



Union County Board of County Commissioners
15 Northeast 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 • Phone: 386-496-4241 • Fax: 386-496-4810

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2026
6:00 P.M.

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Invocation and PledgeCommissioner Jackson
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - Finance Report
 - Minutes:
 - Budget Amendment
6. Paayal Bhakta, DMD, MAGD, Executive Director ACORN Dental Clinic.....Paayal Bhakta & Debra Mott
7. Consideration of W.W. Gay Contract Renewal.....Jimmy Williams
8. Report from County Coordinator, Jimmy Williams and Reports from Department Heads
 - Lamar Griffis, Solid Waste Director**
 - Chris Griffis, Road Department**
 - Priti McNutt, Public Library**
 - Brent Allen, EMS Director**
 - Jim DeValerio, Extension Director**
 - Mark Hamlin, Volunteer Fire Chief**
9. Report Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts and Comptroller.....Clerk Rhoades
10. Report from Russell A. Wade III, County Attorney.....Attorney Wade
11. Report from County Commissioners
 - Donna Jackson, District 1**
 - Channing Dobbs, District 2**
 - Melissa McNeal, District 3**
 - Mac Johns, District 4**
 - Willie Croft, District 5**
12. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBERS:

DONNA JACKSON, District 1 • CHANNING DOBBS, District 2 • MELISSA McNEAL, District 3 • MAC JOHNS, District 4 • WILLIE CROFT, District 5

KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
Clerk of Court/Comptroller

RUSSELL WADE
County Attorney

W.W. GAY

MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR, INC.

April 15, 2026

Attn: Union County Commissioners
Union County Courthouse
Board of County Commissioners
15 NE 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

RE: Planned Maintenance Contract #916

To Whom It May Concern:

W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors of Gainesville, Inc. would like to submit this proposal to you to perform bi-monthly maintenance on your building.

(12) AHUs – Tasks:

- Change filters
- Clean and inspect condensate drains
- Inspect inside of unit including blower for any type of buildup
- Grease motors and blower bearings as required
- Check electrical connections on HVAC systems
- Check supply and return air temperatures for proper operation
- Check belts and pulleys, tightening as needed

(1) Chill Water Pump – Tasks:

- Lubricate pump bearings
- Check drive couplings
- Check operating voltage/amperage
- Check motor temp and record
- Inspect motor starter
- Check suctions and discharge pressures

(1) Air Cooled Chiller – Tasks:

- Check electrical connections on primary voltage connect & log
- Inspect and/or adjust oil levels
- Lubricate motors and bearings
- Check refrigerant charge as needed
- Check operating amperages
- Inspect operation of internal chiller controls and safeties
- Perform annual condenser coil cleaning
- Provide annual oil analysis

W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor of Gainesville will supply this service for a yearly cost of (\$13,590.00) thirteen thousand five hundred ninety dollars No/100 or a monthly cost of (\$1,132.50) one thousand one hundred thirty-two dollars and 50/100.

Any additional labor and materials not mentioned above will be considered as an extra and will be billed at our normal service rates. No additional repairs will be made without your prior approval.





This agreement can be renewed on a yearly basis and can be canceled by notification of either party (30) thirty days prior to doing so. If this agreement meets your approval, please sign and return (1) one copy within (30) days.

W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor of Gainesville, Inc. appreciates the opportunity of providing you with the above-mentioned service contract. We look forward to continuing our service with you.

Sincerely,

Duane Ranard

Duane Ranard
HVAC Planned Maintenance Manager

Approved by: _____
Title: _____
Effective date: _____

☐ Check for Auto Renew

****Please complete below planned maintenance information sheet upon approval.**

Planned Maintenance Information Sheet
(Please notify our office if changes are to be made to the below)

1. Please provide an email address(es) for completed service reports to be sent. (max. of 3)
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
2. Please provide an email address(es) for invoices to be sent. (max. of 3)
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
3. Onsite Contact
 - _____
4. Onsite Contact Phone #
 - _____
5. Any specific requests or procedures to be followed other than what has already been provided.





UNION *County*
LAKE BUTLER • WORTHINGTON SPRINGS • RAIFORD • PALESTINE • PROVIDENCE

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Ms. Virginia Johns, Chair
Suwannee River Water Management District
9225 CR 49 Live Oak, Florida 32060

Re: Opposition to the Water First North Florida Project

Dear Ms. Johns:

Union County joins with its fellow members of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochie River Task Force, as well as the numerous counties, municipalities, and citizen groups who have all expressed concerns about, and opposition to, the proposed Water First North Florida Project. In the apparent rush to implement this project, local governments have gone uninformed and local voices in opposition have been largely ignored until just recently. We are grateful for legislative intervention that has, for the time being, stayed the execution of this project, but we remain alert to the potential for it to re-commence in the future and therefore wish to express our opposition.

It has long been understood by the scientific community that heavy withdrawal of water from the Floridan Aquifer for municipal use in the more heavily-populated northeast Florida region has taxed groundwater resources in north central Florida, resulting in lower flows and levels in local springs and waterways, including the outstanding Florida Waters of the Suwannee and Ichetucknee Rivers, as well as the Santa Fe River, which forms Union County's southern border. Union County's local waters and the adjacent Olustee Creek and New River are also affected by this phenomenon.

The Water First North Florida Project has proposed to remedy this longstanding problem by the transfer of 40 million gallons per day of treated wastewater from the Northeastern region into the Floridan Aquifer at an as-yet undisclosed location in the North Central Florida region. The proposed treatment of this water to avoid contamination of this still largely-pristine resource has been poorly disclosed, beyond the inclusion of biological filtering via an artificial wetland of the type that has been used to treat runoff surface waters elsewhere.

BOARD MEMBERS:

KAREN COSSEY, District 1 • CHANNING DOBBS, District 2 • JIMMY TALLMAN, District 3 • LACEY CANNON District 4 • WILLIE CROFT, District 5

KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL
Clerk of Courts & Comptroller

RUSSELL WADE
County Attorney

Union County joins with other local governments and citizens groups who have expressed reservations about the potential efficacy of such treatment on municipal wastewaters, which may be contaminated with much more difficult pollutants to treat than mere surface runoff. At the least, the proposed methods of treatment, and what safeguards will be used to ensure that treatment is successful, should be more thoroughly disclosed and opened to public scientific debate.

It is understandable that a “quick fix” of diverting reclaimed wastewater back to its ultimate source may seem a tempting solution both to the longstanding problem of the lowering aquifer as well as the issue of the need for disposal of such wastewater by heavily-populated municipalities. However, the potential risk to the ultimate source of our drinking water, as well as the lifeblood of our precious springs and waterways, is far too great to be taken so lightly. The potential for disaster to our local citizens health, safety, and welfare urges the upmost caution.

Therefore, the Union County Board of County Commissioners, by unanimous vote in its public meeting of May 18, 2026, joins in full with Resolution 2026-01 of the Middle and Lower Suwannee River and Withlacoochie River Task Force Opposing the Water First North Florida Aquifer Recharge Project, as well as the numerous resolutions and letters of opposition submitted by our sister counties and local municipalities. Union County strongly urges the District to reconsider all alternatives to this project, and to devote more effort into transparency by informing and educating the affected local governments and citizens of the internal plans and deliberations of the District.

Very Truly Yours,

Channing Dobbs

Chair, Union County Board of County Commissioners

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