



March 19, 2025

POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE

Lake Myrtle Sports Complex

201 Lake Myrtle Park Road

Auburndale, FL 33823

Member Governments in Attendance:

<u>Member Government</u>	<u>Representative</u>
City of Auburndale	Commissioner Alex Camm
City of Bartow	Mayor Trish Pfeiffer
City of Davenport	Mayor Brynn Summerlin
City of Dundee	Vice Mayor Bert Goddard
City of Eagle Lake	Absent
City of Fort Meade	Commissioner James Watts
City of Frostproof	Absent
City of Haines City	Vice-Mayor Morris West
City of Lake Alfred	Mayor Mac Fuller
Town of Lake Hamilton	Mayor Marlene Wagner
City of Lake Wales	Commissioner Keith Thompson
City of Lakeland	Commissioner Mike Musick
City of Mulberry	Absent
City of Polk City	Mayor Joe LaCascia
City of Winter Haven	Mayor Nathaniel Birdsong
Polk County Commissioner	Commissioner Becky Troutman (Via ZOOM)
PRWC	Eric DeHaven
PRWC	Ed de la Parte

A. Call To Order

Vice-Chairman Mayor Nathaniel Birdsong, called the meeting to order at 2:00PM. He asked if a quorum was present, and Mr. DeHaven responded that all Boards had a quorum of members present.

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

Vice-Chairman Birdsong asked Board Members to introduce themselves and recognized Commissioner Musick as a new alternate member attending his first meeting. He noted that Commissioner Troutman was attending the meeting via Zoom.

C. Agenda Revisions

Vice-Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. DeHaven noted that there were no changes.

D. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes)

In Shannon Carnivale's absence, Mr. DeHaven noted that handouts have been provided to the Board members for the Florida Water School that was cancelled due to the hurricane. The new dates were available on handouts provided.

E. Consent Items

E.1. Approve January 2025 BOD Regular Meeting Minutes (Action)

E.2. Approve February 2025 Southeast BOD Special Meeting Minutes (Action)

E.3. Approve and Ratify Actions Taken by BOD at its January 2025 BOD Regular Meeting (Action)

E.4. Approve the Heartland Headwaters Act Member Agreement Amendments (Action)

E.5. Approve the Letter of Intent with Frontier Communications for Relocation of Utilities (Action)

E.6. Approve Contract Amendments to SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Agreement 20CF0003425 Southeast Regional Transmission Main (Q216) and 20CF0003424 Southeast Water Treatment Facility (Q184) (Action)

Mr. DeHaven provided a brief overview of each item for the Boards information.

Motion to approve Consent Items was made by Mayor Mac Fuller , seconded by Commissioner James Watts . Motion was unanimously approved.
--

F. Regular BOD Items

F.1. Approve the PRWC Goals, Objectives, and Performance Metrics Report as a Requirement of Chapter 189.0694 Florida Statutes (Action)

Mr. DeHaven mentioned that with recent legislation focused on Special Districts, the PRWC was required to establish goals and objectives by October 2024, and report progress by December 2025. The goals were posted in November 2024, and the plan is to complete the progress report by December 2025. The 5 goals are: 1) provide 7.5 MGD from Southeast Wellfield by May 2028, 2) provide 2.5 MGD from West Polk Wellfield by January 2032, 3) complete the Annual PRWC Business Plan, 4) complete Annual PRWC Funding Review, and 5) Implement the Water Conservation Program. Each goal has several objectives, and performance metrics are deadline driven.

Vice-Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any questions. Mayor Summerlin asked if there were any penalties if goals were not met. Mr. DeHaven indicated that he was not aware of any direct penalties, but he indicated the state could withhold funding for underperforming Special Districts. He asked Mr. de la Parte if he was aware of any repercussions, and he indicated he was not aware of any. Mayor Summerlin reiterated his concern for having to provide a report without knowing the impacts.

Motion to approve the PRWC Goals, Objective, and Performance Metrics Report was made by **Commissioners James Watts**, seconded by **Mayor Mac Fuller**. Motion was unanimously approved.

F.2. Approve the Employment Agreement for the PRWC Financial Manager Position (Action)

Vice-Chairman Birdsong indicated the PRWC has found a person to fill the role of Financial Manager for the PRWC. Mr. DeHaven stated that the PRWC recommends Laura Guy-Rice to fill the position as Financial Manager. Laura has over 20 years of experience as a City Finance Director, 10 years of private-sector experience, and is a Certified Public Accountant. The employment agreement details that the mission and goals of PRWC are met. Laura's first day to begin will be March 24, 2025, with an annual salary of \$85,000 without benefits. There is an opportunity for annual performance reviews and salary adjustments. A 2-month resignation notice is required or the PRWC may terminate at any time with or without cause.

Motion to approve the Employment Agreement with Laura Guy-Rice for the PRWC Financial Manager Position was made by **Mayor Marlene Wagner**, seconded by **Commissioner James Watts**. Motion was unanimously approved.

Vice-Chairman Birdsong and the Board welcomed Laura and invited her to say a few words. Ms. Guy-Rice thanked the Board, providing some of her background, and stated she was looking forward to getting started officially.

F.3. Approve Resolution 2025-03 and an Agreement with Polk County for Use of Polk County Publicly Accessible Website for Legal Notice Publications (Action)

Mr. DeHaven noted that the PRWC publishes legal notices regarding public meetings and issuance of permits as required by law. Chapter 50 of the Florida Statutes states that a governmental agency may publish required legal notices on a publicly accessible website of the County in which it lies if doing so costs less than publishing legal notices in a print newspaper. It was determined that PRWC publication is less costly on the County website. The process requires the BOD to approve a resolution establishing that Polk County's publicly accessible website may be used by the PRWC, then the PRWC enters



into an agreement with Polk County, and then the PRWC can begin publishing notices on County publicly accessible website.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 and Polk County Agreement for use of Polk County Website for Legal Notices Publications was made by **Commissioner James Watts** seconded by **Mayor Morris West**. Motion was unanimously approved.

F.4. Accept the Independent Auditors Report for Fiscal Year 2024 (Action)

Mr. Mike Brynjulfson began his presentation by noting that this is the 9th audit that has been performed on the PRWC. Each audit consists of a series of reports. The first report completed for the 2024 period was the auditor's report on the financial statements. An Unmodified "Clean" Opinion report of the financial statement was made indicating the statements were free of material errors and presented in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The financial statements are a fair representation of what happened during the year.

A report on Internal Control Deficiencies and Compliance was completed covering financial reporting. One material weakness was identified because of material audit adjustments. This means that there were some audit adjustments that were necessary as the financial statements were reviewed. This is a repeat finding.

The audit found that the PRWC was in Compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statute.

The audit found that the PRWC was in compliance with federal and state grants and loans. A total of \$823K was spent on Federal funds. The finding from last year under this audit category has been corrected.

The Management Letter covers general audit issues, and no adverse findings were identified. The same holds true for the Governance Letter that covers working with the PRWC management and staff – there were no disagreements with management. Some errors were identified but not corrected because they were greater than trivial level, but less than material level. These do not require corrections.

Mr. Brynjulfson covered a couple general slides on finance management and expectations on PRWC finances and audit processes. He provided a snapshot of revenues and expenses over the past nine years. He also discussed total assets and liabilities. There was a new revenue item that went into effect this year, called the "water charge". This is where the local governments are having to start making annual payments to the Coop to pay for interest on the long-term debt, which will be an item moving forward.

Vice-Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Troutman asked about the finding and if there were any recommendations to correct. Mr.

Brynjulfson indicated having a dedicated financial manager will assist in this issue. Mayor LaCascia also asked about the audit finding and concerns on the fact that it was a repeat finding. He requested assurance that this will be corrected. Mr. DeHaven responded with further explanation on the issue and provided assurance that this issue will be addressed through a better-defined year-end closing process with assistance of the new Financial Manager.

Motion to Accept the Independent Auditors Report for Fiscal Year 2024 was made by **Mayor Joe LaCascia** seconded by **Commissioner Bert Goddard**. Motion was unanimously approved.

F.5. Final 2025 Business Plan Report, Member FY2026 Budgeting Information, and FDEP State Revolving Fund (SRF) Construction Loan Request for the Southeast Wellfield Water Production Facility (Information)

Mr. Robert Beltran presented the final 2025 Business Plan to the Board and noted the help from Mr. Murray Hamilton with Raftelis and all of TeamOne. He provided an overview of the timing of the annual Business Plan. The overall funding summary in 2025 is \$807M for all costs for Southeast and West Polk and it is expected that these costs will reduce with additional grant funds as well as actual bid pricing on project elements. He noted that this amount includes member funds that represent a funding shortfall. He noted that the SFR construction loan is the financing mechanism used to close the funding shortfall. Mr. Beltran provided a comparison of the last several Business plan projections and noted that the PRWC Financial Management Firm, PFM, was able to re-arrange some of the PRWC financing with the result that member costs over the next several years have been reduced.

Mr. Beltran then discussed the expected fiscal year 2025 costs for each member. He provided a table of member costs for budgeting purposes. Included in those costs is the PRWC proposal to hire a Project Manager to oversee the Southeast Wellfield Projects currently being managed by Mark Addison. The expected salary is \$135,000/year and is scheduled to be added to FY 2026 budget. Mr. DeHaven provided additional information on the project manager position and the need to hire a project manager position.

Mr. Beltran then provided the full FY2026 expected costs to each member. This is what each member needs to budget for FY2026. Eric will send out the updated FY 2026 payment schedule. Mayor Wagner expressed concern about the Lake Hamilton costs. Mr. DeHaven indicated he can meet with Lake Hamilton to better explain their costs.

Mr. Beltran indicated how we get costs down is through competitive contract bidding, taking advantage of lower market rates, continuing the dialog with the WMD on their planned reimbursement schedule, and working collaboratively to maximize grant opportunities. He also discussed the SRF construction loan and indicated the PRWC was approved for an initial \$14M with \$2.4M of principal forgiveness.

Vice-Chairman Birdsong indicated that this item was for the Boards information and now action is required. He asked if there were any questions. Mayor LaCascia indicated that his comment was off topic, but he was very satisfied with TeamOne and Mary Thomas at Polk County Day in Tallahassee. He wanted to express his thanks.

Vice-Mayor West asked if the numbers for budgeting are finalized or will they change. Mr. Beltran indicated that they were finalized. Mr. DeHaven confirmed.

Vice-Chairman Birdsong called for a recess to the Regular Board.

G. Recess Regular BOD/Commence Combined Projects BOD

Vice Chairman Birdsong commenced the Combined Projects Board and indicated that there were no items on the Combined Projects agenda and adjourned this Board.

H. Recess Combined Projects BOD/Commence Southeast Wellfield BOD

Vice-Chairman Birdsong commenced the Southeast Projects Board.

H.1. Adopt Resolution 2025-04 to Approve the Revolving Line of Credit Loan Agreement with Truist Bank and its Affiliate, Truist Commercial Equity, Inc. (Action)

Julie Santamaria with PFFM Advisors indicated PRWC has had a line of credit with Wells Fargo since 2017, currently in the amount not to exceed \$15M outstanding; Currently, \$1.2M has been withdrawn. The Line of credit is important for reimbursements and will be critical for upcoming construction. Upon request, Wells Fargo agreed to extend the line of credit but with increasing fees. Truist presented an unsolicited offer with more competitive fees. PFM is recommending that PRWC move forward with the Truist's offer of \$10M for a 1-year term.

Vice-Chairman Birdsong complimented PFM and Truist for their work on the Line of Credit and noted that the PRWC continues to work to keep prices for the project as low as possible.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-04 to Approve the Revolving Line of Credit with Truist Bank was Mayor Marlene Wagner seconded by Mayor Trish Pfeiffer . Motion was unanimously approved.
--

H.2. Update on Southeast Wellfield Project (Information)

Mark Addison confirmed the water production facility design is complete, the design at the metering stations and CR 540A booster pump station is 90% complete, and the Auburndale booster pump station is in the final design process. Bidding on the transmission line is on-going with GMP projects 1-3 approved by the Board and are in

various stages of construction. GMP 4-6 are scheduled for bidding in the next few months.

Mr. Addison continued to provide an overview of well construction. Southeast Injection Well #1 is substantially complete and mobilization for West Polk Injection Well #2 is underway. Production wells at the Southeast site continues with PW-12 complete, PW-10 is in production, PW-11 is in final stages, and for PW-9 and PW-14 land acquisition is in progress.

Mobilization will begin on the Water Production Facility in April and construction is underway on the transmission line in several places.

Land acquisition for the transmission main continues and settlements have been reached on 145 SETM parcels totaling nearly \$7.4M. On permitting, the Department of Health has issued a public water supply permit for the Water Production facility and Polk County Level 2 approval is pending. Environmental Resource Permits have also been obtained for five transmission construction packages.

Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any questions on Mr. Addisons report.

H.3. Approve Change Order No. 001 to Guaranteed Maximum Price GMP-1 with Florida Water Partners for the Southeast Wellfield Transmission Main (Action)

Mark Addison mentioned that GMP-1 Construction Package 2A with Florida Water Partners was approved in March 2024 for \$5,138,830 and a notice to proceed was issued in July 2024. Currently construction of the 7,250 of 30-inch ductile iron pipe is nearing completion. Construction of an Industrial property to the north is occurring by a private developer and installing the transmission main during the property development avoids future conflicts with driveways, utilities, and landscaping. Therefore, the PRWC would like to provide Florida Water partners a change order adding +/- 1275 linear feet of 30-inch pipe for installation along the industrial property. In addition, use of the Right-of-way dedication eliminates the need for easements. Change order No. 001 will increase the GMP – 1 total by \$801,414.32, making the new total \$5,940,244.32. The revised substantial complete date is now May 30, 2025.

Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any questions.

Motion to Approve Change Order No. 1 to GMP-1 for Construction Package 2A was made by **Mayor Trish Pfieffer** seconded by **Vice-Mayor Morris West**. Motion was unanimously approved.

H.4. Adopt Resolution 2025-05 to Amend Resolutions 2023-06 and 2024-34 Project Resolution of Necessity Approving the Southeast Wellfield Water Production Facility

**and Transmission Main Project due to a change in the Transmission Main Route
(Action)**

Mark Addison indicated that the Transmission Main route was approved by the Board under Resolution 2023-06 in March 2023. The original route was based on numerous factors such as cost, environmental impact, and public inconvenience among others. During the final design process of the transmission main, four areas were revised to change the transmission line location to address construction issues or changes to points of delivery. Area 1 is located near the intersection of US 98 and CR 540 and was approved under Resolution 2024-34, Area 2 is in Eagle Lake-Wahneta area, Area 3 is in the Dundee area, and Area 4 is in the Northern terminus of the Transmission main near the Polk County AWS receiving facility. Mr. Addison provided an overview of each location change.

Vice-Mayor Morris West asked who will pay for the cost of the revised changes to Area 4. Mark replied that the cost is absorbed by the PRWC. Mayor Summerlin asked why the PRWC was paying this cost. Mr. Addison indicated that the current agreements are structured so that the PRWC pays the costs to the member receiving facility. Vice Mayor West asked if this change was requested by Polk County or the PRWC. Mr. Addison indicated it was requested by the County. The change helps Polk County hydraulically with the distribution of water, moves the distribution onto the Polk County service area and allows Polk County to take an existing facility offline. Mayor Summerlin echoed the concerns of Vice-Mayor West, indicating Polk County should pay the cost of the transmission line extension to this new receiving facility location. He also indicated he was concerned with this location next to a Davenport park and that there was plenty of room for a shared facility between Davenport, Haines City, and Polk County at the original location.

Commissioner Troutman indicated that Polk County was unable to reach an agreement with the other participants on the original location so moved forward with the new location due to timing considerations.

Mr. DeHaven indicated that the PRWC is not involved in the selection of member receiving facility locations. The original plan was for Polk County, Haines City, and Davenport to share a receiving facility. The members worked on an agreement and ultimately, that agreement never was executed. Polk County elected to move their facility elsewhere as it was determined to be more beneficial to the County. If there is a need for the members to continue discussions on this issue, the PRWC is prepared to assist.

Vice-Mayor West suggested that the three members meet again to discuss before approving this particular location change.



Mayor Wagner asked for further clarification on the location of area 3. Mr. Addison and Mr. DeHaven provided that information.

Chairman Birdsong asked if there was a motion. A motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-05 and approve all areas except Area 4 due to a change in the Transmission Main Route was made by Vice Mayor-Morris West seconded by Mayor Brynn Summerlin.

Chairman Birdsong asked for clarification on what this motion would do. Mr. DeHaven asked Mr. de la Parte if this motion was approved, could we execute Resolution 2025-05. Mr. de la Parte indicated yes, we could remove the exhibits for Area 4 from the resolution. Commissioner Troutman expressed concern with the motion because the Board had already approved the receiving facility locations at the January Board meeting, and this would delay Polk County plans.

Chairman Birdsong asked if we had gotten to this point because the three members could not reach an agreement on the original location. Mr. Addison indicated that was not the full issue and Polk County determined during the negotiation process a better site for their needs became available. Chairman Birdsong asked if this motion means additional delay. Mr. Addison indicated Polk County is moving forward with this site. Chairman Birdsong asked Tamera Richardson with Polk County to provide additional information. Ms. Richardson indicated Mr. Addison's explanation was correct and that this site works better for Polk County technically and is the location Polk County expects to receive PRWC water. Mayor Summerlin indicated if that is the case then Polk County should pay the additional cost to route the water to that location.

Mr. DeHaven asked Mr. Addison what was the expected cost for the transmission line relocation to this preferred Polk County location. Mr. Addison indicated it was less than \$500,000.

Mr. de la Parte pointed out that the PRWC requires the PRWC to own the point of connection. Ms. Richardson noted that this is no different than other members' point of connection. Each member chooses that connection point, and this location makes more sense for the County.

Mayor Pfieffer pointed out that we have an agreement that establishes how the points of connection are handled. Mr. de la Parte indicated that was correct and the final points of connection are made by the Project Board and paid by the Cooperative. Mayor Pfieffer asked for confirmation that the members could not come to an agreement. Vice-Mayor West indicated he has not been directly involved to this point and would like an opportunity to discuss further with the County. Chairman Birdsong indicated that Board members are not typically involved in these negotiations. It is usually staff and Utility Directors.



Mayor Pfeiffer asked what occurred at the January meeting regarding the points of connection. Mr. DeHaven indicated that the Board approved the revised points of connection, including the new location for Polk County. Mr. de la Parte confirmed this and that what we are doing today is just modifying the resolution.

Chairman Birdsong noted that the motion on the floor was not consistent with the Board action in January. Mr. de la Parte agreed. All we are doing today is approving the route to get to the new location. Vice-Mayor West asked when did Polk County close on the sale of land for the new location. Mr. Addison indicated it was around November of last year.

Commissioner Musick pointed out that based on Counsel's comments, this issue was already resolved and tabling the issue or voting on the motion does not resolve the overall concern.

Mr. DeHaven indicated that from the PRWC perspective, each member should decide on their connection location, and this was decided at the January Board meeting. Mr. de la Parte indicated the PRWC could be in breach of contract if we were unable to provide water at the requested location. Mr. DeHaven suggested grant funds could be used for the disputed portion of the transmission main so that members were not directly paying for that portion of the transmission line.

Mayor LaCascia asked if this was the first time the two members were hearing of this issue. Mr. Addison indicated that the staff of both Davenport and Haines City were well aware of Polk County's change in location.

Mr. James Keene of Haines City provided background on why the members did not reach agreement on the initial plan. He noted that Polk County had provided notice of the change in location and the question of who was to pay for the additional pipe came up at that time. He indicated Polk County could pay and deed it to the PRWC.

Chairman Birdsong expressed concern on how we voted in January for the receiving facility locations, but this issue came up today. Mayor LaCascia indicated that this was an unintended consequence of the decision made in January. Chairman Birdsong pointed out that we approved the locations in January. Commissioner Watts indicated that this issue was due to a lack of communication. Mayor Pfeiffer indicated that it was communicated but the Board did not understand this particular issue at that time due to the volume of material the PRWC provides to the Board.

Vice-Mayor West would have brought this issue up in January if he was present at the meeting.

Mr. DeHaven suggested that we could approve the resolution as provided by the motion which eliminates the exhibit that shows Area 4 to allow for additional time for discussion

between the members. This can then come back to the Board in May. Mayor Pfeiffer pointed out that Polk County has already purchased the site and is in preliminary design that is expected to be complete by June 2025.

Vice-Mayor West indicated he was withdrawing his motion. Chairman Bordsong and Mr. de la Parte confirmed that the motion has been withdrawn, and a new motion can be made. Commissioner Musick asked if there was value in Mr. DeHaven's idea to table this until May. Chairman Bordsong suggested that there was not value in that approach as the Board had already approved the locations in January.

Mayor Summerlin then made a motion to approve staff recommendation.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-05 to Amend Resolutions 2023-06 and 2024-34 Project Resolution of Necessity Approving the Southeast Wellfield Water Production Facility and Transmission Main Project due to a change in the Transmission Main Route was made by **Mayor Brynn Summerlin** seconded by **Mayor Trish Pfeiffer**. Motion was approved with Haines City and Davenport voting no.

Chairman Bordsong indicated he has been on this Board since the beginning. He indicated he is thankful for all the elected officials on this Board and their contributions to the PRWC. Vice-Mayor West also stated that if there is an item on the agenda that impacts a Board's members community, that representative has a right to address the issue, and the January item should have been tabled to allow for more discussion. Chairman Bordsong indicated our agreements cover the PRWC governance and it is unfortunate that we had this conflict today.

H.5. Adopt Resolution 2025-06 to Amend Resolution 2024-30 Parcel Resolution of Necessity to Replace the Sketch and Legal Description for Parcel 10006 TCE-B to Implement the Southeast Lower Floridan Aquifer Water Production Facility and Southeast Transmission Line Projects (Action)

Mark Addison indicated that the next set of items are the typical parcel resolutions the Board has seen at previous meetings. He will cover items H.5 through h.15 with one presentation and the Board can approve these items with one motion and vote. He noted Resolutions 2025-06 and 2025-07 are corrections to previous resolutions and Resolutions 2025-08 through 2025-16 are new parcel resolutions that cover 46 permanent easements and 25 temporary construction easements. Mr. Addison proceeded to show maps of the parcels involved with each resolution.

Chairman Bordsong asked for a motion.

Motion to Adopt Resolutions 2025-06 through 2025-16 Parcel Resolution of Necessity to Implement the Southeast Wellfield Water Production Facility and Transmission Main Projects was made by **Mayor Trish Pfeiffer** seconded by **Commissioner Alex Camm**. Motion was unanimously approved.

H.16. Approve the Negotiated Settlement with Spencer Darwin Reddick for PRWC Parcel Number 4071 Permanent and Temporary Construction Easements (Action)

Mr. DeHaven showed the location of the subject parcel and pictures of the easement area. He indicated the PRWC appraisal amount was \$64,450 and Mr. Reddick, through his attorney, responded with a counteroffer of \$154,700. A settlement was reached with Mr. Reddick at \$107,000. The PRWC is required to pay attorney fees of \$14,041.50 and expert fees of \$8,935.50, for a total settlement of \$129,977. PRWC attorneys will file a Stipulated Final Judgment with the court to finalize the judgement. Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any questions.

Motion to Approve the Negotiated Settlement with Spencer Darwin Reddick for PRWC Parcel Number 4071 Permanent and Temporary Construction Easements was made by **Mayor Trish Pfeiffer** seconded by **Vice Mayor Morris West**. Motion was unanimously approved.

H.17. Approve the Purchase Agreement with Jimmie M. Acreman and Brenda M. Acreman for the Acquisition of PRWC Southeast Wellfield Well Site 9 (Action)

Mr. DeHaven indicated that this is a land purchase for Southeast Wellfield well site 9. This is one of the raw-water well sites that will provide water to the water production facility. He proceeded to show a map of the Southeast well sites and then specific photos of the Well Site 9 area. The PRWC will acquire one-acre of land with this purchase. This is a global settlement that was reached at \$280,000.00. Mr. DeHaven indicated that the PRWC is paying a premium for the well site. He indicated the PRWC is having difficulties acquiring well sites due to the predominance of state lands, mitigation and conservation bank areas, and requirements to be on the SFWMD side of the District boundaries.

The PRWC appraised value for the parcel was \$102,800 and the Acreman's countered, through their attorney, at \$330,000. A global settlement was reached at \$280,000 that is inclusive of all expert and legal costs. The PRWC will own this share of property as a construction site; it is not an easement.

Chairman Birdsong asked for a motion.

Motion to Approve the Purchase Agreement with Jimmie M. Acreman and Brenda M. Acreman for the Acquisition of PRWC Southeast Wellfield Well Site 9 was made by **Mayor Trish Pfeiffer** seconded by **Commissioner Alex Camm**. Motion was unanimously approved.

H.18. Approve the Stipulated Agreement with Rolling Meadow Ranch Grove's attorneys for Payment of Attorney Fees and Costs Associated with the Easement Acquisition (Action)

Mr. DeHaven provides the Board a brief review of the litigation involved with Rolling Meadows for transmission line easements. In order to move forward with a new order of taking with Rolling Meadows it is necessary to pay costs associated with the original order of taking that was dismissed by the judge. The summary of those costs is \$182,286.64 which includes attorney fees of \$115,000.00, appraisal, survey, and environmental costs of \$64,028.56, and court fees of \$3,258.08.

Chairman Birdsong asked if there were any questions.

Motion to Approve the Stipulated Agreement with Rolling Meadow Ranch Grove's attorneys for Payment of Attorney Fees and Costs was made by **Mayor Trish Pfeiffer** seconded by **Mayor Marlene Wagner**. Motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Birdsong adjourned the Southeast Board of Directors meeting and asked Mayor Pfeiffer to begin the West Polk Board of Directors meeting.

I. Recess Southeast Wellfield BOD/Commence West Polk BOD

Vice-Chair Pfeiffer commenced the West Polk Board of Directors and indicated there were two items of business for the Board.

I.1. Update on the West Polk Wellfield Project (Information)

Tom Mattiacci provided an overview of the West Polk project status. He mentioned the injection well mobilization was underway, and the 60% plant design has been deferred to late 2025. He indicated drilling was occurring at TPW-2. The Water Production and TPW #2 site acquisition was complete. Heartland appropriations were used for land purchases.

Vice-Chair Pfeiffer asked if there were any questions.

I.2. Adopt Resolution 2025-17 to Approve the First Amendment to FDEP State Revolving Fund (SRF) Design Loan DW532002 for the West Polk Project (Action)

Tom Mattiacci indicated that this loan was to be used for West Polk design services. The total amount of the loan for West Polk Design is \$14,370,666. The amendment will extend the loan repayment from September 15, 2025 – September 15, 2027 with no change in the amount. This change is reflected in the 2025 PRWC Business Plan.

Vice-Chair Pfeiffer asked if there were any questions.

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-17 to Approve the First Amendment to FDEP State Revolving Fund (SRF) Design Loan DW532002 for the West Polk Project was made by **Mayor Nathaniel Birdsong** seconded by **Commissioner Alex Camm**. Motion was unanimously approved.

Vice-Chair Pfeiffer closed the West Polk Board and turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Birdsong.

J. Recess West Polk BOD/Commence Regular BOD

K. Open Discussion

Mayor Birdsong asked if there were any additional items from the members. Mayor Pfeiffer discussed some takeaways from the meeting: 1) alternates are important due to the complexity of this Board, 2) it is important to meet with our Utility staff to provide updates on the PRWC, and 3) if absent, try to make sure that you meet with Eric to understand any items that might impact or are important to your city.

Commissioner Watts indicated that he has missed several meetings due to medical issues, but it is important to attend.

Vice Chairman Birdsong indicated it has been a long haul and heavy lift to achieve a must objective which is alternative water supply. The PRWC has put agreements in place so we would not have hiccups as occurred today. He mentioned that he meets routinely with the Winter Haven Utility Director because we are doing something unique and important. He noted that there are still challenges, especially on cost, that we all need to continue to work on.

L. Chair / Executive Director Report

Mr. DeHaven mentioned an item that will be coming forward at the May meeting. He noted that the PRWC originally pursued four alternative water supply projects including the two lower Floridan aquifer projects, a Peace River and a Peace Creek project. There is a fifth potential project that the PRWC has considered involving the surface water on the Alafia River.



He noted that he is in routine communication with the other Regional Water Supply Authorities around the PRWC and Tampa Bay Water has proposed a modification to their Water Use Permit on the Alafia River that could potentially impact a future project the PRWC might wish to pursue. The PRWC will continue to check into this issue and bring back more information at the May meeting.

M. Adjournment by Chair Nathaniel Birdsong.

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Polk County Communications Office not later than forty-eight hours prior to the proceeding. Their offices are located in the Neil Combee Administration Building, 330 West Church Street in Bartow. Telephone (863) 534-6090, TDD (863)534-7777 or 1-800-955-8771, Voice Impaired 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.