

VI. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

A. Suwannee River Water Management District

The Task Force received a report from Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Suwannee River Water Management District, concerning the condition of the Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River following the most recent raw sewage spill by the City of Valdosta.

B. Georgia Environmental Protection Division Proposed Consent Order

The Task Force reviewed proposed Consent Order EPD-WP-8904 by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division with the City of Valdosta. The Task Force requested that the Division remove the one-year limit in proposed Consent Order No. EPD-WP 8904 on water quality testing to the state line and require the City to perform continuous testing with no specified termination date.

The Task Force also requested that the Division include a requirement in proposed Consent Order EPD-WP-8904 that the City implement a plan to budget and expend the necessary funds to reimburse those citizens impacted downstream for expenses they incur for water testing, water well treatment and installation of water treatment systems. In addition, the Task Force requested that City should also be required to reimburse counties and municipalities for expenses related to well testing to determine water quality and continuous water quality testing of the Withlacoochee River and the Suwannee River.

ACTION: Commissioner Meeks made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Demps, to authorize staff to draft a letter to be reviewed and signed by the Task Force Chair to be sent to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division requesting that the Division remove the one-year limit in proposed Consent Order No. EPD-WP 8904 on water quality testing to the state line and require the City to perform continuous testing with no specified termination date; and requesting that the Division include a requirement in proposed Consent Order EPD-WP-8904 that the City implement a plan to budget and expend the necessary funds to reimburse those citizens impacted downstream for expenses they incur for water testing, water well treatment and installation of water treatment systems, and that City should also be required to reimburse counties and municipalities for expenses related to well testing to determine water quality and continuous water quality testing of the Withlacoochee River and the Suwannee River. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Joint Task Force and City of Valdosta City Council Workshop - July 8, 2020

Chair Davis stated the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochee River Task Force and the City of Valdosta City Council are scheduled to meet in joint workshop session on July 8, 2020 in Valdosta.

ACTION: Commissioner Cornell made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Williams, that due to social distancing and mass gathering limitation requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic, to authorize the Task Force Chair and Task Force Vice-Chair to represent the Task Force at the July 8, 2020 joint workshop in Valdosta.