



## MINUTES POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE

April 28, 2021 – 2:00 PM  
Nora Mayo Hall  
500 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881

ZOOM Virtual Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893257167?pwd=a2RsUC83cHNubUFhWU1YNjBCTnNLUT09>  
Call In: +1 (646) 558-8656  
Meeting ID: 868 9325 7167  
Password: 912038

### **Member Governments in Attendance:**

Member Government	Representative
City of Auburndale	Mayor Tim Pospichal, Primary
City of Bartow	Commissioner Bill Simpson, Primary
City of Davenport	Commissioner Tom Fellows, Primary
City of Dundee	Commissioner Bert Goddard, Primary
City of Eagle Lake	In Absence, Commissioner Randy Billings, Primary
City of Fort Meade	Mayor Samuel Berrien
City of Frostproof	In Absence, Vice Mayor Austin Gravley, Primary
City of Haines City	Mayor Morris West, Primary
City of Lake Alfred	In Absence, Commissioner Charles Lake, Primary
Town of Lake Hamilton	Mayor Mike Kehoe, Primary
City of Lake Wales	Mayor Eugene Fultz, Primary (Chair)
City of Lakeland	Mayor Bill Mutz, Primary (Secretary/Treasurer)
City of Mulberry	In Absence, Commissioner Collins Smith, Primary
City of Polk City	Mayor Joe LaCascia, Primary
Polk County	Commissioner George Lindsey, Primary (Vice Chair)
City of Winter Haven	Mayor Pro-Tem Nathaniel Birdsong, Primary

#### A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Fultz at 2:04 PM.

#### B. Recognition of new primary/alternate appointees of members

Roll was taken by Director Taylor.

C. Agenda Revisions

No agenda revisions were presented.

D. Public Comments

No public comments were presented.

E. Regular BOD

1. Overview of the Implementation Agreements

Ms. Carlyn Kowalsky provided an overview, including the history and a look ahead, of the Cooperative and the implementation agreements.

Mr. John Fumero stated the project implementation agreements are really implementing and executing the permitting, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the two identified projects - the West Polk and Southeast Wellfield projects. It is a significant milestone for all of the members and the Cooperative itself, although there are some very important next steps dealing with the SWFWMD on a funding agreement and getting the EPA WIFIA application pulled together by the June deadline. There is a lot of work to be done, but this is an important step forward.

**Recess Regular Board of Directors Meeting / Commence as SE Wellfield Project Board at 2:17 P.M.**

Director Taylor provided a brief synopsis of the items before the SE Wellfield Project Board.

F. Project Board

2. Elect Southeast Wellfield Project Board Officers - (ACTION ITEM)

Director Taylor stated that the members participating in the SE Wellfield are Auburndale, Bartow, Dundee, Lake Alfred, Lakeland, Winter Haven, and Polk County.

Mayor Pro-tem Birdsong nominated Commissioner Lindsey for Chair.

No other nominations presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Auburndale: yes

Bartow: yes

Dundee: yes

Lake Alfred: not present

Lakeland: yes

Winter Haven: yes

Polk County: yes

Mayor Pospichal nominated Mayor Pro-tem Birdsong for Vice chair

Roll Call Vote:

Auburndale: yes  
Bartow: yes  
Dundee: yes  
Lake Alfred: not present  
Lakeland: yes  
Winter Haven: yes  
Polk County: yes

Commissioner Lindsey nominated Mayor Pospichal for Secretary/Treasurer.

Roll Call Vote:

Auburndale: yes  
Bartow: yes  
Dundee: yes  
Lake Alfred: not present  
Lakeland: yes  
Winter Haven: yes  
Polk County: yes

3. Southeast Wellfield Implementation Agreement approval by the Cooperative  
(ACTION ITEM)

Director Taylor stated the second action is the implementation agreement approval, and then presented the Project Participants and Project Associates. Project Participants will have a vote based on the weighted method, the project participants are welcome to speak at project board and to be well informed of the project, but do not participate in voting.

Auburndale – Participating at 1.65 MGD  
Bartow – Participating at 0.36 MGD  
Dundee – Participating at 0.47 MGD  
Lakeland – Participating at 0.10 MGD  
Winter Haven – Participating at 1.52 MGD  
Polk County – Participating at 3.4 MGD  
Director Taylor stated the City of Lake Alfred voted to participate at 0.43 MGD

Project Associates include: Davenport, Eagle Lake, Ft. Meade, Haines City, Lake Hamilton, Mulberry absence, and Lake Wales.

Vote to approve the Southeast Wellfield implementation agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Auburndale: yes  
Bartow: yes  
Dundee: yes  
Lake Alfred: not present

Lakeland: yes  
Winter Haven: yes  
Polk County: yes

4. Southeast Wellfield Project Bond Counsel for WIFIA – (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Ed de la Parte provided a synopsis of the previous year's competitive bid approval and approval of contract. He also provided a description of the changes to the Bond Counsel contract.

Commissioner Lindsey moved to approve Holland and Knight as bond counsel and was seconded by Mayor Mutz. Motion approved unanimously.

**Recess SE Wellfield Project Board and Commence as West Polk Project Board at 2:32 PM.**

G. West Polk Wellfield Project Board

Director Taylor provided a description of the items on the West Polk agenda.

5. Elect West Polk Project Board Officers (ACTION ITEM)

Director Taylor provided a list of those participating in the West Polk project including Auburndale, Bartow, Eagle Lake, Lakeland, Polk City, Winter Haven, Polk County

Mayor Pro-tem Birdsong nominated Mayor Mutz for Chair.

No other nominations presented

Roll Call Vote:

Auburndale: yes  
Bartow: yes  
Eagle Lake: yes  
Lakeland: yes  
Polk City: yes  
Winter Haven: yes  
Polk County yes

Mayor LaCascia nominated Commissioner Simpson for Vice Chair

Roll Call Vote:

Auburndale: yes  
Bartow: yes  
Eagle Lake: yes  
Lakeland: yes  
Polk City: yes  
Winter Haven: yes  
Polk County yes

Mayor Mutz requested to defer the election of secretary/treasurer to a later date.

Vote to confirm by voice vote. Approved unanimously.

6. West Polk Implementation Agreement approval by the Cooperative – (ACTION ITEM)

Director Taylor provided a list of project participants and project associates

Participants:

Auburndale – Participating at 0.10 MGD

Bartow – Participating at 0.36 MGD

Eagle Lake – Not Present

Lakeland – Participating at 6.3 MGD

Polk City – Participating at 0.03 MGD

Winter Haven – Participating at 0.10 MGD

Polk County – Participating at 0.98 MGD

Project associates include Dundee, Ft Meade, Mulberry, and Lake Alfred.

Vote to approve the West Polk implementation agreement by voice vote. Approved Unanimously.

7. West Polk Project Board – Bond Counsel for WIFIA – (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. de la Parte stated similar changes as described for the Southeast Wellfield Project Board.

Mayor Mutz motioned to approve on a contingent basis, which was seconded by Commissioner Lindsey. Motion approved unanimously.

**Recess West Polk Project Board/Commence Combined Projects Phase 1 2:42 PM**

H. Combined Projects Phase 1 Project Board.

8. Access Agreement approvals for Clear Springs and Mosaic – (ACTION ITEM)

Katie Gierock, TeamOne, provided a brief synopsis of the need for initial field work and an access agreement for the Peace Creek and Peace River projects.

Mayor Pro-tem Birdsong motioned for approval of the access agreements, which was seconded by Commissioner Lindsey.

Auburndale: yes

Bartow: yes

Davenport: yes

Dundee: yes

Eagle Lake: in absence

Ft Meade: no until city gets agreement

Haines City: yes

Lake Alfred: in absence

Lake Hamilton: yes  
Lakeland: yes  
Lake Wales: yes  
Mulberry: in absence  
Polk City: yes  
Polk County: yes  
Winter Haven: yes

Motion Approved.

Director Taylor stated that a meeting was held with representatives of the City of Fort Meade last week.

Mr. de la Parte added that it was good meeting and negotiations should be wrapped up in the next five weeks.

#### 9. TeamOne Update

Ms. Mary Thomas stated Southeast Wellfield and West Polk Preliminary Design Reports have been provided to the TAC.

Director Taylor asked if we are still in the permitting process for the Peace River project.

Ms. Thomas stated the Upper Peace Water Use Permit is being drafted but has not been submitted.

Director Taylor asked about the Peace River permit application that was the concern of the City of Ft. Meade.

Ms. Thomas stated that will be part of the joint Upper Peace River water use permit that will take into account both the Peace Creek and Peace River projects.

Project Administrator stated we have also been meeting with the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) and the SWFWMD in a cooperative effort as was discussed at the last PRWC Board meeting.

Mayor Pro-tem Birdsong asked if the agreement with the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority specified a time frame that needed to be met to apply for the permit.

Mr. de la Parte stated there is a 10-year time frame when the permit must be submitted. There was a change earlier this month to the Peace River MFL creating a concern that the PRMRWSA would apply to increase their water from the 28% to the full 40% which would then have an impact on the PRWC. There will be subsequent meetings with the Authority regarding that situation, and the authority has indicated that they not going to immediately file an application to take all of that water and would like to try and work out a protocol on how to use the water equitably.

Mayor Pro-tem asked when the PRWC WUP application would be completed and submitted.

Ms Thomas stated the target is May but that is contingent upon further discussions with PRMRWSA and the project stakeholders and continued conversations with the City of Fort Meade.

**Recess Projects Board of Directors Meeting/Commence Regular Board of Directors Meeting at 2:52 P.M.**

I. Open Discussion

No open discussion items presented.

J. Chair / Executive Director Report

Chair

Chair Fultz commended all those who have made the decision to move forward with the progress of the PRWC. There will be opportunities for Associate members to become participants and for those not participating to participate.

Executive Director

Director Taylor commended the progress of the PRWC and stated now the work begins and that he looks forward to seeing the work ahead completed.

Heartland Headwaters Act has allocated \$7M toward the Heartland Funding, which includes the three Cooperative projects and several member projects.

K. Adjournment

Board meeting adjourned by Chairman Fultz at 2:56 P.M.