



**MINUTES**  
**POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE**  
**Board of Directors**  
March 16, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.  
Chain O' Lakes Complex-South Entrance  
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd. SW  
Winter Haven, Florida

Member Governments in Attendance:

City of Auburndale ..... Mayor Tim Pospichal (Vice Chair), Primary  
City of Bartow ..... Commissioner William Simpson, Primary  
City of Davenport ..... Commissioner Tom Fellows (Secretary/Treasurer), Primary  
Town of Dundee ..... Vice Mayor Bertram Goddard, Primary  
City of Frostproof ..... Mayor Rodney Cannon, Primary  
City of Haines City ..... Commissioner Kenneth Kipp, Primary  
City of Lake Alfred ..... Mayor Charles Lake, Primary  
Town of Lake Hamilton ..... Mayor Marlene Wagner, Primary  
City of Lakeland ..... Mayor R. Howard Wiggs, Primary  
City of Polk City ..... Mayor Joe LaCascia, Primary  
Polk County ..... Commissioner George Lindsey III (Chair), Primary  
City of Winter Haven ..... Mayor Nathaniel Birdsong, Primary

Member Governments in Absence:

City of Eagle Lake  
City of Fort Meade  
City of Lake Wales  
City of Mulberry

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Lindsey called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

**2. Recognition of new primary/alternate appointees of members**

Members present for the board meeting introduced themselves.

**3. Agenda Revisions**

Mr. Heath, PRWC Coordinator, had a revision to agenda item 5.b. Approval of FY 2016 and FY 2017 Auditor Selection. The recommendation stated FY 2016 and FY 2016 and was modified to FY 2016 and 2017.

#### **4. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes per person or group)**

David Gore, resident of Haines City, 2900 Crane Drive – Mr. Gore stated he has attended all of the CFWI meetings and he does not agree with the proposed use of the lower Floridan aquifer. He stated the science is flawed and pulling water from the lower Floridan aquifer will have the same impact as withdrawing water from the upper aquifer. Mr. Gore stated the CFWI plan is deceptive and questions using the CFWI Water Supply Plan. Mr. Gore stressed that the whole system is connected and will affect the water table.

Mary Thomas of Parsons Brinckerhoff responded to Mr. Gore's comments as a member of the technical consulting Phase 1 Formation Team. Mary stated that multiple water supply plans were combed through and 205 projects were identified. The utility leaders narrowed the project list to 5 projects. The 5 projects are now included as the nominated list and were ranked based on cost per gallon.

Mayor LaCascia requested Mr. Gore's credentials

Mr. Gore stated he has been attending water resource meetings for 25 years and has built several physical models to determine how much water is released and flows through various soil types. Mr. Gore stated he knows how water works and has the big picture in view.

Chairman Lindsey stated it is understood there is interconnectivity over time between the surficial and various levels of the Floridan aquifer. The goal of the PRWC is meet water demands while impacting the environment as little as possible.

Mayor Wiggs stated that Ms. Thomas' response did not address whether the proposed projects are based on legitimate science.

Ms. Thomas responded that the Water Supply Plans are based largely on groundwater flow models based on an extensive amount of science. The lower Floridan is considered an alternative source and the connectivity between the lower and upper Floridan varies around the County.

Chairman Lindsey asked if it is accurate that all of the aquifers are connected, but the science leads us to believe that the lower Floridan is less connected and is an available source.

Ms. Thomas stated that this is correct. Calibrated modeling has shown that this is accurate, and the projects will be required to monitor the environment as well.

Chairman Lindsey stated that the modeling performed to date has been performed over the entire breadth of the state.

#### **5. Consent Items:**

- a. Approval of 1/24/2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion made and seconded to approve 1/24/2017 meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

b. Approval of FY 2016 and FY 2017 Auditor Selection

Mr. Heath, PRWC Coordinator, stated the selected firm is within budget for both fiscal years.

Motion made and seconded to approve Brynjulfson, CPA as the PRWC auditor for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Motion approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**6. Agreement Status**

Mr. de la Parte, PRWC legal counsel, gave a brief description of the status of each of the three agreements and the process moving forward with the formation of a project specific board and weighted voting.

*PRWC Board of Directors recessed at 2:18 PM.*

*Combined Implementation Project Board commenced at 2:19 PM.*

Combined Project Board motioned and seconded to elect Commissioner Lindsey as Chair, Mayor Pospichal as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Fellows as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion approved unanimously.

a. Combined Projects Implementation Agreement (Ed de la Parte)

i. Annualized Cost Sharing Obligation for Phase I (Katie Gierok)

Ms. Gierok with Wright-Pierce, Formation Phase 2 Technical Assessment Team Consultant, provided a description of the annualized cost sharing obligation for Phase 1 of the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement.

ii. Funding Sources for Phase I (Gene Heath, Tom Mattiacci)

Mr. Heath discussed potential funding sources for the Combined Projects.

Chairman Lindsey asked if members could fund upfront if they chose and each member can decide how they would like to fund moving forward.

Mr. Heath stated that is correct.

Mr. Fields, Lake Wales City Manager, asked if the line of credit would be used and pulled from as needed.

Mr. Heath stated that is correct.

Mr. Mattiacci, City of Lakeland, gave a description of additional potential funding options.

Chairman Lindsey stated the SRF would require additional negotiations and data retrieval/submittal to the state.

Mr. Mattiacci stated that was correct and financial information would be needed from all members.

George Long, Bartow City Manager, asked what the limitations are for SRF?

Mr. Mattiacci stated that any one project within the state is limited to 25% of the yearly payments and Phase 2 would exceed that total.

Mr. Fields asked if these projects included expansion, could impact fees be used?

Mr. de la Parte stated that they could.

Mr. Heath stated that an opinion from Mr. Cloud representing Polk City stated that impact fees could be used and that he would forward the opinion to the members.

Mr. Heath stated that we need to apply to get added to the priority list in May for SRF.

iii. Programmatic Projection for Phase II (Katie Gierok)

Ms. Gierok provided a description of project cost moving forward for Phase II.

Mr. Heath stated that SWFWMD was staggered at the cost of the projects on a year by year basis. SWFWMD needs to look at the projects programmatically over multiple years to assist their budgeting process and the PRWC has projected the project costs through 2041 to assist with that process.

Mr. de la Parte stated that there will be three votes coming before the project Board.

1. Approve the agreement to be sent to SWFWMD Governing Board.

Two members have not approved the agreement. The agreement will not be recorded until SWFWMD has reviewed it and the PRWC board meeting May 17, 2017. Until the agreement is recorded the members who did not join could join without penalty. If they wish to enter into the agreement after it is recorded, a unanimous vote by the members of the agreement will be required, and will be required to pay their cost share if they had joined from the beginning.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Combined Project Implementation Agreement to be sent to the SWFWMD Governing Board. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Approve seeking offers of line of credit from banks/financial institutions

Motion made and seconded to accept proposals for a line of credit as a potential funding source. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Authorize the Coordinator to submit an application for a state revolving fund for Phase 1.

Chairman Lindsey stated that Mr. Heath will be getting together with members to see if they would want to be included in an SRF application.

Motion made and seconded to authorize the PRWC Coordinator to submit an application to the State Revolving Fund program for the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

*Combined Implementation Project Board adjourned at 3:01 PM.*

*Conservation Project Implementation Project Board convened. 3:02 PM.*

Conservation Project Implementation Project Board motioned and seconded to elect Commissioner Lindsey as Chair, Mayor Pospichal as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Fellows as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion approved unanimously.

- b. Conservation Project Implementation Agreement (Ed de la Parte)

Mr. de la Parte stated the agreement authorizes the cooperative to act as a conduit to receive grants for conservation projects.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Conservation Project implementation agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

*Conservation Project Implementation Project Board adjourned at 3:04 PM.*

*PRWC Board of Directors reconvened at 3:05 PM.*

- c. Conservation Project Agreement (Ed de la Parte)

Mr. de la Parte provided a description of the Conservation Project Agreement.

- i. Cooperative Funding Agreement (Jason Mickel)

Mr. Mickel, Southwest Florida Water Management District, gave a brief description of the Conservation Project Agreement projects and the SWFWMD cooperative funding agreement.

Chairman Lindsey stated one of the concerns of the Board is if the agreements require monitoring over time to determine efficacy.

Mr. Mickel stated that the conservation team is aware of that need and have a built in one year monitoring phase for the outdoor projects and follow up surveys for the Florida Water Star projects.

Mayor LaCascia wanted to know SWFWMD's position on prohibiting landscape irrigation wells.

Mr. Mickel stated that as long as the applicant is compliant with state rules, they are allowed.

Mayor LaCascia stated that Polk City prohibited drilling of irrigation wells as a conservation mater and asked if other municipalities would be willing to discuss this or do likewise.

Mr. Heath stated there have been local ordinances in existence for years that prohibit irrigation wells and this will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Heath stated that the total amount of all the projects is \$637,350, and the Board packet includes only one of the projects cooperative funding agreements for review since each agreement is in the same form.

Mr. de la Parte stated he reviewed all three packets and commended the SWFWMD's staff for deviating slightly from their normal agreements to add flexibility.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Conservation Project Agreement and all three funding agreements with the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Motion carried unanimously.

d. SWFWMD April 25, 2017 Governing Board Meeting (Jason Mickel)

Mr. Mickel provided a preview of what is to come at the SWFWMD April Governing Board meeting.

Chairman Lindsey asked where the meeting will be held.

Mr. Mickel stated the meeting will be held at the Lake Eva banquet hall in Haines City.

Mr. Heath stated that the next PRWC Board Meeting is set for May 17<sup>th</sup>, but the date may be revised depending on when the funding agreements for the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement from SWFWMD will be ready.

**7. Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act Status (Gene Heath)**

Chairman Lindsey stated that the act was approved by a House of Representative Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee by a 13-0 vote Tuesday morning.

Mr. Heath stated the next step is to go before the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee in two weeks.

Chairman Lindsey stated the essence of the act is to give the stature of the area the same stature as other parts of the state for future funding considerations to assist mitigating costs moving forward.

## **8. Open Discussion**

Mayor LaCascia stated that he is concerned and not satisfied with the answer regarding the lower Floridan aquifer projects and is afraid of putting into action a chain of events that will lead to unforeseen consequences. Mr. LaCascia stated that he was heartened to hear that part of Phase 1 will be to study the interaction between the aquifers. In the spirit of total transparency, Mayor LaCascia would like to forward Mr. Gores letter on to hydrologists he has contact with through Water School to get their response and will report back.

Mayor Wiggs stated that one of the purposes of Phase 1 is to ensure the project works, and if it determines that it does not work will we need to include a replacement project or will SWFWMD continue to work with us.

Chairman Lindsey stated that 205 projects have been identified and additional projects can be investigated. The deficit we are working toward is not fixed and there are additional things to look at.

Mr. Heath stated that there will be an impact from every project but we need to determine if there is an occurrence of harm.

Mayor Cannon stated that if the other two projects did not pan out, would the other projects move into a Phase 1 or would they be added to the existing Phase 1 of the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement.

Mr. Heath stated that determination would be made at that time.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.