

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
June 26, 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, June 26, 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 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 Farnar (At-Large)

Biago Gugliotti, Land Resources Director

9 Courtney Stokes (At-Large)

Ben Garcia, Office/IT Manager

10 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 3:30 p.m. and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of
18 Allegiance.

19 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 22, 2019 - REGULAR MEETING**

20 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAKE**
21 **COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE MAY 22, 2019 - REGULAR**
22 **MEETING.**Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

23 **Motion approved 5-0.**

24 **REGULAR AGENDA:**

25 a. **BCC Request to the USACOE for Study of Flood Risk Management in the North**
26 **Palatlahaha River Basin**

27 Commissioner Tim Sullivan addressed the Board and explained that during the hurricanes he and
28 Public Works were getting numerous phone calls regarding flooded ditches within his
29 jurisdiction (District 1).

30 He explained that the County completed a survey of everything that they were in control of
31 (ditches, right-of-way's, culverts, etc.) and he went out and visited some of the sites and talked
32 with citizen in those areas.

33 He stated that he had also talked to the Army Corp of Engineers who had stated that they aren't
34 concerned with lake levels but there is money available from the Corp of Engineers for
35 infrastructure.

36 He explained that the County can't afford a major infrastructure project, but if a basin study is
37 completed and the study indicates that there are infrastructure projects that could alleviate the
38 problem, they could possibly receive funding assistance from the Army Corp of Engineers.

39 Mr. Farner noted that the Water Authority had completed several studies in that area in the past,
40 so if they could help with that information they would be glad to.

41 Commissioner Sullivan stated that the Corp of Engineers would want to have that type of
42 information and Mr. Farner stated that he believed that they were involved in the studies. Ms.
43 Cox noted that the Army Corp of Engineers was not involved in those studies.

44 Mr. Perry explained that originally it sounded like the letter from the County was concerning
45 Emerald Lakes and making changes in the Clermont Chain lake levels, but it is has nothing to do
46 with lake levels, but rather the area between Cherry Lake and Lake Harris.

47 Mr. Farner stated that he didn't know what Commissioner Sullivan had in mind, but he was
48 agreeable to any assistance the Water Authority could give.

49 Commissioner Sullivan explained that they are just looking to a study of the basin at this time to
50 identify areas of concern. He explained that the County is still waiting on FEMA reimbursement
51 of seven and a half million dollars from Hurricane Michael and their funds are tight.

52 He stated that without the Water Authority's cooperation they won't be able to do the study the
53 way it needs to be done.

54 Mr. BonJorn asked for clarification that the study is about infrastructure and trying to get the
55 standing water back into the areas that it should be, and not to lower the levels of any basin.

56 Mr. Sullivan stated that was correct and noted that all the people that have been to the Water
57 Authority to talk about this issue have also been to the County to express their concerns. He
58 stated that what is happening in the Okahumpka area can't be related to lake levels anywhere
59 else in the chain. He stated that any time the Water Authority has any questions to feel free to
60 contact him.

61 **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

62 Mr. Perry addressed the Board and gave the water level and rainfall reports. He stated that with
63 all the rain in June, Lake Apopka had gone from near the minimum desirable to well above the
64 regulatory schedule. He stated that the lake is currently headed back down toward the regulatory

65 schedule. He explained that to accomplish this, the District was releasing almost 250 cfs over
66 the spillway and we were treating approximately 50 cfs through the NuRF.

67 He stated that Lake Dora water levels have increased with all the water coming through the
68 Apopka-Beauclair Spillway and Lake Eustis and Lake Harris are actually below the regulatory
69 schedule due to water being released through the Burrell Spillway at over 1000 cfs at the end of
70 June.

71 He noted that Lake Griffin has been on and around the regulatory schedule and the District has
72 been releasing approximately 1200 cfs through the Moss Bluff when the lake was creeping up on
73 the top of regulatory schedule.

74 Mr. Perry noted that at the end of May, Lake County had about a three-inch rainfall deficit, but
75 noted that South Lake County has had in excess of nine inches of rain in June so far.

76 He stated that the Clermont Chain is still slightly below the regulatory range. He explained that
77 water levels were doing well until the dry spell last week and the flow from Big and Little
78 Creeks dropped to five cfs. He noted that Lake Minnehaha is still slightly below the regulatory
79 range but noted that at this time last year the lake level was going down, whereas this year it is
80 still rising.

81 Ms. Cox asked how much evaporation there is because of the hot weather and Mr. Perry
82 explained that it is a combination of sunshine and humidity. He stated that while it is hot, it is
83 also humid and there is less evaporation when there is high humidity. He noted that the lakes
84 can lose as much as one quarter to one half inch a day due to evaporation. He stated that as of
85 yesterday, Big and Little Creeks were at a combined flow of approximately 4 cfs. He noted that
86 in 2014 -2015 and 2002 the water levels were much lower than they are at this time.

87 Mr. Perry noted that the scroll for the NuRF should be back from being repaired around the third
88 of July and they hope to have the NuRF up and fully operational by the middle of the month. He
89 stated that currently they are moving and dosing about 50 cfs through the NuRF and into the
90 ponds.

91 Mr. Perry stated that Chairman Stone has asked that if the August meeting could be moved to
92 August 14th if possible as she would out of town and a professional conference. Vice Chair
93 Maimone stated that she would not be able to attend the original date either. All those in
94 attendance were okay with the changing the meeting to August 14th.

95 Mr. Perry informed that he just recently turned 62 and in July he will have been with the Water
96 Authority for 19 years. He noted that he has attended over 270 Board Meetings without missing
97 any. He stated that is DROP period goes through December of 2020 and would like to retired
98 within the next nine to twelve months.

99 He stated that has talked to Chairman Stone and to Vice Chair Maimone and they would both
100 like to take some time at the Budget Workshop to talk about what skills, ability and experience
101 they might want from whoever replaces him.

102 He noted that there are several senior staff members who are looking to retire within the next
103 three to five years, including Chris Rider and Brian Nagy.

104 He stated that Chairman Stone would like to take some time before the discussing the budget for
105 the Board to discuss what they want to Water Authority to look like in the short term and
106 possibly long term. He stated that between now and the workshop they can think about what
107 kind of a person they would like to have as a Director. He noted that the Water Authority
108 doesn't have an engineer on staff, or perhaps they want someone who is more a strict
109 accountant/manager. He stated that ultimately the choice is up to them.

110 **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

111 Both items were removed and put on the Regular Agenda.

112 **5. REGULAR AGENDA**

113 b. Lake Norris Acquisition Agreement Extension

114 Mr. Perry stated that he had provided them with a summary and chronology of the proposed
115 purchase of the Lake Norris Property. He noted that it was first brought to the Board's attention
116 in June of 2015 and staff was directed to talk with the Seminole State Forest to see if they would
117 be willing to help in the purchase of the property.

118 He noted that Bear track preserve is located below the property and the Seminole State Forest is
119 also adjacent to the property.

120 Mr. Perry stated that in September of 2015 he had some real concerns about the proposal as it
121 seemed like we were being forced to take some action based on the land owner's timeline and we
122 wouldn't have time to do the things we would normally do such as an appraisal or to the due
123 diligence we needed to do.

124 He stated that in November 2015 former Board Member Doug Bryant informed the Board that
125 there wasn't any action needed at that time as the bank wasn't going to take any steps to take the
126 property as long as some state agency was considering the acquisition. He explained that the
127 Board decided at that time to cooperate with St. Johns River Water Management District to
128 obtain an appraisal with our share of the cost not to exceed \$3,500.

129 He noted that in January of 2016, the District informed the Water Authority that they were busy
130 with their own acquisitions and were going to use a contracted appraiser. He stated that in
131 March of 2016 the Water Authority was informed that we would have the appraisal in 45 days.

132 Then in Mid-May we 2016 we finally received the appraisal, but at the same time the District
133 also St. Johns was still working on the appraisal – Received in May then the District decided
134 not to partnership in the acquisition.

135 My Perry stated that staff offered some other options for partnerships to the Board and as staff
136 started to investigate the options throughout the summer, even those options were starting to
137 dwindle.

138 He explained that in September 2016 the Division of State Lands said they were willing to
139 partner, but as Hurricane Hermine had just passed through they were busy at that time. He stated
140 that in November 2016 the Division of State Lands contacted to Water Authority to say they
141 didn't have money to partner at that time.

142 He stated that in the meantime the Green Bank Foundation stated that they would be willing to
143 partner in the amount of \$50,000 and Chairman Doug Bryant at that time had suggested a partial
144 acquisition of 18 acres for \$175,000. He noted that the Board was agreeable to that purchase and
145 in February 2017 the Agency received the money from the Green Bank Foundation to
146 supplement the acquisition of the 18 acres.

147 Mr. Perry explained that in April 2017 staff went back to the Department of Environmental
148 Protections land acquisition staff and they stated that they were now willing to partner and would
149 do all the due diligence, handle the negotiations, update the appraisal, take the closing cost and
150 retain the title. He noted that Seminole State Forest had stated that they would manage the
151 property.

152 He stated that then in October 2017, the State had stated that were not going to move forward
153 with the acquisition due to some easement issues. He explained that the easement issues were
154 very complicated, and it took the Water Authority several months to work through those issues.

155 He stated that the State had stated that if the Water Authority could work out the easement
156 problems, to come back and talk with them again and they would see if they are to partner at that
157 time.

158 He stated the easement issues were finally resolved in May 2018 and the State put the project
159 back into the funding process and the Board approved a new MOU (Memorandum of
160 Understanding) with the State with the same conditions as the original MOU. In June 2018 the
161 Board acted to change the name of the Chairman on the MOU and changed the date closing date
162 from November 30, 2018 to June 28, 2019.

163 Mr. Perry explained that after all that the State has stated that they will be ready to close on or
164 before July 10, but the agreement expires on June 28. He stated that it is not up to staff to allow
165 an extension, it is up to the Board whether they can extend the contract and move forward. He
166 stated that if the Board wants to extend the MOU they need to take some action, but if they don't
167 want to extend the MOU and just want to let it expire if the State doesn't close by June 28, they
168 don't need to take any action. He stated that they are under no obligation to extend the MOU.

169 Ms. Cox asked how much of the property is included in the purchase and Mr. Perry explained
170 that it includes all but the 18 acres that have already been purchased by the Water Authority.

171 She asked if the Water Authority's contribution is still the \$225,000 that was originally agreed
172 upon and if the Seminole State Forest was still planning on managing the property and Mr. Perry
173 stated that was correct.

174 Mr. Farner noted that the Water Authority will retain ownership of the original 18 acres that
175 were purchased, and the upcoming purchased property will go to the State. He stated that
176 maintenance of the original 18 acres will remain with us.

177 Mr. BonJorn questioned whether it was in the best interest of the Water Authority to be spending
178 money for property that we won't be keeping when the Agency could use it toward more hydrilla
179 treatment, etc.

180 Mr. Perry stated that while this has been budgeted and carried along for a couple of years, there
181 are always new needs that come up. He noted that yes, they could use the money for additional
182 hydrilla treatment or to help fund the new boat ramp in Clermont, but the Board has included the
183 money in the budget for the acquisition and it has been there for at least a couple of years. He
184 stated that it is up to the Board how to expend any funds, but there is a contractual obligation
185 through Friday, June 28.

186 Ben Gugliotti stated that at this point the State is planning to close by June 28.

187 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she had voted against this purchase, as she doesn't think the
188 Water Authority needs to own more land. She stated that part of her doesn't want to continue
189 with the purchase, but as another Board had acted on it she felt they should continue.

190 Mr. Farner agreed that at this point he would rather they complete the process.

191 Mr. Perry noted that Mr. Hendrick has asked if they could defer the decision until next month
192 and Vice Chair Maimone stated that they couldn't do to the time constraints.

193 Ms. Cox stated that she would agree that maybe it wasn't the best idea in the first place, but it is
194 probably a good idea to finish the process as the Water Authority has already set the money
195 aside.

196 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
197 **AMEND THE AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF**
198 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DIVISION OF STATE LANDS TO EXTEND THE**
199 **TERMINATION DATE FROM JUNE 28, 2019 TO JULY 31, 2019.** Mr. Farner seconded
200 the motion.

201 **Motion approved 4-1 with Mr. BonJorn in opposition.**

202 c. Authorization to Transfer Funds for Lake Norris Acres

203 **MS. COX MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
204 **TOTRANSFER \$225,000 FROM 9898720-860610 LAND ACQUISITIONS TO 9898720-**
205 **880810 AID TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR THE PARTNERSHIP WITH**
206 **FLORIDA DSL TO PURCHASE LAKE NORRIS ACRES.** Mr. Farner seconded the motion.

207 **Motion approved 5-0.**

208 d. Revised Structure Operations Manual for Clermont Chain

209 Mr. Hart went over the changes made to the verbiage of the Palatlakaha River Dam Operation
210 Manual.

211 Mr. BonJorn asked if they could add that the Board Members should be notified when water is
212 going to be discharged and Mr. Hart stated that they could.

213 Vice Chair Maimone agreed that this definitely needs to be in the manual and that Board
214 members need to be informed when water is being released.

215 Mr. Farner stated that he would like to see the actual language added to the manual before the
216 changes are approved. He stated that they can bring it back on the consent agenda for approval.

217 e. Status of Lake Denham - Phase II Environmental Assessment

218 Mr. Hart stated that last month the directions from the Board were to contract with a consultant
219 to review the studies done on Lake Denham and well as the Lake Apopka studies. He explained
220 that he felt the best way to get that done was to hire one of the consultants who performed the
221 greatest majority of the work on the Lake Apopka North Shore Area because hiring someone
222 with no knowledge of what is going on would be a very long process and the cost would be
223 prohibitive.

224 He stated that he had contacted the St. Johns River Water Management District and they had
225 stated that Susan Tobin had completed over one third of the studies done on the North Shore of
226 Lake Apopka. He stated that in talking with Ms. Tobin she had informed him that it would cost
227 over \$100,000 for her to do that type of review.

228 He stated that she had explained to him that the projects that her company worked on created
229 well over 100,000 pages in documents and they were only one of the three companies working
230 on those North Shore studies. He noted that there are probably well over 250,000 pages of
231 reports that were generated and there is no way we would be able to get a company to come in
232 and do such a review for anywhere near the amount the Board had given staff permission to
233 expend.

234 He explained that what he was able to do was to contract with Ms. Tobin to oversee and review
235 the work that was being performed on Lake Denham and then use the general knowledge she
236 already has from working on Lake Apopka to inform of decisions she would advise on Lake
237 Denham.

238 He explained that the Water Authority has Ms. Tobin under contract for \$5,000 for her to
239 undertake that review and she has been working on helping to revise the scope of work for our
240 consultant which is Aerostar.

241 Mr. Hart noted that some of her comments were almost identical to Aerostar's recommendations,
242 so there hasn't been a lot of changes, other than just a few added suggestions for sampling.

243 He explained that even with the additional sampling, the cost is within the amount previously
244 approved by the Board. He stated that the total cost of the new proposal is \$49,943.00, which is
245 just a bit higher than Aerostar's previous cost.

246 He noted that the report should be ready toward the end of August which will be very late in the
247 process of purchasing the property so in the meantime they will be meeting with our attorney,

248 Kevin Stone next week to go over the process we need to implement in order to move the
249 purchase on a dual track to completion.

250 He noted that the Board had already approved expending \$70,000 for the cost of sampling and
251 Mr. Hendrick had requested that it be kept below \$50,000, so the cost is within the amount
252 approved by the Board and they don't need to take any action unless they want to do something
253 different.

254 In response to questions from Ms. Cox about who was completing the work, Mr. Hart explained
255 that Aerostar is our consultant that is performing the work and TASK is reviewing the work and
256 making recommendations.

257 Ms. Cox asked is if any of this process would hinder the closing and Mr. Hart stated that it won't
258 as that is up to the Board's discretion.

259 Ms. Cox asked if the owners were getting antsy and Mr. Hart stated that some of them are as
260 they are concerned that they aren't getting the best price, but they haven't backed out at this
261 point.

262 He noted that the owners have indicated that The Villages has expressed interest in the property
263 for growing their own sod and Black Cow is interested in the property as a peat farm.

264 f. Lake Joanna Water Quality Study

265 Mr. Hart stated that Lake Joanna and Loch Leven and stated that an interesting fact about these
266 two lakes are that they are the two highest lakes in elevation in the State of Florida. He stated
267 that the surface elevation for Loch Leven is about 172 msl and Lake Joanna is approximately 169
268 msl. He explained that they have a very solid plate layer that keeps water from seeping down
269 into the aquifer.

270 He explained that although some people think these lakes are spring-fed, it is just the opposite.
271 He stated that if either of those lakes had a connection to the aquifer they would drain like a
272 bathtub and never come back. He explained that there is over a hundred-foot difference in
273 elevation between the Floridan Aquifer pressure and those surface water body elevations. He
274 noted that the lakes do receive seepage water from rainfall from the slopes, hills and wetlands
275 adjoining the lakes and into the lakes.

276 He stated that the water quality in Lake Joanna has been degrading and that is why the residents
277 are concerned. He stated that historically Lake Joanna has been one of the cleanest waterbodies
278 in Lake County, especially in the developed areas.

279 He explained that when the residents start to see algal blooms, it causes alarm, as historically
280 they have seen anything like this in the past.

281 Mr. Hart stated that there has been a lot more development in that basin and with that
282 development the ditch that interconnects Loch Leven to Lake Joanna and the stormwater ponds
283 have started to show high nutrient levels and algal blooms.

284 He stated that in 2010 we contacted Lake Watch and they created a mini report by looking at the
285 historical water quality data which showed that the water quality of the lake had been declining
286 over the long term. He explained that they also took water quality samples in the ditch and
287 found that the nutrients were elevated in the ditch than what was in the lake.

288 He explained that because of that report, the Water Authority contacted HOA's in the area and
289 they have tried everything to reduce the nutrient loading from their stormwater systems into their
290 ponds. He stated that they have greatly improved the water quality within their own stormwater
291 systems which can be seen by the clarity shown in aerial photography of the area.

292 Mr. Hart stated that it wouldn't hurt to have better water quality sampling within the ditch and
293 the lake to identify what likely sources are for that continua decline in the lake.

294 He provided information on the past nutrient levels and stated that there has been an obvious
295 trend of rising nitrogen and chlorophyll-a after 2010 and explained that the residents have been
296 concerned and have been contacting the County asking for help.

297 He explained that the County has contacted the Water Authority and stated that they have funds
298 to partially fund a study to determine the sources of the nutrients going into that lake in order to
299 make recommendation on how to address those sources and are asking the Water Authority to
300 partner with them in order to fully fund the study.

301 He stated that staff is recommending approval to award the funding requested by Lake County
302 that is necessary to complete the study.

303 **MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
304 **TO FUND THE BALANCE OF LAKE COUNTY'S LAKE JOANNA WATER QUALITY**
305 **STUDY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$32,175.** Ms. Stokes seconded the motion.

306 Ms. Cox noted that when the water is high in Loch Leven it flows into Lake Joanna. She asked
307 about the quality of water in Loch Leven and Mr. Hart explained that quality is good in Loch
308 Leven, but part of the problem is what the water is picking up on its way to Lake Joanna.

309 Mr. Farner asked if some of the water also flows Wolf Branch and Mr. Hart stated that although
310 some water will flow in that direction when Loch Leven is high, but there is not a natural
311 connection.

312 Mr. Farner asked how long the study would take and Mr. Hart explained that it would take
313 approximately nine months to a year, as the sampling portion would take at least six months.

314 **Motion approved 5-0.**

315 **MS. STOKES MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$32,175**
316 **FROM 710-340 CONTRACTOR SERVICES TO 710-810 AID TO GOVERNMENT**
317 **AGENCIES.** Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

318 **Motion approved 5-0.**

319 g. Revised Approach to Lake Yale Sediment Inactivation Project

320 Dr. Danaher stated that in February the Board asked staff to release a request for proposal for
321 treating the phosphorous levels in the Lake Yale sediment. He explained that they put together a
322 draft request for proposals which is basically a design/build where the Agency would solicit
323 responses from qualified vendors where they would look over the data from the recent study of
324 the lake that we would provide and apply their technology and provide a solution to the nutrient
325 loading.

326 He stated that one of the RFP's evaluation criteria was to evaluate price up front so that the
327 Agency could have an idea as to where it would fit into the Agency's potential budget.

328 He explained that looking at the Consultant Competitive Negotiation Act and Florida State
329 Statutes it was determined that we are not allowed to request pricing up front for that type of
330 design/build project. He noted that once the Water Authority had received responses back they
331 would be able to read through them and rank the respondents and then enter into negotiations on
332 the cost of implementing their technologies.

333 Dr. Danaher explained that if we can't do that with the first firm, we would then proceed to the
334 next ranked firm, etc. until they can reach a price and treatment technology that we are agreeable
335 to.

336 He stated that the process could be time consuming to evaluate any new technologies and the
337 history of those technologies and whether they would have long-term benefits on the water
338 quality in Lake Yale.

339 He explained that once we enter into negotiations, the vendor would know what our budget
340 would be, and we might not get the best the best solution for the money.

341 He explained that with a project as large scale as this one could and the potential budget the
342 Florida State Statutes require that one of the staff members that would be involved in the
343 negotiations would have to be a certified contract negotiator and stated that the Water Authority
344 doesn't have anyone on staff with that certification.

345 Dr. Danaher stated that the way Lake County is able to do some of their larger scale projects is
346 by defining a scope of work and then putting out a Request for Bid rather than an RFP (Request
347 for Proposal), so that companies are competing against each other up front and the County also
348 knows the cost of the project up front.

349 He noted that rather than releasing an RFP, the Water Authority could release a Request for Bids
350 and we would define the scope of work and put it into the paperwork when we solicit the
351 responses, and it would clearly define what we want the contractors to accomplish and the
352 technologies we may want them to use for the project.

353 **MR. BONJORN MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO**
354 **RELEASE EITHER A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS OR REQUEST FOR BIDS TO**
355 **TREAT PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATIONS PRESENT IN LAKE YALE SEDIMENT.**

356 Ms. Cox seconded the motion.

357 Mr. Farner stated that he is okay with staff moving forward with the project. He asked when the
358 last time staff had been out to look at the lake and Dr. Danaher stated that they have been out
359 recently and the phosphorous levels in the lake are still elevated

360 Mr. Perry reminded the Board that they always have the option to reject all bids should they not
361 be happy with the responses they receive.

362 **Motion approved 5-0.**

363 **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

364 Michelle Miller addressed the Board and explained that she and some of her neighbors were
365 there to discuss their concerns about Turkey Lake and Pumpkin Center Lake which is fed by the
366 Dilly Marsh via a ditch that feeds into the lakes.

367 She stated that in 2017 after the hurricanes came through there was quite a bit of water and for a
368 while it had seemed like the natural flow of water had returned to Turkey Lake and Pumpkin
369 Center Lake and water was also flowing under Number 2 Road.

370 She showed pictures taken by drone a couple of weeks ago and explained that recently they were
371 able to locate where the natural flow of water has been impeded by a makeshift road that was
372 built without a culvert and the water that normally flows into Turkey Lake and Pumpkin Center
373 Lake is backing up and creating standing water on the side of the road.

374 Ms. Miller stated that residents in the area would like to see a culvert installed under that road so
375 that the flow of water to the lakes can be restored.

376 She explained that Lyden Properties owns the property and rents it out and the renters grow
377 watermelons and hay. She stated that the residents have sent a friendly letter to the property
378 owners, as suggested by staff at St. Johns River Water Management, asking that the issue be
379 rectified. They were also told to report it to Code Enforcement if the owners not respond.

380 She stated they have not gone to Code Enforcement yet as they are trying to resolve it in a
381 friendly and neighborly fashion if possible.

382 Ms. Cox asked what is normally where the water is standing, and Ms. Miller explained that it is
383 Dilly Marsh. She stated that the road has stopped the flow of water from Dilly Marsh and the
384 water is standing in the marsh.

385 Mr. Hart stated that the Water Authority owns and operates the gated culvert on the ditch at
386 Dewey Robbins Road along Highway 27 and it appears that the property owner has blocked the
387 flow by adding fill to create the road.

388 He explained for about fifteen years before the road was created the area was dry due to lack of
389 rain, but once there were rainfall events where there should have been water flow, it couldn't
390 because it was blocked off at that location.

391 He stated that the reason that there was water again in the Turkey Lake area, is that this past year
392 is that the property owner had become concerned about how high the water was getting in Dilly
393 Marsh and had opened up the ditch and allowed some flow through to reduce the water in the
394 marsh. Ms. Miller noted that the property owner has filled the ditch in again since then and the
395 culvert is now dry again.

396 Ms. Cox asked what the property owner does with the land and Ms. Miller explained that they
397 rent the property out to others so there has been cattle, hay and watermelon over the last few
398 years.

399 Vice Chair Maimone stated that it is probably the tenants that are blocking the flow and Ms.
400 Miller stated that is why they sent a letter to the owner, as the owner may not even know what
401 has been happening.

402 Mr. Hart stated that this is a sticky situation and he had been made aware of the blockage by the
403 residents. He explained that it is on private property. He stated that he has spoken with another
404 nearby property owner who is going to speak with property owner.

405 Ms. Miller noted that the letter to Lyden Properties LLC was just mailed that week, so they
406 haven't yet received a response.

407 Mr. Hart stated that if they get no response, the residents can speak with Department of
408 Environmental Protection (DEP) as the Water Authority can't control the amount of water that is
409 reaching or not reaching the culvert.

410 Vice Chair Maimone stated that she would make Commissioner Sullivan aware of this part of the
411 meeting.

412 Mr. Hart stated that the aerials show that this was a natural lake in the 1980s.

413 Ms. Miller stated that she would appreciate any assistance the Water Authority can provide.

414 **MR. FARNER MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH THE**
415 **RESIDENTS.** Mr. BonJorn seconded the motion

416 **Approved 5-0.**

417 **7. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT**

418 Attorney Stone stated that there have been some new legislative changes this year that might
419 affect the Water Authority.

420 He stated that some of the changes could mean some possible content changes on the website
421 and noted that there has been an addition to the Constitution regarding ethics regarding
422 government employees that making disproportionate use of their position.

423 He stated that at this time, the Ethics Commission is in the process of making rules in light of
424 those changes.

425 **8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

426 Mr. BonJorn stated that he agreed with Mr. Farner that they should look into what they can do to
427 help the residents on Turkey Lake.

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

429 None

430 **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 431 a. Staff Reports
- 432 b. Monthly Financial Reports – May 2019

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

434 **12.** Budget Workshop - Wednesday, July17, 2019 (11:00am)
435 LCWA Conference Room

436 **13.** Board Meeting - Wednesday, July 24, 2019 (3:30 pm)
437 BCC Chambers/Admin. Building

438 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

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