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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20210038-WS

Joint notice of abandonment of water
and wastewater systems in Charlotte
and DeSoto Counties by Sun River
Utilities, Inc. and North Charlotte
Waterworks, Inc., effective February
21, 2021.

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PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 6

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE: Tuesday, August 3, 2021

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
112 W. 5TH AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Next up Item No. 6.

3 Ms. Maloy.

4 MS. MALOY: Good morning, Commissioners. I am
5 Kerri Maloy with Commission staff.

6 Item No. 6 addresses the joint notice of
7 abandonment of water and wastewater systems by Sun
8 River Utilities and North Charlotte Waterworks.
9 The utility is a Class C utility providing water
10 and wastewater service to approximately 60
11 customers in Charlotte and Desoto Counties.

12 North Charlotte bought the utility from Sun
13 River and subsequently filed for a transfer of
14 utility systems and certificates with this
15 commission in 2016. However, North Charlotte was
16 unable to obtain the right to continue use of land
17 or adequate ownership upon which the treatment
18 facilities are located. Thus, North Charlotte and
19 Sun River filed a joint notice of intent to abandon
20 the water and wastewater systems effective April
21 30th, 2021.

22 The Charlotte County Circuit Court declared
23 the utility abandoned and appointed Michael
24 Smallridge as receiver of the water and wastewater
25 systems on April 30th, 2021.

1 A representative from North Charlotte would
2 like to address the Commission. Also
3 representatives from OPC are on the line to address
4 this item, and staff is available for questions if
5 you have any.

6 MR. RENDELL: Troy Rendell representing North
7 Charlotte, as well as U.S. Water.

8 First off, it's good to see you and old
9 friends and colleagues during these difficult
10 times, but we feel compelled to make a statement
11 and let the Commission know that we do not take
12 abandonment lightly.

13 As you may be aware, we bought this out of
14 abandonment as a favor to Charlotte County. We ran
15 it for -- since 2016, so the last five years at a
16 net operating loss because we couldn't get rates
17 because of the land ownership issue. But we made a
18 commitment to the customers. We talked to the
19 county and staff, as well as made a commitment to
20 the Department of Environmental Protection and the
21 County that we would not abandon the customers. In
22 doing so, we ran this after the date of abandonment
23 until a receiver could be appointed. We actually
24 worked with Mr. Smallridge as well and ran it an
25 additional month so he had time to get the

1 operations staff up and running.

2 So we -- we just wanted the Commission to know
3 that we did not abandon the customers. We don't
4 take this lightly, because we are not in the
5 business to abandon. We are in the business to
6 purchase troubled systems and turn them around.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Rendell.

9 Anyone from OPC like to address the
10 Commission?

11 MS. MORSE: Hi, Mr. Chairman. This is
12 Stephanie Morse with OPC.

13 We don't have any particular comment. I am on
14 the line for your questions if you have any.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank -- thank
16 you very much, Ms. Morse.

17 Commissioners, questions? Any questions?

18 All right. I will entertain a motion from
19 someone.

20 COMMISSIONER FAY: Mr. Chairman, I would move
21 for staff approval of all I issues on Item 6.

22 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Motion to approve staff
24 recommendation on all items on Item 6.

25 Any discussion?

1 On the motion, all in favor say aye.

2 (Chorus of ayes.)

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Motion carries.

6 All right. That concludes agenda items for
7 today. Thank you all very much for your
8 participation.

9 We will resume in, let's say 10 minutes. 10
10 minutes, I have got the signal. In 10 minutes we
11 will begin the storm protection plan hearing.

12 We stand adjourned.

13 (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
financially interested in the action.

DATED this 17th day of August, 2021.



DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH31926
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024