

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
June 27, 2018

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:34 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, 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, Chairman (At Large)

Staff Present

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Patricia Burgos, Land Resources Liaison
Ben Garcia, IT Manager
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Projects 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 3:34 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 MAY 23, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING. Vice Chair Stone 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 stated that June marks the beginning of the rainy season. He stated that at this time of year Lake Apopka is normally at or below Regulatory Schedule, but beginning in May, the rainfall on Lake Apopka has brought the water level well above the Regulatory Schedule.

He stated that we are getting regular afternoon rainfall, and it seems that Lake Apopka has been a major recipient of those afternoon rainstorms.

He explained that at this time of year the water levels on the Harris Chain are normally under the Regulatory Schedule, but with the rainfall, all the Middle Lakes/Superpond are at Regulatory

Schedule except for Lake Dora, which is at Maximum Desirable due to the inflow from Lake Apopka.

He stated that Lake Griffin is right at Regulatory Schedule, where it should be at this time of year, with the current discharge out of Moss Bluff at about 500-600 cfs.

He stated that through May we have had a 2 ½ inch surplus of rainfall since the first of the year, which averages about 116% of the average rainfall year to date. He noted that June, July and August are the rainiest months of the year.

He noted that the Clermont Chain has also seen some pretty substantial rainfall and the lakes are at 96.81 feet, which is about a foot and a 1/3 higher than it was this time last year. He stated that the Cherry Lake Structure is open and discharging water out of the system at about 100 cfs, while the inflow from Big and Little Creeks is at 33.93 cfs.

Mr. Perry updated the Board on the upcoming elections and stated that we now have someone running for every open seat, including District 2, which has been empty for quite some time.

Mr. Perry also updated the Board on the Clermont Boat Ramp that will be built at the Bell Ceramic site. He stated that the city has worked hard with a citizen's group to come up with a concept that was beneficial to everyone. He stated that there will be two double boat ramps for a total of four ramps, and parking spots for 116 boats and trailers.

He noted that he would be attending a stakeholders meeting, related to Hydrilla management, with the Fish and Wildlife Commission this Thursday. He stated that several fishermen are not happy with how FWC is managing Hydrilla. He stated that this Board has always supported the FWC position and that it what he will say if asked.

He informed the Board that he had recently attended a Special Districts meeting and he stated that they had presented lots of new information. He stated that new board members may want to take advantage of those workshops in the future, and that he may be talking about this more in the future.

Mr. Perry also reminded the Board that the Budget Workshop would be held on July 5th at the Lake County Water Authority offices at 11 am.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of Lease for Bourlay Property

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE WITH DEPUTY CHARLES PENDERGRASS FOR THE HOUSE AT THE BOURLAY HISTORIC NATURE PRESERVE. Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4 -0.

5. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. Lake Norris/Blackwater Creek

Mr. Gugliotti informed the Board that on May 30th, staff received a call from St. Johns River Water Management District informing them there would be sand mine activity involving the Lake Norris Preserve, with plans to remove sand mine stock piles from the west side of the property.

He stated that he was informed that the District was planning to use Lake Norris Road instead of Hart Ranch Road, due to a promise the made to residents on Hart Ranch Road many years ago, that they would never have that kind of traffic on Hart Ranch Road again.

He stated that he spoke to Steven Miller, Chief, Bureau of Land Resources, St. Johns River Water Management District, and Mr. Miller had informed him that they had notified R. H. Davis, the Land Manager on the Lake Norris Conservation Area and Mr. Davis had informed them that permits would have to be pulled and a work plan had to be prepared and that the Lake County Water Authority would need to be notified and involved.

Mr. Gugliotti stated that it is estimated that it will take at least 35 days for that to happen. He noted that part of the District's plan includes having to replacing the wooden bridge on Lake Norris Road with a larger bridge that would be able to handle the trucks hauling sand.

Mr. Gugliotti stated that staff is hoping that the parking lot canoe launch will remain open, and that the camp site and LCWA canoes would remain available on the weekends. He stated that the Water Authority hasn't been notified about any meetings as of yet.

Vice Chair Stone stated that if there is a prior agreement then there may not be a lot of room for argument.

Mr. Gugliotti noted that Mr. Miller had informed him that it would be approximately 250,000 truckloads of sand over 5-year time span.

He stated that since the Water Authority recently purchased acreage next to the Lake Norris Conservation Area, staff is requesting to advertise a Request for Proposal for a Design/Build of a boardwalk and canoe/kayak launch on Lake Norris.

Chairman Bryant stated that the construction of the canoe launch and primitive camping area i item that was budgeted for last year. He explained that the Water Authority has been administrating the existing canoe launch and campground, on Lake Norris, which would be affected by the decision regarding the hauling of sand.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE DESIGN/BUILD OF THE BEAR TRACK PRESERVE BOARDWALK AND CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH ON LAKE NORRIS, WITH THE RESULTS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

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Elaine Rennick addressed the Board and stated that she and her husband are building a house on Blackwater Creek Road. She showed a picture of the shaded road and stated that at this time, it is used by hikers, bicyclist and horseback riders. She stated, imagine this single lane small dirt trail as a two-lane road of crushed concrete, big enough for sand trucks can pass each other.

She showed a picture of the small wooden bridge on the trail and stated that it is one of the prettiest and shadiest areas of the trail. She stated that trees would have to be removed and they are going to impact wetland in order to replace the bridge and widen the road. She noted that a small stream runs beneath the bridge and empties into Blackwater Creek. She stated that Blackwater Creek runs just a few feet from the road.

She stated that we are here, not because the LCWA gets to vote on where they create a road, we are here because you are the good guys, and she wants the Board's help. She stated that not only will it be impacted during the 5-7 years they will be mining, but the scar that will be left. Crushed concrete is what they have planned for the road which will make it virtually unusable to horseback riders.

She stated that no one was informed ahead of time of the plan, not any of the stakeholders or DEP were in informed. She stated that Blackwater Creek is a federally designated a Wild and Scenic River and even they were not informed. She stated that every agency that should be involved in a decision like this were informed.

Ms. Rennick asked that the Board use their influence to speak to the County, who does have the power to do something about it.

Chairman Bryant asked if anyone had taken a look at the impact to the Blackwater Creek and Ms. Rennick stated that she didn't know of any study that has been made.

Scott Atkins, Lake Norris Road, addressed the Board and stated that those who ride horses on the preserve have stated that whatever is used for the road, whether it be lime rock or crushed concrete, they will no longer be able to use the road, as their horses are not shod. He stated that when it rains the road will turn into big potholes and even hikers would not be able to use the road.

He stated that the sound of the sand trucks on the road will travel, and with 150 trucks a day, the sound will travel across the lake and magnify in his back yard.

He stated that he has signatures of 670 people who are opposed to the road. He stated that the road is going to create environmental problems, as the truck blow hydraulic fluid all day long and it is going to go right into the waterway.

He stated that he has spoken to two different people in the Fire Department, and they have stated that they can cross the bridge as it is now. He stated that there is no issue getting people in and out.

He stated that the land perks when it rains and dries within a few hours, and the road they are wanting to build will turn into a big mudhole and pothole.

He stated that Lake Norris Road is much smaller, is not able to carry that kind of traffic, comes out on a blind curve and there is no shoulder.

He showed photo of a Gopher Tortoise crossing the road at 11 am. He stated that the dump trucks drives cannot and will not stop for a Gopher Tortoise. He noted that kayakers and horseback riders utilize the preserve during the middle of the week. He stated that if they put in the road, the hikers, campers and horseback riders will be gone. He showed another photo of a momma turkey with 24 chicks walking down the road in the middle of the day.

He stated that no one has seen the agreement stating that sand mine company can come back and get the dirt. He stated that they needed to see the agreement. He noted that the property is good the way it is now, and nothing needs to be done to it. Mr. Atkins asked what was going to happen to the people on Lake Norris Road, and noted that the property is accessible via Hart Ranch Road.

He noted that the Water Authority is limited in what they can do, but he hoped that the Board could write a letter to the District stating their opposition.

Laura Pendergrass stated that Lake County is a beautiful county and we get a lot of visitors from other states and Lake Norris Conservation area has had more and more use over the last few years. She stated that she has spoken to people from at least 10 different counties who come to use the conservation area

She stated that the sand should have been gotten many years ago, and questioned why they would wait 15 years. She stated that in the meantime the land has reclaimed itself. She noted that the conservation area is home to bears, turkeys, sandhill cranes and other wildlife and if they put the road in, you will never see the place like this again, as the recreation area will be forever scarred. She stated that the road will be dangerous to the wildlife and residents in the area.

Ms. Pendergrass stated that with 150 trucks passing a day, 5 days a week, for 5 to 7 years, there won't be any wildlife left in the area.

Mr. Dufresne stated that the Board Members had only found out about the plans this week and asked that residents give them a chance to investigate the situation.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like Attorney Barice to review the agreement, so the Board can be better informed of the plans. He stated that he wants to be able to make an informed decision.

[VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE DESIGN/BUILD OF THE BEAR TRACK PRESERVE BOARDWALK AND CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH ON LAKE NORRIS. RESULTS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.]

Motion approved 4 -0.

The Board was okay with the attorney looking into the agreement. Mr. Perry stated that staff can request a copy of the agreement, but any questions as to legal ramifications would be for the

attorney to answer. He stated that he would get a copy of the agreement and give it to Attorney Barice.

b. Approval to Transmit Annual Report

Mr. Perry leftover from last month.

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

Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Perry stated that he would like to provide the Board with a bit more information before Ron Hart presented the few topics.

He stated that staff has worked long and hard with the District trying to make improvement to the Ocklawaha Basin, and all the lakes through the Harris Chain. He stated that it's been a lot of work over a lot of years.

He showed a graph depicting the phosphorus load for each one of the lakes in the Harris Chain and stated that the baseline in red for Lake Apopka is from 1988-1994 and the green line is the actual data from 2013-2017. He explained that the blue/gray line represents the target they were trying to achieve.

He noted that during the baseline period the phosphorus loads were quite substantial. He pointed out that looking at the most current data from 2013-2017, a substantial improvement has been made.

He stated that the bigger the lake the easier it is for the lake to assimilate the nutrients, and if you compare loading based on lake size, Lake Beauclair had a loading amount that was five times the amount of any other lake in the Chain. He noted that in 2013-2017 the nutrient levels were actually below the target level. He stated that there has been a significant amount of work that has gone on, between the Water Authority and the District, including the NuRF and the Marsh Floway. He noted that there were also a couple of really dry years that limited contributions from Lake Apopka into Beauclair.

He stated that the numbers are striking and show what can be accomplished with a collaborative effort between all the agencies. He stated that some pretty substantial improvements have been made, with maybe the exceptions of Lake Yale and Lake Weir. He noted that they have talked about Lake Yale and will be talking more about it later.

He noted that the amount of chlorophyll is also way down from the baseline period (1991-2000) in all the lakes in the Harris Chain, which means there is much less algae in the lakes as well.

He stated that another way to measure the quality of the lakes is Secchi Transparency which is a way for scientists to measure visibility through the water column. He stated that the deeper that light can penetrate, the more desirable it is to get light down to the bottom so that vegetation can grow.

He talked about the different things that contribute to the loading in Lake Beauclair including tributary loading (anything upstream, generally Lake Apopka), atmospheric, natural areas, agriculture and urban runoff, and septic tanks.

He stated that the established baseline loading amount is 32 parts per billion of phosphorus, which the agencies have been working toward and noted that the actual phosphorus loading has come down substantially over the years.

He noted that the Water Authority started operating NuRF and treating water from Lake Apopka in 2009, so all the information after that time is the result of the NuRF, the Marsh Floway, plus all the other projects going on in Lake Apopka.

Mr. Perry stated that since 2009 there have been substantial reductions in loadings, as well as phosphorus and chlorophyll A in Lake Beauclair. He noted that the slight rise in 2017 is due to Hurricane Irma. He stated that looking upstream, it is a similar story in Lake Dora and Lake Eustis.

He stated that all those improvements have not come for free, and not without a lot of effort. He noted that it has been 286 days since Hurricane Irma, and during that time there have been 45 days of flows that were above 300 cfs, which is the maximum capacity of the NuRF. He stated that there have been 89 days where it has been over 200 cfs, and 125 days over 100 cfs. He noted that this is almost half the time since Hurricane Irma that the NuRF has been operating at or about 100 cfs. He stated that for 186 days (two thirds of the time) NuRF has been operating above 50 cfs. He noted that 50cfs is the average flow that NuRF is designed to treat.

He stated that the NuRF has treated over 40 billion gallons of water from Lake Apopka and since March of 2009, and the NuRF has removed approximately 20,500 pounds (10 tons) of total phosphorous. He noted that a typical stormwater system removes tens or possibly hundreds of pounds of phosphorus of year. He stated that approximately half of the amount has been removed since Hurricane Irma.

Mr. Perry stated that for approximately four months, staff has been operating NuRF for three shifts a day, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He stated that the hours are taking a toll on the equipment, the personnel and Agencies finances. He noted that the Water Authority has spent well over two million dollars just in alum.

He stated that we can't seem to get a break from nature as there continues to be rainfall. He stated even though we've been operating at about 180 cfs through the end May, it's been hard to make any progress on reducing the lake level of Lake Apopka and the North Shore. He noted that the District needs to see the lake level coming down in order to meet their requirements and demands. He stated that with the continuing rainfall, not only has there been increases in the lake level, there have also been increased water levels on the North Shore, and that water will also have to be moved through the system at some point.

He stated that the ponds at NuRF are full and staff can't keep up with the amount of floc that is accumulating due to the significant flow.

Mr. Perry explained that they are having to assign staff that are not supposed to be working at the NuRF, are working late shifts. He stated that several staff members have families with young children and it is taking time from their families and young children, time that they will never get back again, but they are doing it willingly. He stated that they have been working hard to ensure that we are getting as much of that material as we can.

Mr. Perry asked, "Where are we going to go from here?"

He stated that we can stay at status quo and continue to send the current flow of 180 cfs until the we reach the regulation schedule, which is still a few inches away, or until we can tell the District we can accept higher flows.

He stated that we are wearing out staff and in order to continue staff would like to propose supplemental staffing, which Mr. Hart will be talking about.

He stated that the NuRF has accumulated a lot of floc residual (cake) and we now have an area where they are willing to take up to 250 dump trucks full of the cake.

He stated that they also need to discuss supplemental pond dredging, as they can't keep ahead of the floc. He stated that if we don't come up with another alternative to deal with the material in the ponds, we will have no option but to shut the NuRF down until we can get to the point where we are not contributing to the floc.

He noted that the District is going to need to bring the North Shore down, and one of the options we are going to have to consider is to allow the District to send the water through the structure, untreated by NuRF. He explained that the District is treating any water that comes from the North Shore with alum before it comes into the Chain.

He stated that if we continue to get an incredible amount of rain, or a hurricane, the District may have no choice but to open up the structure and let the water through without treatment.

c. Approval to Transport Floc Residual from NuRF

Mr. Hart explained the logistical problems at the NuRF and stated that with all the material coming out of the centrifuge, as well as what is being dredged out of the ponds, the muck was accumulating on the site to the point where staff was no longer able to move any material away from the centrifuge.

He stated that the site was wet and full of material, and the loader would get stuck if they tried to transport it out into the field and needed some way of immediately moving that material

He stated that Lake County Public Works assisted by providing a 450 dozer and operator, and they were able to move some material and create a small area where material could be placed. He noted that since then St. Johns River Water Management District has provided us with a

much larger D5 dozer and an operator who is currently on site pushing and piling the material so that it can be hauled by the contractor, who is ready to move it out.

He explained that staff asked the Chairman to take emergency action, so that some of the material could be moved to Coyote Mud, because there was the possibility that the Agency would have to shut down operations at NuRF, as there wouldn't be anywhere to place the mud coming out of the centrifuge.

Mr. Hart stated that the action the Board needs to take is to continue the contract with Cruz Trucking at \$90 per load to continue offloading the material and moving it to Central Florida Motorsports.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE CRUZE TRUCKING TO CONTINUE HAULING CAKE AT \$90 PER LOAD TO CENTRAL FLORIDA MOTORSPORTS PARK FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$18,000. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4 -0.

d. Approval to Contract for Temporary Staff for NuRF

Mr. Hart explained that the second item needing approval is to handle staffing at the NuRF. He stated that Water Authority staff is working 7 days a week and are reaching a point where they are burning out, and would occasionally like a day off.

He stated that staff has contacted three different companies for quotes, with Woodard and Curran Personnel. He stated that they are an engineering firm and can provide staffing at \$30 an hour, which is cheaper than the other two companies.

Vice Chair Stone asked if they have the proper insurances and Mr. Hart stated that they do.

Attorney Barice asked if there is a written agreement and Mr. Hart stated that Woodard and Curran Personnel had emailed an agreement to the Agency that day. Attorney Barice asked to review the agreement.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT (AFTER THE ATTORNEY HAS REVIEWED THE AGREEMENT) TO UTILIZE WOODARD & CURRAN PERSONNEL AT A RATE OF \$30 PER HOUR. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

e. NuRF Supplemental Pond Dredging

Mr. Hart explained that because of the flow rates, the site at NuRF is accumulating far more sediment than we are able to remove with the two dredges operating simultaneously. He stated that the only way staff can continue to try to keep up with the amount of water that is being

treated, for an extended amount of time, is by adding a third dredge into the ponds and pumping the material back onto District lands.

He stated that what staff is proposing is doing something similar to what the Agency had done on Lake Beauclair, and pump the material to Cells F and G and dose it with a polymer to further assist in the settling of the material to the bottom.

He explained that Jahna is a contractor that is already on site, doing dredging for the District in Lake Apopka. He stated that they had to shut down last week for a three month no dredge period. He stated that Jahna would be able to use their staff and equipment, and would just need to swing their dredge and pipeline around to pump from our location during those three months.

He explained that Jahna's equipment has the ability to pump about six times the amount of one of our dredges, with a higher volume and a larger solids content.

Mr. Hart stated that there are a couple of downsides to this option, one of which is working with the District to get their approval. He explained that they have talked with David Watt to see they would be willing to enable some sort of emergency measure with their permitting agencies. He stated that the District would have to permit with DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) to immediately allow them to start discharging the material to Cells F and G to cover this emergency measure.

He stated that our time is up, and the ponds are full and the sediment is discharging out the pipes. He explained that to stop the discharge there are two options, with one being to shut the gates so that the water is no longer coming through the ponds and the water is allowed to discharge straight over the dam. He stated that the other option is to get something in there to pump the additional sediment out at a quicker rate.

Attorney Barice stated that she knows that time is critical, but we can't do a piggyback contract with Jahna, as the contract is with Amec, with Jahna as a subcontractor. She explained that Water Authority policy states would only allow piggybacking with an existing contract that has completed the procurement processes. She stated that as the existing contract is not with Jahna, the piggyback approach is not appropriate. She stated that the Board could make a Declaration of Emergency and try to proceed under that approach.

Mr. Perry stated that although he could declare an Emergency Situation, he would rather not do that without the concurrence of the Board. He noted that even with a Declaration of Emergency, they may still have to put out a bid.

Attorney Barice explained that even with Declaration of Emergency, the policy states that they would have to get two quotes before they could move forward.

Mr. Farner and Vice Chair Stone both noted that there are time constraints, as NuRF is already working in a debilitated state, and we are in the middle of hurricane season.

When asked about the cost, Mr. Perry stated that the \$723,873 they are requesting is the worst-case scenario, and staff is hoping that it can be done faster and at a lesser cost.

Mr. Perry stated that the other alternative is to no longer dose through the NuRF, and let water flow through the structure, until the ponds can be cleaned sufficiently enough to all more water through the system.

He stated that he knows that it is a large amount of money, but staff is running out of options other than shutting down, until the lake meets the regulatory schedule, which could be several weeks or months out, and assuming that the rainfall will let up. He stated that in the meantime heavy rain continues to fall on lake Apopka.

Attorney Barice asked about the three-month downtime condition and Mr. Hart stated that the District would have to approve anything that we did.

Vice Chair Stone stated that the Agency cannot afford NOT to take action and this seems like a reasonable approach. She stated that she is not interested in waiting another month to make a decision. She stated that now is the time to do something to relieve the situation and ensure that it doesn't happen again next year.

Mr. Hart explained the process and steps staff will have to take and stated that if the Board gives their approval, staff will then have to sit down the District's staff and work out the details, and make sure they are agreeable to the terms and conditions and ensure that the Water Authority can meet their requirements.

He stated that if the District were to deem that we cannot use Cells F and G, then we won't be able to move forward with the contract, but if the District is agreeable, staff would start work on mobilizing the equipment that very day.

Attorney Barice explained that a Declaration of Emergency would allow them to get started and work on it. She asked that if they do a Declaration of Emergency and enter into an agreement, she would like the opportunity to look at the agreement.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION FOR A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH OUR ATTORNEY AND ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO COME UP WITH AN AGREEMENT AND SOLUTION ON CLEARING THE PONDS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, NOT TO EXCEED \$723,873. Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Farner stated that he would like provisions budgeted for something like this under Capital Expenditures, so that they don't have to deal with this kind of emergency expenditure in the future.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

f. MOU w/Division of State Lands - Lake Norris Acres

Mr. Gugliotti stated that the only changes to the MOU was the additional of Chairman Bryant's name, as he would be the person signing the MOU, and an extension on the date of expiration.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO AN MOU WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S DIVISION OF STATE LANDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE 85+ ACRE LAKE NORRIS PROPERTY. THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY SHALL PAY \$225,000 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT FDEP WOULD PROVIDE THE REMAINDER OF ACQUISITION FUNDS, NEGOTIATE THE SALE, PERFORM ALL DUE DILIGENCE, PAY FOR CLOSING COSTS, RETAIN TITLE TO THE PROPERTY AND THAT THE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE WOULD MANAGE THE PROPERTY AS PART OF THE SEMINOLE STATE FOREST. Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Dufresne left the meeting. (No longer a quorum in attendance.)

Linda Moss addressed the Board and asked why water is being pumped off the North Shore and why is more muck being allowed to be pumped back down to Lake Apopka from the North Shore. She stated that she understands that once they do that, it will raise the water level in Lake Apopka to the level that they will have to increase the cfs and send more downstream into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal.

She stated that what she has heard for the last ten to fifteen years is that the muck farmers were bought out in order to stop the pumping off the North Shore.

She stated that she has sent out a letter to the neighborhood, the fishermen, and to the mayors or Mt. Dora and Tavares, stating that she was informed by Ron Hart from the Lake County Water Authority, that St. Johns had been wanting to pump off the North Shore of Lake Apopka to protect the roadways of their Wildlife Drive. She stated that Mr. Hart had informed her that they had talked them out of that and asked the District not to pump off the North Shore and to way to see what could be put together.

Ms. Moss stated that she is asking the Board to put in borders along the canals to block off the flow of water into the canals, like what was done when they dredged Lake Beauclair.

She stated that in her opinion, there is a huge conflict of interest in controlling the water coming out Lake Apopka. She stated that she realizes that this is a unique situation, but she is against all of the muck and pollution coming from Lake Apopka into Lake Beauclair. She questioned the quality of water being discharged from NuRF and stated that she doesn't know if it is clean or not. She stated that there has been no consideration by the District of the Water Authority, of the damage that has been done.

Ms. Moss stated that it took her two trips to Palatka to get the District to admit they are the agency controlling the water levels. She stated that somebody needs to take a stance and decide what we are going to do, and she is asking for somebody to start that conversation.

Chairman Bryant everyone understands that there are issues and these issues will be on-going. He stated that there have been and will continue to be discussions about what can be done and who has responsibility.

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Mr. Farner stated that staff is struggling right now to keep pace with the flow. He stated that the Water Authority is adamant that we want to do everything we can, but he doesn't know what else we can do at this time.

He stated that Ms. Moss needs to have confidence we are doing everything we can, but the Lake County Water Authority is not going to dredge the canal. He noted that he lives on a canal and when the canal needed dredging, he and the other residents on the canal pitched in and had their canal dredged.

Mr. Hart stated that he wanted to clarify communication he has received from the District regarding the North Shore. He stated that the District is not indicating that it involved the Wildlife Drive during the recent events, they have only indicated they needed to pump water off the North Shore.

Vice Chair Stone stated that it is the St Johns River Management District's responsibility to control the water, and Ms. Moss should attend their meetings. Vice Chair Stone stated that she doesn't know the District's reasons, but she is sure the District has reasons for their management decisions, but we don't have all that information.

Mr. Perry reminded the Board that Erich Marzolf with the St. Johns River Water Management District was present, and would be willing to answer any questions the Board may have.

Brian Richards, resident on Lake Norris Road, addressed the Board regarding the District's plan to allow the removal of sand and the widening and paving of the road through the conservation area and the changes to the wildlife habitat. He stated that it's a serious thing and we do have an opportunity to influence this decision.

He stated that there are a multitude of documents regarding this mitigation, where they have made changes to the agreement over the years. He stated that the latest document he read, discussing Lake Norris Road was less than a year old.

He stated that Eustis Sand Mine Road/Hart Ranch Road was designed to handle the traffic from the sandmine, and he doesn't understand why they would make a whole new road that is miles longer and goes through a very sensitive, protected and pristine ecological area

Mr. Richards stated that now is the time to voice their opinions that there shouldn't be a two lane, two and a half mile truck road going through the preserve just because they promised the people on Hart Ranch Road not to do that again.

He stated that having recently sold land to the state for preservation, he is worried that something like this would happen to that land. He asked that the Water Authority Board also voice their opposition regarding the changes to Lake Norris Road.

Attorney Barice asked Mr. Richards if he would share a copy of the agreement with the Water Authority and he stated that he would.

Erich Marzolf, with St. Johns River Water Management, addressed the Board. He stated that the District never pumps muck off the North Shore. He explained that the water stored on the North

Shore is treated with alum before it ever leaves the area. He stated that the reason they need to pump water off the North Shore at this time is to create the capacity for flood water topoff, in case of another hurricane. He stated that right now there is not even the amount of storage capacity that we had last year before Hurricane Irma.

He explained that they won't pump the North Shore down while water is above the Regulation Schedule, but once the water is at or below Regulation Schedule they can pump directly from the North Shore into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and through the Spillway, as the water would be already be treated with alum.

Mr. Farner stated that he just wants to ensure that every possible bit of water that can be treated, go through the NuRF facility. He stated that he's been out to the North Shore and seen the treatment process and he is grateful for the effort they are making.

He stated that he would like to have better management of the flows where the flow doesn't go from no flow directly into a massive flow of 400 cfs. He stated that he is grateful that the District's staff is trying to work more closely with the Water Authority, to regulate the changes in the flow.

Vice Chair Stone asked if all the water coming into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal has been treated and Mr. Marzolf stated that it is a complicated process. He stated that the Marsh Floway is located at the confluence of Lake Apopka and the Apopka-Beauclair Canal, and when it is operating, it typically is treating more flow than is coming out of the Apopka-Beauclair Canal, so the water is treated by the Marsh Floway before going through the NuRF. He explained that the balance of the flow that doesn't go through the NuRF is recirculated back into Lake Apopka.

He stated that the current dredging project is working to deepen the Marsh Floway to test the idea that the mobile sediments could collect in there prior to moving down the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. He stated that they anticipate finishing that project by the end of this calander year.

Vice Chair Stone noted that the Marsh Floway basically acts as a massive silt trap.

Mr. Farner asked Mr. Marzolf if the District would give the Board a presentation on the Lake Apopka Marsh Floway Project and Mr. Marzolf stated that they are giving a presentation at an upcoming Harris Chain Restoration Council meeting, and he would be glad to make a presentation to the Water Authority Board.

Mr. Farner asked that it be put on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

The Board took a short break at 5:50 pm. They returned at 6:15 pm and the meeting was continued.

f. Lake Denham Acquisition Status

Mr. Hart updated the Board on the proposed purchase of the Lake Denham Muck Farm property.

He stated that often when the District is purchasing property, their Executive Director will enter into a contract with the owners in order to tie up the property so that it can't be sold to a third party until the time that due diligence can be done.

He explained that the Calhouns would like the appraisal completed first and then for the Board to then make a fair price offer.

Mr. Hart explained that The District will be funding the appraisal and environmental assessments. He stated that the appraisers and assessor have been awarded contracts, and the results should be back on July 24th, the day before the July Board meeting.

He noted that the owner has reassured him that they are serious about selling the property, and would prefer to sell it to our agency over any other individuals.

There was discussion as to whether they needed to have a shade or closed meeting and Attorney Barice explained that a shade meeting has to be noticed ahead of time with information on when the meeting is being held, and who will be attending, etc. and usually involves pending litigation. She stated that in her opinion this item would not qualify for a shade meeting.

Mr. Hart explained that, in the past, the appraisals have been provided to the Board in advance with the understanding that the value is not discussed at the meeting, but the amount they want to pay can be discussed.

Mr. Farner stated that he does not see the need for a closed meeting.

Chairman Bryant stated that the purchase is dependent on the Calhoun's and Mr. Hart stated that they seem to be intent on selling it to the Water Authority so that it is kept in conservation.

Mr. Perry stated that he is not comfortable with bringing the Board a last minute decision and Mr. Hart stated that if there are any concerns voiced by the Calhoun's it can be sent out to the Board.

Chairman Bryant noted that the Board could schedule a special meeting if needed.

g. Public Information Request Policy

Carried over until the July 25th Board Meeting.

LEGAL STAFF REPORT

Attorney Barice informed the Board that the owner of CBI Precast is not returning her phone calls regarding the Sawgrass Restrooms.

She stated that the Florida Health Department is working with her, but communication is slow. She stated that the person she has been communicating with is of the same opinion that it doesn't need pressure testing, but person who made initial decision has not budged at this time. She stated at the problem is hinged on the fact that the manufacturer refers to it as a vault.

Chairman Bryant asked that he be given a chance to see if he could get hold of the owner of CBI Precast.

Attorney Barice informed the Board that she won't be to attend the July Board meeting. She stated that hopefully she will have agenda ahead of time, and be able discuss any issues with staff and Mr. Perry if needed.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Farner thanked Mr. Marzolf with the District for coming and speaking to the Board. He stated that he knows staff is overworked, but they are doing a good job and we will get through this.

Vice Chair Stone stated that she wanted to thank staff for all their hard work at NuRF.

8. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

The Board requested that Mr. Perry obtain a copy of the St. Johns River Water Management District sand mine agreement for the Lake Norris Conservation Area, and that once obtained, Attorney Barice is take a look at it, so that the Board can be apprised of its legal ramifications.

Board requested that Erich Marzolf from St. Johns River Water Management District give a presentation to the Board regarding the Lake Apopka Marsh Floway Project.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Monthly Financial Reports – May 2018

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Budget Workshop - Thursday, July 5, 2018 (11:00 am)
LCWA Conference Room
- Board Meeting - Wednesday, July 25, 2018 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.