

North Florida Water Utilities Authority

March 16, 2026, 09:30 A.M.

The North Florida Water Utilities Authority (NFWUA) met in a scheduled meeting at the Judicial Annex Building 218 Parshley Street Southwest, Live Oak Fla. 32064.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Board Attendance:

Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Franklin White

Board Member, Commissioner Timothy Murphy

Board Member, Commissioner Leo Mobley

Board Member, Commissioner Steven Dicks

(Chairman, Rocky Ford was absent)

Others in Attendance:

County Manager, David Kraus

County Assistant Manager, Kevin Kirby

County Engineer, Chad Williams

County Administrator Intern, Jason Furry

Columbia County Utilities Superintendent, Robert Domingue

NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts

Deputy Clerk, Melissa Williams

Economic Development Director, Jennifer Daniels

Dale Williams

Richard Powell

Additions and Deletions: none

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner, Timothy Murphy to approve agenda. SECOND by Commissioner, Steven Dicks. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Commissioner, Franklin White requested to hold public comments till the end.

Discussion and Actions:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Meeting minutes approval for 02/16/2026 - NFWUA Board Meeting

MOTION by Commissioner, Timothy Murphy to approve the minutes from 02/16/2026 for the NFWUA meeting. SECOND by Commissioner, Steven Dicks. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Bills & Vouchers:

Requesting approval of the payments for bills and vouchers during period from February 20 – March 3, 2026-Richard Powell, (Powell Consulting)

See attached documentation:

Commissioner, Franklin White asked a question about how much more does the authority owe Raftelis?

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts answered the question.

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy made a comment about a charge for Ring Power Corp.

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts stated it was for work done on a generator.

MOTION by Commissioner, Leo Mobley to approve the payment of bills and vouchers in the amount of \$60,292.52 during the period from February 20, 2026- March 3, 2026. SECOND by Commissioner, Steven Dicks. The motion carried unanimously.

3. NFWUA Financial Report- Richard Powell, (Powell Consulting)

Presentation and review of Financial Information for the period of October 1, 2025-February 28, 2026, there is a Balance Sheet, and Profit and loss Sheet.

See attached documentation:

MOTION by Commissioner, Leo Mobley to approve the NFWUA Financial Report October 1, 2025-February 28, 2026. SECOND by Commissioner, Steven Dicks. The motion carried unanimously.

4. NFWUA Resolution - # 2025 -2026 -03 FRS – Richard Powell, (Richard Powell Consulting)

NFWUA staff engaged with Florida Retirement System personnel to set up the organization to utilize this system for retirement benefits employees.

FRS contacted Powell Consulting with new information indicating a NFWUA Board Resolution was required to complete the activation process.

See attached documents:

Public Comment was opened: There were no public comments

Public Comment was closed:

MOTION by Commissioner, Steven Dicks to approve NFWUA Resolution # 2025-2026-03 FRS Membership. SECOND by Commissioner, Timothy Murphy with discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued.

Richard Powell, (Powell Consulting) made a comment that once the Resolution # 2025-2026 FRS Membership is active, the former employee will become active.

5. NFWUA Resolution # 2025-2026 -04 FRS Senior Management Service Class- Richard Powell

Florida Retirement System (FRS) requires organizations that desire to classify certain roles within their organizations as a Senior Management Service Class (SMSC) and do so by resolution.

The employment agreement for the NFWUA Executive Director role includes language stipulating that this role shall be classified as a senior management service class for FRS purposes.

Legal notice adverts have been published to provide public notification of classification decisions as required by FRS.

See attached documents:

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy made a comment.

Richard Powell, (Powell Consulting) commented that the NFWUA Resolution # 2025-2026-04 FRS is active.

Public Comment was opened: There were no public comments.

Public Comment was closed:

MOTION by Commissioner, Leo Mobley to approve the Executive Director role as SMSC designation and approval of Resolution # 2025-2026 – 04 FRS Senior Management Service Class. SECOND by Commissioner, Steven Dicks. Commissioner, Timothy Murphy opposed the Motion.

The Motion carried with a vote of 3-1, with Commissioner, Timothy Murphy voting in opposition.

6. Security Safe Company Inc. Agreement – Executive Director, Shannon Roberts

The Suwannee County Industrial Park (CIP) water plant security and monitoring services are provided by Security Safe through a monitoring agreement.

The service needs to be transferred so NFWUA staff can manage the service and respond to alerts and notifications.

This transfer of service is similar to previous actions NFWUA staff have taken to transfer and manage electric services to facilities.

See attached documents:

Public Comment opened: There were no public comments.

Public Comment was closed:

MOTION by Commissioner, Leo Mobley to approve the security monitoring Agreement with Security Safe Company Inc. SECOND by Commissioner, Franklin White. The motion carried unanimously.

7. NFWUA Board Member Compensation- Executive Director, Shannon Roberts

In past meetings, the topic of Board Member compensation has been discussed but no action was taken.

In light of recent discussions about the recruitment of private citizens to potentially replace County Commissioner holding Board Member seats, compensation could be a factor that influences candidates to apply.

\$ 200.00 compensation per Board Member and per meeting is an amount to consider, although it is unlikely to fully cover the opportunity cost of preparing for, participating in and traveling to and from meetings.

The attached documentation provides additional details to see the impact of an increase in meetings per month, higher rates of compensation and annual costs.

See attached documents:

Commissioner, Franklin White made a comment do we have to make them employees, or can we just do a 1099?

Richard Powell, (Powell Consulting) stated that they will have to have a W-2 per the IRS and must provide FRS.

Commissioner, Franklin White asked about having to provide Health Benefits.

NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams stated that you cannot refuse compensation.

NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams stated that this is a discussion. It can be included in a Interlocal Agreement, and we could make an amendment.

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts asked what the Board would want.

Discussion ensued.

NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams spoke about the Interlocal Agreement Amendment see attached:

It will be two members from each country, give feedback if you want to change this agreement. Each counties needs to decide.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner, Leo Mobley will this be on a year-to-year basis?

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy spoke about having opportunities from other counties. He does not think that will go very well, it can be tough to get qualified people.

NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams stated it is and Commissioner, Steven Dicks will be the first elective and is supported by each county elected. Traditional experience helps.

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts stated that he will get with NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams and Richard Powell, (Powell Consulting) and put the words together and bring it back to the Board.

8. NFWUA Interlocal Agreement Amendment - NFWUA Attorney, Grady Williams

The recruitment of new Board members has been discussed in previous meetings.

Some of the recruitment discussions considered an approach to modify or broaden the candidate pool beyond the scope of the NFWUA service area.

Broadening or changing the scope would require a review of Article VI Board Composition, Officers and Meetings of the current interlocal agreement language and proposed new language.

If the Board decides to modify or amend Article VI, the associated changes should be codified and submitted to the respective member Boards for ratification.

See attached documents:

Commissioner, Franklin White stated he will take this Board for the language. Commissioner, Timothy Murphy agreed.

No action is needed and will be brought back to the Board.

9. Ellisville Wastewater Plant Recommendation - Columbia County Utilities Superintendent, Robert Domingue

A team of staff/personnel from Arcadis Engineering, Columbia County, and NFWUA have been collaborating regarding potential retrofits and expansion options that will meet the 3 mg/L Total Nitrogen requirement for the Santa Fe Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Arcadis has met with different wastewater plant vendors to formulate three (3) viable options to achieve BMAP compliance and address capacity needs for the Ellisville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Company Cost Treatment Capacity

Mack Industries - \$7.01 million - 100,000 gallons

New Terra - \$7.34 million - 100,000 gallons

H2O Innovations - \$10.1 million – 100,000 gallons

See attached documents:

Columbia County Utilities Superintendent, Robert Domingue spoke about the printout and he recommended Mack Industries.

Commissioner, Franklin White made a comment about the MBR filter systems and needing to train the new employee to do the MBR.

County Administrator Intern, Jason Furry made a comment about the cattle system and the MBR.

Commissioner, Franklin White asked a question about the water being recharged.

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy asked if the recommendation is Mack Industries?

Columbia County Utilities Superintendent, Robert Domingue answered yes that is his recommendation.

Columbia County Utilities Superintendent, Robert Domingue stated that the MBR is cleaner water. They are the way of the future. Retrofit is the way now, we need to be compliant as soon as possible.

Columbia County Engineer, Chad Williams stated that he agrees with Robert Domingue and Arcadis has also looked at this.

Discussion ensued.

Board Comments:

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy spoke about the issues in the Town of Fort White

Discussion ensued.

Attorney Comments: None

Director Comments:

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts spoke about how he had attended the workshop/meeting in Fort White. They have another meeting set up for March 16, 2026, to decide whether to sign an agreement or abandon the agreement with NFWUA or go with another source or manage it on their own.

Commissioner, Steven Dicks made a comment about if Fort White did an agreement.

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts answered there are some things done in Fort White that he was not aware of and there was another group.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy spoke about the Town of Fort White and that the commissioners run the line from Ellisville. The money was from ARPA Grant. The decision has not been made yet on the town. Sewer issues and not enough money. Fort White has no attorney and no clerk they may have to return the 12 million dollars back to Tallahassee.

Executive Director, Shannon Roberts addressed other possibilities to use the grant to avoid the money being sent back to Tallahassee. The Authority could take the funding and invest in Fort White or Ellisville, if possible, design study or recharge the wetland. We do not know if they have done the grant, they need to make decisions to get the work done and get more organized. The Authority is on the outside looking in and will step up and support the town or DEP.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner, Timothy Murphy made a comment about the water that Fort White is now drinking is from Ellisville. He spoke about the 3-phase and the money in Fort White being short.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner, Franklin White made a comment.

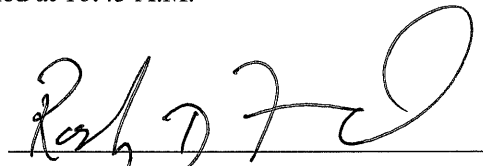
Public Comments:

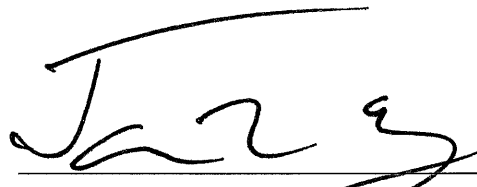
Citizen: Stew Lilker made a comment

Adjournment:

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

ATTEST:



Rocky Ford, Chairman
Columbia County Commissioner

James M. Swisher, Jr.
Clerk of Court & County Comptroller