

DRAFT

WITHLACOOCHEE REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of the Meeting March 18, 2026

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
PLACE: Lecanto Government Building
ADDRESS: 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, Florida 34461

The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. **Call to Order**

As the most senior member of Board members present, Chair Wiley called the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Wiley led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call** – Chair Campbell requested each member present introduce themselves. He noted a quorum was present.

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Don Wiley, *Chair*, Sumter Co Commissioner
Marcos Flores, *Vice Chair*, Wildwood Councilor
Thomas Bronson, Brooksville City Councilor
Jerry Campbell, Hernando Co Commissioner
Todd Coon, Sumter County Commissioner
Jeff Kinnard, Citrus Co Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER(S) ABSENT

Diana Finegan, *Treasurer*, Citrus Co Commissioner
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner
Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Gene Davis, Inverness City Councilor
Ray Dwyer, Belleview Commissioner
Michelle Stone, Marion County Commissioner
Carl Zalak, Marion County Commissioner

BOARD ALTERNATE(S) PRESENT

Alys Brockway, Hernando Co Water Res Mgr
Trevor Knight, Marion Co Water Res Liaison

WRWSA STAFF PRESENT

Suzannah J. Folsom, PE, PMP, Executive Dir
James Hartley, General Counsel Assistant
LuAnne Stout, Administrative Asst.

WRWSA STAFF ABSENT

Robert W. Batsel, Jr., General Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Bradley Arnold, Sumter County Administrator
Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Water Supply Project Mgr
David B. Geddis, Jr, Pinellas County Resident
Chuck Hutterli, Too Far Foundation
Ross Justice, Florida United, Sumter Co Resident
Orem May, Lake Panasoffkee Resident
Linda Massi, Sumter County Resident
William Jenkins, Sumter County Resident
Jeremy Scott, Sumterville Resident
Alexandra St. Martin, Webster Resident
Leslie Strickland, Sumterville Resident
Partick Tara, INTERA

4. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda** – Mrs. Folsom said there are no additions or deletions to the agenda. She noted that only three counties are represented today so budget items may not be considered for a vote (Item 9).

5. **Public Comment** – Chair Wiley opened the floor for public comment. The following audience members spoke regarding their concerns about Item 7, Proposed Leachate Injection Well in Sumter County: Alexandra St. Martin, Jeremy Scott, David B. Geddis, Orem May, Leslie Strickland, and Ross Justice.

There being no other members of the audience requesting to address the Board, Chair Wiley closed public comment. Mr. Kinnard thanked the concerned audience members for attending today's meeting. He noted that he is opposed to this proposed project and hopes the Board will take an official position.

At this time, the order of consideration was changed to allow Item 7 to be heard earlier.

7. Proposed Leachate Injection Well in Sumter County

Ms. Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The Sumter County Administrator, Bradley Arnold, reached out to WRWSA in late February to determine if WRWSA would be an interested party related to the proposed landfill leachate injection well at the Heart of Florida Landfill. Class I Injection wells are an approved disposal method of landfill leachate disposal. These wells are permitted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, first by approving an Class V exploratory well, which cannot be used for injection until confirming that conditions are acceptable and converting the well to a Class I injection well.

Mr. Patrick Tara, representing INTERA engineering firm, provided an education presentation on deep well injections. His presentation included review of the following topics:

- Existing Landfill information
- Leachate Disposal methods
- Injection Well types
- Other Injections wells in WRWSA service area
- Other leachate injection wells in Florida
- Hydrogeology near proposed well

Mr. Tara provided clarifying answers to questions by the audience. He noted information on this proposed project is available on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection website.

Discussion ensued by the Board regarding well injection pressures, wellhead protection zones, potential impacts, the move from septic to treatment facilities, advocating for our best interests, neighbors have a responsibility to protect water resources, and bringing this to the attention of member county commissions.

Board and audience members expressed their appreciation for the educational presentation. This item was provided for the Board's information and no action was required.

Mr. Campbell left the meeting 5:08 p.m. and Ms. Brockway assumed his seat as alternate member.

At this time, the order of consideration returned to the published agenda.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approval of Minutes** [approve November 12, 2025 minutes]
- b. **Bills to be Paid** [ratified December bills; approve January bills provided at the meeting]
- c. **Water Conservation Month** [approve Resolution 2026-02]

Mr. Kinnard moved, seconded by Mr. Flores, to approve Consent Agenda Items 6.a., 6.b. and 6.c., as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Regional Water Supply Plan – Presentation on Draft Comments

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, presented the draft report comments received for this project. The Authority entered into a cooperative funding agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) in December 2022 (23CF0004079) for Regional Water Supply Plan Update project. The Authority entered into a contract with Hazen and Sawyer in January 2023 to undertake the project. With the assistance of the SWFWMD, St. Johns River Water Management District, and a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from member governments and public supply utilities in the four-county region, the Plan Update is being coordinated.

A summary of the major comments on the draft report that will be incorporated in the final report and were listed in the Board’s meeting materials. The revised report will be provided for approval at the May Board meeting.

This item was provided for the Board’s information and no action was required.

9. Establishment of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 Per Capita and Grant Funding Budget Components

Ms. Suzy Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. She noted that, since only three counties commission representatives are in attendance, no action may be taken.

Each year the Authority Board must approve a per capita rate for each of the member counties. The current rate of \$0.19 per capita has been in effect for thirteen years, since the 2009-10 fiscal year. The per capita rate is applied to the latest county population estimates prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which prepares the State’s official population estimates.

The Draft Regional Water Supply Plan included Tier 3 Water Conservation as the most cost effective and highest ranked water supply option to meet future water supply needs. WRWSA supports conservation through the Water Supply and Conservation Grant Funding program. The WRWSA per capita assessments fund this program.

The table below lists four options for the FY 2026-27 per capita assessment and corresponding grant funding amount.

| Per Capita Assessment | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| County | BEBR Population (April 1, 2025) | FY 2026 - 2027 Per Capita Assessment Options | | | |
| | | \$0.19 | \$0.22 | \$0.29 | \$0.71 |
| | | No Change | 20-year ramp up | 5-year ramp up | Tier 3 Conservation |
| Citrus | 166,500 | \$31,635 | \$36,630 | \$48,285 | \$118,215 |
| Hernando | 212,849 | \$40,441 | \$46,827 | \$61,726 | \$151,123 |
| Marion | 433,765 | \$82,415 | \$95,428 | \$125,792 | \$307,973 |
| Sumter | 162,493 | \$30,874 | \$35,748 | \$47,123 | \$115,370 |
| Total | 975,607 | \$185,365 | \$214,633 | \$282,926 | \$692,681 |
| Grant Funding Amount | | | | | |
| Corresponding Proposed Grant budget | | \$185,000 | \$210,000 | \$280,000 | \$690,000 |

Discussion ensued and the discussion of the members in attendance indicated a preference to have the capita rate to remain at \$0.19.

This item was provided for the Board’s information and no action was required.

10. Legislative Reports

Ms. Folsom, WRWSA Executive Director, presented this item. The 2026 Legislative Regular Session is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2026 and end on March 13, 2026. Staff has gathered updated information on relevant bills that are related to conservation and water supply from SWFWMD, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the Florida Engineering Society’s legislative tracking, and the House and Senate websites.

As of March 9, 2026, only three of the bills that we have been tracking have passed in the House and Senate. Staff will continue to track the status of the bills and present on the final status at the Board Meeting. A summary of the bills that WRWSA has been tracking for this session is provided as an exhibit and included in the Board’s meeting materials.

This item was provided for the Board’s information and no action was required.

11. **Attorney's Report** – Mr. Hartley noted the Water Supply contact was approved October 2016 between Citrus County and WRWSA; provides for operation, maintenance, alteration, replacement and expansion of the Charles A. Black water supply facilities; and automatic renewal subject to County 6-month notice to not renew, or County 12-month notice to cancel.

Discussion ensued by the Board and no action was required.

12. **Executive Director's Report** – Ms. Folsom presented the following items which required no action and highlighted items which had activity since last Board meeting.
- a. **Water Use Permit Demand Summary** – A summary was in the Board's meeting materials.
 - b. **Water Use Permit Activity Report (WMIS Notifications)** – A list of notifications was included in the Board's meeting materials.
 - c. **Residential Irrigation Evaluation Programs Update** – Ms. Folsom noted that Phase 8a (WISE) will transition into Phase 8b.
 - d. **Correspondence** – Item(s) were included in the meeting materials.
 - e. **News Articles** – Article(s) were included in the meeting materials.
 - f. **WRWSA Office Lease/Purchase Options** – Ms. Suzannah Folsom, Executive Director, presented this item. WRWSA has an agreement with Citrus County to lease office space in the Lecanto Government Building. This five-year agreement will expire at the end of September 2026. WRWSA staff has reached out the Citrus County to inquire about renewing the lease. The County is willing to renew the lease; however, they are not sure if it would be for the current space, as many of the departments in the Lecanto Government Building are moving and the final arrangement for spaces in the building will not be available until May.

The current lease is for approximately \$2,047.68 per year for 289 square feet. In addition, the lease provides for utilities, internet access, and meeting rooms when needed. A review of similar office spaces in the area (see exhibit included in the Board's meeting materials) did not yield better options for lease or purchase. WRWSA staff will continue to coordinate the Citrus County on the availability of space in the Lecanto Government Building.

Staff will include the current lease amount in the proposed budget for the FY 2026-27 as a placeholder, and will provide an updated lease agreement for approval prior to the lease expiring in September 2026. This is an information item for the Board and no action is required.

13. **Other Business** – None

14. **Next Meeting Time and Location**

➤ The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, Room 166.

15. **Adjournment** – Chair Wiley adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Don Wiley, Chair

Suzannah J. Folsom, Executive Director