



Waccasassa Water & Wastewater Cooperative Board Meeting

Wholesale Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

July 14, 2026 – Otter Creek, Florida



Benefits to Continuing W3C

Designated Regional Water Authority

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) recognizes regional wholesale water supply authorities under Chapter 373 of the Florida Statutes to resolve water policy conflicts and pool resources.
- FDEP actively encourages the regionalization and interconnection of public water systems to provide safe, reliable drinking water across the state. Examples:
 - Tampa Bay Water
 - Peace River Manasota
 - Withlacoochee



Benefits Continued

- Wholesale Membership Framework
 - Members off ramp
 - New Members to on-ramp
 - Project Partners
 - Members Retain Utility Assets from POC
 - W3C Infrastructure Shared Ownership by Membership
- Existing Funding Framework
 - SRF
 - Grants
- Continued Agency Support (WMD & FDEP)



Continued Momentum



Options for W3C Water Program

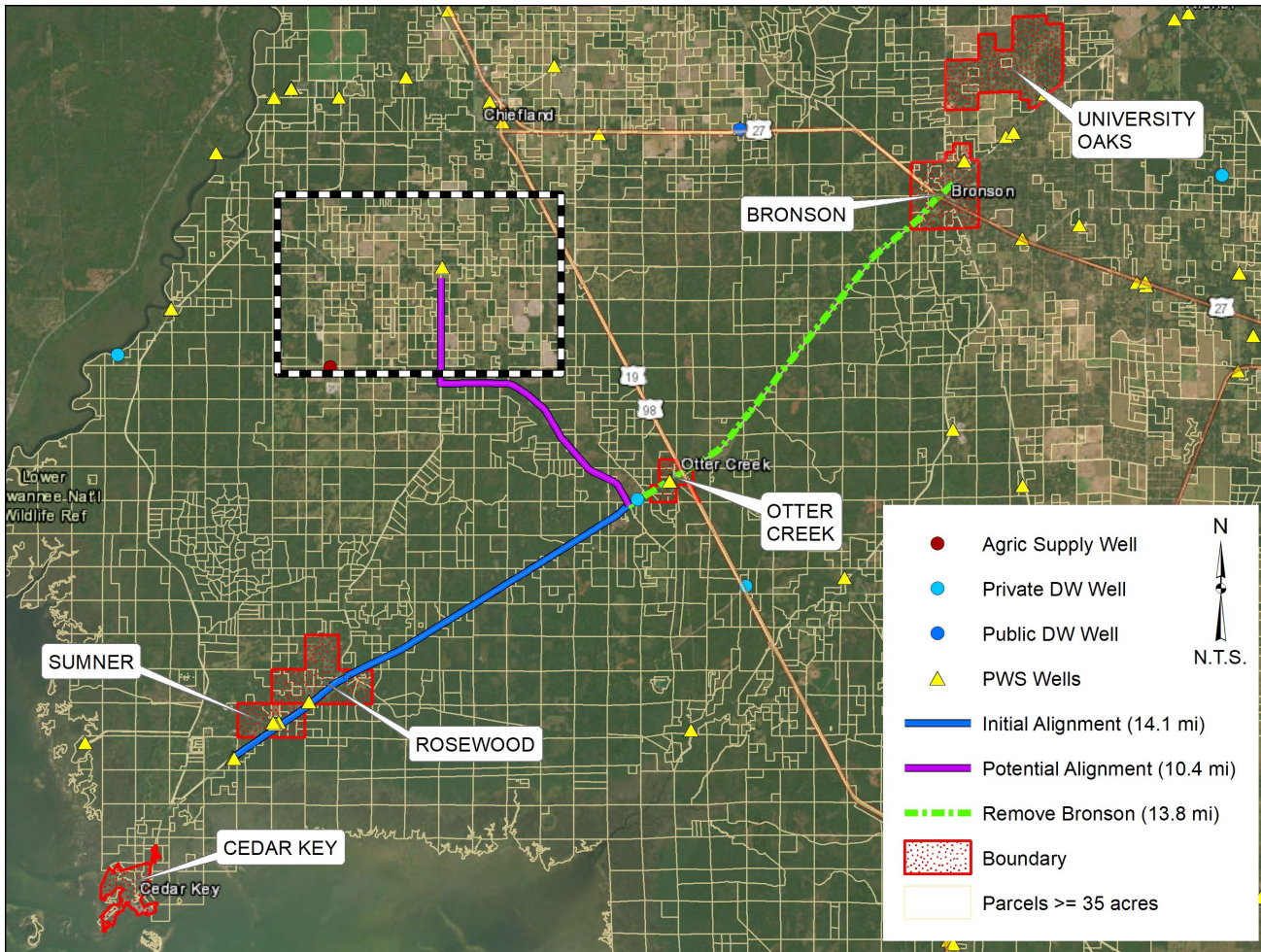
1. Continue with the water plant in Bronson
2. Explore two alternative locations in the previously identified area
3. Or partner with Chiefland
4. Do nothing



Water Treatment Plant & Potable Supply Well

- Water Treatment Plant
 - Town of Bronson requested alternative site selection preference for the treatment plants and the drinking water well.
 - Town has withdrawn its membership of the W3C.
- Test Production Well
 - The test production well was completed utilizing public dollars the W3C will need to work with the SRWMD and FDEP to determine future use.
 - Any future use needs to be permitted and well pump installed, or it needs to be plugged and abandoned.

Investigating W3C Facility Alternatives



- Potential locations large enough to co-locate WTP and WWTF are under evaluation.
- This alternative reduces 3.4 miles of conveyance pipeline.
- Pipeline corridor appears to be simplified with fewer utility conflicts and smaller wetland footprint, could offer cost savings.



Facility Alternatives Continued

- The alternatives reside within the Suwannee Basin Management Action Plan and requires advanced treatment with effluent nutrient concentrations limits. We may need to assess the practicality of a WWTF in another area.
- The consulting team needs to assess this alternative and its potential to affect Manatee Springs.
 - Identify springshed model boundaries.
 - Identify agricultural wells in area to assess an offset.



Chiefland Alternative

- Chiefland would be a wholesale provider of water to W3C
- 50 year long term agreement would be required:
 - Rates
 - Quantities
 - Quality
 - Pressure
- Transmission system and drop off locations would still be a W3C responsibility



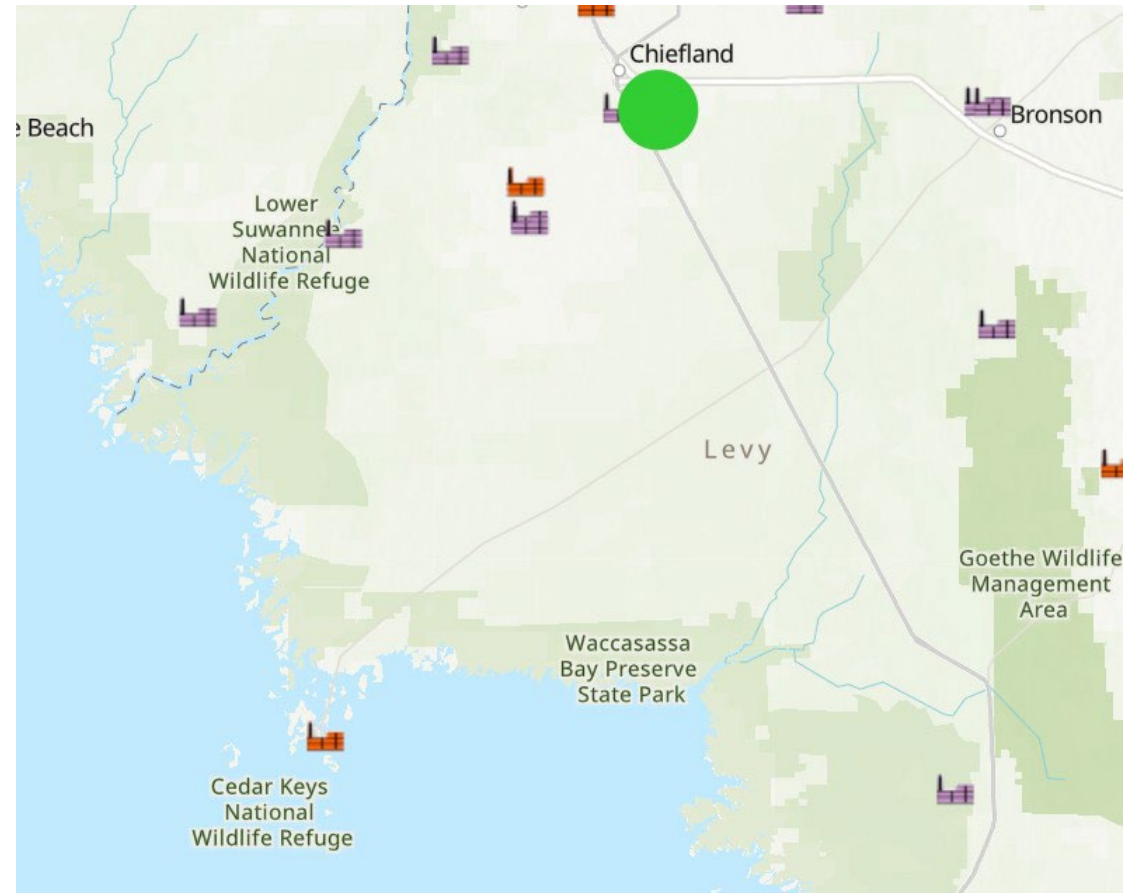
Options for W3C Wastewater Program

1. Explore two alternative locations in the previously identified area
2. Partner with Chiefland
3. Do nothing



Chiefland Alternative

- Partner with Chiefland to build a new WWTF
 - Approximately 1.25 mgd
 - W3C facility
 - Chiefland would become a member





Funding Status



Path Forward for Water and Wastewater

- Water
 - Well location planning
 - Assessing capacity and need
 - SRF amended facilities plan
- Wastewater
 - Assessing capacity and need
 - Applying for SRF planning loan, submitting waiver
 - SRF amended facilities plan
 - Feasibility analysis/ SRF business plan
 - Population projections
 - Environmental



Loan Forgiveness Waiver – FDEP Status

- FDEP notified W3C that the request for a waiver petition was awarded on May 11th.
- This award and waiver was based upon economic hardship and W3C membership income demographics.
 - Confirm if current members qualify for this loan forgiveness program.
 - If the location inside the County is determined for the WTP, additional areas should be explored for membership.
- FDEP meeting next week to discuss funding.



Wastewater Design Loan

- W3C needs to cancel the existing Clean Water design loan because we are moving back to the planning phase as a path forward to restructured membership
- Facilities plan will need to be updated with additional alternatives



Wastewater Loan Request for Inclusion

- A Request for Inclusion (RFI) was submitted to SRF on June 29th for a Clean Water Planning loan.
- FDEP has requested additional information, which will be submitted by Dewberry.
- \$230,000 for revision of the Facilities Plan, submission to FDEP, legislative advocacy, and grant work.
- 50% loan forgiveness



SAHM Funding

- Confirmed with FDEP the W3C remains qualified for this funding because of Cedar Key and Otter Creek Hurricane Impacts
- FDEP has begun writing the agreement
- FDEP has requested more detail in SAHM Application Supporting Documents
 - Impacts on the water and sewer systems – Dewberry Completing
 - Service Outage and Boil Water Notices
 - Cedar Key Water & Sewer District – Dewberry Clipping from Website
 - Otter Creek – Dewberry needs to confirm with Town if potable water service was interrupted



Water Treatment Plant Property Acquisition Legislative Appropriation Status

- \$850,000 for Water Treatment Plant Property Purchase was vetoed
- An alternative funding source will need to be identified for land acquisition

Gateway Grant Writing & Administration



- **USDA Predevelopment Planning Grant** application submitted and currently under initial review.
 - Grant request amount: \$60,000.
 - Required local match: 25% (\$15,000) if awarded (Plans to approach the District for match).
 - USDA funding is intended for pre-planning and planning activities only, not construction.
 - Eligible activities may include engineering planning, feasibility analysis, preliminary studies, and project development activities.



Grants Continued

- **FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities)** grant application currently in development.
 - BRIC application deadline: **July 23, 2026.**
 - Anticipated submission this week.
 - **Requires an Engineer Probable Opinion of Cost**
 - BRIC funding supports hazard mitigation and infrastructure resilience projects designed to reduce long-term disaster risk.
 - Current BRIC guidance emphasizes:
 - Infrastructure resilience
 - Hazard mitigation
 - Project readiness
 - Measurable risk reduction outcomes
 - BRIC is not intended as a general construction funding **Eligible projects must demonstrate direct resilience and hazard mitigation benefits**



Grants Continued

- **FDEP Grants.gov submissions are open**
 - Submissions will be sent to FDEP for the Springs and Alternative Water Supply grants
 - Deadline is September 1, 2026



Looking Ahead



Meet with FDEP to Determine Funding Status with Membership Changes



Determine feasibility of alternative location(s) for water and wastewater treatment facility.



Interlocal agreement and SRWMD Discussion Regarding Potable Test Well



W3C Needs to Complete Implementation Agreement



Cedar Key to confirm water and wastewater capacity needs for planning purposes.