

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
April 24, 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, April 24, 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)
6 Carolyn Maimone, Vice Chair (#3)
7 Trampis BonJorn (#2)
8 Peggy Cox (#1)
9 Keith Farner (At-Large)
10 Butch Hendrick (#4)
11 Courtney Stokes (At-Large)

Michael J. Perry, Executive Director
Ron Hart, Water Resources Director
Dr. Jason Danaher, Water Res. Project Manager
Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director
Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager
Patricia Burgos, Environmental Projects Director
Christina Rider, Administrative Services Manager
Anna Ely, Recording Secretary
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 3:30 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of
18 Allegiance.

19 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 27, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING**

20 **MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE**
21 **COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE MARCH 27, 2019 - REGULAR**
22 **MEETING.** Vice Chair Maimone seconded the motion.

23 **Motion approved 7-0.**

24 **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

25 Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall reports. He stated that
26 March was a very dry month and currently rainfall is almost three inches shy of where it ought to
27 be this time of year. He stated that this is about 65% of the expected year-to-date rainfall.

28 He noted that when last Friday's rainfall came through, Lake Apopka popped up to the
29 maximum desirable and the District has been sending water over the spillway on the Apopka-
30 Beauclair Canal at over 300 cfs. He noted that the lake is now almost down to minimum
31 desirable.

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- 32 He stated that the flow through Burrell Lock and Dam is currently at 18 cfs.
- 33 He reported that on the Clermont Chain stating that the flows from Big and Little Creeks have
34 been declining since March, but bumped up a bit with last Friday's rain, and are back down
35 again.
- 36 He stated that we could anticipate some rainfall as fronts pass through and stated that the rainy
37 season starts in June. He noted that Cherry Lake Dam has been closed since March.
- 38 Mr. Hendrick asked about the recent flow of 300 cfs over the spillway from Lake Apopka and
39 Mr. Perry stated that it was at 300 cfs for a short time. He noted that no water is being treated by
40 NuRF at this time and all water is going over the spillway.
- 41 Mr. Perry informed the Board that originally the repair to the centrifuge was expected to be
42 completed sometime in July, but Dr. Danaher had spoken to the contractor explaining the
43 urgency of the situation and they have agreed to have repairs completed by June 2nd. He noted
44 that once the repairs have been completed, the part then must be shipped to us and installed.
- 45 Mr. Perry also reported that the pond roadway work has been completed and noted that the
46 yearly cleaning and coating of the storage tank is expected to be completed shortly.
- 47 He informed the Board that Hickory Point staff has been working on replacing the lights
48 throughout the park with LED lights. He noted that Beach and Boat Ramp bathroom lights area
49 have also be replaced. He stated that this has all been done in-house by Travis Snow and Daniel
50 Kewharding and has saved the Agency approximately \$20,000. He also stated that the new
51 lights are providing much brighter with fewer fixtures and hopefully will also save on electricity.
- 52 Mr. Perry also informed the Board that he had provided each of them a packet with Nathalie's
53 schedule for treatment with information on the location, acreage and chemicals. He explained
54 that she intends to start on Lake Dora first near the City of Mt. Dora boat ramps and then the
55 western side of Lake Harris and Singletary Park.
- 56 He stated that other areas to be treated are the Lane Park Cove near the Hideaway, the southern
57 end of Lake Eustis, Herlong Park on Lake Griffin, Marsh Park on Lake Yale and approximately
58 100 acres at the mouth of Lake Beauclair and the A/B Canal.
- 59 He explained that FWC is providing some additional funding and which will provide for
60 additional treatment areas on Lake Harris on the other side of Long Island near the Hideaway
61 and portions of the Dead River Canal.
- 62 He noted that Ms. Visscher is hoping to have all treatment completed within the next month
63 before the weather gets too warm.
- 64 Mr. Perry informed the Board that Lake County will be providing the labor at no cost and stated
65 that he had thanked the Lake County Board of County Commissioners at their Board Meeting
66 yesterday.

67 He stated that previously the Board had asked whether there were signs at the public boat ramps
68 regarding the transference of hydrilla between lakes. He noted that there are signs at Herlong
69 Park and Venetian Garden in Leesburg, but they are old signs by FL Dept. of Natural Resources
70 (which is no longer in existence) in among a jumble of other signs.

71 He stated that there are no signs at the Hickory Point boat ramps, and staff is looking into putting
72 something together. He explained that while they can have them done at the Lake County Sign
73 Shop, they are not able to do graphics. He stated that it needs to be a sign that is large enough to
74 get boaters attention and with the right verbiage.

75 Chairman Stone suggested that they look into using a different vendor and Vice Chair Maimone
76 was in agreement. Ms. Cox suggested having the signs a different color than white, such as a
77 green sign with words in white.

78 Mr. Farner stated that he thought there might be a state statute making it illegal to transport
79 invasive plants between lakes, and if so he would like to see the statute number and penalties on
80 the signs.

81 Vice Chair Maimone suggested a cleaning station near the boat launch area of Hickory Point so
82 that boats could be cleaned off before leaving the park.

83 Mr. Perry suggested that the staging area might be a possible location. He stated that it would
84 need to be somewhere visible and accessible where the water wouldn't run back into the lake
85 with any invasive plants. He suggested the possible placement of signs directing boaters to the
86 cleaning station.

87 Mr. Perry also informed the Board that in cooperation with FWC, green underwater lights have
88 been installed at the Hickory Point fishing pier and are up and operating. He stated that Hickory
89 Point is the only public fishing facility in Florida to have submerged lighting.

90 Mr. Farner asked about having a Press Announcement regarding the new lighting and Mr. Perry
91 stated that could be done once they are sure everything is up and running as it should.

92 Mr. Perry noted that Ms. Stokes has a scheduling conflict with the date of the July Budget
93 Workshop and he asked the Board about choosing another date that would work for everyone.
94 He explained that there is no set date that the meeting needs to be held by and the only thing
95 required for July is to set the tentative millage at the Regular Board Meeting later in the month.

96 After a bit of discussion, it was decided to hold the Budget Workshop on Wednesday, July 17th
97 at 11 am in the Lake County Water Authority Office Conference Room.

98 Ben Garcia addressed to the Board and gave a brief presentation regarding the new website
99 update. He showed a screenshot of the current website, the first redesign that was suggested and
100 a peek at the final design.

101 **4. CONSENT ITEMS**

102 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT**
103 **AGENDA.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

104 **Motion approved 7-0.**

105 a. Approval to Remove Sediment from NuRF Outfall Canal

106 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH**
107 **DAWSON EXCAVATING, LLC, AS A RESTRICTED SOURCE, TO REMOVE**
108 **AQUATIC VEGETATION AND SOFT SEDIMENTS FROM NURF OUTFALL CANAL**
109 **FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000.**

110 b. Revision to Structure Operations Manual Clarifying Target Elevation for Clermont Chain
111 of Lakes

112 **REVISE THE PALATLAKAHA RIVER DAM OPERATION MANUAL TO SPECIFY**
113 **THE 97.0 FT. MSL LAKE LEVEL AS A FORMALIZED TARGET ELEVATION AND**
114 **DIRECT CURRENT AND FUTURE STAFF TO MAINTAIN THE CLERMONT CHAIN**
115 **AT THE UPPER END OF THE REGULATORY RANGE.**

116 c. Authorization to Transfer Funds for Sabal Bluff Improvements

117 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSFER \$100,000 FROM**
118 **9898720-860630 SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO 9898720-830460 REPAIRS AND**
119 **MAINTENANCE FOR SABAL BLUFF PRESERVE RESTORATION AND**
120 **MAINTENANCE.**

121 **5. REGULAR AGENDA**

122 a. Attorney RFQ Short List Interviews

123 Mr. Perry informed the Board that a representative from each of the law firms, Bowen, Schroth,
124 Mazonko and Broome, P.A., Crawford, Modica & Holt and Stone & Gerken, P.A. were in
125 attendance to make their presentations to the Board. It was decided that presentations would be
126 made alphabetically by the firm's name.

127 Zack Broome of Bowen, Schroth, Mazonko and Broome, P.A. addressed the Board and stated
128 that that his primary practice areas are business and land use, but he also does contractual work,
129 litigation and government work. He noted that Agency represents the Sheriff's office as well as
130 the Town of Astatula, City of Eustis and the Town of Lady Lake. He stated that the represent the
131 City of Tampa as a Special Magistrate in land use matters.

132 He stated that their office has eleven attorneys, which makes them the largest law firm in Lake
133 County, and they also handle everything from estate planning, trust work and bankruptcy. All
134 types of legal needs.

135 He stated that he primarily does land use and business and he thinks he would be a great fit for
136 the Water Authority, noting that he studied environmental and land use law at UF.

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137 Ms. Cox stated that she understands that he has been admitted to practice in front of the US
138 District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the US Court of Appeals for the 11th
139 Circuit, and Mr. Broome confirmed that information.

140 She also asked whether their rate would be still be \$175 per hour with no charge for travel and
141 Mr. Broome stated that it would.

142 Mr. Hendrick asked if he would be the person to attend the Water Authority Board meetings and
143 Mr. Broome stated that he would be the primary council, with Mr. Schroth as his back up.

144 Jimmy Crawford with Crawford, Modica & Holt addressed the Board and stated that he has been
145 an attorney in Lake County for 25 years. He explained that he has been practicing land use and
146 environmental law the entirety of his career as an attorney.

147 He stated that his Under Graduate Degree was in Forestry and he practiced forestry in the south
148 before going back to law school. He stated that he went back to law school because he was
149 intrigued by the lack of regulations on the cutting of timber. He stated that he attended Lewis
150 and Clark University which at that time was the number one rated Environmental Law School in
151 the country and received his degree in Environmental Land Use Law.

152 He explained that he then moved to Florida and practiced Environmental Law and in 1994 he
153 moved to Lake County to practice Land Use Law. He stated that has been the attorney for
154 several governmental agencies including the Lake County Water Authority.

155 He introduced his para-legal Jennifer Koch and stated that they would come as a team. He stated
156 that she is his Administrative Assistance and right-hand person for everything.

157 Ms. Koch addressed the Board and stated that she graduated Stetson University with a bachelor's
158 in environmental science and political science. She stated that she had previously worked for
159 DEP in their State Lands and Environmental Resource Permitting for approximately five years.
160 She stated that she worked with Nathalie Visscher while at DEP.

161 She stated that she has also worked for Lake County as an Environmental Specialist and Planner
162 in the Planning Department before moving to the private sector and the legal side of it. She
163 stated that she has been a para-legal for Mr. Crawford for about two years.

164 Mr. Crawford stated that while his rate is at \$200 per hour versus \$175 of some of his
165 competition, he and Ms. Koch come as a team with his rate being \$200 and hers being \$125 and
166 she can be doing a lot of the work that an attorney would be doing if they don't have a specially
167 trained para-legal planner with them. He stated that they will also be adding an associate this
168 summer whose rate will be at \$150, and he believes that their blended rate should be less than
169 their competitors.

170 He stated that he felt the that during the years he was with the Lake County Water Authority they
171 were able to have some good accomplishments. He stated the Water Authority and Lake County
172 had sued Polk County and got a successful settlement that stopped water diversion from Lake
173 Lowery which was preventing water from coming into Big and Little Creek which was causing
174 the Clermont Chain to suffer.

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175 He stated that they also successfully defended a challenge by then Lake County Property
176 Appraiser Ed Havill to the Water Authority's Tax-Exempt Status as operating outside of our
177 enabling legislature. He stated that this was won at the trial level and was not appealed.

178 Mr. Crawford stated that they handled two different bid protests successfully without extended
179 litigation and also handled the approval, design and construction of the NuRF project.

180 He noted that it was an immensely satisfying time in his practice and he would love to come
181 back again. It was noted that he was the attorney for the Water Authority for close to eight
182 years.

183 He stated that if at all possible they try to reach a settlement without litigation, but if they have to
184 go to litigation they can.

185 Kevin Stone with Stone & Gerken, P.A. and stated that although their last names are the same,
186 he was no relation to Chairman Stone. He stated that his firm consists of six attorneys and they
187 represent several local governments and special districts. He noted that he is a Board-Certified
188 Local Government Lawyer.

189 He introduced Francesca Marcus and explained that she recently joined their firm as a lawyer
190 and has a master's degree in LOM, which is an enhanced law degree in environmental law.

191 Mr. Stone that the culture on their law firm is that they want to prevent problems before they
192 happen rather than having to solve problems. He noted that while he doesn't know what the
193 Water Authority's legal budget is but between 2018 and 2019 he saw a line item go from
194 \$60,000 to \$110,000, and if a lot of that is legal, it shouldn't be increasing at such a rate.

195 He stated that he was introduced to conservation efforts at an early age, as his parents were part
196 of volunteers helping to insure the protection of a local river. He stated that you have to solve
197 the issues of protection of local resources before any issue even starts and this carries over into
198 his legal philosophy of solving problems before they become a problem.

199 He noted that the Water Authority staff can't do their jobs if they are worried about internal and
200 external politics and legislation they don't understand, and if you don't have your lawyer solving
201 your problems before they become problems. He stated that he wants the Agency to be able to
202 flourish without those distractions.

203 Ms. Cox asked how long Stone and Gherkin been practicing in Lake County and Mr. Stone
204 explained that the Stone and Gherkin was formed in 1992 with Lewis Stone being their longest
205 practicing attorney as he has been practicing since 1981.

206 It was noted that Francesca Marcus has a master's degree in LOM (environmental law) which is
207 a degree you get after getting your law degree.

208 Mr. Hendrick asked who from the firm would be representing the Water Authority and Mr. Stone
209 stated that he would, but if he were absent it would be Lewis Stone or Scott Gherkin, both of
210 whom have substantial experience with municipalities and special districts.

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211 Mr. Perry stated that the Board has heard from the three firms they requested to hear from and it
212 is now up to them to make a decision as to which firm or whether to go back out to look at
213 others.

214 *The representatives of the three firms left the meeting.*

215 Mr. Farner asked when is Attorney Barice's contract was up and it was noted that her contract
216 was up at the end of September and/or sixty days from notice. He stated that since Mr. Crawford
217 has been the Water Authority's attorney in the past and is familiar with what the Water Authority
218 does, he believes that it gives him a leg up on the other two agencies, although they all seem to
219 be good attorneys.

220 Ms. Stone noted that Stone and Gherkin now has Ms. Marcus on staff with her expertise in
221 environmental law. It was noted that Ms. Marcus is an associate with the firm which would
222 make her rate less than Mr. Stone's rate of \$225.

223 Ms. Cox stated that she thought Stone and Gherkin's rate was probably negotiable. She stated
224 that while she likes Mr. Crawford, she is inclined to bring someone new in to move the Agency
225 into the future. Mr. Hendrick stated that he agreed with Ms. Cox.

226 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she personally thought any of the three firms would do a good
227 job for the Water Authority. She stated that while she thinks Mr. Crawford is a great guy she
228 agreed that they should bring in someone new. She also noted both the other firms are located
229 closer than Mr. Crawford's firm.

230 Mr. Hendrick stated that he likes Stone and Gherkin and feels that Ms. Marcus comes highly
231 qualified and would be nice to have her to go to for reference.

232 Mr. BonJorn stated that he was leaning toward Mr. Crawford because he thought Mr. Crawford's
233 experience with the Water Authority brought some value. He stated that any of the three firms
234 would be great.

235 Mr. Farner stated that the Water Authority is not trying to reinvent the wheel and noted that the
236 legally things are going to be pretty consistent in the future as they were in the past. He stated
237 that he would defend Mr. Crawford and his firm and noted that he has been in Lake County for
238 25 years and knows lots of people. He stated that a lot of the work involved would be
239 negotiating and knowing people and how to get things done. He noted that they shouldn't rule
240 him out just because he worked for the Agency in the past and just because he did a great job in
241 the past does not mean he won't do so again in the future.

242 Ms. Cox noted that the other law firms have been around quite a while too. Vice Chair Maimone
243 noted that unfortunately they can't hire all three firms and they were going to have to bring their
244 choice down to one firm.

245 Mr. Hendrick stated that in talking to our local legislatures, one of them leans more toward Stone
246 and Gherkin.

247 Ms. Cox noted that Bowen and Schroth are certified to practice in front of the Court of Appeals
248 and US District Court and it was noted that probably is something all three firms are certified to
249 do.

250 **MR. HENDRICK MADE A MOTION TO HIRE STONE AND GHERKIN AND**
251 **NEGOTIATE THE HOURLY RATE DOWN.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

252 Chairman Stone stated that Kevin Stone is a reputable attorney and doesn't mine for work.

253 **Motion approved 7-0.**

254 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE MOTION TO GIVE 60-DAY NOTICE FROM THE**
255 **END OF THE MONTH TO OUR ATTORNEY.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion.

256 **Motion approved 5-2 with Mr. Farner and Ms. Cox in opposition.**

257 b. Status of Lake Denham - Phase II Environmental Assessment

258 Mr. Hart stated that since last month he and Mr. Perry had met with representatives from the
259 Central District of DEP and they had stated that they did not foresee that their agency would
260 require any cleanup on the site based on the levels of contaminants on the site and the planned
261 usage of the Lake Denham property.

262 He noted that they did recommend that we speak with the Tallahassee DEP office as they have
263 staff there that are more knowledgeable regarding pesticide contamination and they could
264 provide a better recommendation as to whether we should move forward or not with the
265 additional Phase II Analysis.

266 He stated that around 5pm yesterday he received a letter from DEP in Tallahassee which stated
267 that there were portions of the additional analysis that they do not feel are necessary and can be
268 eliminated, but they are also recommending that we increase some of the sampling around the
269 sites where there is the presence of some contaminants. He explained that they are suggesting
270 that the testing areas in those locations be expanded in size and they also suggested a vertical
271 profile be done to determine the depth of the contaminants.

272 He explained that he has not been able to get exact price from the consulting firm for the
273 additional testing as the person who handles that is on vacation. He noted that these changes are
274 reflected in a revised recommendation to the Board, so that they can continue to move forward
275 between now and next month with a new negotiated sampling cost.

276 Mr. Hart stated that he also wanted to address some comments that came up last month
277 comparing the Lake Denham property to Lake Apopka.

278 He showed a comparison chart of the analysis of the Lake Denham Property and the Apopka
279 Muck Farm sediments and noted that the chemicals that mostly responsible for the harmful
280 effects on wildlife, bird and fish were at a minimum of 200 times higher in concentration than
281 any of the sites at Lake Denham. He noted that in some locations, the Lake Apopka numbers are
282 over 13,000 times higher in concentration than any of the sites on Lake Denham.

283 He stated that you can't use the data from the Lake Apopka site to elicit concern about the Lake
284 Denham when you don't have the data.

285 Ms. Cox asked when the Lake Apopka data was taken, and Mr. Hart explained that the data was
286 collected right after the bird kills when the District had dried out the site. He stated that he
287 doesn't have the data from any initial sampling that might have been done before they began
288 restoration.

289 He explained that some of the issues involving toxaphene were because it was not known what
290 potential effects it could have bird or aquatic life because there weren't any prior case studies at
291 that time to show those impacts. He noted that the bird deaths were not just related to the
292 presence of toxaphene, but to a whole mix of pesticides that were used on the site.

293 Mr. Farner stated that he felt the Water Authority is exercising the due diligence that we should
294 and that there is no comparison between Lake Apopka and Lake Denham, but at the same time
295 we are doing everything to make sure we are making the right decisions.

296 He asked about the type and depth of the samples on Lake Denham and Mr. Hart explained that
297 some of them are ground water table testing and some are soil borings that are fairly shallow. He
298 explained but what they don't know is what is a lot further down and stated that there is probably
299 not much further down because there is not a lot of peat deposits left and the pesticides tend to
300 attach to organic sediments and are more likely to be right at the surface. He noted that it was in
301 the top layer of organic sediment that all the pesticides, etc. were found on Lake Apopka.

302 He explained that we are getting close to the critical window where if we don't start moving
303 toward being prepared to close, our contract will expire. He noted that the contract expires at the
304 end of October and he hates to postpone things such as surveys when you don't know how long
305 it is going to take to survey a large piece of wetlands.

306 Mr. Hendrick asked if they were only going to test the hot spots and Mr. Hart stated that is the
307 intent based on the recommendation from DEP to focus on those areas to determine the size and
308 scale and insure that there is not a greater concentrated area off to the side.

309 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE**
310 **DIRECTOR TO REVISE AND EXECUTE AN ADDITIONAL PHASE II**
311 **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WITH AEROSTAR SES ON LAKE DENHAM**
312 **MUCK FARM FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.** Ms. Cox seconded the
313 motion.

314 **Approved 7-0**

315 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTE**
316 **DIRECTOR TO SOLICIT QUOTES FOR A SURVEY ON THE LAKE DENHAM**
317 **MUCK FARM.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

318 Attorney Barice stated that they need to be sure they comply with the competitive quotes act and
319 Mr. Hart stated that this is the same contract the Agency has been using for years, which does
320 comply.

321 Vice Chair Maimone stated that the Executive Director knows what needs to be done.

322 **Motion approved 7-0.**

323 c. Review of Annual Report and Five-Year Plan

324 Mr. Perry stated that a copy of the Annual Report and Five-Year Plan had been included in their
325 packet. He explained that it is a requirement by law that this report is done each year and sent to
326 the appropriate legislatures and elected officials.

327 He explained that now would be the time to make any comments or suggest any changes to the
328 report, or they could approve the report as presented.

329 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE**
330 **DIRECTOR TO TRANSMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO**
331 **THE SENATE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, THE LEGISLATIVE**
332 **DELEGATION AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
333 **GUIDING LEGISLATION.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

334 **Motion approved 7-0.**

335 d. Revision of Board Personnel Manual Regarding Firearms

336 Mr. Perry stated that last month they talked about the revisions to the Board's policy related to
337 staff's ability to carry concealed weapons on Water Authority property. He explained that the
338 County currently made some changes to their policy and the Board authorized him to make the
339 same changes to the Water Authority policy and bring it back to the Board for approval.

340 Ms. Cox stated that she was under the assumption that provisions b and c would allow an
341 employee to carry a concealed weapon in our office, and Mr. Farner stated that he wants staff to
342 be able to carry in the office.

343 Mr. Perry stated that there would be no restrictions placed on location if the employee complies
344 with state statutes.

345 **VICE CHAIR MAIMONE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE REVISIONS TO THE**
346 **SECTION 5 OF THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES EMPLOYEE MANUAL**
347 **REGARDING POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OR FIREARMS.** Mr. Hendrick seconded the
348 motion.

349 Mr. Farner stated that he wants staff to be able to protect themselves should the need arise, and
350 Chairman Stone noted that there have recent instances at the office.

351 Mr. Perry explained that in the last couple of weeks there have been two separated instances
352 where visitors to the office were verbally abusive to office staff and staff didn't feel safe. He
353 noted that Mr. Hart was able to diffuse one situation, but one altercation could not be diffused
354 and necessitated the calling of the Sheriff's office. He explained in that instance the person was
355 issued a No Trespass Warning.

356 Vice Chair Maimone stated that if the public knows that staff is allowed to conceal carry they
357 may be less likely to try to intimidate staff and cause trouble. Mr. Farner stated that this is a
358 good idea. He stated that wants to keep staff safe and wants them to be able to protect
359 themselves.

360 **Motion approved 6-1 with Ms. Cox in opposition.**

361 **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

362 Vance Jochim addressed the Board and stated that Mr. Perry had given a good presentation at the
363 Lake County Board Meeting with facts that he has never heard before and the fact that no one
364 has been tracking broken sewer lines. He stated he would recommend that the Water Authority
365 track that type of thing also.

366 He stated that FWC had recently held a public stakeholders meeting on hydrilla in Tavares. He
367 noted that Mr. Perry was in attendance and questioned why no Board Members had attended. He
368 stated that he felt they should have been there.

369 Mr. Jochim stated that it was his opinion that the Water Authority should get back to focusing on
370 water quality issues and get out of running Hickory Point Park and transfer it to Lake County.
371 He stated that the Board should do the same with the 7,000 acres of preserves the Agency owns
372 and transfer them to the County.

373 He also stated that he would recommend that the full agenda with all the back-up documentation
374 be posted to the website, and not just the summary. He also suggested that the agenda tabs have
375 the corresponding page numbers to the staff reports.

376 Ms. Cox stated that much of the property owned by the Water Authority are wetlands and many
377 were donated to the Agency to keep the property undeveloped and protect the adjacent lakes.
378 She stated that when growth runs right up to any body of water there is a threat to the quality of
379 the waterbody.

380 She stated that she doesn't think the County does a good job of it managing the lands they
381 already have and that she wanted Mr. Jochim to understand why we have some of the properties.

382 Mr. Perry stated that any time the Board chooses to purchase property it is to protect adjacent or
383 nearby water bodies.

384 It was noted that the Water Authority was in land acquisition to protect quality of the water
385 bodies in Lake County way before Lake County ever recognized the need. It was stated that
386 Hickory Point is a waterfront park that was specifically designed for effectively launching
387 fishing tournaments.

388 Mr. Farner stated that Hickory Point is the jewel in the crown of the Water Authority and Lake
389 County.

390 Susan Fetter addressed the Board and stated that she just wanted to the let the Board that she has
391 submitted her application for a position on the St. Johns River Water Management Board.

392 Mr. Jochim stated that he had looked into the application process and felt that it is an extremely
393 convoluted process in order to find out about Board vacancies and how to go about applying. He
394 stated that he has created a how-to video of the process and put it on his YouTube channel.

395 **7. LEGAL STAFF REPORT**

396 Attorney Barice stated that she had nothing new to report and that it has been an honor to
397 represent the Water Authority the last 10 years.

398 **8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

399 Mr. Hendrick thanked staff for tour the tour of Lake Apopka and Ms. Stokes stated that she was
400 glad to see hydrilla treatments being scheduled.

401 Chairman Stone stated that she will not be at the June meeting and Vice Chair Maimone stated
402 that she will not be at the May meeting.

403 Mr. BonJorn asked if they could set the level for the Clermont Chain to the original 97.10 msl
404 instead of just 97 msl and it was noted that the level had already been approved on the consent
405 agenda at 97 msl.

406 He also asked that staff inform the Board any time we start letting water out through the Cherry
407 Lake Dam, so they can be prepared when the public calls with questions.

408 Ms. Cox stated that while they can try to keep the lake at that level, it is still a natural system and
409 there will be some variance.

410 Mr. Perry stated that the manual was created to provide clarification for future staff and Board
411 Members. He noted that the Water Authority operates the Clermont Chain of Lakes structures
412 and the St. Johns River Water Management District operates the Harris Chain of Lakes
413 structures.

414 Mr. Farner requested to have a presentation at a future meeting on managing the lakes levels in
415 the Clermont Chain.

416 Vice Chair Maimone noted that the consent agenda has already been approved as is. She stated
417 that once the staff gives their presentation, then the Board can decide if they want to make any
418 changes.

419 Mr. Hendrick asked about the scheduled hydrilla treatment in the private canal locations and Mr.
420 Perry stated that those are being funded by FWC, not with the money provided by the Water
421 Authority.

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

423 None

424 **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 425 a. Staff Reports
- 426 b. Monthly Financial Reports – March 2019

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

- 428 - Board Meeting - Wednesday, May 22, 2019 (3:30 pm)
- 429 BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

430 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

431 The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

DRAFT