

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
February 27, 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, February 27, 2019, in the Lake County Administration Building,
3 County Commissioners Chambers at 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

4 **Members Present-District #**

Staff Present

5 Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)	Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
6 Trampis BonJorn (#2)	Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
7 Peggy Cox (#1)	Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Project Manager
8 Keith Farner (At-Large)	Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
9 Butch Hendrick (#4)	Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager
10 Courtney Stokes (At-Large)	Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
11	Christina Rider, Administrative Services 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 3:35 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of
18 Allegiance.

19 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - JANUARY 23, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING**

20 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY**
21 **WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE JANUARY 23, 2019 - REGULAR**
22 **MEETING.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

23 **Motion approved 6-0.**

24 **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

25 Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall reports. He stated that Lake
26 Apopka has been flirting with maximum desirable a few times at which time the District would
27 open the spillway into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal to bring it back down to the regulatory
28 schedule.

29 He explained that the regulatory schedule will start down March first, which means the District
30 will be holding less water in the lake until summertime to provide for storage for the typical wet
31 season.

32 He stated that Lake Dora is over the regulatory schedule at this time primarily due to the District
33 letting so much water out of Lake Apopka. He noted that Lake Eustis and Lake Harris are right
34 around the regulatory schedule, but the regulatory schedule won't start down until May or June
35 first and will stay that way until August.

36 He noted that Lake Griffin has also been bumping up against the upper end of the regulatory
37 level, but they have been able to bring that back down.

38 Mr. Perry stated that in January Lake Minnehaha was creeping up toward the upper end of the
39 regulatory range, but with the lack of rainfall over the past month, it has started to recede a little.

40 He stated that the gate at Cherry Lake is open and water is flowing at approximately 180 cfs,
41 while water coming in from Big and Little Creeks has a combined flow of 108 cfs as of the
42 morning. He noted that this is incredibly high compared to the past few years. He stated that the
43 Clermont Chain has been within the regulatory range for the past full year and except for the
44 periods during Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma, the water levels have been low.

45 He explained that typically this is the driest time of the year usually until rainy season kicks in in
46 June, so we could see the lake levels decline a bit. He stated that the high flows coming out of
47 Big and Little Creeks concern him a bit, so they will have to be cognizant of that.

48 He stated that currently we are at about 150% of normal rainfall and on the heels of two
49 consecutive high rainfall years. He noted that the groundwater levels are at 20-year highs and
50 there is nowhere for the water to go.

51 Mr. Perry noted that the Chairman's Workshop was held on the 20th and they had reviewed
52 Water Authority funding and some of the larger projects that might be on the upcoming budget.

53 Mr. Perry stated that it was noted that he has been remiss in recognizing Mr. Hart, Ms. Rider and
54 other staff members on all their hard work to bring funding to the Agency. He noted that Mr.
55 Hart was instrumental in working with the City of Leesburg to bring \$500,000 for the Lake
56 Denham acquisition, and Ms. Rider has been working hard to get FEMA money for Hurricane
57 Irma. He stated that currently she has been able to get about \$80,000 but we are looking at
58 another securing another \$1,000,000.

59 He noted that the Volleyball Fieldhouse grand opening was held last weekend and Chairman
60 Stone was there to represent the Water Authority.

61 Mr. Perry informed the Board that they had hired someone to pressure wash the Bourlay house to
62 remove years of algae and mold. He showed pictures showing before and after pictures.

63 He also informed the Board that he had attended several FWC meetings regarding hydrilla
64 (Gainesville, Astor and Eustis) and stated that while fishermen and duck hunters love the hydrilla
65 in the lakes, most agree that hydrilla needs to be controlled in some way, but the public thinks it
66 should be by harvesting instead of chemical controls.

67 He stated that there would be more discussion this topic later in the meeting.

68 **4. CONSENT ITEMS**

69 None

70 **5. REGULAR AGENDA**

71 a. Approval to Award Stormwater Grants

72 Mr. Hart addressed the Board and stated that the Agency received a total of six Stormwater
73 Grant Applications.

74 He explained that the Technical Review Team reviewed the applications and if there were any
75 questions after reviewing the applications staff contacted the applicants for answers to the
76 questions and project clarification. He stated that the projects were then scored and ranked them
77 as shown in the table below.

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Staff Recommendation</i>
1	77	City of Leesburg	Lake Harris Regional Pond (Leesburg portion of DOT project)	\$212,250	\$212,250
2	73	Lake County	Lake Yale Marsh Park Stormwater Enhancement	\$62,500	\$62,500
3	67	Town of Montverde	Lake Florence Stormwater Improvement	\$75,200	Wait
4	57	City of Groveland	Warner Street Drainage Improvements	\$90,000	Wait
5	52	City of Umatilla	Trowell Avenue Stormwater Improvement	\$150,000	Wait
6	50	City of Groveland	Parkwood Street Drainage Improvements	\$225,000	Wait
			Totals	\$814,950	\$274,750

78 Mr. Hart gave a brief description of each project in the order of highest scoring to lowest, and the
79 Board could then decide which grants they wished to award.

80 **1. City of Leesburg’s Lake Harris Regional Pond (Leesburg portion of DOT project)**

81 Mr. Hart stated that DOT will be constructing two wet retention areas that are 1.4 and 4.7 acres
82 near the intersection of Highways 27 and 44. He explained that the City of Leesburg is requesting
83 a stormwater grant for 50% of their agreed upon \$450,000 construction cost with DOT for
84 construction of the two ponds. He noted that the ponds will be constructed in a wetland connected
85 to the 9th Street Canal which drains to Lake Harris.

86 He stated that this grant request has the highest phosphorous removal score of any of the
87 stormwater grants requested and staff is recommending approval.

88 Ms. Cox asked if this is the same area as the canal with the floating islands and tussocks and Mr.
89 Hart stated that it is. It was noted that eliminating the trash entering the canal and lowering the
90 phosphorous amount of the water runoff should help improve the condition of the canal.

91 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
92 **EXECUTE A 50% COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LEESBURG**
93 **FOR THEIR WATER QUALITY PORTION OF THE LAKE HARRIS REGIONAL**
94 **POND FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$212,250.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

95 **Motion approved 6-0.**

96 **2. Lake County's Lake Yale Marsh Park Stormwater Enhancement**

97 Mr. Hart stated that this request from Lake County is the result of a study that was done for the
98 Water Authority by Harvey Harper to identify nutrient loading to Lake Yale.

99 He noted a wastewater spray fields used by Florida Foods and its proximity to Marsh Park. He
100 explained that during wet weather the spray field area becomes completely saturated and whatever
101 is being sprayed on the spray field goes right into the wetlands and it can't perk into the ground
102 because the groundwater is all the way at the surface.

103 He explained that during the study the phosphorous was 3,300 parts per billion total phosphorous
104 which is an astronomical amount and the County has also been out there on several occasions
105 when water was flowing and had measured amounts even higher.

106 Mr. Hart stated that the County has proposed this project to help address this issue and noted that
107 this is a project was one that the Water Authority had originally contemplated addressing on our
108 own because it is one of the worst loading sites to Lake Yale.

109 He explained that County plans to modify an existing canal in Marsh Park into a linear wet
110 retention area. The project will treat a 66-acre area that includes runoff from County Road 452 and
111 an adjacent wastewater spray field. He stated that the County estimates that the linear wet pond
112 will remove approximately 12.2 lbs. of Total Phosphorus annually. However, it is likely to remove
113 much more during wet years when the spray field is running. This funding request is for the cost
114 of construction only.

115 Mr. Hart explained that Lake County is asking for 50% match of the \$125,000 cost (\$62,500)
116 and staff is recommending approval.

117 Mr. Hart noted that there is \$250,000 in the stormwater budget and the grants to the City of
118 Leesburg and Lake County would add up to \$275,000. He explained that money left from the
119 Tavares stormwater grant would cover the additional \$25,000 without having to do any budget
120 transfers.

121 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
122 **EXECUTE A 50% COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOR THE**
123 **WATER QUALITY PORTION OF THE LAKE YALE MARSH PARK STORMWATER**

124 **ENHANCEMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$62,500.** Mr. Hendrick
125 seconded the motion.

126 **Motion approved 6-0.**

127 **3. Town of Montverde’s Lake Florence Stormwater Improvement**

128 Mr. Hart stated that the Town of Montverde has area on the south side of Lake Florence, where
129 they want to treat a stormwater outfall that’s going into the lake.

130 He explained that the Town wants to install a nutrient separating box that on a pipe that currently
131 discharges water from an area around Lowery Road and Highland Avenue into a ditch that then
132 discharges the water into Lake Florence. He explained that the Town proposes to add the sediment
133 box along the Lowery Road and replace the old pipe and add a section of pipe along the eroded
134 ditch to the lake.

135 He explained that normally the Water Authority does not fund the replacement of any existing pipe
136 and would typically only fund the sediment box and any improvements that must be made to
137 connect it into the existing stormwater system.

138 Mr. Hart stated that staff is not recommending this project because it is past the threshold of what
139 the Agency has budgeted. He noted that for comparison the estimated load reduction for this
140 project is .60 lbs. of total phosphorus per year, which is much lower than some of the other
141 projects.

142 There was no action taken on this request.

143 **4. City of Groveland’s Warner Street Drainage Improvements**

144 Mr. Hart explained that this project involves reimbursing the City for 50% of the \$180,000 cost to
145 construct a French drain system along a residential street. He stated that there is no drainage
146 system along this road and the water sheet flows downhill through yards to the next street that does
147 have culverts.

148 He stated that by constructing a French drain system it would provide an area for the water to
149 percolate into the ground before entering the wetland system. He noted that it is in an area that
150 doesn’t have a lot of public use. He also noted that the Water Authority does not provide funding
151 for flood protection.

152 There was no action taken on this request.

153 **5. City of Umatilla’s Trowell Avenue Stormwater Improvement**

154 Mr. Hard explained that this project is for the design and replacement an existing failed sediment
155 box at the outfall of Trowell Avenue. He stated that the current sediment box is one of the older
156 sediment boxes that have fencing inside of it and not a nutrient separating baffle box that holds
157 the leaves and sediment above the water table.

158 He explained that the chain link screen structure inside the baffle box has rusted and the brackets
159 have broken free and all the debris is and is in large litter passing straight through to Lake
160 Umatilla.

161 He explained that the City of Umatilla wants to install a nutrient separating baffle box and are
162 requesting 100 percent funding for \$150,000. He stated that they did submit their nutrient
163 calculations for removal, but they used a different method than any other agency to calculate the
164 nutrient removal, so the calculations don't fit in with the normal amount of loading reduction
165 would be.

166 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she would like to see this project come back next year and for
167 the City of Umatilla to calculate the phosphorous count with a conventional method.

168 There was no action taken on this request.

169 **6. City of Groveland's Parkwood Street Drainage Improvements**

170 Mr. Hart noted that the City of Groveland is requesting funding to design and construct a French
171 drain system along Parkwood Street. He explained that Parkwood Street is very low in elevation
172 and the existing drains are undersized.

173 He stated that he doesn't have a lot of faith that this would function well because of the high

174 There was no action taken on this request.

175 **b. Approval to Reinstall NuRF Dredge Trolley System and Bollards**

176 Dr. Danaher stated that he is asking approval for additional funding to wrap up a project at the
177 NuRF. He stated that in November he came to the Board to ask for Emergency Authorization to
178 repair a pond embankment that had failed, as well as the repair of the trolley system for an
179 amount not to exceed 400,000.

180 He explained that in the interim the south embankment of the east pond also failed and once both
181 pond embankments had been repaired, there wasn't enough funds remaining in the original
182 emergency authorization to repair the trolley system. He stated that staff is asking for
183 authorization to spend an additional \$21,500 over the initial \$400,000 that was approved.

184 **MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
185 **TO AMEND THE DAWSON EXCAVATING AGREEMENT BY \$45,000 AND RAISE**
186 **THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT ON THE EAST POND SLOPE FAILURE**
187 **EMERGENCY REPAIR TO \$421,500.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

188 **Motion approved 6-0.**

189 Dr. Danaher stated that the inflow bollards at the NuRF also needed repair and staff got several
190 quotes for their repair. He explained that the original bollards were six inches wide and
191 approximately 20 feet in length, and what staff was able to find to replace the originals were

192 significantly larger and sturdier at eighteen inches wide and thirty-five feet in length and will be
193 able to handle any debris coming into the facility at a much better rate.

194 He explained that because Dawson Excavating was already on-site they were chosen for that
195 work as well, as the mobilization costs were much less because they were already on-site.

196 **MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
197 **TO CONTRACT WITH DAWSON EXCAVATING FOR THE DEMOLITION AND**
198 **INSTALLATION OF BOLLARDS AT THE NURF FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO**
199 **EXCEED \$19,200.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the motion.

200 **Motion approved 6-0.**

201 c. Alum Bid Responses for NuRF

202 Dr. Danaher explained that they use aluminum sulfate to treat the incoming water and dependent
203 on vendors for this supply and that prior to Hurricane Irma they really didn't have an issue with
204 obtaining the supply needed for the facility.

205 He stated that sometimes the alum would sometimes sit in the tank long enough to crystalize
206 when the water would evaporate off. He noted that once Hurricane Irma hit we had high flows
207 due to the amount of water being discharged by St. Johns River Management District from Lake
208 Apopka. He stated that it then became hard to obtain a steady supply of alum, not necessarily
209 because the alum couldn't be produced, but a lot to do with the availability of freight vehicles to
210 deliver the product is not sufficient to meet NuRF needs without a contract in place.

211 He stated that with no contract in place the LCWA has seen increasing prices for alum. He
212 explained that the vendors cannot just increase the price on the LCWA because they want to and
213 their reasons have to be justified and the vendor needs to supply the LCWA with a copy of a
214 contract with another governmental agency in the state of Florida showing the same cost for
215 product. He noted that the Water Authority is allowed to piggyback off of other state contracts
216 for supply of alum.

217 Dr. Danaher stated that staff released a bid in November 2018 to solicit responses for different
218 options.

219 **Option A**

220 A contract to purchase, deliver and unload alum at the NuRF from an existing alum production
221 facility. The vendor is required to meet the full demand of the NuRF. In the event the supplier
222 cannot supply the demand requirements they are responsible to arrange an interim alternate
223 supply and compensate the LCWA for prices in excess of the contract price.

224 **Option B**

225 The vendor would construct and operate an alum production facility within 20 miles of the NuRF
226 to supply, deliver and unload product at required times to meet the LCWA needs. The vendor is
227 required to meet the full demand of the NuRF. In the event the supplier cannot supply the

228 demand requirements they are responsible to arrange an interim alternate supply and compensate
229 the LCWA for prices in excess of the contract price.

230 He explained that after releasing the bid staff only received responses for Option A and no
231 responses for Option B. He stated that staff was surprised no bid responses for Option B were
232 received as a couple vendors had expressed interest and spoke in length with staff regarding this
233 opportunity.

234 Dr. Danaher noted that without a contract the cost of alum has been going up and stated that the
235 lowest bidder was Chemtrade at \$265/dry ton which is considerably higher than their \$209/dry
236 ton non-contract price.

237 He explained that because we are unlike a typical water treatment plant, and our need is
238 dependent on the weather and may be high or low depending on the water flows, it is reflected in
239 the cost.

240 He stated that the options the Board may want to consider include:

- 241 1) Enter into a contract with alum supplier to ensure a steady supply from single vendor and
242 treat as annual budget allows.
- 243 2) Continue to piggyback cost of alum off of other state contracts and treat discharged water
244 from Lake Apopka as annual budget allows and alum and trucking become available to
245 the NuRF.
- 246 3) Look at increasing storage capacity at NuRF to reduce the number of daily truck
247 deliveries, which may affect the cost per dry ton by reducing freight logistics volatility on
248 supplier's side.

249 Dr. Danaher explained that the current storage capacity of liquid alum at the NuRF is Liquid
250 alum 72,000 gallons and at peak flow they use over 40,000 per day. He stated that during peak
251 flow they got 10 to 12 truckloads per day with delivery from 2 am to 10 pm delivery.

252 Ms. Cox asked if Chemtrade would be able to supply that much alum if we are operating around
253 the clock and Dr. Danaher explained that they have the alum, and it is the shortage of truck
254 drivers that drives the price up. He noted that in the contract if they can supply us with the alum
255 needed whether it is because they cannot produce the alum, or they cannot find a freight line to
256 deliver it, they would have to source it from someone else and pay the difference.

257 Mr. Hendrick asked how much is needed at peak flow and Dr. Danaher explained that 40,000
258 gallons allows them to treat flows of 300 cfs for 24 hours. He stated the average flow for the
259 past year was over 150 cfs. Mr. Perry explained that the system was designed based on an
260 annual average at 50 cfs.

261 Vice Chair Maimone asked how long NuRF was not running before Hurricane Irma and Mr.
262 Perry stated that is was approximately four years. Vice Chair Maimone noted that four years
263 would be a long time for a company to sit with a facility with no orders.

264 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
265 **TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER, CHEMTRADE, TO**
266 **SUPPLY, DELIVER AND UNLOAD LIQUID ALUMINUM SULFATE AT NURF FROM**
267 **THEIR FLORIDA-BASED PRODUCTION PLANTS AS ALLOWED BY THE LCWA**
268 **ANNUAL BUDGET.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

269 Attorney Barice asked if this would be an annual contract and Dr. Danaher stated that it would,
270 with the option of annual extensions up to three years.

271 **Motion approved 6-0.**

272 d. NuRF Update

273 Dr. Danaher updated the Board on activities at the NuRF facility.

274 He noted that D&S Steel Inc. had delivered the new stainless-steel alum tank and it has been
275 installed.

276 He stated that the existing 6-inch inflow bollards have been removed because they were damaged
277 due to past flow and past hurricanes and the new 18-inch square bollards have been placed about
278 12 feet into the sediment. He explained that they were then cut to be about 4 foot above water
279 level. He noted that they are 6 foot on center with a gap of approximately 4 1/2 feet and will
280 help to prevent future debris and boaters from getting close to NuRF inflow canals.

281 He explained that Dawson Excavating has completed the pond embankment repairs on both the
282 west and south slopes of the NuRF's east pond and both ponds are full at the moment so there
283 should no longer be a risk of slope failure. He noted that gates and actuators are in working
284 order and ready for any future water flow.

285 Mr. Danaher stated that the Board had previously approved GEA to perform the needed
286 centrifuge maintenance. He stated that all the material dredged from the ponds goes through the
287 centrifuge where it is dewatered and formed into a cake. He explained that the centrifuge is like
288 a big washing machine turned on its side and all the material is spun to the sides and squeezed
289 through the centrifuge with a scroll. He noted that the scroll is about 12 feet in length and
290 weighs about 3,000 pounds.

291 He explained that GEA started performing the general maintenance of repairing the bearings,
292 belts and gaskets that are required after so many hours of service, and once they removed the
293 scroll they found that the ceramic tiles that keeps it balanced had worn down over time and if we
294 were to continue to use the centrifuge under these conditions it could be thrown out of balance,
295 break the shaft and break out of its housing, which could be very dangerous to anyone nearby.

296 He stated that in addition to the wear and tear on the ceramic tiles, the welds for the shaft itself
297 have broken and cracked which could cause the shaft itself to break and spin out of control and
298 cause significant damage.

299 He explained this was discovered just a couple of days earlier and they been discussing possible
300 ways to remedy the situation. He stated that due to the size of our machine and the fact that it is
301 very specialized, you cannot readily purchase or rent another scroll to replace it.

302 He stated that there is the possibility that it can be repaired, but it cannot be repaired on-site. He
303 explained that the scroll will have to be shipped to New Jersey to see if it can be repaired or if it
304 will have to be decommissioned and replaced.

305 Dr. Danaher noted that repairs can be done in New Jersey, but if they must purchase a new scroll
306 the lead time is approximately 30 weeks/7 1/2 months as it will have to be manufactured and
307 shipped from Germany.

308 He stated that they are not sure of the exact cost to repair or purchase at this time, but it could
309 have been catastrophic to the centrifuge itself. He noted that the centrifuge itself costs more than
310 a million dollars, and if the scroll had broken or come apart, it could have easily destroyed the
311 centrifuge and severely injured any nearby employees or students on tour.

312 He explained that he has been talking to the team from GEA regarding estimated costs for repair
313 or replacement and that currently the cost of repair is estimated to be \$75,000 to \$100,000, with
314 the cost of replacement being as high as \$300,000, not including shipping.

315 He explained that he is requesting approval to expend up to \$500,000, to cover any costs without
316 having to come back to the Board, which would mean even further delay. He stated that
317 hopefully it will cost much less than that, with the best scenario being that the scroll can be
318 repaired and back to the NuRF within the next couple of months.

319 Mr. Farner asked how soon they would be able to get the part to New Jersey, so they can give us
320 an estimate of costs and Dr. Danaher replied that he just received the paperwork and he will
321 complete that and get with GEA to see if they can arrange transport to New Jersey since they are
322 familiar with dealing with freight companies. He stated that he doesn't have a time estimate at
323 this time.

324 Mr. Farner and Vice Chair Maimone asked how long they would be able to run the NuRF before
325 they would need the centrifuge.

326 Dr. Danaher stated that currently the east pond would be able to handle current flows for
327 approximately three or four weeks before it is filled to capacity.

328 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she wished that had known this when they were down for slope
329 repair and Dr. Danaher explained that during that time they were still dredging the west pond and
330 using the centrifuge. He stated that the problems were not discovered until GED began
331 maintenance of the machine.

332 Mike noted that during that time the centrifuge appeared to be working normally with no
333 noticeable vibration.

334 Mr. Farner stated the sooner they can get it to New Jersey, and after looking at the scroll, he
335 believes it can be repaired.

336 Mr. Hendrick stated that he agreed they should get it sent to New Jersey but didn't think they
337 should approve any expenditures yet.

338 Vice Chair Maimone stated if they were to find out next week that it can do something, and it is
339 three more weeks before the next Board meeting, they would not be able to make a decision until
340 the Board Meeting.

341 Dr. Danaher stated that once it gets to New Jersey they should be able to let him know quickly if
342 it is repairable. He noted that if it is repairable they should be able to move forward with the
343 repair fairly quickly, and if it is not repairable they need to be able to place an order as quickly as
344 possible.

345 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
346 **PURCHASE OR REPAIR DAMAGED NURF CENTRIFUGE COMPONENTS IN**
347 **TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000; THIS WORK IS TO BE PERFORMED**
348 **BY GEA MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT US (AS SOLE-SOURCE).** Mr. Farner seconded
349 the motion.

350 Mr. Hendrick was concerned about approving the full \$500,000 and suggested approving enough
351 to recover the repair and to bring it back to the Board for approval if they need to order a
352 replacement from Germany.

353 Vice Chair Maimone and Mr. Farner both expressed their concern about adding three more
354 weeks to the process should they need additional funding.

355 Mr. Farner asked how long it takes the empty the ponds once they are filled and Dr. Danaher
356 stated that it takes approximately two months running 24 hours a day once the ponds are filled.

357 In response to a question by Mr. Hendrick, Vice Chair Maimone noted that approving the
358 funding does not tie up the \$500,000 if it is not expended.

359 Ms. Cox stated that she would leave her motion at \$500,000 as stated.

360 Vice Chairman Maimone noted that staff will keep the Board informed as soon as they have any
361 additional information.

362 Attorney Barice stated that it also needed to be sure and put in writing that GEA Mechanical
363 Equipment US is the sole source to cover the procurement policy.

364 **Motion approved 5-1 with Mr. Hendrick in opposition.**

365 e. **Authorization to Release RFP for Lake Yale Sediment Inactivation Project**

366 Dr. Danaher stated that the Water Authority had previously contracted with ERD (Environmental
367 Research and Design) to do a twelve-month study on Lake Yale to determine nutrient inputs
368 from different areas around the lake and what may be occurring within the lake.

369 He explained that based on the data collected ERD was to provide some recommendations on
370 how to improve the water quality in the lake.

371 He stated that what they found through their sampling was that much of the pollution is recycling
372 of phosphorous within the lake itself which results in sub-optimal water quality and is bad for
373 aquatic life and recreational uses.

374 He explained that based on the internal recycling they provided recommendation on how to
375 potentially remove that source of phosphorous. He stated that one of the recommendations was
376 to remove it through dredging, which would be extremely expensive, or by chemical inactivation
377 which is cheaper and may also benefit the lake.

378 Dr. Danaher stated that based on that report, the Board had begun to allocate funding in its
379 annual budget to address this situation and staff would now like to release a request for proposals
380 from qualified vendors for them to offer their strategies, technologies and scope of work to
381 control the internal loading in the lake.

382 He noted that while the report from ERD recommended several solutions, we will not be limiting
383 the RFP to specific physical or chemical inactivation of the phosphorous in the lake.

384 **MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
385 **TO RELEASE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE CONTROL OF INTERNAL**
386 **RECYCLING OF TOTAL PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATIONS PRESENT IN LAKE**
387 **YALE SEDIMENT.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

388 Mr. Farner stated that he was in favor of the motion, but he would also like some more data
389 about the lake such as Secchi depth, water clarity, etc.

390 **Motion approved 6-0.**

391 **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

392 Erica Viskup stated that she lives on Tammi Drive and her house is the fourth house off of the
393 Apopka/Beauclair Canal. She showed a picture of the property across the canal from her home
394 and stated that this area is where the leaves and twigs in the canal have come from. She showed
395 a video from July 10 of 2018 and stated that it showed sediment traveling into the canal from the
396 NuRF and the Apopka/Beauclair Canal, a full year after Hurricane Irma.

397 She stated that the canal is full of nine feet of muck with only two and a half feet of water above
398 the muck. She stated that when the water levels go down, there will be no water.

399 She asked why the Water Authority has only completed core samples of the Apopka/Beauclair
400 Canal and haven't done any of the Tammi Canal.

401 Linda Moss of Tammi Drive and the Lake Jem Clean Water Project addressed the Board and
402 read her notes from the February 2018 Water Authority Board Meeting stating that there was no
403 storage capacity left in the ponds and staff can't remove the floc. She stated they had exceeded
404 any ability to keep the floc within the ponds and NuRF and are discharging alum downstream.

405 She stated that the Board had discussions month after month on how to empty the ponds, and in
406 June of 2018 Mr. Hart stated that the ponds were full, and the sediment is discharging out the
407 pipes. She stated that in August 2018 the Water Authority proposed to St. Johns River Water
408 Management that they take the sediment from the ponds and dispose of them at Cells F and G
409 and the District asked for the sediment to be analyzed before they would approve the disposal.

410 She stated that Lance Lombard contacted the Army Corp of Engineers and the Department of
411 Environmental Protection and their concerns over organochlorides, pesticides and avian
412 botulism. She stated that the Water Authority decided to wait and not do the testing at that time
413 to dispose of the sediment at Cells F and G.

414 She stated that she had pictures showing the removal of the east pond gate and stated that the
415 entire contents of the nine-acre pond then drained into the Apopka-Beauclair Canal and ran into
416 residential canals. She stated that it came out of their sprinklers and onto their lawns and shrubs
417 and made them all sick.

418 She stated that environmental attorneys say that whether the gate came up by itself, was taken off
419 or was broken makes no difference and the Lake County Water Authority is at fault for putting
420 the toxic material downstream into their canals and Lake Beauclair.

421 Linda Moss requested that the Water Authority please dredge their canals, or she would have to
422 have an attorney ask.

423 f. Authorization to Expend Budgeted Funds for Hydrilla Control In the Harris Chain of
424 Lakes

425 Mr. Perry reported to the Board that FWC has placed a state-wide pause on hydrilla treatment, in
426 order to hold public meetings to hear from people around the state regarding their concerns and
427 wishes regarding hydrilla.

428 He stated that he had recently attended the public meetings in Gaineville, Astor and Eustis. He
429 noted that the Gainesville meeting was mostly about south Florida, water lettuce and floating
430 vegetation.

431 He stated that during the meetings a lot of fisherman expressed their opinions on how the
432 hydrilla makes good habitat for fish and is good for fishing and many duck hunters were also in
433 favor of the cover that it provides for duck hunting. He noted that they also heard from
434 fishermen who didn't like the growth of hydrilla in the lakes.

435 Mr. Perry stated that, after attending the last couple of meetings, he feels that FWC is going to
436 continue with hydrilla management, but with possible changes to their management practices.

437 He stated that in addressing the FWC, he had asked them to please restart hydrilla management
438 in the Harris Chain, even if they continue with the pause in treatment in the south Florida region.

439 Mr. Perry explained that the memo was written before FWC had imposed the pause on hydrilla
440 treatment, with the hope of working with them to provide additional treatment.

441 He stated that there are very few tools to handle the hydrilla problem in the Harris Chain and
442 from his experience, harvestors are non-selective, scooping up whatever plants and animals are
443 in front of them, and historically the use of harvestors has been much more expensive than
444 herbicides.

445 Mr. Perry stated that when he wrote the memo he was expecting to ask for authorization to
446 expend the budgeted funding but currently there is a imposed pause on hydrilla treatment,
447 although that could change at any time.

448 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she is wondering how they plan on rounding up all the little
449 pieces of hydrilla as it breaks really easy and each piece is able to propagate and grow, which
450 spreads the growth of hydrilla. She stated she doesn't know any technical advances of mechanical
451 harvestors would be able to address that.

452 Ms. Stokes stated that there were specific things they mentioned that didn't make her
453 comfortable and that she is not confident in their ability to gather the little cuttings of hydrilla.
454 She noted that from her experience harvesting spreads the growth of hydrilla. She stated that it
455 would be interesting to see if the mechanical harvester contractors can back their claims up with
456 any data.

457 Mr. Farner stated that the use of harvestors is usually the last resort to cut paths for people to get
458 out and use the lakes and means they have given up on any control.

459 Vice Chair Maimone stated that one person has drowned so far when he jumped in the lake to
460 clear his prop and became entangled in the hydrilla.

461 Ms. Stokes stated that she had attended the Eustis public meeting and that a lot of the comments
462 from people were about the use of chemicals, with many falsehoods and misunderstandings
463 about the chemicals used. She stated that chemical control is the best way to control hydrilla and
464 is backed by data. She stated that there are very stringent controls on the types of chemicals that
465 can be used and they have been thoroughly tested to be proven safe.

466 Ms. Cox stated that hydrilla completely ruins a lakes eco-system and that mechanical harvesting
467 is not effective in the control of hydrilla.

468 Mr. Farner stated that they've all determined that harvesting is ineffective and noted that our
469 local state Legislatures are in agreement with the Water Authority's stance on controlling
470 hydrilla.

471 He also noted that he has been reading legislation regarding the control of invasive plants and
472 explained that the Army Corp of Engineers also has a legislative responsibility, and so, might
473 provide another path for obtaining federal money to help in the control of hydrilla.

474 Mr. Farner stated that they need to find out when and where the FWC Board/Council meets and
475 write them letters as a Board and as individuals voicing our concerns.

476 Vice Chair Maimone also noted that FWC also has a specific address email for voicing opinions
477 regarding invasive plan management.

478 Ms. Cox asked Mr. Perry if Lake County Tourism is aware of the issue and Mr. Perry stated that
479 Lake County Tourism is holding back and watching other people take the lead at this time. Ms.
480 Cox noted that if the hydrilla problem doesn't get under control it will eventually effect the
481 fishermen.

482 Vice Chair Maimone stated that hydrilla can spread from lake to lake if any is left on a boat
483 motor, etc. and if it is introduced to a small non-chain lake it would quickly take over the lake
484 and destroy its eco-system.

485 The Board instructed Mr. Perry to get with FWC and make sure their Commissioners understand
486 the Water Authority's stance and concern regarding hydrilla and encourage them to lift the pause
487 on treatment at least in Lake County.

488 They also instructed him to speak with Lake County's Department of Development and Tourism
489 regarding the possibility of additional funding through their department for the control of
490 hydrilla.

491 The Board also suggested that Mr. Perry talk to mechanical harvesting companies regarding their
492 current technologies and techniques.

493 Mr. Perry noted that while out on Lake Harris he has found hydrilla in the middle of Lake Harris
494 near The Hideaway and Long Island in 12 ½ feet of water and the hydrilla is less than a foot
495 from the surface.

496 He stated that FWC spent a lot of time and effort on treating Little Lake Harris this past year and
497 that he was hoping to speak to Nathalie Visscher sometime this week to see how effective the
498 treatments were on the hydrilla.

499 g. Authorization to Release Green Landings Boardwalk RFB

500 Ms. Burgos explained that the Boardwalk at Green Landing had been approved previously, but
501 due to changes in the Board, expenses and other priorities, she wanted to get the Board's
502 direction as to whether they want to do anything at the Green Landing at this time.

503 She informed Mr. Farner that she is still waiting to hear if the Green Foundation wants to hold a
504 sign unveiling and the location.

505 She explained that the 194 acre Bear Track Preserve was donated to the Water Authority in 1999
506 and 2001 and the smaller adjacent area was purchased in 2017. She noted that the Water
507 Authority has a Special Use Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District for the
508 last 20 years or more to manage the camping and canoeing at the nearby Lake Norris Preserve.

509 She explained that the Board and staff has been looking at the possibility of putting in a
510 boardwalk and canoe and kayak launch at the Green Landing portion of the Bear Track preserve
511 and she wanted to know if the Board is interested in doing anything at this time.

512 She stated that the boardwalk would be have to be approximately 300 feet long across the
513 wetlands and would cost approximately \$80,000.

514 After a brief discussion, it was decided not to do anything at this time.

515 **7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT**

516 Attorney Barice stated that she had nothing new to report.

517 **8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

518 Mr. Farner stated that he had been out to NuRF within the last few days and that it is looking
519 greatly improved. He suggested that with the warm weather and sunshine, that staff who work
520 out in the sun be provided with pith helmets or other headgear to reduce exposure to the sun.

521 Ms. Cox stated that she hasn't seen any signs of hydrilla in the Clermont Chain yet, but there was
522 small problem with algae for a while. She also informed the Board that the permitting has been
523 submitted for the new boat ramp in Clermont. She stated that hopefully it will be completed by
524 the end of summer and once it's completed it will have double the capacity of the old boat ramp.

525 Mr. Bonjorn stated he feels even more concerned about the hydrilla issue after attending the
526 FWC meeting and stated that the Water Authority needs to do everything it can do to educate the
527 public.

528 There was discussion as to whether there is signage at the boat ramps around Lake County
529 warning about transferring invasive vegetation between the lakes. It was noted that we need to
530 do everything we can do to educate the public.

531 Mr. Farner stated that maybe when they do decide to expend some of the hydrilla funds that
532 might be something they could do.

533 Ms. Cox stated that they needed some kind of educational handout that they could had out at
534 Earth Day events and other events that the Water Authority attends.

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

536 None

537 **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 538 a. Staff Reports
- 539 b. Monthly Financial Reports – January 2019

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

- 541 - Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 27, 2019 (3:30 pm)
- 542 BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

543 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

544 The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.