the fisherman can access the area to fish. He explained that he is not talking about using Water Authority money, but he is saying that they should at least speak to the County.

- **Grievance Procedure**

Chairman Bryant stated that recent events have revealed that although there is a grievance procedure/policy in the Employee Manual, some of the procedures are lacking in detail. He stated that he thought it was something they could take care of with a short amendment to the policy at either the April or May meeting.

There was discussion on procedures as to whether it should state that the grievance should be taken to the Chairman of the Board, or to any Board member. Mr. Farner stated that he felt that staff should be able to take it to any Board Member they feel comfortable with, and that Board Member would be able to take the grievance to the Board Attorney should they feel it is needed.

Attorney Barice if they specify in the policy that grievances should go to the Chairman first, then the Chairman may be able to resolve the issue without involving the attorney.

There was discussion as to whether staff could take their grievance directly to the Attorney, and Mr. Farner stated that normally everything goes through the Executive Director, and should only go to the Chairman and Attorney if they have a grievance against the Director. Chairman Bryant stated that the most efficient method would be to file jointly to Board Chairman and Attorney.

Mr. Dufresne stated that employees need to be diligent to keep documentation of any incidents where they feel they have an issue, and have exhausted all avenues before they go to the Chairman.

Chairman Bryant stated that any grievances should be taken to their supervisor, then to the Director, and on to the Board as needed.

- **Status of Bathrooms at Sawgrass Island Preserve**

Attorney Barice stated that there is really nothing new to report at this time. She stated that Mr. Gugliotti had given her a copy of the State of Florida regulations and she is reading them to find out if the regulations really pertain to this type of structure.

Mr. Dufresne asked if someone should we call the Department of Health in Tallahassee and Attorney Barice stated that she hadn't at this time.

- **Status Bear Track/Lake Norris Acquisition**

It was noted that there was nothing new to report at this time regarding the Lake Norris Acquisition.

- **Status of Lake Denham Sod Farm Acquisition or Alternatives**

Mr. Perry stated that this topic would better to discuss, as they get into the new budget process. He stated that Mr. Hart has working hard to track the owners down to he can discuss the proposal with them.

Mr. Hart stated that he has put in several calls to associates of Jerry Calhoun, but has not gotten any responses back from Mr. Calhoun or any other member of the Calhoun family.

Mr. Dufresne stated that Jerry Calhoun's children are in charge of the property and Mr. Hart stated that he would work with Mr. Dufresne to find out who they should be contacting.

Mr. Perry noted that they are also looking into other ways to deal with the nutrient loading in Lake Denham. He stated that the City of Leesburg received a large sum of money from the Villages in exchange for allowing the developer to take over a portion of Leesburg. He also noted that there is also a developer that's interested in developing property adjacent to Lake Denham.

Mr. Perry stated there would be more discussion once they start working on the budget.

Chairman Bryant stated the Agency doesn't actually have to acquire the property, if there is a viable alternative for dealing with the heavy nutrient loading in the lake.

Mr. Hart noted that 1100 total pounds of phosphorous loading per year into Lake Denham from the sod farm.

Ms. Cox left the meeting.

- **Lake Yale Whole Lake Alum Project**

Mr. Hart stated that over the years, Lake Yale has accumulated approximately 33 million yards of goop in the bottom of the lake. He explained that improvements to the lake are not going to be made through conventional watershed or stormwater improvements.

He explained that to dredge the whole lake would cost more than 33 million dollars and would need a disposal area of 10 square miles, with the sludge being stacked two feet deep, so the proposal is to do

a whole lake alum treatment in order to hold the nutrients at the bottom of the lake. It was noted that the project would be completed in four separate application, space a year apart.

Mr. Hart stated that this project had been put on hold because of Hurricane Irma, the departure of Mr. Duarte, and need to operate NuRF 24-hour hours a day. He stated that now that Jason Danaher is on Board and getting up to speed, staff will be coming back to the Board in the next couple of months to discuss moving forward and implementing the project.

Mr. Hart explained that currently there is a peat mining permit on Pine Meadows which is owned by the County and the money generated from the permit is to be turned over to the Water Authority to go toward the purchase of alum to treat Lake Yale.

Chairman Bryant asked how much remained in the budget for the Lake Yale project and Mr. Perry stated that the Board included approximately 2.2 million in the budget for Lake Yale, to get the project started.

It was noted that amount would not cover the cost of all four treatments and staff was directed to try and find partners for additional funding. Mr. Perry stated that the funding from the County would probably be around \$200,000 a year.

Mr. Hart stated that staff will come up with recommendation on how to proceed, so that they can open it up for bidding.

- **Status of Speed Zone Request in the Canal between Lake Palatlahaha and Lake Hiawatha**

Staff updated that Board on the request by residents on Canal between Lake Palatlahaha and Lake Hiawatha for some type of restricted speed zone.

It was noted that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the Agency that permits restricted speed zones and they have informed Mr. Hart that it is extremely unlikely that a restricted speed zone would be granted in this particular area.

Mr. Hart stated that although they stated that is it unlikely to be granted, FWC still urged The Water Authority to submit the application and request.

He also stated that an Orange County Deputy lives on the canal is planning to put together notes, along with traffic counts and videos, to include with the application, but he wants to also include summer information.

Mr. Hart stated that some residents some residents are not to wait until after summer for that information to be generated, so the Agency may have to go ahead and begin the application process. He noted that it would be a weaker stance, but it would be a more immediate response to the residents who are demanding that something be done.

Mr. Perry noted that there are also people that don't want a restrictive speed zone to be created just because someone decided to develop a new subdivision with boat docks along the canal.

Chairman Bryant stated that the likelihood of Fish and Wildlife taking the request seriously was slim and he didn't think this should be a high priority item for staff.

Mr. Hart stated that should there be another accident, he doesn't want the public to be able to blame the Water Authority by saying that they brought it to our attention and we chose to do nothing. He stated that unless the Board tells staff not to do anything, he plans to get together the information needed and send it to the FWC.

- **Preview of Budget process for FY 2018-2019**

Mr. Perry stated that it is just the very beginning of the in-house prep of the new budget. He stated that the Board would receive a draft copy at the June meeting, but there would be no discussion or action taken until the workshop in July.

Mr. Perry stated that this is the first year they have needed to purchase a large amount of alum. He noted that if they end up spending the currently projected three million dollars for alum, they will exceed the alum budget for the year.

He stated that calculating the Cash Carry Forward is a moving target and staff won't know until the last minute, the actual amount they will have to carry forward.

Mr. Perry explained that the County is assuming that there will be 5% increase in property evaluations, and stated that the draft budget will be based on that assumption. He stated that there won't likely be any funds for new projects for next year, or funds for any new stormwater projects or acquisitions.

He stated that hopefully they won't have to dip into the alum reserve, but that will be dependent on the weather during the summer and the hurricane season.

He noted that last year, the Board was able to budget a good amount toward the Lake Yale Whole Lake Alum Treatment Project and finishing the Lake Norris Acquisition. He stated that the Agency was able to fund more projects due to the fact that there wasn't much rain and we didn't have to spend a lot of money on alum.

He stated that he just wanted them to know that the upcoming budget would probably be pretty lean and would be based on keeping the existing millage.

Vice Chair Stone asked if there is usually much opposition or argument against changing the millage. Mr. Perry that the current millage is about half of what the Agency could get, but the Board has usually been conservative and have stayed at or near the existing millage. He stated that the Board has been receptive in discussing whether to increase the millage for a vital project.

Mr. Farner stated that the Board have always saved up for large projects in the past. He stated that while the Board has the ability to bond money, they have always chosen not to, so as to not encumber future Boards. Mr. Perry noted that the Lake Beauclair Dredging Project was a project that the Board saved many years to complete.

Chairman Bryant stated the Agency is where it is money-wise due to Hurricane Irma, and it is important to keep in mind that we are no longer in a recession and it is evident in the development going on in the county. He stated that if there has been a time to consider raising the millage, now is the time. He asked Mr. Perry to put together an incremental chart showing what the increase in the budget would be if they were to raise the millage.

- **Future Projects**

Mr. Perry stated that staff had been looking into the purchase of a back-up generator for the office. He noted that the Board had included \$45,000 in the budget for that purpose.

Mr. Garcia stated that he had obtained a quote of \$41,000 from a State contracted supplier. He explained that this includes everything, including installation.

Vice Chair Stone stated that she doesn't want to wait until there is another hurricane bearing down on us. The other Board Members was in agreement and stated that staff should move forward with the purchase and installation of a back-up generator for the Water Authority office.

Chairman Bryant instructed staff to bring it to the Board as a consent item in April, so the Board could authorize the expenditure.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.