

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**of the**  
**LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**August 22, 2018**

The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 in the Lake County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

**Members Present-District #**

Doug Bryant, Chairman (#4)  
Peggy Cox, (#1)  
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  
Carole Barice, Attorney

A list of others present that signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Water Authority.

**1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF July 25, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING.**

Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

**3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall report and stated that it has been very wet and rainy since May.

He stated that Lake Apopka is above the Regulatory Schedule and stated that every time the lake drops close to the Regulatory Schedule, we get rain, and it is usually a quite significant rainfall. He stated that hopefully the rain will end at some point, but at this time we are still in the rainy season.

He noted that the discharge through NuRF has been at 180 cfs or higher since the beginning of June. He stated that the flow through the Apopka-Beauclair Lock and Dam and the NuRF is currently at 220 cfs, with no water coming through the spillway.

He stated that St. Johns River Water Management has also been letting water through the Harris Bayou and as of this morning it was flowing at 300 cfs.

Mr. Perry reported that the Superpond/Middle Lakes Eustis and Harris are at the Regulatory Schedule. He stated that Lake Dora is above Regulatory Schedule and noted that it is hard to bring the level down in Lake Dora when so much water is entering the system from Lake Apopka.

He reported that the flow out of Burrell Lock and Dam has exceeded 1000 cps at times in an effort to bring the water levels down in the Harris Chain. He noted that currently the flow is at 253 cps.

He stated that with all the recent rainfall, Lake Griffin is slightly below Regulatory Schedule and the flow through the Moss Bluff Lock and Dam has been lowered to 250 cfs, so the lake should recover back to the Regulatory Schedule pretty quickly.

Mr. Perry talked about the recent rainfall in South Lake County and stated that the upper end of the Regulatory Range is 97.5 msl. He stated that the water level is 0.30 ft. (3.5 inches) below the upper of the regulatory range. He stated that at the beginning of May the water level was 96.2 msl and once the heavy rainfall began in May and the water level began to rise and staff began letting water out through Cherry Lake.

He explained that staff has been trying to maintain the water level at 96.5 msl in order to be able to accommodate the significant rain and water flow during the rainy season. He showed a graph depicting the water levels in South Lake County and overlaid it with a graph depicting the release of water through the Cherry Lake Dam and explained that as the water levels started to rise, staff would open up the structure and would keep it open until the water levels came back down before closing it up again.

He also noted that the flow through the Cherry Lake Dam is currently at 323 cfs, which is close to the same amount that is coming into the system through Big and Little Creek. He noted that the combined flow coming in from Big and Little Creek is 298 cfs as of this morning, so we are letting water out of the system at slightly higher rate than is what is coming into the system. He explained that at this time we are not able to make much of a dent in lowering the water levels but are just holding our own.

He stated with all the water flowing into the system, we are approaching the upper end of the Regulatory Range at M-6 and M-5, and slightly above the upper end of the Regulatory Range at M-4. He explained that because of this, staff has to be careful not to cause flooding downstream when there isn't any flooding occurring upstream.

He stated that staff is always keeping an eye to the weather and explained that although there may not be anything forecast as far as tropical storms or hurricanes in the near future, even a depression or a stalled rain system can bring a lot of rainfall to our already full lake systems.

He stated that it is wet everywhere, and groundwater levels are at the highest they have been in 20 years. He stated that there is nowhere for the water to percolate down and there is standing water everywhere.

He stated that staff is doing everything it can to keep the water levels within Regulatory Schedule and hoping that there isn't a tropical storm, hurricane or major rain event before the end of September.

He noted that South Lake County is currently at more than five inches over average rainfall which is 117% of the expected year-to-date rainfall, so it is wet, and it is going to stay wet for at least another few weeks.

Mr. Perry stated that NuRF is still going at a high operational pace with staff continuing to run the facility 24/7. He explained that by running at such a high pace, the equipment is wearing down, and opportunities for repair and maintenance are limited.

He stated that despite the high pace they are still seeing pretty good nutrient removal with 13,100 lbs. of is wearing total phosphorous since Hurricane Irma last September.

Mr. Perry informed the Board that the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Volleyball Fieldhouse at Hickory Point was Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. He stated that he and Chairman Bryant were in attendance the Chairman Bryant gave a brief speech.

**4. CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Authorization to Apply for Sabal Bluff Preserve Gopher Tortoise Habitat Grant

**AUTHORIZE STAFF TO APPLY FOR THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S GOPHER TORTOISE HABITAT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDING GRANT FOR 2018-2019.**

- b. Authorization to Increase Purchase Orders for Alum

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INCREASE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR C & S CHEMICALS FROM \$1,000,000 TO \$1,100,000 AND INCREASE THATCHER FROM \$370,000 TO \$620,000 TO COVER PURCHASES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH.**

- c. Authorization to Transfer Budget Funds for NuRF Operations

**AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER BUDGET OF \$1,258,500 FOR THE NURF OVERAGES FROM 9898710-830340 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO:**

<b><u>9898710-830430 Utility Services</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,500</u></b>
<b><u>9898710-830520 Operating Supplies</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,000</u></b>
<b><u>9898710-830522 Alum and Polymer</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,200,000</u></b>
<b><u>9898710-830140 Overtime</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,500</u></b>

<b>9898730-830140 Overtime</b>	<b>\$ 10,500</b>
	<b>\$ 1,258,500</b>

**MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

a. Award Insurance Bid

Mr. Perry explained that Board had given authorization for staff to put out an RFP (Request for Proposal) for Insurance as well as an RFP for Human Resources Services. He noted that the open window for the RFP for Insurance had closed and the RFP for Human Resources Service is still open until the end of the month.

He showed the results of the quotes and explained the what the insurance would cover. It was noted that Brown and Brown (PGIT-Preferred Government Insurance Trust) came in at \$44,315 and FMIT (Florida Municipal Insurance Trust) came in at \$42,515.

He talked about the differences in the coverage offered by each company and stated that the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust has better insurance cover with higher limits and generally lower deductibles. He explained that the main difference in the two offerings, is that Preferred with Brown and Brown, offered much more in training and had much better HR Services.

Mr. Perry stated that the bid for HR for Human Resources Services is still out and will be coming back to the Board in the next month or two. He stated that he recommendation to the Board would be to continue to go with the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust, as they offer the best insurance coverage for the least cost. He noted that other than the additional HR services offered by PGIT there wasn't a significant reason to change companies.

Chairman Bryant noted that Brown and Brown has a larger list of training classes and asked if they are they included in the quote or if they would cost extra. Mr. Perry stated that they are included in the quoted price.

Ms. Cox asked if the classes offered through Brown and Brown would be available for a fee if the Water Authority is not a customer and Mr. Perry stated that they are only available to their customers.

Chairman Bryant stated that if they accept the quote from Florida Municipal Insurance Trust and contract with an outside HR service this year, they can take a look in the future for a combined service.

**MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE QUOTE FOR INSURANCE COVERAGES FROM THE FLORIDA MUNICIPAL INSURANCE TRUST (LEAGUE OF CITIES.)** Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

Mr. Farner stated that in the future they should look into a combined services policy.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

Mr. Perry noted that the quote is slightly lower than what has been budgeted and stated the change would be reflected in the next draft budget.

b. Authorization to Amend the Volleyball Agreement

Ms. Burgos stated that she has been working with Steven Clenney (Lake County) to update the Volleyball Agreement. She explained that the original agreement gave only 6 months for the Water Authority to complete capital improvement to Hickory Point and the amended agreement would lengthen that time to two years.

She noted that along with the additional time to complete the projects, the language had been had also been adjusted to allow for a greater range of projects that could be considered, from updating lighting in the pavilion, boardwalk repairs, etc.

Chairman Bryant asked if the Water Authority would continue to receive the yearly \$5,000 lease payment and Ms. Burgos stated that they would.

Steven Clenney with Lake County explained that the amendment to the agreement would give the Water Authority more time to decide on specific projects and more time to complete to complete the projects. He noted that the County needs to receive the project list by May of 2019.

**MR. DUFRESNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED LEASE AGREEMENT FOR THE VOLLEYBALL FACILITY AT HICKORY POINT PARK.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

c. Authorization to Transfer Monies from Seaside Bank

Ms. Rider stated that staff is going to need to transfer some money out of our money market account. She stated that there is almost 6.5 million dollars in the money market account with Seaside Bank as of July 31st and there is about 2 million dollars in a CD with First Community Bank.

She explained that the money market account earns slightly less than the CD. She stated that there would be a penalty to remove funds from the CD, whereas the money market account doesn't have a penalty.

She stated that as of August 13th the Water Authority bank account is down to \$910,000. She explained that the Agency will not begin getting remittances from the Lake County Tax Collector until early December.

She stated that she forecast expenses through the end of November and estimated that it will cost another \$910,000 in alum, \$38,000 in polymer, \$387,000 for payroll and an estimated \$322,000 in general expenses.

Ms. Rider explained that the back-up generator has been installed at the office and payment is due. She noted that hiring of Jahna Dredging was approved for the NuRF, as well hiring of temporary personnel at the NuRF.

She also noted that the 4th quarterly payment is due on the USGS agreement and payment of Redevelopment agency taxes is also due before the Agency will begin receiving payment from the Tax Collector.

She stated that the total of these estimated expenses come to 2.6 million dollars, so the amount that is needed to be transferred from the money market at Seaside Bank into the SunTrust Bank account is approximately 1.7 million dollars.

**MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER UP TO \$1,725,000 FROM THE SEASIDE MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT.** Mr. Dufresne seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

## **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Assistance to FWC for Hydrilla Treatment in Harris Chain**

Mr. Perry stated that they have been discussing hydrilla treatment for the last couple of months. He explained that previously the Board had discussed putting a significant amount of money in the budget for hydrilla treatment. He noted that the amount is dependent on tonight's discussion and any future discussions before it is finalized in the budget.

He stated that Danielle Kirkland and Nathalie Visscher with Florida Fish and Wildlife are present to speak to the Board and answer any questions the Board may have.

He explained that if the Water Authority were to provide Fish and Wildlife with the additional funding, they would have no spending authority to be able to expend the funds and they would have to go to the state legislature for authorization. He stated it would probably take until March or April to get that authorization.

He stated that another couple of options would be to partner with the County or wait until Fish and Wildlife have completed their treatments, and the Water Authority could hire someone to do additional applications.

Mr. Perry noted that hydrilla is the number one complaint Marine Patrol deputies hear on the water at this time and asked that the Board provide direction to staff regarding any supplemental funding for hydrilla control in the Harris Chain of Lakes.

Danielle Kirkland with Florida Fish and Wildlife, Invasive Plant Management addressed the Board and gave a status update on treatment of the Harris Chain of Lakes. She explained that the first phase of treatments which is 648 acres on Little Lake Harris, will be completed by next week, and will be followed by 475 acres of Lake Harris and 400 of Lake Eustis. She explained that in the fall they will be looking at what additional treatments made be needed.

She stated that last year Fish and Wildlife spent 4.2 million dollars on aquatic plant management on the Harris Chain. They treated 450 water bodies with the majority of the money being spent on hydrilla treatment in the Harris Chain.

She explained that this first round of treatment will cost 1.2 million dollars. She stated that hydrilla treatment has been top priority and will continue to be a top priority. She stated that this will not be just a one-time treatment, and they have been managing hydrilla since it was first found in the Chain, and they would be back with more treatments when environmental conditions are more favorable.

Chairman Bryant asked why 4.2 million was previously spent in Harris Chain of Lakes, but only 1.2 million is budgeted for this year.

Ms. Kirkland explained that 1.2 million is just the cost for the initial treatments and they will be monitoring and continuing to treat.

Chairman Bryant asked at what amount do they try to maintain the hydrilla. Ms. Kirkland explained that they look at each waterbody individually and speak to stakeholders to determine the acceptable level.

Ms. Visscher addressed the Board and explained that they have work around several constraints when applying treatment. She stated that besides the environmental constraints, they also have to plan around duck hunting season and fishing tournaments.

Chairman Bryant asked how far in advance do they plan, and Ms. Visscher and Ms. Kirkland explained that they plan and work year-round and it was noted that while they are treating in Lake County this month, next month they will be working in another area.

Ms. Kirkland explained that they have to plan treatment for when the environmental conditions are right. She stated that when conditions are favorable for hydrilla growth, it can grow up to 190 inches, up and out, in a day.

Mr. Farner asked about Lake Yale and Ms. Visscher stated that the native plant community in the lake is actually thriving, but within the last two years hydrilla has begun to come back into the lake. She stated that there is growth a lot of native submerged plants and hydrilla is not the major plant growth in Lake Yale.

Ms. Visscher explained that because of Hurricane Irma and the tremendous flow of water through the Chain, there were not able to treat for several months, as the herbicide would end up flowing straight through the system and end up in the St. Johns river. She stated that they have to spend their money wisely and can't afford to waste it.

Mr. Farner asked about the Water Authority getting involved with Fish and Wildlife in regulating hydrilla and Ms. Kirkland stated that she is not in a position to make that kind of decision. She stated that there are no plans to introduce grass carp into the plan at this time, and if they were to consider it they would have to have a public meeting before making that decision.

Ms. Cox asked where Florida Fish and Wildlife receives their funding and Ms. Kirkland stated that they receive their funding from state legislature, but she isn't involved in funding and didn't have any answers regarding funding.

Mr. Perry stressed that they need to make sure and funds from the Water Authority are supplemental funds for Lake County as they don't want the legislature to perceive that the Water Authority will continue providing funding and decide they don't need to budget any money.

Chairman Bryant stated that no matter how they end up handling the funding, they don't want to set a precedence or have other agencies relying on the Water Authority to take over the funding for hydrilla treatment.

Chairman Bryant stated that they would be moving forward with the budget and there would be meetings on September 12, 2018 and then the final budget meeting two weeks after that on September 26th, and there would probably be a lot more discussion.

Board Members thanked Ms. Kirkland and Ms. Visscher for their presentation.

*Ms. Cox left the meeting at 4:41 pm.*

b. FY 2018-19 Budget

Mr. Perry stated that very little has changed in the budget since they last looked at it. He pointed out the change in commissions based on the tentative millage of .49 mils. He explained that if the Board were to decide to lower the millage, the commission amount would be reduced.

He stated that the next change was on Line 303, related to the Lake Yale Whole Lake Alum Treatment. He reminded the Board that the project would be a multi-year project with a total required budget of close to four million dollars. He noted that the proposed amount had been increased slightly.

He stated that the only other change was on Line 403 where money was added into the budget for supplement hydrilla treatment, as the Board had instructed.

Mr. Perry stated that he and staff would be happy to receive any additional direction related to the budget, in preparation of the Tentative Budget Hearing, to be held on September 12, 2018.

c. NuRF Supplemental Pond Dredging Update

Mr. Hart addressed the Board and reminded them that during the discussion in June they had discussed taking some kind of action to remove the sediments out of the NuRF ponds. He noted that the Board had given approval for staff to work with Jahna under a contract of approximately \$123,000, to dredge the bottom of the two NuRF ponds and to look at pumping that material to the District's F and G Cells.



He explained that since that time Water Authority staff has talked to both Jahna and the District. He noted that the District had indicated that they would be willing to consider being placed at the F and G Cells, but they do not have the staff time or the resources to evaluate the material to determine if it would be a positive benefit on their site.

He explained that the District had requested that the Water Authority contract with Michael Coveney who works for Wood, to analyze the settlements in the ponds. The District had stated that they would base their decision on Dr. Coveney's recommendations.

Mr. Hart stated that staff solicited a proposal from Wood, who determined that the cost would be approximately \$9,700 for evaluation of the site and determining whether there is suitable space in the F and G Cells, and to analyze the settlement in the ponds to determine if it would be a positive benefit.

He explained that another requirement of the District was that the Water Authority would go through the process of modifying the District's existing permits for disposals on the F and G Cell sites with both the Army Corp of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection. He noted that those costs were included in the \$9,700 quote from Wood as well as an emergency request to place the material there.

Mr. Hart explained that Lance Lumbard has made some preliminary contact with both the Army Corp of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection, in order to receive some feedback from those agencies.

He stated that one of the concerns was the presence of organochlorine pesticides, that historically have been an issue on the Lake Apopka North Shore, and whether the sediments in the NuRF ponds, might be rich in those pesticides coming from the discharges coming from Lake Apopka. He explained that if the sediments are rich in organochlorine pesticides, the District might have an issue with placing the sediments at the F and G Cells. He stated that testing would take approximately three weeks to get those results, which would create an extremely long delay in the process.

He stated that another issue was with the Army Corp of Engineers, who had indicated they are not so much concerned about the organochlorine pesticides as they are about avian botulism. He explained that it would be extremely difficult to quantify the likelihood of dredging sediments contaminated with avian botulism.

Mr. Hart stated that after talking to Mr. Perry, it was decided that the prolonged delay in receiving any test results and the problems associated with obtaining an emergency authorization for the use of the F and G Cells, that this may not be the best solution.

He explained that after talking with staff at Jahna to determine what alternatives that might be to dispose of the material rather than pumping to the F and G Cells, it was noted that there were two other options. He stated that one was the use of belt presses on site, or geotubes.

He stated that with the size of the dredges that are being used, it would take at least five or six belt presses, and they are fairly expensive. He noted that geotubes are a cheaper alternative, and for a project like this one, it would require extremely large geotubes.

He explained that the sediments would be pumped into the tubes and polymer would be injected it to assist in the settling, so the muddy water would have the ability to cake and settle out on the bottom, so that clear water would remain on top inside the tube and decant out the sides of the tube.

He explained that this was the second least expensive option, and with the amount of money that the Board had approved for Jahna, the Agency would be able to purchase about 40 of these geotubes.

Mr. Hart explained that staff met on site with the District and they approved of the use of the geotubes at the NuRF site, with disposal of the material elsewhere once it dried.

He noted that the geotubes would cost a little over \$250,000, and because of that, staff considered purchasing their own geotubes rather than purchasing through Jahna which would save approximately \$55,000. He noted that the drawback to that is if there is a problem with the geotubes it would be the Agency's responsibility.

Mr. Hart explained that before any decisions can be made there are many legal issues that have to overcome, including contractual issues and some liability issues that we haven't been able to resolve.

He stated that one of the obstacles not resolved is obtaining a written approval to use the site, rather than just a verbal approval. He noted that the major issue is that the District has requested that we obtain a permit to dredge the material and keeping it on site, which is major obstacle to get anything done within a reasonable amount of time.

Mr. Farner stated that rather than utilizing geotubes, he would rather use the money to do maintenance and repairs to the facility and use the dredges to clean out the ponds. He noted that he thought staff should contact the designer (Harvey Harper) to take a look at the facility and see if there is something they could do to optimize its performance.

He asked Mr. Hart how long it would take with the existing equipment to clean out the NuRF ponds if they were to shut down the facility.

Mr. Hart replied that it would probably take about two months with staff working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to clean out the ponds. He stated that he would hate to see the amount of untreated water that would flow into the Harris Chain of Lake if they were to shut down for two months. He agreed that the NuRF Facility could use some capital improvements.

Mr. Farner asked about only using one pond while the other pond is being cleaned and Mr. Hart explained that the problem is that with any flow over 50 cfs, ponds accumulate faster than the centrifuge can handle. He stated that the centrifuge runs at about 400 gallons per minute, but at 50 cfs the amount accumulating on the bottom of the ponds, is approximately the same as what is being removed.

He explained that the centrifuge is the bottleneck in the system and to purchase another centrifuge would cost at least a million dollars, plus we don't have the space to accommodate another centrifuge.

He stated that they do need to hire a good engineering firm to evaluate the NuRF and determine what portions might need to be modified to be able to increase our ability to handle the sediment.

Mr. Perry clarified that the NuRF system was designed to run at 50 cfs with only short times of peak flow, but not continually for 12 months at peak flow.

When asked about the nutrient levels in the water coming in from Lake Apopka, Mr. Hart responded that for the most part we see good averages, but there are still spikes of extremely high readings.

Mr. Perry asked the Board to let things ride for the next couple of weeks and if there is no significant increase in the flow within that time, then staff can look at the feasibility of shutting down the NuRF.

Mr. Farner stated that if they were to shut down the facility for a time, water would still be able to come through spillway and Mr. Perry noted that there is no water coming over the spillway at this time.

Chairman Bryant asked what the best-case scenario for the time it would take to receive permits and Mr. Hart stated that it might take weeks, months or years before they received permits.

Chairman Bryant asked the life expectancy of the geotubes and Mr. Hart stated that they only need to last until material dries out which would take approximately six months, at which time they would be cut open for the dried material to be removed.

Mr. Farner suggested that they look into shutting NuRF down and contacting the engineer who designed the facility and requested that they look into what could be done to improve operation of the facility. He stated that he wasn't in favor of using geotubes and felt that the best thing would be to look into upgrading some of the equipment.

It was noted that staff would be talking to Dr. Harper to look into solutions to the problems and that the Board could schedule a special meeting if they needed to.

Mr. Perry stated that he would decide by Friday as to whether to continue operation of the NuRF, until they have a decision from Mr. Harper. He noted that he wouldn't make any decision without talking to Chairman Bryant first.

Attorney Barice stated that it would require another Declaration of Emergency if they were to continue to look at piggybacking off the Jahna contract, and Mr. Hart reminded her that the Board had decided not to pursue that option.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Moss addressed the Board regarding the conditions in the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and the Tammi Drive Canal. She stated that conditions have continued to worsen and that she feels that it is because of the muck and floc flowing from the NuRF, down the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and into the Tammi Drive Canal. She again demanded the Board to address the problem and dredge the canal.

Chairman Bryant stated that the Water Authority and the St. Johns River Water Management District work together as partnership on many projects, but the Water Authority cannot mandate anything of them.

He noted that Vice Chair Stone had stated at the previous meeting that the Water Authority tries to clean as much water as we can, but we can't clean all the water. He stated that is just a fact, as they are running NuRF 24/7 and the Agency needs to make some serious decisions. He stated that if they were to have to shut down the NuRF for any reason, the water would flow into the Chain untreated.

Todd Shuck, Tammi Drive resident, also addressed the Board and requested that the Water Authority do something about the muck flowing into the Tammi Drive Canal.

Chris Sears, Mayor of Howey-in-the-Hills addressed the Board and thanked them for looking at ways to address the hydrilla issue. He stated that hydrilla was a major topic at a recent council meeting, with a presentation for Fish and Wildlife

He stated that the city boat docks and local lakefront restaurant are getting hard to navigate to and from and citizens were frustrated with FWCs presentation as they felt they didn't provide any answers to the problem.

He stated that he would like to support the Water Authority's decision to budget 1.5 million dollars to provide extra hydrilla management treatments. He stated that the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills would appreciate the Water Authority's assistance.

*The Board took a short break at 5:53 pm and returned at 6:16 pm.*

**CONTINUATION of DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

d. Appraisal of Lake Denham Preserve Acquisition Update

Mr. Hart stated that staff was working with the District and making good progress on the acquisition of the Lake Denham property, but after about two weeks the District pulled the plug on their participation in the acquisition, stating that they would not be paying for the required appraisals.

He stated that the official response from the District was that they didn't think the Water Authority wasn't that interested in the property and wouldn't have the financial ability to come up with the funding necessary, so they didn't want to put the money toward the appraisals for a project that was not likely to be implemented.

He explained that about the same time the Board approved adding additional funding for the project and he (Mr. Hart) got back with the District with an email to Ramesh (Acquisition Agent for the District) and sent him an email stating the Water Authority's commitment toward seeing this project through.

Ramesh then responded that he would meet with the Executive Director at the District, as well as other upper level management staff to express the Water Authority's desire to see this project

move forward, and a couple weeks later, the District approved of continuing to work on the appraisals and valuation of the parcels.

Mr. Hart stated that just last week he heard from the District and they had indicated that they were previously looking at the greatest value on the site being as a muck farm, and that they do not feel that is what the site is ultimately going to become.

He explained that the District felt the site would more than likely become a mitigation site and so they had asked their appraisers to reevaluate the site and appraise it as a potential mitigation property.

He stated that they had informed him that it take an additional 10 days and will mean that it will be near the end of September before the Water Authority would have the appraisals back.

Mr. Hart also explained that St. Johns staff have been directed by the highest authority at the District to not apply any of their mitigation funds toward the acquisition of the property.

He stated he has met with Mr. Perry and are hoping on scheduling a meeting with the current Chairman of the Water Management District Board about any inhibitions the District may have toward providing funding and reminding them of the Water Authority's cooperative support it's given the District over the years.

Chairman Bryant asked Mr. Hart if he was staying in communication with sellers and Mr. Hart stated that he has and that he had sent them emails regarding the delay and they have been very understanding.

Mr. Hart stated that he is hopeful that things will be worked out by the end of next month and that the Board can look at making an offer. He explained that at this time the District is stated that it will no longer pay for the environmental assessment, which is critical. He stated that he and Perry need to have meeting with the St. Johns Water Managements District Chairman to sort things out.

## **9. LEGAL STAFF REPORT**

Attorney Barice updated the Board regarding the Florida Department of Health's decision regarding the restrooms for Sawgrass Island Preserve, stating that they are going to stand by their scientist and to pursue it any further the Water Authority would need to ask for a waiver.

Chairman Bryant stated that he had tried a couple of times to get hold of Mr. Hoskins with UBC Precast. He had left messages, but never received a call back.

Mr. Farner noted that the Agecny has already paid half the costd and suggested that the Agency we just pay for them and get them here and worry about permitting when we get them here.

The Board suggested making final payment and having vaults/restrooms for Sawgrass Island Preserve shipped, and to have Water Authority staff handle any testing and permitting of the structures.

Chairman Bryants stated that he understands that Mr. Hoskins does have the buildings completed except for the pressure testing.

Chairman Bryant requested that Mr. Perry work with Attorney Barice and attempt to reach UBC Precast regarding final payment and shipment of restrooms.

Mr. Perry stated that he understood that the Board is telling staff not to worry about the permitting at this time, and to pay the remainder owed to UBC Precast and have UBC Precast ship the structures to the Water Authority.

**10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Farner stated that the Water Authority needed to be talking to the State regarding the amount of funding they are providing for aquatic plant management stated that he would like to see the Water Authority more involved in hydrilla management in the future.

He stated that they need to stay on top of the hydrilla issues and that he would like the Board and staff to be proactive and speak with the Legislative Delegation regarding additional funding.

Mr. Perry stated that he, Mr. Hart and Dr. Danaher would be attending the FLMS Conference the following week and they would speak to Mr. Harper and spend as much time with him as they could to discuss how to address the issue.

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

None

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

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

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

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anna Ely, Recording Secretary

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Gary Cooney, Secretary-Treasurer

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Doug Bryant, Chairman