



**MINUTES**  
**POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE**

November 15, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.  
Lake Myrtle Sports Complex  
2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road  
Auburndale, Florida 33823

Member Governments in Attendance:

City of Auburndale .....Mayor Tim Pospichal, Primary (Vice-Chairman)  
City of Bartow .....Commissioner William Simpson, Primary  
City of Davenport.....Commissioner Tom Fellows, Primary (Secretary/Treasurer)  
Town of Dundee .....Commissioner Bert Goddard, Primary  
City of Eagle Lake .....Commissioner Michael Burdelak, Primary  
City of Fort Meade .....Commissioner Jim Watts, Primary  
City of Frostproof.....Mayor Rodney Cannon, Primary  
City of Haines City .....Vice Mayor Morris West, Primary  
City of Lake Alfred .....Mayor Charles Lake, Primary  
Town of Lake Hamilton.....Mayor Marlene Wagner, Primary  
City of Lake Wales.....Mayor Eugene Fultz, Primary  
City of Lakeland.....Mayor Howard Wiggs, Primary  
City of Polk City .....Mayor Joe LaCascia, Primary  
Polk County .....Commissioner George Lindsey, Primary (Chairman)  
City of Winter Haven.....Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Birdsong, Primary

Member Governments in Absence:

City of Mulberry

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

2. Recognition of new primary/alternate appointees of members

City of Haines City appointed Morris West as their primary PRWC Board Member and H. L. Roy Tyler as their alternate in Resolution No. 17-1291

3. Agenda Revisions

No revisions were presented

4. Public Comments (Will be limited to 3 minutes per person or group)

No comments were presented.

5. Consent Items:

a. Approval of 10/18/2017 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve 10/18/2017 meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

b. Approval of Calendar Year 2018 BOD Meeting Dates:

- i. Wednesday January 17 – 2 PM – Lake Myrtle Sports Complex
- ii. Wednesday March 21 – 2 PM – Lake Myrtle Sports Complex
- iii. Wednesday May 16 – 2 PM – Lake Myrtle Sports Complex
- iv. Wednesday July 18 – 2 PM – Lake Myrtle Sports Complex
- v. Wednesday September 19 – 2 PM – Lake Myrtle Sports Complex
- vi. Wednesday November 14 – 2 PM – Lake Myrtle Sports Complex

Motion made and seconded to approve year 2018 Board of Director Meeting dates. Motion approved unanimously.

Invitations will be sent out to orient newly elected officials to the PRWC.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. Public Affairs Activities (Cindy Rodriguez, SWFWMD)

No Action Required

Ms. Rodriguez provided a brief overview of all that the PRWC has accomplished to date focusing on the public information efforts and presented four public affairs awards for the efforts of the PRWC.

Mr. Heath thanked Ms. Rodriguez for all of her assistance with the PRWC efforts.

7. Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Annual Report Submittal (Ryan Taylor)

Action Required: Approve Annual Report for Submittal

Mr. Taylor provided a description of the Heartland Report, efforts of the members to develop the report, and potential funding mechanisms.

Chairman Lindsey reminded the Board that the bill was created to elevate the PRWCs ability to obtain legislative funding.

Motion made and seconded to accept the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Annual Report. Motion approved unanimously.

8. Conservation Cooperative Funding Update (Ruffin Gray, Lakeland Utilities)

Action Required: Approve Funding and Ranking of Projects Letter Submittal

Mr. Gray provided a description of existing conservation project costs and gallons saved through the Springs Funding. Mr. Gray provided an update of ongoing conservation efforts.

SWFWMD requires that multiple projects be ranked by priority.

Chairman Lindsey restated that conservation is an important element of future water source, and stressed the importance of gathering data to determine the best projects and to focus on those.

Mayor LaCascia stated that we need to focus on public education and the average citizen does not know we are in a water crisis.

Mayor LaCascia asked when we will get serious about conservation and stated it is not likely until the water rates increase. Mayor LaCascia stressed the importance of restricting lawn and landscape irrigation.

Mr. Heath stated the 8 million gallons we are saving total a price tag of \$100M dollars if that same quantity of water were developed by alternative water supplies. And conservation is significantly less expensive. Every conservation effort helps to decrease the cost of future water supplies and conservation needs to be discussed every time the PRWC Board meets.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Funding and Ranking of Projects Letter Submittal. Motion approved unanimously.

9. Lower Floridian Aquifer as a Non Traditional Water Source  
(Mary Thomas, Team One)  
No Action Required

Ms. Thomas introduced Larry Elliot of Carollo Engineers to speak about the makeup of Team One.

Mr. Elliot provided a brief introduction of Team One.

Ms. Thomas provided a synopsis of the use of the lower Floridan aquifer as an alternative water source and introduced Dr. Bob Maliva, hydrogeologist with WSP to assist with any questions.

Chairman Lindsey stated the most telling statement was that no withdrawal has no consequence; so our charge is to find the withdrawal that will have the least consequence.

Ms. Thomas agreed and pointed out that this project will also involve gathering additional information and refining the hydrologic models.

Mayor LaCascia stated that everyone has agreed that the impact is a permissible risk and to do nothing is a greater risk.

Kenneth Fields inquired about the permitting of the discharge wells.

Ms. Thomas stated that during the project, the test well will be drilled deep enough to determine if injection wells will be eligible for permit.

Mr. Heath asked if there are similarities to the Cypress Lake project.

Dr. Maliva stated that this is similar to the Cypress Lake project and since that has not received objection, it is not expected for this project.

Mr. Fields stated that based on his experience in South Florida, the injection can quickly become a hot topic issue.

Dr. Maliva stated that the science backs up the injection and the objection cannot be based on simply not liking it.

Mr. LaCascia stated that we understand the objections are coming and the education efforts are critical.

Ms. Katie Gierok, Team One, stated that if this was a wastewater project we would probably see more objections, but this project will not include the same water quality issues.

Mayor Pospichal asked if similar objections come up with the power plants.

Dr. Maliva stated that he is currently working on the Turkey Creek nuclear plant and have not had too many issues. Deep well injection is so standard now that few groups try and bring up objections.

Mr. de la Parte stated that in South Florida they inject wastewater and the brine concentrate water and the problems and objections generally come with the injection of wastewater.

Mayor Cannon asked if there is a connection between the pumping withdrawal layer and the injection layer and asked how much room there is to inject.

Dr. Maliva stated that these are issues to take a look at, and the salinity of the aquifer water in the injection zone will be looked at.

Mr. Heath stated that at one time all user in Polk county were drawing out 300 mgd of water from the upper Floridan aquifer. The two projects we are proposing will draw out 45 mgd with the understanding that the LFA will never be as productive as the UFA and will not be treated the same.

Chairman Lindsey stated that we will be able to use information from the Cypress Lake project which is about 5 years ahead of the PRWC projects.

RECESS REGULAR BOD/COMMENCE PROJECTS BOD – 3:13PM

10. State Revolving Loan Procurement Status (Tom Mattiacci)  
No Action Required

a. Loan Application

Mr. Mattiacci stated that he had the application for the SRF Loan for the Chairman to sign.

b. Cost Funding Election

The Town of Dundee elected to participate in the SRF resulting in a loan application total of approximately \$10M principal.

Eight members are self-funding resulting in \$1.6M of self-funding.

Mr. Heath stated that there was a closing on the line of credit with an effective date of 11/16/2017. The cost of issuance was less than 1% of the line of credit \$6M.

c. PRWC Staffing

A couple of individuals will be looked at; but additional candidates are being requested.

RECESS PROJECTS BOD/COMMENCE REGULAR BOD – 3:17 PM

11. Open Discussion

Chairman Lindsey welcomed Commissioner Morris West.

Chairman Lindsey thanked Mayor Howard Wiggs for his participation and support for this project.

12. Adjournment

Board meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM.