

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
PEACE RIVER MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
DeSoto County Administration Building
Commission Chambers, First Floor
201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida

October 2, 2019

Board Members Present:

Commissioner Ken Doherty, Charlotte County, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Alan Maio, Sarasota County
Commissioner Priscilla Trace, Manatee County
Commissioner J.C. Deriso, Desoto County Alternate

Staff Present

Patrick Lehman, Executive Director
Doug Manson, General Counsel
Mike Coates, Deputy Director
Kevin Morris, Engineering & Projects Manager
Ann Lee, Finance & Administration Manager
Richard Anderson, System Operations Manager
Terri Holcomb, Senior Engineer
Rachel Kersten, Agency Clerk

Others Present:

A list of others presents who signed the attendance roster for this meeting is filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Doherty called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INVOCATION

Doug Manson offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

WELCOME GUESTS

Welcoming remarks were made by Travis Mortimer, Charlotte County Assistant County Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

RESOLUTIONS/PRESENTATIONS**1. Employee Service Recognition: Kevin Morris 20 Years**

The Authority Board recognized Kevin Morris for his 20 years of dedicated service to the Authority.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Doherty requested Consent Items 5 & 12 be removed for discussion.

1. Approve minutes of July 31, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.
2. Approve Fund Disbursements in accordance with the FY 2020 Budget.
3. Approve Second Amendment to Agreement for State Lobbyist Services with Diane R. Salz Governmental Consulting.
4. Approve Fifth Amendment to Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Agreement for General Counsel Services with Manson Bolves Donaldson Varn, P.A.
6. Approve piggy-backing on City of Sarasota Contract with Benchmark EnviroAnalytical Inc. for water quality analysis, and authorization for the Executive Director to execute an Agreement for these services.
7. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute Change Order No. 1 to contract with L. Cobb Construction, Inc, for 'Maintenance Facility and Warehouse Construction Project' increasing Contract time by 33 calendar days with no change in Contract price.
8. Approve and authorize Executive Director to execute Change Order No. 1 to contract with Reynolds Construction, LLC, for 'Regional Integrated Loop System Phase 1 Interconnect (U.S. 17 to Punta Gorda) Project' increasing Contract time by 30 calendar days with no change in Contract price.
9. Approve and authorize Executive Director to execute Change Order No. 2 to contract with Marine Contracting Group, Inc. for 'Phase 2 River Intake Dredge Project' decreasing the contract price to \$627,445.72 and Closing Out the Project.
10. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute First Amendment to Partially Treated Water ASR Cooperative Funding Agreement 18CF0000854 with SWFWMD
11. Approve Authority Budget Policies Revisions.
13. Authorize submittal of FY 2021 Cooperative Funding Initiative Applications to SWFWMD for five regional projects and approve recommended project co-funding ranking.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trace, seconded by Commissioner Deriso, to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 5 & 12. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. 'Classification & Pay Plan' Salary Range Indexing

Commissioner Doherty asked Mr. Lehman for clarification regarding the Classification & Pay Plan salary range indexing, specifically to understand that there will be an annual pay raise for the employees was included as a 4% number in the approved budget.

Mr. Lehman confirmed that yes, that 4% number was included and approved in the budget but it is not a blanket pay raise. It is based on and determined by the Executive Director and management staff's review with each Authority employee.

Motion was made by Commissioner Doherty, seconded by Commissioner Maio to receive and file Memorandum on 'Classification & Pay Plan' Salary Range accepting staff recommendation for Pay Ranges to remain unchanged for FY 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

12. Legislative Priorities for 2020

Commissioner Doherty commented that with all the water quality discussions going on in Tallahassee he would like to be in position when he goes to Tallahassee and speaks on behalf of Charlotte County to say that the Authority agrees and supports the concept of real time water quality monitoring.

Commissioner Trace stated that water quality is always a concern and her understanding is that we are currently receiving real time reports on the Peace River.

Mr. Coates confirmed that yes, we do have real time monitoring of the Peace River. We have sites, and specifically a site on our intake, that can be accessed through the U.S. Geological Survey website and see real-time conductivity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and those sorts of things. Other monitoring we have on the river is collected in real time – continuously - but a lot of it is not available in real time. We have to go out and download the information. But we have been monitoring the river for 40 years now and there is a huge data set that is evaluated annually and a more comprehensive evaluation is done every five years. If the Board would like to further discuss what we have out there for monitoring and how we can improve that program, the staff can provide that information.

Commissioner Trace added that she believes it is important to state that we are concerned with water quality, but it is important that we focus our comments and support items being specifically aimed towards what we have control over, and that is the monitoring we perform on the Peace River.

Commissioner Doherty commented that maybe the best way to handle this then is for him to gather a better understanding of the kind of monitoring that is currently being done and take that information back to his Board and keep the terms of the support items broad in the meantime.

Motion was made by Commissioner Deriso, seconded by Commissioner Trace to adopt the Legislative Priorities for 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Water Supply Conditions – Staff Presentation

Richard Anderson presented the Water Supply Conditions at the Peace River Facility as of September 17, 2019.

- Water Supply Quantity: Excellent
- Treated Water Quality: Excellent

September Water Demand	24.36 MGD
September River Withdrawals	39.54 MGD
<u>Storage Volume:</u>	
Reservoirs	6.41 BG
ASR	<u>8.03 BG</u>
Total	14.44 BG

Mr. Anderson also reviewed the current demand and supply for each of the Authority customers for the month of August 2019 and the cumulative historical annual average usage of the region.

For the record, Commissioner Maio asked that Mr. Anderson confirm his understanding that we have over 6.4 billion gallons in the reservoir, which is nearly full. We have over eight billion in the ASR wells system, and we are only using about sixty-one percent of our available supply currently. So even though we had a month of little to no rain, there is absolutely no danger of us running out of water.

Mr. Anderson stated that yes, that is absolutely accurate. If we had no rain, at our current days supply flow we have enough storage to provide water to the region for over a year.

2. Projects Update – Staff Presentation

Kevin Morris presented the Board with an update on the current ongoing Authority projects including: (1) the Phase 2 River Dredge Project, (2) the Maintenance Office & Warehouse Project, (3) the Phase 1 Interconnect Pipeline Project, (4) the Phase 3B Interconnect Pipeline Project, and (5) the Filter Covers Project.

Relating to the presentation, Commissioner Maio asked how many billion gallons of water passed our intake valve during hurricane Irma.

Mr. Lehman answered that he believes it was close to 19 billion gallons in a single twenty-four-hour period.

Commissioner Doherty asked for clarification regarding the river dredging project. Specifically, as to whether or not this project is maintenance dredging and if it had been done in the past.

Mr. Morris clarified that it is referred to as “maintenance dredging” if it has ever been dredged before in the past. The sump area located directly in front of the river pump station had been previously dredged many, many years ago. In 2016 while working under a maintenance dredging permit to clear that section again, we noticed the sand bank at that time but could not approach it because of the limits of the permit. This is the first time in recent history we have had to clear the western thread and it is not something we anticipate having to do again for many years, but that all depends on the nature of the storms we get in the area.

3. Manatee/Sarasota Water Sales Agreement

Mr. Lehman presented information for the Board’s discussion and direction regarding the Manatee County and Sarasota County Water Sales Agreement that has been in place since 1973 and set to expire in 2025.

Commissioner Maio stated that he feels this is the essence of why the regional authority exists - to maintain an adequate supply. The counties have staff managing this agreement, and he is always first to say that he does not want to get out ahead of his Board on anything. He is being very consistently brought up to speed on conversations by Jonathon Lewis (Sarasota County Administrator) and he will leave this at this moment to the administrators and staff to work through.

Commissioner Trace commented that she is with Commissioner Maio that the Administrators should work this out. Manatee County has always been transparent to the region and will continue to be so. Let the staff work it out as they have for the last 52 years.

Commissioner Maio asked Mr. Lehman if we had the time to allow the Administrators and utilities staff to meet again and then bring the discussion back to us at the next Authority Board Meeting in December with some more decisions made.

Mr. Lehman stated that timeline is doable.

Commissioner Doherty asked if a special workshop between now and December would be appropriate. To pull together all the staff and the Administrators and in doing so create meaningful discussion surrounding this agreement both for the long term and short term because the regional goal is to hook these issues together. Or just let the staffs work on it and do a combined presentation afterwards.

Commissioner Trace stated that she feels a workshop at this point in time would be jumping the gun. We understand that the current agreement says 2025, but even preliminary discussions show us that we are good for quite a while if you call 15 years the short term. Commissioner Trace again said keep it at the staff level. There is no need to go beyond that at this time.

Commissioner Maio agreed with Commissioner Trace. Allow the staff to continue working on this together. This sequencing of things does not happen by accident, our agreement ends in 2025, the Carlton facility rehab began now for that reason.

Commissioner Doherty stated as for direction to Mr. Lehman and staff that Sarasota County staff and Manatee County staff will continue to sort out their agreement with involvement from the Authority, understanding that a bigger discussion requiring input from the Board is not necessary at this time and if and when it is, it will be brought back at that time.

4. Annual Review of Executive Director

In the absence of Chairman Langford this item has been deferred to the December Board meeting.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Mr. Manson presented this status report for the Board's information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lehman presented this status report for the Board's information.

ROUTINE STATUS REPORTS

There were no Board comments on routine status reports.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Deriso encouraged all of our stakeholders to think about and explore any proactive measures that we can do to protect our resource. The Peace River Basin and its tributaries have some potential significant development on the horizon so we have one chance to steward our water resources in the critical decade to come, and we can all be searching our brains for ways to continue to improve the way that we do this.

There were no additional Board member comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment was made by Tim Ritchie of Punta Gorda, Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Doherty announced the following:

Next Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.
Manatee County Administration Center
Commission Chambers, Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida

ADJOURNEMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

BOARD APPROVED

DEC - 4 2019

Peace River Manasota
Regional Water Supply Authority



Commissioner Elton A. Langford
Chairman