

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
January 23, 2019

1 The Regular Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Water Authority was held at
2 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 in the Lake County Administration Building, County
3 Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

4 **Members Present-District #**

Staff Present

5 Amy Stone, Chairman (#5)	Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
6 Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)	Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
7 Trampis BonJorn (#2)	Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Project Manager
8 Peggy Cox (#1)	Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
9 Keith Farnar (At-Large)	Ben Garcia, IT Manager
10 Butch Hendrick (#4)	Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
11 Courtney Stokes (At-Large)	Christina Rider, Executive Office Manager
12	Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
13	Carole Barice, Attorney

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

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

17 The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of
18 Allegiance.

19 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 12, 2018 - REGULAR MEETING**

20 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE**
21 **LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2018 -**
22 **REGULAR MEETING.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

23 **Motion approved 7-0.**

24 **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

25 Mr. Perry noted that for the sake of time, they were going to dispense with the Executive Report
26 at this time.

27 He noted that Mr. BonJorn would be out of town at the time of the upcoming proposed Board
28 Workshop and asked if the Board if they would like to change the date of the Workshop. It was
29 decided to hold the workshop on February 20, 2019 at 3 pm at the Lake County Water Authority
30 Office.

31 **4. CONSENT ITEMS**

32 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE TABS 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 AND**
33 **12 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

34 **Motion approved 7-0.**

35 a. Approval to Award Website ADA Compliance Bid

36 **AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH REVIZE**
37 **GOVERNMENT WEBSITES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,720 FOR THE**
38 **FIRST YEAR TO COMPLETE WORK AS DESCRIBED IN THE RFB FOR WEBSITE**
39 **ADA.**

40 b. Authorization to Surplus Inventory Item

41 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SURPLUS INVENTORY ITEM 356.**

42 c. Approval of No-Cost Time Extension to DMC for Villa City Design

43 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A NO-COST TIME**
44 **EXTENSION FOR DREDGING AND MARINE CONSULTANTS FOR THE**
45 **PALATLAKAHA RIVER VILLA CITY DAM MODIFICATIONS UNTIL APRIL 22,**
46 **2019.**

47 d. Approval to Purchase Replacement Truck Under State Contract

48 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO:**

49 **1) PURCHASE A NEW FLEET TRUCK FROM THE STATE CONTRACT FOR AN**
50 **AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000;**

51 **2) MAKE A BUDGET TRANSFER TO FIELD SERVICES MACHINERY &**
52 **EQUIPMENT 9898730-860640 FROM WATER RESOURCES – LAND**
53 **ACQUISITION 9898710-860610 FOR \$30,000; AND**

54 **3) TO SURPLUS AND SELL THE 2003 SILVER FORD F250 TO THE HIGHEST**
55 **INDEPENDENT OFFER.**

56 e. Approval to Award CD Investment

57 **APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO INVEST \$2 MILLION IN A 12-MONTH**
58 **CD WITH HANCOCK WHITNEY AND IF UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES ARISE,**
59 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO GO TO THE NEXT HIGHEST**
60 **QUOTE.**

61 f. Approval to Transfer Funds for CRA Payments

62 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$147,020 TO 9898100-**
63 **880813 COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND REIMBURSEMENT FROM**
64 **9898710-830340 WATER RESOURCES – OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO**
65 **PAY THE ADDITIONAL MONIES DUE THE CRAS.**

66 g. Authorization to Transfer HR Consulting Services the HR Lady, LLC

67 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER THE REMAINDER OF**
68 **THE AGREEMENT FROM BLACKRAIN PARTNERS TO THE HR LADY AND**
69 **SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVE THE HR CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH THE HR**
70 **LADY.**

71 **5. REGULAR AGENDA**

72 a. Authorization to Release an RFQ for Attorney Services

73 Mr. Farner stated that he didn't feel it was necessary to put out an RFQ for Attorney Services as
74 Attorney Barice has done a great job representing the Water Authority.

75 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND ATTORNEY BARICE'S CONTRACT**
76 **FOR THREE YEARS.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

77 Ms. Cox stated that Attorney Barice has done a wonderful job and has a wealth of knowledge on
78 the workings of the Water Authority. She asked how long it would take if they were to put out
79 an RFQ.

80 Mr. Perry stated that it would likely take at least four months, with a couple of months to get
81 responses as they would need to put out an announcement/ad and then at least a month to review
82 the responses, and another month to bring it back to the Board.

83 He noted that Attorney Barice's contract doesn't end until the end of September and stated that
84 putting out an RFQ doesn't prohibit Attorney Barice responding to the RFQ, it just gives the
85 Board an opportunity to see who else is out there.

86 Chairman Stone explained that as elected officials it is their duty to their constituents. She stated
87 that just because they put an RFQ out, it doesn't mean that Attorney Barice can't submit. She
88 stated that they need to be sure they are keeping everything in line with RFQs.

89 She noted that it wasn't anything against Attorney Barice, it's more about doing due diligence
90 and getting more choices for the same process.

91 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she agreed that they owe it to their constituents to see what is
92 out there and who is available. She noted that everything else is put out to bid and that she didn't
93 see why they shouldn't do the same for the attorney.

94 **Motion failed 5 - 2 with Mr. Hendrick, Ms. Stokes, Chairman Stone, Vice Chair Maimone**
95 **and Mr. BonJorn in opposition.**

96 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO RELEASE AN**
97 **RFQ FOR ATTORNEY SERVICES AND RETURN TO THE BOARD WITH A**
98 **SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSE.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

99 Ms. Cox asked about the wording of the RFQ and Mr. Perry stated that they would probably just
100 use the same one that was issued in 2007, but if more specific language is needed he would
101 probably pull information from the RFQ from the St. Johns River Water Management District.

102 He stated that he would check with the Agency's HR Consultant as to whether a position
103 description is needed or not.

104 Mr. Hendrick asked if the RFQ would be released in September and it was explained that it
105 would be put out now, as it would take several months for the process, especially if the Board
106 wished to do any interviews.

107 **Motion approved 7-0.**

108 b. Evergreen Development and Scrub Point Preserve

109 Ben Gugliotti addressed the Board and explained that the Water Authority owns and manages
110 Scrub Point Preserve which is 93-acre preserve in south Lake County. He stated that it is located
111 on a peninsula that extends north into Johns Lake and is just north of Hartwood Marsh Road and
112 east of Highway 27.

113 He explained that staff was approached by Chuck Piper who is a developer and is working with
114 property owners who are on the west side of our 75-foot access parcel to Scrub Point. He noted
115 that Mr. Piper has also purchased property on the east side of that parcel.

116 He stated that Mr. Piper has already received approval from the City of Clermont to put a
117 roundabout on Hartwood Marsh Road to access his project to the west, but he is having some
118 issues with nearby homeowners on Sadler Road, Flynn Court and Champagne Court in creating
119 access to the parcel to the east.

120 Mr. Gugliotti explained that Mr. Piper is requesting to put a road across the Water Authority's
121 70-foot parcel as access from the western development to the eastern part of the development,
122 which would require the Board's approval. He stated that the current owners have an access
123 easement that gives them the right to access their property across the parcel, but to build or
124 construct anything Mr. Piper would need the Board's approval.

125 Mr. Gugliotti also explained that there is a conservation easement over all of Scrub Point
126 Preserve with the National Park Service, which allows for public access roads to the preserve and
127 managing it as a preserve, but this would be outside of that.

128 He stated that in speaking with the National Park Service, their recommendation was to do a land
129 swap. The National Park Service would remove the conservation easement across that parcel in

130 exchange for another parcel owned by Mr. Piper, which would still allow for access to the
131 preserve.

132 Ms. Cox stated that she has heard from some people that are not happy about the development
133 and are concerned about the traffic that would be generated on Champagne Court.

134 Mr. Piper that speaking with the residents in that area, they have stated that they would not like
135 to see any traffic on Champagne Court and Flynn Court and he agrees and stated that there will
136 be other access to the development.

137 He stated that although the 70-foot access road to the preserve is dedicated the County, they do
138 not maintain it, and that as part of the development of the property, he is willing to take over
139 maintenance to the road down to Hartwood Marsh Road. He noted that the encroachment of the
140 easement into his property to the west and to the north will remain where it is, and the City of
141 Clermont has suggested that the Water Authority be allowed to continue to have that as a legal
142 access to the property in perpetuity. He noted that there would also be a 50-foot buffer that the
143 Board had previously requested and next to that is a retention pond, so the easement won't affect
144 the overall development at all.

145 Ms. Cox asked if the Eddy Groves portion and the portion to the east side of the easement have
146 been annexed into the City of Clermont and Mr. Piper stated that the Eddy property has been
147 annexed into the city. He explained that the Evergreen property to the east is in the process of
148 going through Lake County as it is part of the Wellness Way PUD at this time and they are
149 trying to get the property removed from the Wellness Way PUD and create a PUD similar to the
150 one with the City of Clermont. He stated that once that happens they will have a utility service
151 agreement with the City of Clermont, and part of the City's requirement for providing utility
152 services is usually that they also must annex into the City.

153 Ms. Cox asked the density of the proposed development and Mr. Piper stated that although the
154 PUD with the County would allow four units per acre, they are planning to have just under three
155 houses per acre which would be approximately 130 homes to the west of the 70-foot access
156 parcel.

157 Mr. Piper explained that if they were to follow the Wellness Way plan, there are a lot more
158 requirements for retail and commercial space which would increase the density, and he stated
159 that he doesn't want that high of a density on the property.

160 Ms. Cox asked the density of the Eddy property and Mr. Piper stated that it has been approved
161 for 323 homes on approximately 115 acres, which is just under three homes per acre.

162 Mr. Farner asked if the Water Authority has any plans for Scrub Point and Mr. Perry explained
163 that Scrub Point is anticipated to be a passive preserve with picnic tables and trails. He stated
164 that there is a five-acre parcel that would be used for a parking lot and to provide direct access to
165 the preserve.

166 Mr. Gugliotti explained that staff was concerned that the Evergreen neighborhood to the east
167 would possibly use the limestone access road as a shortcut to Hartwood Marsh Road instead of

168 going through the western development and the roundabout, so Mr. Piper has agreed to maintain
169 the limestone road.

170 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO APPLY FOR A**
171 **LAND EXCHANGE WITH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FEDERAL LANDS TO**
172 **PARKS PROGRAM AND IF THE PARK SERVICE APPROVES THE LAND**
173 **EXCHANGE, AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MR.**
174 **PIPER AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT PROPERTY OWNERS CONTINGENT UPON**
175 **ALL THE FOLLOWING:**

176 **1. Mr. Piper will convey to the Lake County Water Authority the 25’ sliver (map 2,**
177 **item #5) that runs south from the main preserve, east of the 70’ parcel and west of the 5-**
178 **acre parcel (.36 acre) from.**

179 **2. An easement will be conveyed from the Eddy Trust to the Lake County Water**
180 **Authority over the western encroachment (map 2, item #2) or deed it to the LCWA**
181 **depending on what is needed to not interfere with any existing buffer/set back.**

182 **3. Mr. Piper will move the lime rock road in the eastern encroachment (map 2, area**
183 **#3) into the 70’ parcel to align it with the proposed crossing at his expense.**

184 **4. Mr. Piper will be responsible for maintenance of the lime rock road from Hartwood**
185 **Marsh Road to the proposed crossing. The maintenance responsibility will remain with the**
186 **future owners of Mr. Piper’s property, through the developments HOA.**

187 **5. Both developments will have prescribed fire and smoke-shed language in their HOA**
188 **covenants.**

189 **6. Both developments will have invasive-exotic plant language in their HOA covenants.**

190 Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

191 Mr. Hendrick asked about water to the development and Mr. Piper explained that they would be
192 entering into a utility service agreement with the City of Clermont.

193 Attorney Barice state that ultimately what they would be seeking from the Department of Interior
194 (*National Park Service*) would be an amended Conservation Easement.

195 **Motion approved 7-0.**

196 c. LCWA Role in Aquatic Plant Control

197 Mr. Perry addressed the Board and explained that currently aquatic weed control under the State
198 Statute regarding Aquatic Weed Control and gives the State power delegate all or part of the
199 program to any other government agency.

200 He stated that currently the County serves as a contractor for hydrilla under FWC to provide
201 Aquatic Weed Control. The County also has the ability to address other non-hydrilla aquatic
202 plant issues, which are directed and organized under the County directly. He noted that Mary
203 Hamilton with Lake County Public Works has stated that they get about \$230,000 a year from
204 the County’s General Fund for spraying of other invasive aquatics.

205 Mr. Perry explained that if the Water Authority wants to seek the delegated responsibility for
206 aquatic plant control there would be many things the Agency would have to do such as mapping
207 vegetation, developing a work plan, planning for the treatments, the mobilization of the
208 contractors and coordinating with the stakeholders.

209 He stated that even within the stakeholders there are conflicts between boaters, fishermen, and
210 hunting interest groups, as well as restaurants, as they don't see eye-to-eye on hydrilla and other
211 aquatic plant control. He explained that the bass fishermen love hydrilla as it provides cover for
212 the fish, yet the crappie fishermen require open water, without any aquatic plants, so even within
213 the fishing community there are conflicts. He stated that duck hunters also like the hydrilla,
214 while boaters don't. He stated that staff would also have to field the complaints from the public
215 and would have figure out how to handle that.

216 Mr. Perry stated that we would most likely have to add staff and boats, etc. to accomplish the
217 task, or we could have an agreement between the Water Authority and the County with them
218 acting as a contractor as they have vessels and personnel.

219 He stated that Lake County likes being part of the process as it is mostly complaint driven,
220 meaning they get a complaint from the public, send out a vessel with the County logo on it and it
221 creates good PR.

222 Mr. Perry stated that if that is what the Board wants them to do, staff would take on aquatic plant
223 control to the best of their ability, but whether FWC and the County would give it up is
224 unknown. He advised the Board to remember that in the aquatic plant control business, nobody
225 is happy, as it is always too much or not enough.

226 Mr. Perry stated that Nathalie Visscher with Florida Fish and Wildlife was present to answer any
227 questions the Board may have.

228 It was noted that Mr. Perry and Chairman Stone have been meeting with legislative delegates
229 regarding the hydrilla problem in the Harris Chain.

230 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she is in full support with helping financially if we can, and
231 fighting for more treatment, but doesn't think it is the best thing as an Agency to take over the
232 role of spraying hydrilla.

233 Ms. Visscher addressed the Board and explained that the County does spraying to control more
234 than just hydrilla and that County money is used to spray in residential canals and areas that
235 FWC does not cover.

236 Mr. Farner asked how many staff employees it takes to spray 1000 acres and Ms. Visscher
237 answered that Lake County only have four boats and it can take anywhere from two days to a
238 week depending on the amount of hydrilla, weather, etc. She explained that the major expense is
239 herbicide and they have to rotate the types of herbicides they use depending on the conditions.

240 Mr. Hendrick asked about harvesting the hydrillas and Ms. Visscher stated that harvesteing is
241 very expensive, with it costing way more than herbicides.

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242 Chairman Stone stated that in her opinion the Water Authority doesn't need to be doing aquatic
243 plant control. She stated that there are already enough services in place to handle the problem,
244 and the Agency has enough high priority projects that are more important to what the Water
245 Authority does.

246 Mr. Farner stated that he doesn't think those agencies are getting the job done as it should be
247 done.

248 Ms. Visscher stated that she understood his concerns, but they are doing the best they can under
249 the circumstances. She also explained that one of the issues is the lack of stakeholder
250 participation. She explained that when only fishermen show up at the public stakeholder
251 meetings, it looks like people aren't concerned about hydrilla in the lakes. She noted that the
252 latest meeting held in June was one of the first, where more citizens concerned about the amount
253 of hydrilla in the lakes actually showed up.

254 She stated that there will be another stakeholder meeting on February 2, 2019 at Eustis
255 Community Center from 6 pm until 8:30 pm. and they need concerned citizens to show up and
256 voice their concerns.

257 Chairman Stone stated that these decisions happen in Tallahassee and the Water Authority does
258 not have the power in Tallahassee that the Fish and Wildlife Commission does. She stated that
259 on our own, the Water Authority is a very small dot and stated that it may not be what we want,
260 but to do anything else is not feasible

261 Mr. Farner stated that he thinks the County employees should be working under the Water
262 Authority, with the Water Authority managing the spraying. He stated that he thinks that Water
263 Authority would be able to handle it if they were to hire more staff or absorb the existing County
264 staff doing the job, but as things are now, he doesn't see the job getting done.

265 Mr. Hendrick asked what areas FWC directs currently and Ms. Visscher explained that they
266 cover all the public lakes in Lake County and not just the Harris Chain.

267 Ms. Visscher explained that if the State Legislature were to give the Water Authority control
268 over aquatic plant management and the funds, then FWC would only be handling the permitting.
269 She stated that once you start dealing with the stakeholders, that will never go away.

270 She explained that if everything remained as it is, except for County staff working for the Water
271 Authority and the Water Authority acting as a subcontractor for FWC, then FWC would still be
272 making all the decisions on when and where to spray.

273 Chairman Stone stated that the Water Authority would still not be the decision maker and asked
274 Mr. Farner just what he was asking to accomplish, and Mr. Farner stated that he wants the Water
275 Authority to be the agency out there spraying.

276 Ms. Cox stated that she thinks they are missing a great source of funding as the tourism in Lake
277 County is fishing, skiing, wakeboarding, and other water sports. She explained that she thinks
278 they should be getting tourism money from the State toward spraying the lakes. She noted that

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279 the cities also promote the lakes and use their waterfronts to draw tourism and they need to look
280 at how to get tourism dollars for invasive plant management.

281 Mr. Hendrick asked what the magic number would be to get hydrilla under control and Ms.
282 Visscher stated that they are at least 5 million dollars short, just for the Harris Chain.

283 Ms. Stokes stated that a lot of the Water Authority's concerns is that it is getting too out of
284 control. She asked Ms. Visscher if the FWC had more money available now, would there be
285 more hydrilla treatment or are the stakeholders saying they want the hydrilla.

286 Ms. Visscher stated that even if they had all the money they needed, they would still have to
287 listen to the stakeholders. She stated that a lot of the fishermen want plants and hydrilla and they
288 (FWC) have to compromise and work with all the stakeholders. She also explained that you
289 can't treat all the time as a lot of things have to be taken into consideration such as water flow,
290 weather, and other water conditions.

291 Ms. Stokes stated that she is concerned that the problem has become so big and the Water
292 Authority wouldn't have the resources to take something like this over.

293 Mr. BonJorn stated that he has heard a lot about the problem but hasn't heard any solutions. He
294 asked what they could do to make it better, and if there is a happy medium. He stated that there
295 has to be a way to get it somewhat better.

296 Ms. Visscher stated that she needs the Water Authority's strong input on how they want hydrilla
297 managed and staff and Board members need to attend the stakeholder meeting in Eustis and
298 voice the Water Authority's concerns.

299 Mr. Perry stated that the Water Authority does not want to be the FWC, but rather looking at
300 possibility of having the County operations under the Water Authority. He asked that the Board
301 give him permission to speak with the County and the Tourist Development Council regarding
302 additional funds and Mr. Farner stated that would be a good start.

303 Chairman Stone suggested that they open a conversation regarding having a more formal voice,
304 possibly as a cooperator with FWC and having more of a voice/advisory role, as a possible
305 alternative to taking on something the Water Authority doesn't have the resources for.

306 Mr. Farner stated that he wants to do everything we can to make sure job gets done right. They
307 are dropping the ball and the Water Authority needs to get on top of it.

308 Ms. Cox suggested that they talk to the Lake County Manager and the County's Tourism and
309 Development Department.

310 Mr. Perry stated that by creating cleaner water, we have encouraged the growth of hydrilla and
311 then combined with the fact that after Hurricane Irma there was such a high flow of water that
312 the hydrilla couldn't be treated, and that too has contributed to the problem.

313 Ms. Visscher agreed and stated that they are at the mercy of Mother Nature as they can't treat
314 during storms, high flows and wind events. She stated that the Ph of the water also determines
315 whether they can treat and what type of herbicides can be used.

316 She stated that after Hurricane Irma she has seen hydrilla in places that it has never grown
317 before, such as in 15 feet of water. She also noted that they found hydrilla in Lake Dora for the
318 first time this year, and it wasn't at a boat ramp, but on the west side of the lake.

319 Ms. Visscher Natalie noted that other areas where they have been battling hydrilla, native plants
320 are starting to make a comeback. She explained that there is an area on Lake Griffin where it is
321 very shallow where they have been battling hydrilla for many years, but now there is lots of eel
322 grass and native plants coming back into the area.

323 d. Denham Muck Farm Partnership with City of Leesburg

324 Mr. Hart updated the Board on the proposed purchase of the Lake Denham Muck Farm. He
325 stated that a month or two ago he and Maryann Krisovitch had discussed trying to find some
326 joint funds from other agencies to help fund the cost of purchasing the muck farm. He explained
327 that one of the concepts was because of the farm being located adjoining the City of Leesburg, is
328 that they could speak with the City about providing funds for the project in exchange for some of
329 the Nutrient Load Reduction Credits that the project will provide.

330 He stated that the City of Leesburg has a stormwater project that is currently under review along
331 with a stormwater permit with the State that has certain load reductions that they would be
332 required to meet for Lake Denham as well as Lake Harris. He stated that currently the City
333 doesn't have any programs for stormwater that they are able to implement at this time that would
334 help reduce those loadings within their city. He stated that this project would eliminate a huge
335 amount of the loadings for the City.

336 He stated that he had explained to the City that if they tried to accommodate a similar amount of
337 pollutant load reduction credits by implementing stormwater projects they would be looking at
338 approximately 6.5 million dollars they would have to expend, but by participating in the
339 purchase of property, they are getting the same amount of load reduction credits for only half a
340 million dollars.

341 Mr. Hart explained that Ms. Krisovitch handles stormwater permitting for the City of Leesburg
342 and she had spoken with the staff at the City regarding the project and recommended that they
343 participate with the Water Authority in the acquisition of the property. He noted that when he
344 and Mr. Perry went to speak the them, they were very open and willing to consider the proposal.

345 He stated that the staff at the City of Leesburg are recommending that the City provide a half of a
346 million dollars toward the purchase of the property and it will be on the January 28th City
347 Council's Agenda with a recommendation of approval.

348 He stated that the City Attorney and the City Manager have already reviewed the project, and
349 everything seems to be moving forward positively, and that he thinks they there is a good chance
350 of the funding being approved.

351 Mr. Hart stated that as things move ahead, he wanted to make sure that our Board was aware of
352 the recommendation and approved of acquiring this funding. He stated that in exchange for the
353 funding, the City of Leesburg is asking that a Conservation Easement be placed upon the
354 property to ensure that the property will never be able to return to a muck farm, dump site, etc. in
355 the future, that would cause the discharge of phosphorous loading from the site to go back into
356 the lake.

357 He explained that staff is asking for the Board's approval to appear before the City of Leesburg's
358 Council and hopefully get their approval to provide a half of a million dollars that would be
359 payable to the Water Authority once they Water Authority has closed on the property, and the
360 Board's approval to allow the Conservation Easement to the City of Leesburg. He stated that he
361 had provided the Board with copies of the documents in the board memos but noted that there
362 have been some minor changes in wording of the conservation easement and changes to the
363 signature page, along with other minor changes, but there were no substantial changes.

364 Ms. Cox asked about whether all covenants and easements would run with the land and wouldn't
365 end with any change in ownership and Mr. Hart stated that they do.

366 Mr. Farner asked if the Water Authority still plans to purchase the property, even if they don't
367 get funding from the City of Leesburg and Mr. Hart stated yes, as long as the Board is still in
368 approval. Mr. Hart explained that the Lake County Water Authority would be purchasing the
369 property, and the City of Leesburg would be providing the Water Authority a half a million
370 dollars in exchange for load reduction credits and conservation easement.

371 He noted that half a million dollars is approximately one-third of the cost of the property, so the
372 City of Leesburg will be receiving one-third of the loading credits available on the property.

373 Mr. Farner asked if that means there will be more credits available in the future, and Mr. Hart
374 stated that there would be and explained that he has approached the County about load reduction
375 credits as they need even more loading credits than the City of Leesburg, due to septic tanks, but
376 they don't having any funding in their stormwater program at this time to offset the credits that
377 they need.

378 Mr. Farner asked when the Water Authority would close on the property and Mr. Hart explained
379 that the Phase Two Environmental Study is being done now and they are waiting on results of
380 tests which should be in around the end of February.

381 Mr. Farner noted that the Lake Denham Muck Farm is the largest point source of phosphorous
382 entering the Harris Chain at this time. He stated that this purchase is the easiest and cheapest
383 solution in solving this issue.

384 Mr. BonJorn asked if the additional credit left on the property could be sold at a future date and
385 possibly be used to help with the hydrilla problem that we currently don't have the funds for and
386 Mr. Hart stated that there is the possibility that we may be able to recoup additional money at a
387 later date.

388 MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION
389 AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF
390 LEESBURG. It was noted that a motion wasn't needed, and Ms. Cox withdrew her motion.

391 Mr. Perry stated that staff has sufficient direction without a motion and staff would talk to the
392 City of Leesburg and to their Council, and if there are any changes, staff will bring them back to
393 the Board.

394 **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

395 Peter Tuite addressed the Board and stated that he has attended several meetings of the Harris
396 Chain of Lakes Restoration Council. He stated that in their 2018 End of the Year Report the
397 Council is recommending the construction of a canal from Lake Apopka to Little Lake Harris.

398 He noted that there are representatives from several government organizations at these meeting,
399 including FWC and DEP, and no one ever says anything in response to that recommendation.

400 He explained that he would like Lake County Water Authority's support to end this initiative.
401 He stated that the Water Authority has put so much time and effort into the NuRF and cleaning
402 the lakes, for a canal to be built that would be used to flush water from Lake Apopka into Little
403 Lake Harris, in the event of another Hurricane.

404 He stated that that are several suggestions as to how to control the water, but this one is the
405 absolute worst suggestion of what could be done.

406 Mr. Perry stated that he is on the Technical Advisory Committee to the Harris Chain Restoration
407 Council and the reason there hasn't been something said is that the Council has been kicking this
408 idea around for some time and it has never has had anything of real substance.

409 He stated that it sounds like that after their workshop at the Blue House, they would like to move
410 forward with this concept. He stated that there would be a lot of technical issues they would
411 have to overcome if they ever want to bring this concept to fruition.

412 Mr. Perry explained that this report is the Council's report to the Legislature which they are
413 required to do, but it doesn't mean they have any authorization. He stated that it is very unlikely
414 that this would ever be built as the Council has no money and no authority to build such a canal.

415 Mr. Tuite stated that he would like to make sure that this idea doesn't go forward and could use
416 the Water Authority's help, as he doesn't know where you would go to make sure that it doesn't.

417 He stated as an aside, that he felt introducing carp into the lakes would be a good way to handle
418 the growth of hydrilla.

419 Ms. Cox stated that the Water Authority would be absolutely against this and no one knowing
420 the history of Lake Apopka would ever consider it.

421 Mr. Tuite asked if the Water Authority could put their opposition on record and Ms. Cox asked
422 about getting a copy of the report. Mr. Perry stated that he would be able to get copies to

423 distribute to the Board. Ms. Cox stated that she was sure the Water Authority could draft a letter
424 stating their opposition to the canal.

425 Ms. Cox and Mr. Farner stated that they would not be in favor of constructing a canal from Lake
426 Apopka to Little Lake Harris. Mr. Farner also noted that he would not be in favor of
427 introduction carp into Lake Harris to control the growth of hydrilla as Mr. Tuite had suggested
428 earlier.

429 Joseph Bracciale addressed the Board and stated that he would like to re-establish
430 communication between the community he lives in and the Water Authority. He stated that he
431 feels they can discuss their situation and really try to find a solution.

432 He stated that he'd like to work with the Board regarding the Tammi Canal because it does affect
433 the entire Chain.

434 He stated that there are 42 inches of muck across a 300-foot wide canal that is a state-owned
435 waterway and not a residential canal, and the muck is just waiting to make its way into the rest of
436 the Chain.

437 He stated that he understands that the Board has taken the position that they are not going to
438 dredge that area, and his goal moving forward is to present the position of a lot of the individual
439 residents of a borderline desire to take legal action.

440 He stated that a lot of people feel that a precedence was set when they dredged in 2010 and that it
441 wasn't dredged out of the goodness of the heart, but because it was realized that there was a
442 muck issue in the Apopka-Beauclair Canal.

443 Mr. Bracciale stated that in communications with the FWC and St. Johns River Water
444 Management District it was specifically stated that "dredging to remove organic sediments from
445 the Harris Chain of Lakes is an important lake management restoration tool. Removal of organic
446 muck sediment from lake systems fosters the reestablishment of beneficial aquatic plants
447 providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife."

448 He stated that his house is not affected but he feels like the muck is not just affecting whether
449 people can get in and out.

450 He stated that with the precedence of the dredging in 2010 and the ownership of the Lake County
451 Water Authority to dredge the canal, people have felt there has been negligence. He stated that
452 the claims that yard debris could be a big part of it when a Board member essentially provided
453 evidence of clearing areas of water and dumping it on the banks.

454 He stated that residents feel there has been negligence in addressing the issue and stated that he
455 would be coming to more meetings and trying to understand what the Water Authority Board can
456 and cannot do.

457 Chairman Stone stated that the Water Authority is not trying to be contentious over the issue, its
458 merely a responsibility and a line in the sand.

459 She noted that what Vice Chair Maimone did was as a resident and citizen and was paid for by
460 residents of the canal and there is precedence that they (*the residents*) have maintained the canal
461 in the past. She also noted that at the time of the dredge, everyone signed a notice stating they
462 understood (*it was one-time dredge*).

463 She explained that the dredging of the canals was an add-on to an existing dredging project in the
464 same area, so there were no additional mobilization and demobilization fees. She stated that the
465 Water Authority didn't just go out to dredge those residential canals.

466 Chairman Stone stated that she understands that it is not great to live on a canal that you cannot
467 navigate, but the Agency has a duty to take care of the entire county and all the constituents of
468 the county.

469 She stated that personally, as a taxpayer, she would be pretty upset if I thought somebody's canal
470 was being dredged using my tax money, when I knew that money could be going to the
471 restoration of Lake Yale or another project that would have a much bigger impact to more
472 constituents of the county.

473 She noted that she knows that doesn't sound fair to someone that lives in that specific location,
474 but they must look at it from a larger perspective.

475 Mr. Bracciale stated that his understanding is that because it is a state-owned waterway,
476 technically all waivers that were signed from anybody living on that waterway were essentially
477 waiving the liability of possible damage to their seawalls and docks, but technically not waiving
478 the right to have the canal dredged, as there is no actual ownership by each individual
479 homeowner. He stated that the residents couldn't sign away their rights to have it dredge as they
480 don't own any part of that waterway.

481 He asked that if the Water Authority is not able to assist in the dredging of the canal, do feel they
482 can help them find the resources to get grants or get help with dredging.

483 Mr. Perry suggested that he get with staff, and Chairman Stone stated that the Water Authority
484 wants to be good neighbors and told Mr. Bracciale to please feel free to talk to staff regarding his
485 concerns.

486 *The Board took a break at 5:27 pm and returned at 5:50 pm.*

487 **CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

488 e. NuRF Evaluation Proposal

489 Mr. Hart explained the procedure for awarding contracts for Engineering Services. He stated
490 that there is a formal procedure called the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act that allows
491 Agency's to solicit for engineering firms to perform work for the Agency. He stated that they
492 are not allowed to select engineering firms by price, but instead much select them by their
493 qualifications.

494 He explained that four years ago the Water Authority had released a proposal to contract for
495 Engineering Services and had received responses from multiple firms, from which the staff and
496 Board had selected four of the top firms that would best meet the needs of the Water Authority.

497 He stated that after the firms were selected, they then negotiated a price with those firms, based
498 on labor hours for the different positions they have on staff, and those prices remain the same for
499 the length of the contract.

500 Mr. Hart explained that over the last few years, the Water Authority has given multiple projects
501 to the other companies under contract, but this is the first project the Agency is looking to award
502 to Pegasus. He stated that one reason Pegasus was selected because they have Environmental
503 Research and Design as a sub-consultant.

504 He explained that Environmental Research and Design is the firm that designed the NuRF and
505 because they are not one of the four firms engineering firms the Water Authority has under
506 contract, they cannot go directly to them to negotiate a contract, but they can work with them
507 with them a sub under Pegasus.

508 Mr. Hart explained that the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act allows the Water Authority
509 to hire a firm to perform any study or procedure that would provide recommendations to the
510 Board. He noted that the amount that can be awarded for the study is limited to \$200,000 under
511 the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act and explained that the Water Authority could
512 award the actual project to the same company, as long as the projected cost of the project does
513 not exceed two million dollars.

514 He explained that agencies do this because it saves time and money as they don't have to go out
515 to bid and solicit proposals for every project they do repeatedly. He stated that this allows them
516 to start work as soon as possible rather than going through a procedure each time that takes about
517 six months or more to complete to the point of hiring a firm.

518 Mr. Hart explained that several months ago Mr. Farner had asked staff to look at the NuRF and
519 see if there are ways to make improvements to the facility and resolve some of the issues we've
520 had during the hurricanes and periods of high flow, as well as the flooding on site and the
521 disposal of the wet material. He also wanted them to investigate any way to improve the
522 efficiency of the facility and ways to improve the process so that they can process additional
523 sediment.

524 Mr. Hart explained that if a project or process suggested in the study is two million dollars of
525 less, it could be awarded to the designer or any of the other contracted engineers. He stated that
526 if the cost is over two million dollars, then the project would have to go back out to bid.

527 Mr. Hart explained that the proposal includes five major evaluations:

- 528 • Recommendations of improvements to the disposal area
- 529 • Recommendations to the dredged processing facility (centrifuge area)
- 530 • Modifications to the alum mixing area (aeration area)
- 531 • Alternatives to reduce dredge equipment failures

- 532 • Options to address inflow debris that accumulates on the inflow bollards and on the
533 bottom of the ponds

534 He explained that staff has brought this to the Board as the quickest way to execute the process,
535 but if the Board would rather put it out to bid, they can, but this process makes it quicker.

536 Mr. Farner asked if there was a timeframe for when the study would be completed, and Mr. Hart
537 stated that it would probably be three to four months, contingent of the surveyor's schedule, with
538 it taking up to six months at the most.

539 Mr. BonJorn asked if there are any expectations as to what we are trying to achieve, and it was
540 explained that the direction being given is to see if there are better or more cost-effective
541 technology and practical solutions available.

542 Mr. Hendrick stated that he would like to see it put out for an RFP or RFQ and see if there is
543 something better out there. He believes there is new innovative technology out there. He stated
544 that the St Johns River Water Management District does it all the time to see what is out there
545 and to come up with new ideas.

546 It was explained that the plan is for Pegasus to look at two or three viable alternatives for each of
547 the items being evaluated.

548 Mr. Hendrick stated that he would still rather put it out there for new ideas, put everything on
549 hold for three months or so to look at any new technologies that might be available rather than
550 spending money on repairs on something that they may not end up keeping.

551 Chairman Stone stated that hurricane season is coming, and we cannot afford not to fix the
552 equipment while we look at options.

553 Mr. Farner stated that the NuRF is critical to the Harris Chain of Lakes and it needs to be
554 operational. He stated that it was never meant to be a permanent solution, although it looks like
555 we will have it for a while.

556 Chairman Stone explained that with this project with Pegasus, the Water Authority is asking
557 Pegasus to come up with multiple solutions on the five major operations, not to design or
558 engineer the project but to evaluate what needs, what can be done and what new technology may
559 be available.

560 Mr. Hendrick stated that he wants to have the most efficient technologies and processes possible
561 and Chairman Stone stated that is what the Board is doing with this process. She explained that
562 Pegasus is being hired to do a study that will look at the whole process and then look for
563 different ways of making it better. She stated that they would be bringing different alternatives
564 and costs to the Board.

565 Mr. Hart stated that they could ask Pegasus to add chapter comparing new viable technologies to
566 the report. The representative from Pegasus stated that they would add that summary into the
567 study.

568 Chairman Stone noted that Pegasus is being hired to look at different options not to choose an
569 option.

570 It was noted that the options for the Board's consideration are:

- 571 1. Contract with Pegasus Engineering for the work as proposed.
- 572 2. Negotiate a smaller contract with a reduced scope of work.
- 573 3. Create a new Request for Proposals and solicit firms to submit qualifications.
- 574 4. Take no action and continue to operate the facility as currently designed.

575 Option 1 would allow work to begin immediately. Option 2 would delay work by 2 to 3 weeks.
576 Option 3 would delay work for at least 3 months and Option 4 would halt any professional
577 review.

578 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT OPTION 1. AND AUTHORIZE THE**
579 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A WORK ORDER WITH PEGASUS**
580 **ENGINEERING FOR THE WORK AS PROPOSED TO INCLUDE A FINAL CHAPTER**
581 **ON NEW TECHNOLOGY AS DISCUSSED.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

582 **Motion approved 6-0.**

583 f. Approval to Award Alum Residual Removal Bid

584 Mr. Hendrick stated that he felt they could go another six to eight months without having to
585 worry about running out of storage area, and that he didn't think they needed to address this issue
586 at this time.

587 Mr. Perry stated that the only bid received they had received was for \$145 per truckload which is
588 \$45 more per load than what they are paying now. He stated that staff would like to reject all
589 bids and consider other alternatives.

590 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW STAFF TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND**
591 **CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OPTION TO DISPOSE OF ALUM**
592 **RESIDUAL OFF-SITE.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

593 **Motion approved 6-0.**

594 g. Approval to Award NuRF Centrifuge Maintenance Bid

595 Dr. Danaher informed the Board that the Centrifuge had hit 8,000 hours in December, making it
596 time for a scheduled major maintenance and service to the centrifuge to replace major seals, etc.
597 He stated that this maintenance is essential to prevent breakdowns and costly repairs.

598 He stated that he had spoken to manufacturer of the centrifuge and got list of the parts that would
599 be required and put the request out to bid. He noted that one stipulation of the bid was that the
600 work needed to be done on-site.

601 He explained that there was one bid response from GEA Westfalia Separator Inc. and the
602 maintenance would take about four weeks to complete.

603 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
604 **TO AWARD THE BID TO GEA WESTFALIA SEPERATOR INC. AS A RESTRICTED**
605 **SOURCE TO PERFORM SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE ON THE NURF**
606 **CENTRIFUGE IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$57,600.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the
607 motion.

608 Mr. Hendrick asked how long it is going to take to finish clearing the West Pond and Dr.
609 Danaher estimated that it is going to take at least another three weeks.

610 Dr. Danaher noted that the scheduled maintenance to the centrifuge wouldn't start until
611 sometime in February.

612 **Motion approved 6-0**

613 h. Approval to Award NuRF Roadway Around Ponds Bid

614 Dr. Danaher stated that they had gone out to bid and the bid responses are back. He explained
615 that over the last year with the wet conditions the grass berms have eroded quite a bit and they
616 need to improve the condition of the roadways around the berms. He stated that it is especially
617 dangerous working at night and they don't want to have anyone going over the edge of the berms
618 and into a pond.

619 He explained that BESH Engineering had created the design and helped with the bid documents
620 and will provide some on-site support during the construction. He stated that the roadway would
621 be a twelve-foot road around the perimeter of the ponds and between the ponds

622 He noted that staff had received three bid responses and are recommending Valencia
623 Construction Group out of Winter Garden, as they were the lowest bidder.

624 Ms. Cox asked if BESH is confident that Valencia Construction would be able to do the job since
625 their bid was so much lower, and Dr. Danaher stated that BESH is confident in Valencia's bid
626 response.

627 Mr. Hendrick stated that he thought the only access they needed at this time was to the west
628 pond. He stated that the center roadway is being used at this time to access and repair the slope
629 failure and it not really needed at this time. He asked if it wouldn't be better to only do the part
630 we need at this time and wait until they got the results of the study.

631 Mr. Farner stated that it would cost more to break the project into parts and Chairman Stone
632 agreed.

633 Mr. Hendrick stated that a contractor would probably do the fifty-foot or so that he felt was
634 needed, at a relatively low cost or staff could do it themselves. He stated that they don't need
635 access to the north part of the pond at this time. He suggested if they could put it off until they
636 get the report back from Pegasus, as they might have a better idea on what to do with the ponds
637 and the roads.

638 Mr. Hart that they need to have access to the north side of the ponds when they are dredging that
639 area as they need to be able to inspect the dredges to insure they are not hanging up on
640 vegetation and to inspect the cutter heads. He stated that they also need access to stop and
641 reverse the direction of the dredges when they reach the end of the pond.

642 Mr. Hendrick stated that there is nothing to dredge on the north side of the pond at this time and
643 it would be quite a while before they would need to dredge that end of the pond.

644 Dr. Danaher stated that the west pond is pretty well cleaned out, but they are going to need to use
645 the roadway to access the east pond and process the material in that pond.

646 Chairman Stone noted that hurricane season is coming, and Dr. Danaher stated that there was 7.5
647 inches of rain in December which just dried out, but another half-inch is predicted for tomorrow
648 which will destroy the roadways again.

649 Dr. Danaher stated that when you are out there at 2 am and there is no one to call for help, it
650 good to have confidence that you aren't going to get stuck.

651 Mr. Hendrick stated that he thought that they could probably put off repairing the roadway until
652 after Pegasus completes their study, as it might all change if Pegasus comes back with a design
653 that changes the design of the ponds and roadways.

654 Chairman Stone stated that the first stage is the study, but any project to upgrade the NuRF that
655 might result from Pegasus' study would be at least four or five years away, as they would need
656 time to budget and save for the project. She stated that they need to keep the site maintained
657 until that time.

658 Mr. Hart stated the conditions are severe and the roadway is very slippery, and trucks are
659 slipping sideways. He explained that they are still dredging the north end of the pond and need
660 to use the road for access.

661 Dr. Danaher explained that staff also needs to access the outfall portion for water quality testing
662 and they need to use the road between the ponds for that access. He also explained that many
663 school groups and others visit the NuRF and staff uses a large trailer to take them for tours
664 around the ponds and staff would not be able to do that safely with the road in the condition it is
665 now. Ms. Stokes was in agreement.

666 Mr. Farnar stated that his major concern is safety and he doesn't want anything to happen to staff
667 or visitors.

668 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
669 **TO AWARD THE NURF ROAD IMPROVEMENT BID TO VALENCIA**
670 **CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC. AT AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$125,515.** Ms.
671 Stokes seconded the motion

672 **Motion approved 6-0**

673 i. Approval of Budget Transfers

674 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
675 **TRANSFER BUDGET FUNDS \$447,815 FROM 9898710-860610 LAND ACQUISITIONS**
676 **AND \$250,000 FROM 9898710-830460 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE. AUTHORIZE**
677 **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER ABOVE NOTED FUNDS TO: 9898710-**
678 **830340 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES \$120,000, SITE IMPROVEMENTS**
679 **\$515,815, AND 9898710-860640 MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT \$62,000.**

680 **AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PROCESS A CHANGE**
681 **ORDER TO PURCHASE ORDER 20190785 DAWSON EXCAVATING TO**
682 **RECLASSIFY THE EXPENDITURE FROM 9898710-830460 REPAIRS AND**
683 **MAINTENANCE TO 9898710-860610 SITE IMPROVEMENTS.** Ms. Stokes seconded the
684 motion.

685 Mr. Hendrick asked if the funds for the contract to remove the material was part of the money
686 and Mr. Perry noted that it was just a small amount of \$20,000 that had to be put in the right
687 place.

688 **Motion approved 6-0**

689 j. NuRF Update and Approval of Additional Slope Repair

690 Dr. Danaher updated the Board on the projects going on at the NuRF and reported that the west
691 pond outfall gate actuator had been repaired and is back in place and the west outfall gate is able
692 to open and close as it should. He noted that now that the west pond actuator is operational, the
693 east pond actuator has been sent out for repairs.

694 Mr. Perry noted that in the process they have learned a bit more about how to better maintain the
695 actuators and gears, so that they shouldn't have issues like that again.

696 Mr. Hendrick asked if the St. Johns River Water Management District remotely controls the
697 gates and Dr. Danaher stated that they do. He explained that they have the ability to control the
698 gates from off-site and the District controls the flow of water through the facility. He stated that
699 the Water Authority maintains all the equipment, but this particular equipment is operated by the
700 District.

701 Dr. Danaher showed a picture on one of the outfall canals and explained that a contractor was
702 hired to grout and seal the leaks in the canals and stated that this project has been completed.

703 He also updated them on the east pond stabilization project. He stated that in October the Board
704 had authorized an Emergency Declaration not to exceed \$400,000 to repair the 250 to 260 linear
705 feet of the east pond embankment that had collapsed. He stated that Dawson Excavating out of
706 Leesburg were contracted to do the work and showed a picture of the progress and explained the
707 process.

708 He noted that that in December, another 100 linear feet of the slope in a different location had
709 also collapsed from all the rain. He stated that this is at the inflow site and is crucial part of the
710 slope and takes a lot of pressure from Lake Apopka rocking back and forth and needs to be
711 repaired and reinforced.

712 He noted that there are several options for the repair, but because it's such a crucial site, rather
713 than just bringing in fill material and recreating the pond slope, staff thought it best to install
714 vertical beams and using the same techniques as the first repair. He stated that this repair would
715 take an additional \$89,500 and would bring the total contractual services to the \$376,500 which
716 is still below the original amount not to exceed of \$400,000.

717 Dr. Danaher stated that although it is hard to tell the hauling off of the muck continues, and over
718 100 loads have been removed.

719 He stated that another thing they are going to investigate is using crushed concrete blocks to pack
720 down and tamp down parts of the storage area. He showed a picture of a small portion of the
721 storage where the contractor hauling off the muck had used crushed block to pack down the mud
722 in the containment area.

723 He explained that he has spoken to Jimmy Wise at the landfill on 561 and he stated that they
724 have a lot of debris available that they can use to do the same to tamp down some of the current
725 muddy conditions

726 Dr. Danaher stated that they are continuing to dredge in the west pond and are down to the last
727 twenty percent to be dredged. He explained that this area hadn't been dredged or drained since
728 the hurricane and it is packed down, making it a slower process.

729 He also noted that temporary staffing is back in place and explained that Water Authority staff
730 and temporary staff are working two shifts a day, five days a week.

731 Mr. Farner asked how much is coming out of the centrifuge each day and suggested that the
732 truck pick the material up straight from the centrifuge and Dr. Danaher explained that they are
733 picking up two or three loads a day straight from the pad.

734 Mr. Hendrick stated that he felt that the storage area could be managed better, and Dr. Danaher
735 noted that they have a newly retired volunteer that loves to drive a dozer and explained that he
736 comes out 3 or 4 days a week to run the dozer and consolidate the piles of material.

737 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
738 **TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL EAST POND REPAIRS OF \$89,500 AND**
739 **SUBSEQUENTLY AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH DAWSON EXCAVATING LLC**
740 **IN TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$376,500.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

741 **Motion approved 6-0.**

742 k. Authorization to Submit a Speed Limitation Permit to FWC for Waterside Point

743 Mr. Hart explained that this request comes from the City of Groveland, Sean Parks, and residents
744 of Waterside Point. He noted that Waterside Point is on the Clermont Chain just off Lake
745 Minneola. He explained that there is a canal that runs along the north side of the development
746 and residents are asking for a speed zone on that canal.

747 Ms. Cox asked what about the main canal into Lake Palatlakaha, and Mr. Hart stated that we
748 cannot get a permit to the main canal and Florida Fish and Wildlife has stated that they will not
749 permit that canal. He explained that in order to get a speed zone on the northern canal, they are
750 not to mention the main canal, or they will not hear the request.

751 Mr. Hart explained that Florida Fish and Wildlife is responsible for issuing permits for speed
752 zones and they have made it clear that they will not permit a speed zone on the mail canal. He
753 stated that staff has spoken with them several times and every time FWC has denied the request.

754 Mr. Farner asked who they have been speaking with and Mr. Hart stated that his name is
755 Lamonte Nelson and explained that Mr. Nelson had stated that they will issue a permit for the
756 north canal if it is requested.

757 Mr. Farner stated that the Water Authority could put their own sign up on the main canal and Mr.
758 Hart explained that we would then be in violation of Florida Statutes and Florida Fish and
759 Wildlife would then do an enforcement against the Agency.

760 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE**
761 **FOR GROVELAND'S APPROVAL THEN PERMIT AND INSTALL THE SIGNS FOR**
762 **the REAR CANAL AT WATERSIDE POINT.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

763 Mr. Farner stated that he would like to look further into the main canal as he doesn't recall the
764 Water Authority requesting it through the proper channels.

765 Mr. Hart stated that he would provide Mr. Farner with that information. He explained that for
766 the Florida Fish and Wildlife to even consider permitting a speed zone on the main canal, they
767 would require the Water Authority to hire a consultant to do a traffic study over an extended
768 period of time. He noted that conducting the traffic study would not guarantee that the permit
769 would be issued, it would only mean that they would consider the request.

770 **Motion approved 6-0.**

771 *Ms. Cox left the meeting.*

772 1. Approval of new Site Resident at the M-5 Structure

773 Mr. Hart explained that at M-5 the Water Authority owns the property, however the site resident
774 owns the mobile home on the property. He stated that the current site resident has purchased a
775 home in another location and will no longer be living on the site.

776 He explained that the mobile home has been sold to another Lake County Deputy, Deputy Joshua
777 Faust, and staff has informed him of the responsibilities of living on the site as well as the lease
778 and \$500 deposit requirements.

779 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
780 **TO EXECUTE AN M-5 SITE RESIDENT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DEPUTY**
781 **FAUST.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

782 **Motion approved 6-0.**

783 m. Authorization to Contract with the University of Florida for Alum Residual Research

784 Dr. Danaher stated that byproducts similar to the material produced at the NuRF have been used
785 for agricultural purposes. He explained that the University of Florida does a lot of research to
786 support farmers in the area and has agreed to evaluate the material for uses as weed management
787 or container media.

788 He stated that there are lots of nurseries throughout Lake County that could potentially use the
789 material to mix in the soil they use to grow their plants, which could potentially provide an
790 alternative use for the material.

791 He explained that the research would support a Master student over the next year, to perform
792 several trials on plant growth and health, to see if the material can be used for agricultural
793 services.

794 **MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
795 **ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, AS A**
796 **RESTRICTED SOURCE, TO SUPPORT RESEARCH TRIALS USING ALUM**
797 **RESIDUAL FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

798 Peggy asked about the funding and Dr. Danaher explained that the research funding is already in
799 the budget and allocated specifically for this research project.

800 **Motion approved 6-0.**

801 **7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT**

802 Attorney Barice stated that she had received an email from the attorney for the county that is in
803 possession of the restrooms for Sawgrass Preserve and stated that they are ready to move ahead
804 on it. She noted that she had previously sent him an email prior to the December Board Meeting
805 asking whether they were in possession of the restrooms and what their position was and that she
806 had never received an answer from them.

807 She stated that in December the Board had decided they were going to walk away from the deal,
808 so when she received this email, she had responded that information to him and informed him
809 that the Board had decided it wasn't going to move forward. She noted that she hadn't heard
810 anything from the attorney in response.

811 Mr. Perry informed the Board that he had recently heard from a government agency in Tennessee
812 that had lost \$100,000 to UBC Precast for restrooms that were never delivered.

813 Attorney Barice also noted that recently there was a dispute regarding the fence to the north side
814 of the soccer field. She explained that the soccer club had removed and replaced the fence along
815 that side and the adjoining property owner had objected.

816 She noted that the attorney for property owner had contacted her and she said informed him that
817 the Water Authority did not intend to get into litigation over it.

818 She stated that she had spoken to Mr. Perry about the issues, and he had spoken to the soccer
819 club and asked them to work with the property owner to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

820 **8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

821 Chairman Stone stated that she would like to remind everyone to read their packets prior to the
822 coming to the meeting and to call staff with any questions before the Board meeting. She also
823 reminded them that there would be a Chairman’s Workshop on February 20, 2019 at 3 pm and it
824 would be held at the Lake County Water Authority Office.

825 Mr. Perry stated that having this large of an agenda was unusual and that the Board did a great
826 job working their way through it.

827 **9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

828 Mr. Farner asked that staff look into the possibility of a research grant with the University of
829 Florida on chemical engineering and the possibility for a better solution to hydrilla.

830 **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 831 a. Staff Reports
- 832 b. Monthly Financial Reports – December 2018

833 **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- 834 - Board Meeting - Wednesday, February 27, 2019 (3:30 pm)
- 835 BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

836 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

837 The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.