

MINUTES OF THE EMERALD COAST UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011 AT 3:15 P.M. IN THE ECUA BOARD  
ROOM AT 9250 HAMMAN STREET, ELLYSON INDUSTRIAL PARK, PENSACOLA,  
FL

Members present: Elvin McCorvey, Chairman  
Elizabeth S. Campbell, Vice Chairman  
Lois Benson  
Dale Perkins  
Larry Walker

Counsel present: Bradley S. Odom

Staff present: Stephen E. Sorrell, Executive Director  
Nathalie Bowers, Public Information Officer  
Debra Buckley, Director of Finance  
Tom Dawson, Director of Water Production  
Tim Haag, Director of Communications and  
Government Affairs  
Linda Iversen, Executive Assistant to the Board  
Bill Johnson, Director of Engineering  
Jim Roberts, Public Information Officer  
Randy Rudd, Deputy Executive Director-Shared  
Services

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McCorvey called the regular meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board to order at approximately 3:29 p.m.

ITEM 2 – INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

None.

ITEM 3 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Dr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Campbell, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Perkins being absent during voting.

ITEM 4 – COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- (a) Presentation of Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

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Chairman McCorvey presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010 from the Government Finance Officers Association to Ms. Debra Buckley, Director of Finance.

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Benson, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 17, 2011 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM 6 - OPERATIONAL ITEMS:

(a) SCADA software/hardware maintenance agreement

A motion was made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to waive the bidding procedure due to the sole source nature of this service and approve the contract renewal with QEI, Inc., of Springfield, New Jersey, at a total cost of \$60,196 for the two-year term. Motion carried 5-0.

(b) Scott Street sewer expansion

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Dr. Walker, to authorize the Board Chairman to formally request the approval of the Board of County Commissioners for Escambia County, Florida for ECUA to exercise its power of eminent domain for purposes of securing the described easement, and direct staff to move forward with the process. Motion carried 5-0.

(c) Pensacola Beach water main replacement, Project I

A motion was made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Ms. Benson, to waive the formal bid process and authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the replacement of water mains on Pensacola Beach on an emergency basis through the award of a contract for the Pensacola Beach Water Main Replacement Project I to the lowest responsive bidder, with funds from CIP Project RW906, Replacement of Antiquated Water Mains. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEM 7 - INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

None.

ITEM 8 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

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The following report was presented for information only and did not require action.

- (a) Expenditures approved by the Executive Director – Main Street WWTP Replacement project

Mr. Sorrell commented that ECUA has accomplished many things this past year. He also stated that Mr. Rick Anderson, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services would be leaving the organization in January and Cindy Sutherland has agreed to take the Director position; and Randy Rudd has agreed to take the Deputy Executive Director-Shared Services position and thus they would be filling the Sanitation position that Mr. Rudd would be vacating.

Mr. Sorrell informed the Board that a cooling limit has been reached relative to the computer servers in the Information Technology (IT) Department and that action to prevent the overheating of the servers, which would result in failures, needs to be taken. Therefore, staff was requesting the approval of a new HVAC system for the computer room, under State contract, for dual APC cooling units and installation from Presidio at a total project cost not to exceed \$60,000.

A motion was made by Dr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Campbell, to make the award of the previously approved CIP project for the purchase and installation of the needed cooling equipment to Presidio as outlined by staff. Motion carried 4-1 with Ms. Benson voting against the motion.

#### ITEM 9 - ATTORNEY'S REPORT

As a follow-up to an inquiry from Ms. Benson at the November meeting regarding telephonic or electronic attendance at Board meetings, Mr. Odom reported that he looked into the matter further, stating that although there is general disapproval or disallowance of this, that in extraordinary circumstances it is allowed. The only circumstances that have been approved expressly by the Attorney General's office is whenever a Board member is out because of a medical procedure or because of a physical infirmative of some sort. Should something like this occur in the future, it would be appropriate for a Board member to attend telephonically at a Board meeting. A quorum would still need to be present and it would be the Board that would actually decide if it is an extraordinary circumstance that would allow that to occur.

Mr. Odom also announced that an agreement with the City was reached regarding the compressed natural gas facility and that is moving

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forward. Also, ECUA has a new commercial franchise collection agreement with the County.

Regarding the Board request that ECUA give contracting workshops, Mr. Odom stated that one was recently held, conducting a training seminar on doing business with ECUA.

Mr. Odom stated that previously the Board authorized staff to proceed with entering into an agreement with the County to purchase some property on the Equestrian Center in order to place a well. A test well was dug, had a consultants review, and the plan has changed in that ECUA will no longer put a well at that location but instead place a water storage tank and booster pump assembly at that location. Mr. Odom stated he is bringing this to the Board's attention and is requesting direction from the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Benson, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to approve the action recommended by the attorney. Motion carried 5-0.

In response to an inquiry from Dr. Walker, Mr. Sorrell stated that this recommendation is consistent with the long-range water plans of ECUA. Further, this is a good location and if sometime in the future it is possible that treating turbid water will become more economical, it could then be turned into a well.

#### ITEM 10 - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

#### ITEM 11 - NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### ITEM 12 - BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Benson expressed her concern about the old report from EWG resurfacing again and suggested that something be placed on the ECUA website regarding this. Further, she feels that ECUA is under-utilizing its website in that when something like this occurs, ECUA should have something on its website that quickly refutes it. Ms. Benson stated that ECUA should also have a Face book page and have our information on our Face book page and we should be using it. Ms. Benson stated that she would hope that we would upgrade our website and continue to use it as a useful tool because we are going to continue to have problems with this EWG report.

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Mr. Perkins suggested that a link to the information be placed on the website of the PowerPoint presentation that was done proving that this report was bogus so that people could access the information and see what a non-prejudice source says about EWG and their methodology and motives.

Chairman McCorvey directed Mr. Sorrell that the correct information be placed on the ECUA website so that individuals can access it in a timely manner.

Mr. Sorrell responded that there is already a link on the ECUA website and the entire report is on there as well. Further, the entire report has been sent to the Mobile, AL channels and they printed a retraction. Also, Mr. Sorrell suggested not using Face book because it's a two-way means of communication and that Twitter is a one-way system and a better system to put information out – there is no control over information and comments on Face book.

Ms. Benson stated that something needs to be on the ECUA website home page for visitors to the website that would alert them to this information.

Ms. Benson expressed her appreciation to the Board, staff and employees, particularly the interactions with the Board and the professionalism shown by each Board member.

Board members Perkins, Walker, Campbell and McCorvey also expressed their appreciation to their fellow Board members and the accomplishments of ECUA.

#### ITEM 13 - OPEN FORUM

There were no comments from the audience.

#### ITEM 14 - ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting of the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Board, Chairman McCorvey declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen E. Sorrell  
Executive Director

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APPROVED BY THE ECUA BOARD  
IN REGULAR SESSION ON \_\_\_\_\_.

- ( ) Without corrections/amendments.
- ( ) With corrections/amendments being: