

**FLORIDA LEADERS ORGANIZED FOR WATER (FLOW)
COLUMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX
372 WEST DUVAL STREET
LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32055**

**AGENDA
September 10, 2012
7 p.m.**

Invocation

Pledge to U.S. Flag

Roll Call

Agenda Additions/Deletions

Adoption of Agenda

Discussion and Action Items

1. Approval of Minutes for April, May, and June, 2012
2. Rescheduling Nov. 12 meeting (Veterans Day holiday)
3. Report on Interlocal Agreement
4. Financial Report
5. Committee reports and meeting schedules
 - a. Executive
 - b. Legal
 - c. Legislative
 - d. Public Information & Education
 - e. Science
6. Issuance of CUP Prior to Land Use Approval by SJRWMD
7. Questions for WMDs from Legislative Committee and others

“FLOW “

Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Minutes of

April 09, 2012

The Florida Leaders Organized for Water met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the School Board Administration Office. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

In Attendance:

Helen Miller
Ronald Williams
Jack Byrd
Jack Brown
Gene Higginbotham
Mary Lou Hildreth
Frank Darabi
Doug McNicol
Shirley Clark
Jerome Kelley
Randy Ogburn
Sue Weller
Tommy Langford
Wesley Wainwright
Chad Johnson
Chereese Stewart

White Springs Mayor
Columbia County Commissioner
Lafayette County Commissioner
Taylor County
Dixie County Commissioner
Keystone Heights Mayor
Representative for City of MacClenny
Madison County, Town of Lee
Branford
Bradford County Engineer
Hamilton County
City of High Springs
Gilchrist County
Suwannee County (Late)
Levy County (Late)
Clay County (Late)

Absent:

Lee Pinkoson
Bobby Edwards

Alachua County Commissioner
Taylor County Citizen Representative

Others in Attendance:

Columbia County Manager Dale Williams
Senior Staff Assistant David Kraus
Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts
Deputy Clerk Sandy A. Markham

Addition to the Agenda:

- Appointment of New Members
- Location for May Flow Meeting

There was a motion and a second to approve the amended agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Minute Approval; January 23, 2012, February 13, 2012 and March 12, 2012

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Interlocal Agreement Corrections

The FLOW Interlocal Agreement has been reviewed by all and signed by some. Attorney Feagle reviewed the proposed technical amendments to the Interlocal Agreement.

There was a motion and a second to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the changes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Develop Strategies for Action

Everyone is welcome to bring proposed strategies to the table for consideration. Strategies will further the mission of FLOW and will avoid speculation as to what FLOW's mission actually is. County Manager Williams proposed, as a starting point for developing a strategy, that the group begins by forming the following committees: *Science, Legislative, Legal, and Public Information and Education*. There was group discussion as to what the strategy would be for each group and methods for implementing. There was discussion regarding perspectives, objectives, and how to proceed. The group also discussed whether FLOW's objective should be decided before each of the committee's objectives are formulated.

Members of FLOW discussed the committees they would sit on and the possibility of meeting an hour prior to the regular scheduled meeting.

Committee Assignments:

Science:	Mary Lou Hildreth, Frank Darabi, Jerome Kelley, Chereese Stewart, Doug McNicol, Wesley Wainwright
Legislative:	Helen Miller, Lee Pinkoson, Wesley Wainwright, Tommy Langford, Mary Lou Hildreth, Chad Johnson, Gene Higginbotham
Legal:	Ronald Williams, Frank Darabi, Randy Ogburn, Chad Johnson
Public Info and Educ.	Shirley Clark, Jack Byrd, Sue Weller, Helen Miller, Jack Brown
Not Assigned:	Daniel Nugent, Steven Roberts, Bobby Edwards

Proposed New Members:

1. Daniel Nugent, City of Starke
2. Steven Roberts, City of Lake City
3. Bobby Edwards, Taylor County

There was a motion and a second to approve the three memberships. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input:

Public input was received for approximately ten minutes.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court

Ronald Williams, FLOW Chairman
Florida Leaders for Organized Water

“FLOW “

Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Minutes of

May 14, 2012

The Florida Leaders Organized for Water (“FLOW”) met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Gateway College Library. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

In Attendance:

Dennis Price (for H. Miller)	White Springs
Gene Higginbotham	Dixie County Commissioner
Stephen Roberts	City of Lake City
Frank Darabi	Representative for City of MacClenny
Doug McNicol	Madison County, Town of Lee
Shirley Clark	Branford
Jerome Kelley	Bradford County Engineer
Phil Oxendine (for W. Wainwright)	Suwannee County
Randy Ogburn	Hamilton County
Sue Weller	City of High Springs
Tommy Langford	Gilchrist County
Lee Pinkoson	Alachua County Commissioner
Bobby Edwards	Taylor County Citizen Representative

Absent:

Chad Johnson	Levy County (Late)
Chereese Stewart	Clay County (Late)
Wesley Wainwright	Suwannee County (Phil Oxendine served instead)
Jack Byrd	Lafayette County Commissioner
Jack Brown	Taylor County
Mary Lou Hildreth	Keystone Heights Mayor
Helen Miller	White Springs Mayor (Dennis Price served instead)
Daniel Nugent	City of Starke
Ronald Williams	Columbia County Commissioner

Others in Attendance:

Columbia County Manager Dale Williams (Acting Chair)
Senior Staff Assistant David Kraus
Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts
Deputy Clerk Linda Odom

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda: None.

There was a MOTION and a second to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting will be addressed at the next meeting.

Sub-Committee Presentations:

FLOW sub-committees were previously appointed for the purpose of making recommendations that will eventually be put into a Plan of Action. There are going to be costs associated with funding the plans of action. The amount of money that other counties are willing to fund in order to implement the plan has not yet been determined.

Reports were given by the following sub-committees: Science, Legal and Public Information. The Legislative Committee has not had an opportunity to meet.

MOTION by G. Higginbotham to approve the **Science Committee's** request to frame a letter for the Chairman's signature to St. Johns and Suwannee River Districts. The letter will request certain information that the Committee deems to be appropriate in order to make future decisions. Second by D. Price (for Helen Miller). The motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION of **Legal Committee**. F. Darabi suggested that FLOW proceed with having the legal team of Sniffen and Spellman make a presentation at the next regular meeting.

Public Information Committee. S. Weller discussed ideas for gathering and sharing information with special interest groups. She also discussed possible methods for reaching and disseminating information to the public, the legislature, various organizations and media, businesses, etc. There was discussion regarding procedures for gathering emails, posting information to the website and Facebook, and the best methods for compiling a database.

F. Darabi recommended FLOW request/apply for funds from St. Johns Water Management District for public education regarding water conservation.

FLOW Staff Person

Senior Staff Assistant David Kraus advised that the three member committee has narrowed applicants down to a short list. The committee will meet within the next two weeks and select a final candidate.

Public Comment

The floor opened and public comment was received. There was general discussion between the public and members of FLOW.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts

Dale Williams, County Manager and
Acting Chairman

“FLOW “

Florida Leaders Organized for Water

Minutes of

June 11, 2012

The Florida Leaders Organized for Water (“FLOW”) met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Columbia County School Board Administrative Building. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed.

In Attendance:

Dennis Price (for H. Miller)
Gene Higginbotham
Frank Darabi
Doug McNicol
Shirley Clark
Randy Ogburn
Sue Weller
Chad Johnson
Wesley Wainwright
Daniel Nugent
Mary Lou Hildreth
Ronald Williams

White Springs
Dixie County Commissioner
Representative for City of MacClenny
Madison County, Town of Lee
Branford
Hamilton County
City of High Springs
Levy County (Late)
Suwannee County
City of Starke
Keystone Heights Mayor
Columbia County Commissioner

Absent:

Stephen Roberts
Jerome Kelley
Wesley Wainwright
Tommy Langford
Lee Pinkoson
Bobby Edwards
Chereese Stewart
Jack Byrd
Jack Brown

City of Lake City
Bradford County Engineer
Suwannee County
Gilchrist County
Alachua County Commissioner
Taylor County Citizen Representative
Clay County
Lafayette County Commissioner
Taylor County

Others in Attendance:

Columbia County Manager Dale Williams
Senior Staff Assistant David Kraus
Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts
Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham

Agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

There was a ***MOTION*** and a second to adopt the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Suwannee River Water Management District (“SRWMD”)

Charlie Houser, Acting Executive Director of SRWMD gave a brief status report pertinent to the water shortage. The PowerPoint presentation indicated the hydrologic conditions within the district continue to be very serious. The recent rains were not successful in changing what is considered a serious drought. Across the district, the area is at least 12 or more inches below the normal range.

Mr. Houser advised that a Water Shortage Order was approved by the Governing Board on May 29, 2012, which will go into effect on June 13, 2012. The order specifies restrictions that are applicable to each type of water usage, and the penalties for their failure to comply. Everyone was asked to do their part in conserving water as the water shortage affects everyone in one form or another. Local governments are being encouraged to partner with SRWMD by adopting a Water Shortage model ordinance in support of the discussed order. FLOW Directors offered discussion and expressed mixed opinions regarding the request. No action was taken.

The St. Johns River Water Management District has scheduled the first meeting of the North Florida Regional Water Supply Stakeholder Partnership on June 25, 2012 in Palatka, FL.

There was a ***MOTION*** and a second to direct the Chair to write a letter to the St. Johns River Water Management District [From FLOW] asking that they enact a Water Shortage Order. The motion carried unanimously.

Ann Shortelle with the Department of Environmental Protection said the department did contact St. Johns River Water Management District to ask that they reconsider their water shortage position. She understands that they are in the process of reviewing their data.

Committee Presentations Regarding Action Plans and Budget Requests

Science Committee: Mr. Darabi said that a budget has not been prepared. A draft letter requesting specific information has been drafted. He did not elaborate on who the letter was to or the information requested.

Legislative Committee: No progress to report.

Legal Committee: No additional recommendations have been made by the committee other than that listed in the memo previously circulated. It is the opinion of the committee that it is not in FLOW's best interest to challenge every consumptive use permit presented. Instead the Committee feels their role will be to insure Water Management Districts and other water regulating authorities do their jobs. Relating to the budget, the committee feels the sciences, public education, etc. should all have a budget established before establishing the budget of the Legal Committee. The reason is simply that "the sky is the limit" when setting a legal budget.

Public Information Committee. No budget has been established by the committee. The committee feels that a staff person is needed and their job description established before a budget can be set. It was explained that a public information officer may be needed and this may or may not be something that will be handled by the new staff person.

Discussion

Subcommittee meetings may be held outside of the regular FLOW meetings, but the meeting must first be properly noticed and minutes should be taken and maintained.

There was discussion that the goal of FLOW seems clear, but there may still need to be some clarification given as to the overall objective of FLOW. Discussion ensued and opinions were shared for consideration

There was conversation that a hydrologist or a specific type of consultant will need to be hired to review and compile data received, and that person will also need to assist with requesting pertinent information.

It was reported that the Science Committee has requested Frank Darabi draft a letter to the District requesting specific information [not identified]. Financial resources are limited at this time and admittedly, the letter will only be a "drop in the bucket" until more funds are made available. The letter was considered.

There was a **MOTION** and a second to send the letter requesting information. The motion carried unanimously.

Some of the FLOW Directors have been involved with the water issues for quite some time and are understandably much more informed on the problem. Therefore, many felt it would be beneficial to have an appointed spokes person who is thoroughly informed and who can clearly articulate the water crisis to governing boards, including who is affected, how they are affected, the work of FLOW, and the need to contribute financial support. Many felt it was imperative that all Boards hear the same presentation in order to ensure everyone is on the same page and thoroughly informed. All Directors need to work to keep their local governments informed on a regular basis.

Hiring of Staff Person

The Interview Committee has short-listed the applicants who have applied as support staff for FLOW. The list was narrowed down to three and those persons will be interviewed by the Interview Committee.

There was a **MOTION** and a second to hire the staff person selected by the Interview Committee without having to bring the matter back before the full FLOW Board.

There was discussion as to whether the Interview Committee should be able to set the salary for the staff person without input from the full Board. Some of the Directors expressed an interest in seeing the resume of the individual prior to the hiring.

The MOTION and the second were withdrawn.

There was a MOTION that the Interview Committee moves forward with interviewing the applicants on the short list and that the resume of the recommended individual be sent to all Directors. The Directors will then have two days to review the applicant and voice any objections. Also, the Directors will at the same time be advised of the proposed salary for this individual. If there are no objections the Committee will be authorized to move forward with the hiring. After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

The County Manager said that the salary range for a full time person would likely be \$15-\$18 per hour. The employee would be eligible for state reimbursement for travel to and from scheduled meetings and for the events they are required to attend. Also, an office supply account will need to be established for this individual. He noted in the beginning this is expected to be a full time job that will eventually level off to a part-time position.

The Chair called for a motion to adopt the salary range.

There was a **MOTION** and a second to set the salary range at \$15-\$20 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a MOTION and a second to accept the Interview Committee's recommendation as to who to hire and to accept the salary as long as it is within the range mentioned. The motion carried with one opposing vote (Chad Johnson).

Contact Information

Frank Darabi asked that everyone be provided with the current contact information of each Director and the committees they are appointed to.

Next Meeting

The Chair asked that the staff person hired to assist FLOW be present and introduced at the next FLOW meeting. He also asked that each committee be prepared to present an action plan and a budget at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before FLOW, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Ronald Williams, Chairman
Florida Leaders Organized for Water

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court