

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 10,2014

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Lofgren at 9:00 AM

The Minutes of the January 13,2014 meeting were accepted with corrections.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$1867.44. Mary reminded that dues for 2014 are now due.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker – Mr. Neil Armingeon, Riverkeeper of The Matanzas River.

The Matanzas River Group is a relatively new organization charged with the protection of the Matanzas River Watershed which consists of 186 square miles of river and surrounding marsh.

Neil spoke of the Florida water problem. There is a new entity – The Central Florida Water Initiative which is developing a Water Supply Plan studying alternative sources of water for the future. In addition, St. Johns County is developing it's own Integrated Water Supply Plan. A meeting on this will occur on Thursday, February 13,2014.

Looking ahead from 2010 to 2035, the population of the St. Johns Water District area is projected to increase by 40%. Demand for water is projected to increase by approximately 315 M.G.D. The District is considering obtaining a portion of this increase by withdrawing water from The St. Johns River. The state is living at an unsustainable rate of water usage.

Interested parties can comment on the St. Johns District Water Plan by contacting their website. Also further information is available on the website of The Matanzas River www.matanzasriverkeeper.org.

Also discussed was the water draw increase sought by The Niagara Bottling Co. located in Groveland, FL. The company wishes to draw increased water from the lower Florida Aquifer and phase out their withdrawal from the upper Florida Aquifer.

A motion was made and passed to authorize Bill McCormick to draft a letter to The St. Johns River Water management district from the Board of Directors of The Roundtable expressing The Roundtable's opposition to the withdrawal of water from the St. Johns River.

Other Business:

Mary Konke reported on the Concurrency issue. She stated that she concurs with the action taken at the last concurrency meeting of the County Board.

Chris Wadelton of The Ponte Vedra Environmental Caucus introduced himself and spoke briefly about the caucus. He stated that they meet monthly in Ponte Vedra.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Submitted,

Ed Olsen
Secretary