



MINUTES
POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE

January 16, 2019 - 2:00 p.m.
Lake Myrtle Sports Complex
2701 Lake Myrtle Park Road
Auburndale, Florida 33823

Member Government

City of Auburndale
City of Bartow
City of Davenport
City of Dundee
City of Eagle Lake
City of Fort Meade
City of Frostproof
City of Haines City
City of Lake Alfred
Town of Lake Hamilton
City of Lake Wales
City of Lakeland
City of Mulberry
City of Polk City
Polk County
City of Winter Haven

Representative

Mayor Tim Pospichal, Primary (Chairman)
Commissioner William Simpson, Primary
In Absence
Commissioner Bert Goddard, Primary
In Absence
In Absence
In Absence
Mayor Morris West, Primary
Mayor Charles Lake, Primary
Council Vice Mayor Mike Kehoe, Primary
Mayor Eugene Fultz, Primary
Mayor William Mutz, Primary
Commissioner Rick Stradtman, Primary
Mayor Joe LaCascia, Primary (Vice-Chairman)
Chairman George Lindsey, Primary
Mayor Pro-Tem Nathaniel Birdsong, Primary

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pospichal at 2:00 PM.

2. Recognition of new primary/alternate appointees of members

Chairman Pospichal notified the Board of the passing of Mike Burdelak, Primary representative from the City of Eagle Lake

3. Agenda Revisions

No revisions of the agenda was requested.

4. Public Comments

No public comments presented.

5. Consent Items:

1. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. Cooperative Funding Agreement N948 - PRWC Indoor Water Conservation Incentives
3. Cooperative Funding Agreement N971 - PRWC Outdoor Water Conservation Incentives
4. Cooperative Funding Agreement Q023 - PRWC Conservation Demand Management
5. PRWC Financial Reporting - FY19

Motion made and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. Independent Auditor's Report for FY 2018

Auditor's report process was described by Ryan Taylor.

Mike Brynjulfson, of Brynjulfson CPAs, presented the Auditor's report to the Board, noting it was a clean report.

Motion made and seconded to accept the Year 2018 Auditor's Report. Motion approved unanimously.

7. PRWC Settlement Agreement Update

Mr. de la Parte provided an update to the settlement agreement stating all the parties have agreed to the settlement except the City of Bartow. The agreement is coming for approval to the City of Bartow in the following week.

8. Approve Peace River Interlocal Cooperation Agreement

Mr. de la Parte provided a background and description of an agreement with the Peace River Manasota Water Authority to recognize the Peace River as a vital resource and seek to protect the river and its tributaries as a potential water source. This agreement is separate from the litigation process.

Motion made and seconded to approve the staff recommendation for approval of the Peace River Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.

Commissioner Simpson asked a question of what the coordinating committee representation will look like and what is the time frame.

Mr. de la Parte stated the coordinating committee may be made up of the PRWC Board, the PRMRWSA, and any other petitioners that were involved in the litigation would have a right to be a member of the committee. How often the coordinating committee meets and who will staff it were not outlined in the settlement agreement.

Commissioner Lake asked if this places us in the same position we started or a better position.

Mr. de la Parte stated this places the Cooperative in a much better position. Historic efforts to work cooperatively in this manner without an agreement have not succeeded.

Commissioner Lindsey suggested that when it is our turn to host we host at the Circle B facility where Peace River begins.

Motion approved unanimously.

9. Approve General Engineering Contracts

Director Taylor provided a synopsis of the selection process and general engineering contracts with Hydro Solutions Consulting, WSP, Jones Edmunds, Reiss, and Chastain Skillman.

Motion made and seconded to approve the General Engineering Contracts. Motion approved unanimously.

RECESS REGULAR BOD/COMMENCE PROJECTS BOD: 2:24 PM

10. Combined Projects Update

Mary Thomas and Robert Beltran of Team One provided a Combined Projects Update.

Chairman Pospichal asked what virtual piping means.

Mr. Beltran stated virtual piping means using the aquifer to move the water. One member would pump less so another member could pump more.

Commissioner Lindsey asked what circumstances would mean the project would be a go/no go.

Ms. Thomas stated that the Southeast wellfield is permitted and pump tests were performed during the permitting. The current operations are to determine the potential changes in quality and geology in the wellfield.

Mr. Heath stated that with the length of the wellfield, it would be foolish to not test and determine the type of variability. The well being drilled right now has shown to not be as productive and has higher sulfate. This information will allow us a better prediction of cost.

Easements Required for APT Testing at West Polk Wellfield

Mr. de la Parte asked what the schedule is for APT testing for the West Polk wellfield.

Ms. Thomas stated that the driller would be able to drill and test in April, but there have been problems acquiring easements to obtain a drainage path for the water produced during an APT.

Mr. de la Parte stated that to try and meet the April deadline, he asks the Board to give Mr. Taylor signature authorization to sign offers up to \$50,000 to obtain the needed easements and not slow down the project.

Mr. de la Parte would like to if necessary have eminent domain paperwork by next Board meeting if necessary.

Motion made and seconded to give Mr. Taylor \$50,000 authority to move forward with easement acquisition. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Mutz asked what type of material would be used to remove the solids from the lower Floridan Aquifer raw water.

Larry Eliot, Team One, stated that the level of solids in the water is not an issue at this time. There are many treatment methods used across the Country that can handle the solids concentration.

11. First Amendment to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement

Mr. Taylor provided a background description of the need for the scope change for the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement – Phase 1.

Mr. de la Parte presented a first amendment to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement – Phase 1 to add the Peace Creek project with no change to total cost or participating member's individual cost.

Motion made and seconded to approve the First Amendment. Motion approved unanimously.

12. Changes in the Scope of Work related to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement - Phase 1

Mr. Heath provided a description of the need for the change in scope related to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement – Phase 1 and the Cooperative Funding Agreements. The change in scope will be presented to the Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

13. Task Authorization - Conservation Demand Management Plan

Mr. Taylor provided a description of Resolution 18-06 approved by SWFWMD to appropriate money for Phase 2 of the Combined Projects Implementation contingent on certain milestones and work being completed by the PRWC. The Conservation Demand Management Plan was one of the items. Four of the general engineering firms had provided proposals and been ranked by Jacki Hollister, Ruffin Gray, and Gene Heath. WSP was ranked first.

Motion made and seconded to approve the staff recommendation to select WSP to complete a Conservation Demand Management Plan.

Mr. Heath commented that the PRWC has moved forward with three conservation agreements at today's meeting. A lot of information should be coming back related to how much conservation can be applied and ultimately will feed into the decisions regarding when alternative water is developed. The better we conserve the longer the PRWC can hold off moving forward with the alternative water projects.

Chairman Pospichal directed the Board members to reference the start times of potential conservation projects which provide an opportunity to plan. As time progresses the Board members are receiving more and more information to bring back to their respective commissions.

Mayor LaCascia stated that the projects being developed means we are still taking water out of the aquifer to water our lawns. The smart thing to do would be to prevent the drilling of private irrigation wells. Mayor LaCascia asked where the numbers for the outdoor irrigation program came from.

Jackie Hollister provided a description of how the quantity of water savings were developed based on historic water savings quantities.

Mayor LaCascia asked why SWFWMD does not prohibit the drilling of private irrigation wells and does not put any faith in the conservation projects until the private irrigation is prohibited.

Commissioner Lindsey stated that Mayor LaCascia is correct, but the problem is not taking water from the surficial aquifer where the irrigation wells draw from, but the problem is taking water from the deep wells (upper Floridan aquifer). Until there is an economic incentive verging on punitive, people will not change their habits. The problem is that the public does not yet view water as a limited resource.

Mayor LaCascia stated that a lot of things are done on a “not yet” basis.

Chairman Pospichal suggested we should bring someone from the District to discuss landscape irrigation wells.

Director Taylor stated he will reach out to the Southwest Water Management District.

Motion to approve the staff recommendation to select WSP to complete a Conservation Demand Management Plan approved unanimously.

RECESS PROJECTS BOD/COMMENCE REGULAR BOD: 3:22 PM

14. Executive Director Comments

Taylor pointed out that the past Monday was Polk County’s legislative delegation meeting where Chair Pospichal provided the delegation with a copy of this year’s Heartland Report.

Motion made and seconded to approve that Polk County state's legislative priority for the Heartland Headwaters Report. Motion approved unanimously

6. Open Discussion

Commissioner Lindsey discussed four board member chairs that will be coming open on the SWFWMD Board of Directors including Paul Senft. Commissioner Lindsey requested Director Taylor reach out to Mr. Senft to see if he would like to continue to serve and if yes, authorize Chairman Pospichal to write a letter of support to the governor.

Motion made and seconded to write a letter of support for Mr. Paul Senft to serve on SWFWMD's Board of Directors if he wishes to continue in service. Motion approved unanimously.

7. Adjournment

Next meeting March 20, 2019

Make sure to visit our website www.prwcwater.org for more information.