

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
July 25, 2018

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, 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
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
Ben Garcia, IT Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager

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 3:40 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall report. He reported that with all the rain, Lake Apopka has continued to flirt with the regulatory schedule and noted that the District had to open the spillway at one point to let a bit of water out of the lake in anticipation of the expected rainfall.

He stated that the flow through the NuRF is approximately 230 cfs at this time, and the flow through the Burrell Lock and Dam has been increased in an attempt to bring the Superpond/Middle Lakes back to regulatory schedule. He noted that it is hard to move a lot of water through the Dora Canal, so Lake Dora is always the hardest to bring back to regulatory schedule.

He reported that due to all the rainfall on Lake Griffin, the District has been moving water through the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam at a bit more than 1500 cfs in an attempt to bring Lake Griffin back down.

Mr. Perry stated that following a very wet May, rainfall in June was about a tenth of a foot higher than average. He reported that currently we are about 2 ½ inches above the historic

average rainfall for this time of the year which is about 111% of the expected year to date rainfall. He noted that July has also been a wet month.

He reported that the Clermont Chain is near 96.9 msl due to the rain this past weekend. He noted that the regulatory range is from 96 msl to 97.5 msl, so it is just a bit higher than the middle of the regulatory range.

He stated that staff had opened the Cherry Lake Dam earlier in the day to approximately 125 cfs. He also noted that there is about 125 cfs coming in from Big and Little Creeks.

He reported that the lake levels are about 7/10ths of a foot higher than this time last year, so staff will be carefully watching the rainfall and water levels amounts between now and the end of the summer.

He explained that the flow through Big and Little Creeks is substantially higher than it was last year, but it's about the same as it was in 2016.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that the back-up generator for the Lake County Water Authority Office has been delivered and installed.

He also informed the Board that the sign unveiling for the First Green Bank Foundation sign at Bear Track has been postponed due to the rainy and wet conditions at the preserve. He noted that it would be rescheduled at some point when it is drier.

Mr. Perry reported that the Clermont Stormwater Project Victory Pointe has been completed and the ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for Friday, July 27th at 10 am. He stated that the legal notice for the event had been published, so if Board Members wished to attend, they are welcome to.

He also informed that the groundbreaking for the Volleyball Fieldhouse at Hickory Point is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2018. He stated that there is no agenda or other details at this time, but Board Members are asked to hold that date if they are interested in attending. They have asked if the Chairman or a designee would be willing to be a speaker and Mr. Bryant has stated that he would be available.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING AND THE JULY 5, 2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP. Vice Chair Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Authorization to Transfer Funds for Legal Fees

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER BUDGET TRANSFER OF \$60,000 FOR THE ADDITIONAL LEGAL FEES INCURRED DUE TO THE WORKPLACE MATTER FROM BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER 9898720-860610 LAND ACQUISITIONS TO 9898100-830310 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - LEGAL. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. No-Cost Time Extension for the City of Tavares Downtown Stormwater Project

Mr. Hart stated that staff had received a request from the City of Tavares to extend their current contract. He explained that they don't plan on there being any additional cost, but simply are requesting to extend the completion date by a few more months.

Mr. Farner noted that the proximity of the new boardwalk to the jail is presenting some safety issues. Mr. Hart stated that he could talk with the staff at the City of Tavares to see what their plans are for that area. He stated that he would report back to Mr. Farner as to what their plans are.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A NO-COST TIME EXTENSION FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES DOWNTOWN STORMWATER TREATMENT PROJECT BY EXTENDING THE CONTRACT DEADLINE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Authorization to Replace Alum Storage Tank at NuRF

Dr. Danaher showed a photo of the tanks at the NuRF and informed the Board that one of the tanks at the NuRF has formed a significant crack about four feet from the base of the tank.

He stated that this is the 2nd or 3rd tank that has required replacement since the facility was built. He stated that in 2016 one of the tanks was replaced with a steel tank. He explained that steel tanks have a longer lifespan than the HDPE (high density polyethylene) tanks currently at the site.

He explained that in order to allow the facility to operate efficiently and at its maximum capacity, staff is asking for authorization to release a bid to get pricing for another stainless-steel tank, or an HDPE tank.

Mr. Dufresne asked about whether they had looked into put a sunshade over the tanks, as was previously discussed, and Mr. Hart explained that it was too cost prohibitive.

Mr. Hart also explained that the HDPE tanks already have a UV protectant built into the surface and they were informed that sunlight is not an issue with the tanks, but heat can be an issue. He noted that steel tanks are not affected by the sunlight or heat. Mr. Hart stated that the bid will be put out for both types of tanks for cost comparison.

There was a short discussion of the different types of tanks and the fact that there are several manufactures. It was noted that due to the current state of the economy the price of stainless steel tanks could be significantly higher than in 2016 when the last tank was purchased.

MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RELEASE A BID FOR A REPLACEMENT TANK FOR THE NURF. Vice Chair Stone seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4 -0.

b. Proposed Amendment to State Constitution to Increase the Homestead Exemption

Mr. Perry explained that there will be an amendment on the ballot in November to double the basic Homestead Exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000. He noted that if the bill passes, it would take effect in January.

He stated that the effect of this additional Homestead Exemption on the Lake County Water Authority (according to a calculation made by the Property Appraisers office based on October 1, 2017 Final Tax Roll Certified Values) would be a reduction in revenue of approximately \$300,000. He noted that it would be about a seven-million-dollar reduction in revenue for the County.

He stated that it passes, they may have to revisit the budget in January, to look at how it is going to affect the budget.

Chairman Bryant asked if Lake County Board of County Commissioners has discussed where to take a stance or position regarding the amendment and Mr. Perry stated that they are probably just waiting to see how it plays out, just like everyone else.

c. FY 2018-19 Budget - Set Proposed Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Perry explained that the one thing the Board needs to do today, is to establish a Tentative Millage, which is the millage they don't intend to go higher than. He stated that they could always lower the millage and they will have 2 or 3 more times to look at the budget and make any changes before the budget is adopted in September.

He pointed out that the Board had authorized a three percent cost of living increase for staff. He pointed out the estimated cost of commissions to the Property Appraiser. He explained that it is currently based a millage rate of .3080, but that number may likely change during their discussions.

Regular Board Meeting – July 25, 2018

Line 110 is related to the discussion on ADA Compliance for the website and to insure in the future that we are compliant. He explained tht Ben Garcia has already put much of the changes in motion. He noted the latest predatory attorney action is to go after vewsites that are not in compliance.

Line 303 – change to the Lake Yale Project – He explained that in order to help balance the budget, the amount earmarked for Lake Yale had been reduced by approximately \$53,000.

Line 339 – He stated that based on the Board’s direction, \$200,000 had been added back to the Maintenance Reserve, increasing it from \$300,000 to \$500,000, in order to ensure adequate funding for a replacement floc storage tank.

Chairman Bryant asked if the \$500,000 would cover the cost of the new tank plus shipping and installation, and Mr. Perry replied that it should to the best of the knowledge without going out to bid.

Line 379 – Lake Denham Muck Farm Acquisition – Mr. Perry pointed out the additional funding added to the budget at the Board’s direction.

Line 386 – Villa City Design – He explained that in order to accommodate other changes in the budget, the \$60,000 designated for the design and permitting of modifications to the dam, had been eliminated, along with the \$400,000 designated on Lines 387-388 for the construction. He stated that staff will look at doing that project in a future fiscal year.

Line 402 – 2019 Stormwater Projects – He noted that this line reflects the amount directed by the Board for Stormwater Projects in 2019.

Line 481 – Field Services – He pointed out the money to be budgeted for the purchase of tractor claws and arms.

Mr. Perry stated that those are the changes that were made based on the Board’s requests at the Budget Workshop. He stated that the millage requirement in order to meet those expenditure, requires an increase in millage from .2554 mils to .3444 mils. He reminded the Board that this reflects the tentative millage, which is the millage they don’t intend to go any higher than, but they could always reduc the millage between now and the time they determine the final millage and budget.

He explained that one topic he was asked to bring back to the Board for the discussion is related to the control of hydrilla, how it is being handled by Fish and Wildlife, and is it sufficient.

He stated that Fish and Wildlife has two major work efforts on their budget for their fiscal year, which began the first of July. He noted that they intend to treat and control approximately 1,600 acres in Lake Eustis at a cost of a little bit more than 1.2 million dollars.

H also noted that FWC also intends to work on Lake Harris and Little Lake Harris, treating the whole 2500 acres of Little Lake Harris and 800 acres of Lake Harris.

Mr. Perry explained that he was requested to contact Nathalie Vissher with Fish and Wildlife to inquire as to whether they have sufficient funds to do all the work, and if there were any areas that would be left untreated due to lack of funding.

He reported that Ms. Vissher had stated that she needs another 1.5 million dollars in funding for the purchase of herbicides and the hiring of contract personnel to do the work.

He stated that he also touch base with the staff at the Lake County Aquatic Plant and Mosquito Control Department to see if there is a better alternative by paying for a couple of County personnel to treat hydrilla in the areas that the Water Authority deems are in need of treatment.

He explained that after speaking with Mary Hamilton, her preference would be for the Water Authority to go through Ms. Vissher at Fish and Wildlife, as everything funnels through Fish and Wildlife down to them.

Mr. Perry stated that if the Board wants to provide support for additional treatment of hydrilla they need to decide how much support they are willing to give and how to provide for it in the budget.

Mr. Farner stated that he's see hydrilla as a major threat to our lakes. He stated that hydrilla is very invasive and they need to be aggressive in treating it. He stated that he is not real thrilled about turning over funds to Fish and Wildlife, as he doesn't really like they are managing the problem now.

He explained that he is not into raising taxes, but until they can get a financial picture or how they are going to move forward, he would like to insure that there if funding to tackle the problem. He stated that if they were to raise the millage at this time, they could always cut it bac at a future meeting.

He noted that he definitely doesn't want to cut off some of the projects that are currently in the plans, such as Lake Yale. He stated that hydrilla is something they need to be aggressive about.

Mr. Dufresne stated that he understands the need for treating the hydrilla, but he doesn't want to drop current projects such as Lake Yale or Lake Denham.

Mr. Farner suggested setting the millage at .5 mils in order to insure that there would be funding available. He stated they could always decrease the millage at a later date.

Chairman Bryant stated that he was concerned that if the Water Authority were to provide any significant funding, they are going to be expected to do so on an annual basis in the future. He stated that the Board needed to look at the best way to approach it and handle it.

Mr. Farner stated that Water Authority personnel are out here on the front lines and know better than someone in Tallahassee where the need is the greatest. He stated that he wants the Board to be as aggressive as it can be now in addressing the issue.

Mr. Perry stated that he could ask Ms. Vissher to come next month and tell them just what could be accomplished with an additional 1.5 million dollars.

Vice Chair Stone stated that it would be silly to think that if the Water Authority were to provide additional funding, that it would not be expected that they are not going to expect every year. Which would make it very difficult to do the projects we want to do if we have to divert that much funding every year to hydrilla management.

She stated that once the hydrilla is killed, there will be a release of nutrients, which will only encourage the growth of more hydrilla. She stated that it's a short term solution to long term problem, and killing it all at one time is a very slippery slope.

Mr. Farner stated that he definitely doesn't like the nuclear wasteland approach of killing thousands of acres. He stated that he would like some options to how the problem is approached. He stated that once Fish and Wildlife does an overall eradication, then we can try to help keep it under control.

Mr. Dufresne if they went to .5 mil, the Board would have the projects to justify the – we have the projects to show for it,

Mr. Farner – now is the time to set it, as we can adjust the millage rate down once we have more information. It was noted that .5 mils would generate approximately 3 million more in revenue.

Mr. Dufresne- we have the facts to show the taxpayers – taking on a lot more responsibility.

Chairman Bryant stated that the millage rate has been .2554 for many years. He noted that there are several reasons for considering going above that, including the costs caused by Hurricane Irma, which has used more than two million dollars of the Agency's resources.

He also noted the possible acquisition of the Lake Denham Muck Farm and explained that this is a once in a lifetime chance. He stated that the Lake Denham Muck Farm sends nutrients down Helena Run and into Lake Harris and the Harris Chain. He explained that this one acquisition would provide for more phosphorus removal from the Chain, than all the stormwater grants in the last 10 years.

Chairman Bryant also stated that another critical project the Board has been planning, is a whole lake alum treatment of Lake Yale. He stated that the entire project would cost approximately four million dollars over four years, with four yearly alum treatments costing one million dollars each of the four years.

He stated that it is never fun to look at tax increases, but it's the only way the Agency can move ahead on some critical projects, and if they don't do it now, it will become an even greater problem later.

The Board requested that Mr. Perry invite Nathalie Vissher with Florida Fish and Wildlife to address the Board at the August meeting regarding the Hydrilla issue and funding.

Mr. Perry reminded the Board that they are setting the Tentative Millage, which is the highest millage that they would be able to adopt, and that they could always lower the millage amount before the final budget is adopted.

He explained that Mr. Farner had asked that they look at adding 1.5 million dollars to the budget for supplemental hydrilla treatment. He stated that to be able to add the 1.5 million dollars to the budget, the millage would need to be raised to .4154 mils.

[MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO SET A PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AT 0.4154 MILS. Vice Chair Stone seconded the motion.]

Mr. Dufresne stated that the Water Authority can show proof of why an increase is needed, and even with an increase, the amount is still a very small portion of the tax roll. Vice Chair Stone stated that if the additional state homestead tax exemption passes, the amount would be less than what is being projected at this time.

Mr. Farner stated that he thinks the tax base in Lake County will greatly increase over the next few years, as people move into Lake County and homes are built.

Mr. Dufresne stated that he wouldn't mind if they were to go ahead and set the millage at .5 mils, and there was discussion that if they were to set the millage at .5 mils, as they could always lower it before the final millage is set.

Mr. Farner withdrew that motion for .4154 mils and Vice Chair Stone withdrew her second.

MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO SET A PROPOSED TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AT .49 MILS. Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that he would want to insure that any money the Water Authority might provide for Hydrilla treatment, stays in Lake County. He stated that he would like Dr. Canfield to come to the August meeting if he is available.

Vice Chair Stone stated that they need some solid numbers at this time. She stated that they should base the millage on the amount they actually need.

Chairman Bryant noted that he would support the motion at this time, but that he is uncomfortable with taking on the task that should be handled at a state level with funds from the state.

Motion approved 4-0.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO SET THE TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 NO SOONER THAN 5:05 PM IN THE BCC CHAMBERS/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 315 WEST MAIN STREET, TAVARES, FL. Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

d. Public Information Request Policy

Ms. Rider stated that at the May meeting Chairman Bryant had asked that staff develop a public records policy, as Water Authority staff has received quite a few Public Records Requests over the last few months that have taken quite a bit of staff's time.

She explained that the policy sets for its Purpose and provides Procedures to be followed when a Public Records Request is received. She stated that it also covers any Exceptions to the Policy and sets Fees for copies, staff time, etc. She stated that there would be a deposit required if the request is large and will require a large amount of copies and/or a lot of staff time.

Ms. Rider also noted that Board Members would not be not be charged for record requests, but employees making requests not related to their job duties would be charged.

Mr. Farner stated that he just wants to make sure these records are available to the public and that the fees reflect the true cost of employee's time, etc.

Chairman Bryant asked Ms. Rider to remove the word *statutory* from the section regarding fees. He stated that was the only change needed.

VICE CHAIR STONE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY NUMBER 012 PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST. Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 4-0.

The Board took a short break at 4:55pm. They returned at 5:06 pm and the meeting was continued.

Adam Dufresne left the meeting at 5:09 pm.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Bryant opened the floor up to Public Comment and asked that they keep their comments to three minutes.

Vice Chair Stone asked that the audience not interrupt Board Members when they are speaking, give the Board a chance to speak.

John Hecimovich, Venetian Village resident, stated that he would like the address the Board regarding the canals in Venetian Village that are off of the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. He stated that he lives on the old Golf Course Canal, which is also known as the Tammi Drive Canal. He stated that they have been having issues with muck building up in their canal.

He stated that this was the same problem that was addressed in 2013 when a major dredging operation took place to clean up the muck coming from Lake Apopka.

He stated that recently Mr. Perry had spoken to the Harris Council and given a report on the core sample test that was done in the Tammi Drive Canal. He stated that Mr. Perry had informed the

Council that the muck in the canals was not a product from NuRF or Lake Apopka. He stated that when asked where the muck came from, Mr. Perry had stated that he did not know, but that it most likely came from their own canal system, as what is clogging their canal is no more than sticks and leaves.

Mr. Hecimovich stated that Hurricane Irma had caused a large volume of water over the Apopka-Beauclair Spillway and the NuRF was not effective in handling the flow and it all flowed into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. He stated that they have eyewitness testimony that saw the faster than normal current, with clumps of muck floating in the current. He stated that all the clump floated and made a perfect left hand turn into the Tammi Drive Canal and just settle to the bottom and is clogging up the canal.

He stated that this problem has happened before, and the Lake County Water Authority and St. Johns had funded a dredging job that had cleaned out their canal. He stated that he would like to challenge Mr. Perry's theory that the muck clogging Tammi Drive Canal comes from within the community and would like the Water Authority to please consider dredging the canal again.

Ann Schuck, resident of Venetian Village on Tammi Drive, stated that she was speaking for Ms. Barclay, who was unable to attend. She stated that Ms. Barclay has lived at the intersection of the Apopka-Beauclair Canal for 30 years and has 85 feet of seawall on the Tammi Drive Canal. She asked that something be done about the muck and debris in the canal.

Bob Feustel, resident of Venetian Village on Tammi Drive, stated that he had move there two years ago from south Florida. He stated that when he first moved there he could almost see to the bottom of the canal. He stated that since that time he has gotten stuck twice trying to get to Lake Beauclair. He asked if there was any hope of getting the canal dredged.

Erika Viskup, resident of Venetian Village on Tammi Drive, stated that she has lived on Tammi Drive for 18 years and is a member of the Lake Jem Clean Water Project. She stated that she lives on the fourth house in on the canal. She stated that there has been nothing but murky, dirty water since Hurricane Irma and that you can see the muck as it flows past her house and the smell is bad.

She stated that since the water is high at this time, they are able to navigate the canal, but once the water is low again, they won't be able to because of all the pollution coming down the canal from the NuRF. She stated that the someone needs to do something to get this stuff cleaned up.

John Visca, resident of Venetian Village on Tammi Drive, stated that boaters are burning up their motors trying to navigate through the muck. He stated that he had to jump into the canal to retrieve something that had fallen in and got stuck in the muck.

He stated that he bought his home on the canal so that he could fish but with NuRF is sending the muck into their canals, he is unable to fish in the canal.

Todd Schuck, resident of Venetian Village on Tammi Drive, stated that when Mr. Perry was talking about the core samples last week, it was an opinion, and not a scientific find.

Vice Chair Stone stated that Mr. Perry is a highly educated individual that has been studying this for at least nine years.

Mr. Schuck stated that there is a clear correlation since 2009 and the canal filling up with muck. He asked who sets the guidelines for the flow through the NuRF and the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and who controls the flow.

Mr. Farner explained that the St. Johns River Water Management District sets and controls the flow.

Mr. Schuck voiced his opinion that the mucky water is clearly coming from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal.

Chairman Bryant asked Mr. Schuck how far he lived down the canal and Mr. Schuck stated that he is seven houses in from the mouth of the canal, and that he see large chunks of muck and floating islands floating past his house and further into the canal.

Linda Moss, resident of Venetian Village on Tammi Drive, addressed the Board and passed out pictures to the Board. She stated that the pictures are of the muck coming from the ponds, the NuRF and the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. She stated that something needed to be done about the issue or the residents would be using their riparian rights and seek legal recourse to protect themselves and their property if they have to.

She stated that she felt the Water Authority is responsible for the muck in the canal and that she feels that Mr. Perry is intentionally misleading the public and the Harris Council. She stated that she would like to solve this issue, so they won't be sitting there on muck for the next 5 years, once hurricane season is over.

Mr. Farner stated that he has 100% confidence in Director Perry. He noted that when he (Mr. Farner) was a member of the Harris Council, they had appropriated approximately 6 million dollars to dredge the canals in Lake Griffin.

He noted that there are 100 miles of canals in Lake County and that the Water Authority does not have the funds to maintain all the canal in the County. He stated that went out on the Apopka-Beauclair Canal last Thursday and that he had traversed the whole length of the canal and saw no evidence of the leaves and twigs.

Vice Chair Stone stated that she had also gone out on the canals and up to the lock. She stated that they had intentionally stirred up the bottom and what they found were leaves, twigs, cattails and grass clippings.

Mr. Farner explained that it was going to take more than the Water Authority to get their canal dredged. He noted that it was Skip Goerner with the Harris Council who had spearheaded the planning of the Griffin Canal dredging, and that it was going to take something like that again to have the Tammi Drive Canal dredged, as it is beyond what the Water Authority can do.

Vice Chair Stone asked if there was public access to the canal on Tammi Drive and Mr. Hecimovich stated that there is a small concrete boat ramp boat ramp.

Mr. Hecimovich stated that there is a small concrete boat ramp boat ramp. stated that it was his opinion that the residents along the Tammi Canal have nothing to do with what is in their canal and that it is all coming from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. He stated the problem is only affecting the Tammi Canal, and none of the other canals in the Venetian Village are having these problems.

Vice Chair Stone stated that she understands that they have dredged that area in the past and that the flows have been high.

She noted that it is difficult to sit there every month and be attacked or to go on Facebook and see untrue remarks. She stated that she is not going to engage in that dialogue.

Mr. Farner stated that he doesn't agree that the muck is coming from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and he suggested that the residents request that the Harris Council work on getting a State Appropriation to help them dredge the canal.

He stated that he doesn't know what the solution is going to be. He explained that the Water Authority is not in a position where it can dredge the canal as it is beyond their resources. He stated that the Water Authority saved and set aside funding for ten years before they were able to dredge Lake Beauclair and the canals.

Vice Chair Stone addressed the audience and stated as long as there is water going over the dam, there is nothing that can be done. She stated that there are certain things that need to be looked at, but they (the audience) had just listened to their budget discussion and that there will be nothing done within the next year.

She stated that the Water Authority does not control the water coming from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal, and staff does what it can to run the NuRF and treat as much of the water as it can.

She explained that the St. Johns River Water Management District are following the rules that they must follow, and the Water Authority cannot tell them what they do and does not release water from the Canal. She stated that it was very demoralizing to have to listen to the Water Authority and its employees constantly being attacked.

Mr. Schuck asked if there were any laws determining the flow water through the NuRF and Mr. Farner stated that St. Johns determines the flow rate and the Water Authority just has to deal with it. He explained that guidelines are set on the lake level and not the flow through the spillway or lock.

Mr. Perry explained that the lake levels were set, based on a federal Corp of Engineers study and St. Johns has to maintain the lakes within those levels.

Mr. Schuck asked how projects get on the agenda and Mr. Farner explained that it depends on what is happening, whether it be a sudden surge of Hydrilla growth, a chance to purchase a muck farm, or because of recommendations of a study, such as the Lake Yale study.

Mr. Schuck asked how the subject of Hydrilla got on the agenda and Mr. Farner stated that he asked for it to be put on the agenda. Vice Chair Stone stated that the Board has been discussing the hydrilla problem for quite some time.

Mr. Farner stated that because they live here and see the problems with the hydrilla, he feels the Water Authority could do better than a bureaucrat in Tallahassee on knowing where the funding was needed.

Mr. Schuck stated that his biggest frustration is that when you ask a question you get passed between the St. Johns River Water Management and the Lake County Water Authority.

Mr. Hecimovich asked how having a public boat ramp would help the residents legally and Vice Chair Stone explained that the boat ramp has to be a public boat ramp, not just a boat ramp located on private property that the public uses from time to time.

Chairman Bryant explained that the Water Authority doesn't have the resources to clean private canals, but the Agency does manage the canals that connect from one lake to another, and they try to make sure that public boat ramps stay accessible to the public.

He stated that the Board appreciates their comments, but it was time to wrap things up. He reminded everyone that the Board is shorthanded, with two seats empty. He noted that it's an election year and hopefully all seats would soon be filled.

Vice Chair Stone stated that she hopes that they understand that it is not that the Water Authority doesn't care, but the Agency has much to do in this county full of lakes, and they have a full list of items that need prioritizing before they can move forward.

The Board took a short break at 6:10pm. They returned at 6:30 pm and the meeting was continued.

8. LEGAL STAFF REPORT

No legal staff report.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Farner thanked the rest of the Board for their willingness to consider doing something about the Hydrilla issue.

Vice Chair Stone informed the Board that she would not be able to attend the October meeting and Mr. Farner stated that he would be unable to attend the meeting in November.

Chairman Bryant noted that this meeting was not any easy one, and that sometimes people need to talk and vent. He noted that sometimes they do have good ideas.

He informed Mr. Perry and Mr. Hart that he appreciated all their hard work.

Regular Board Meeting – July 25, 2018

The Board was reminded that the September 12 Tentative Budget meeting would be at 5:05 pm in the Commissioner’s Chambers.

Vice Chair Stone asked if there was a chance that staff would have the information needed regarding Hydrilla by the next meeting in August and Mr. Perry stated that staff will put together what information is available and will try to get as many representatives from SJRWMD to the meeting as possible.

10. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Board Meeting - Wednesday, August 22, 2018 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Tentative Budget Hearing - Wednesday, September 12, 2018 (5:05 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building
- Board Meeting/Final Budget Hearing - Wednesday, September 26, 2018 (3:30 pm)
BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.