

Withlacoochee Facts

The WRPC is 1 of 11 Regional Councils in the State of Florida. It has been in existence since 1973 !

Every county in Florida is required by State Statute (FS 186.504) to belong to a Regional Council !

The 5 counties which comprise the WRPC – Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter – have officially adopted an interlocal agreement and a set of By-laws that dictate how the agency will operate !

The WRPC had the smallest annual budget of any Regional Council in Florida during FY 2007/2008. The WRPC also currently has one of the smaller staffs - 12 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee!

Between 1990 and 2000, the Withlacoochee region experienced the highest percentage of growth (33.3%) of any Regional Council in Florida !

Many of the programs that the WRPC is involved with are the result of State and Federal requirements !

The counties in the WRPC region have requested that the WRPC assist them in meeting these requirements. They choose to do this because of the WRPC staff expertise and knowledge of the program, and because they realize they benefit from economies of scale !

Withlacoochee Facts

Local Dues & The Budget

Annual dues to the WRPC from all 5 counties in the Region amount to \$302,862 for the 2008/2009 budget year !

Local dues from the 5 counties that comprise the WRPC region are expected to account for about 25% of WRPC revenues during the current 2008/2009 budget year !

State and federal funds are expected to account for about 42% of WRPC revenues during the current 2008/2009 budget year !

DRI review revenues and Local Government contracts are expected to account for about 9% of WRPC revenues during the current 2008/2009 budget year !

Despite significant increases in state, federal, and other program funds in the past few years, the WRPC staff remains relatively small at 12 full time individuals and 1 part-time person !

Withlacoochee Facts

Adoption of Local Dues

Each of the 5 counties that comprise the WRPC region contribute local dues to support the agency !

Rules regarding adoption of the WRPC local dues are part of the Interlocal Agreement or WRPC By-laws officially adopted by the 5 counties that comprise the WRPC region !

Local dues are a factor of population. All counties pay the same per capita rate but the total amount that each county pays is based on its total population !

The WRPC Board is responsible for adopting the annual dues rate. This rate is normally adopted at the March or April Board meeting !

It takes a majority quorum to adopt the dues rate – a majority of Board members must be present! However, if a majority quorum is not present for two straight regular Board meetings, a simple majority (one-third of Board members) are able to approve the dues rate at the third regular monthly Board meeting.

If the officially adopted dues rate is the same or less than the previous year's rate, the rate does not need to be approved by the 5 County Commissions that comprise the WRPC region. All counties are then required to pay their local dues per the Interlocal Agreement!

If the officially adopted dues rate is increased over the previous year, 5 of the 5 County Commissions that comprise the WRPC region must approve the dues rate. If 5 of the 5 County

Commissions approve the rate, all 5 counties must pay the higher local dues per the Interlocal Agreement !

Note: The rules regarding dues as defined above refer to the per capita dues rate, not the actual amount of dues owed.

Withlacoochee Facts

Board of Directors

The WRPC Board has 30 members. 20 members are elected officials from the 5 counties and 10 members are Governor appointees !

The WRPC Board sometimes has less than 30 members when a Governor appointee resigns and it takes several months for the Governor to appoint a new member !

Of the 20 elected officials who are WRPC Board members, 14 are County Commissioners !

Positions on the WRPC Board are allocated according to the population of the county !

Marion County has 4 County Commissioners on the WRPC Board. Citrus and Hernando Counties have 3. Levy and Sumter Counties have 2 !

Each county decides among itself which County Commissioners will serve on the WRPC Board !

Withlacoochee Facts

Board Meeting Quorums

All rules regarding WRPC meeting quorums are part of the Interlocal Agreement or WRPC By-laws officially adopted by the 5 counties that comprise the WRPC region !

There are two different quorums for WRPC Board meetings, depending on the issue or issues to be approved !

Most WRPC Board meetings, so-called regular Board meetings, require at least one-third of the members to be present !

Any WRPC Board meeting dealing with the adoption of the dues rate or the budget requires a majority of all Board members to be present !

Withlacoochee Facts

Board Meetings

The WRPC Board meets every 3rd Thursday of the month, except December when it meets on the 2nd Thursday !

WRPC Board meetings are usually held at the WRPC Board Room and start at 7:00 P.M. !

The WRPC Annual Meeting is held every December. The Board appoints its officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary) for the coming year at the Annual Meeting !

WRPC Board members are not paid for attending meetings !

All WRPC Board meetings are subject to Florida Sunshine Laws and are open to the public !

Withlacoochee Facts

Budget Adoption

The WRPC has the lowest budget among the 11 Florida Regional Councils. Currently the annual WRPC budget is slightly under 1.2 million !

All rules regarding adoption of the WRPC Annual Budget are part of the Interlocal Agreement or WRPC By-laws officially adopted by the 5 counties that comprise the WRPC region !

The WRPC Board is responsible for adopting an annual budget !

It takes a majority quorum to adopt the annual WRPC budget – a majority of Board members must be present. However, if a majority quorum is not present for two straight regular Board meetings, a simple majority of 10 members are able to approve the budget at the third regular monthly Board meeting !

The budget for the following year is presented to the Board for adoption at the July Board meeting !

The budget year for the WRPC runs from October 1st through September 30th !

The WRPC annual budget does not have to be approved by the individual County Commissions !

Withlacoochee Facts

Governor Appointees

As required by State Statute (FS 186.504), 10 of the WRPC 30 Board members are Governor appointees !

The Governor appointees are allocated among the 5 counties. Governor appointees must be confirmed by the Senate !

All Governor appointee terms are for 3 years and they can be reappointed as many times as the Governor desires. Governor appointees serve until they resign or until someone else is appointed by the Governor !

Governor appointees have all the voting privileges enjoyed by any other WRPC Board member. They have an equal vote on budgets, per capita dues rates, contracts and any other WRPC issues that may emerge !

The Governor appointees are among the most dedicated WRPC Board members. Most attend monthly Board meetings on a regular basis !