

# Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority  
Friday, June 28, 2013  
9:30 AM

## Meeting Summary

(All presentations made to the Steering Committee have been posted on [cfwiwater.com](http://cfwiwater.com).)

### 1. Introductions

- a. Greg Munson, CFWI Steering Committee Chair, opened the meeting and turned the meeting Chair over to Brian Wheeler.
- b. Self introductions of Steering Committee (SC): Dan O'Keefe (SFWMD), Paul Senft (SWFWMD), John Miklos SJRWMD), Greg Munson (FDEP), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), Rich Budell (DACs).
- c. Sign in sheet for those in attendance have been posted to the website.

### 2. Consent Items

- a. Meeting Summary of the February 1, 2013, SC meeting were approved,
- b. Meeting Summary of the March 29, 2013, SC meeting were approved.

### 3. CFWI schedule update

- a. Brian Wheeler referred to the calendar of activities dated June 23, 2013, as the current status of the tasks by the Groundwater Availability Team (GAT). The schedule indicates scheduled meetings of the GAT, the Management Oversight Committee (MOC) and the Steering Committee.
- b. General discussion of the schedule and expectation that the major deliverable of the RWSP due November 30 is on target. Greg Munson requested an update from each Team Leader during today's presentations.

### 4. Hydrologic Analysis Team (HAT)

- a. David MacIntyre stated the HAT is on schedule for and provided the following update:
  - > Re-runs delivered on the 1995 condition, the 2005 reference condition, the End of permit (EOP) and the 2035 condition
  - > New runs delivered on the 2015 condition and the 2025 condition

- b. David stated the HAT feels the current model version appears to be suitable for CFWI groundwater availability purposes.
- c. Additional enhancements to the model will probably be necessary for the following:
  - CFWI solutions development
  - ECFT domain expansion
  - Future permitting applications
- d. The Steering Committee accepted the HAT presentation and had no questions.

## 5. MFL Team (MFLT)

- a. Doug Leeper stated the MFLT is MFLRT has completed several assigned tasks outlined in the CFWI Guidance Document and is on schedule on critical path tasks.
- b. Doug indicated the MOC and MFLRT have identified the need to revise/delete some assigned tasks and suggested revisions will be brought back to the Steering Committee. Changes will be incorporated in the Guidance Document.
- c. Tom Bartol discussed the need to change four MFLs in the northern portion of the CFWI.
  - SJRWMD has developed revised MFLs for four lakes within the CFWI area (North Apshawa, Prevatt, South Apshawa & Sylvan) based on improved scientific information
  - Based on more current scientific analysis the proposed MFLs are less constraining on water users than the MFLs currently adopted for the lakes
  - THE SJRWMD met with the utilities on May 31 and agreed the following four conditions needed to be met for these MFLs to go forward:
    - i. Not to proceed with rule adoption for these four MFL re-evaluations without developing Prevention & Recovery (P&R) strategies for each lake.
    - ii. To engage the STOPR+2 Group and other stakeholders with the development of the P&R strategies and any associated economic evaluations and in the development of rules associated with these four MFL re-evaluations. The SJRWMD Governing Board will take action on the completed P&R strategies at the same time they take action on the proposed MFLs.
    - iii. To consider performing a SERC or including an economic evaluation as part of the P&R strategies developed for these four MFL re-evaluations.

- iv. To include stage-exceedance curves for compliance evaluations as part of the proposed
- d. Greg Munson stated he did not want the CFWI process to delay the MFLs.
- e. Tom reported the MOC and STOPR+2 utilities (St. Cloud, TOHO Water, Orange County, Polk County, Reedy Creek Improvement District, Orlando Utility Commission, Seminole County) support SJRWMD moving forward with initiation of rulemaking; with a schedule that identifies completion of rulemaking after the expected development of the CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan. The Steering Committee voted their approval for the MFL development to proceed.

## 6. Groundwater Availability Team (GAT)

- a. Mark Hammond gave an overview of the progress of the GAT and presented the next steps for the Team to complete its work. He felt the GAT was on schedule to deliver the results to Guiding Principle #1 to the RWSP next month.
- b. Preliminary Findings
  - Traditional groundwater sources can meet some, but not all projected needs in the CFWI.
  - Additional sources and options will need to be considered, including:
    - i. Demand Management (conservation)
    - ii. Surface Water
    - iii. Reclaimed Water
    - iv. Distribute pumpage
  - Primary areas that limit groundwater availability
    - i. Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA)
    - ii. Wekiva Springs System
    - iii. US 27 Corridor (Ridge areas)
- c. At the next Steering Committee meeting the GAT will:
  - Finalize GAT findings (Jul/Aug)
  - Develop planning level estimates of the range of quantities available from traditional groundwater
  - Identification of areas where impacts limit availability
- d. Rich Budell asked about the detail that would be provided in the way of groundwater availability and if in addition to an amount that might be expected, would the areal extent of the availability be known. Mark said he felt the GAT would have the tools to make that assessment. Also, he expected that an estimated range of the quantity of

groundwater available would be provided and planning level guidance on general areas where additional groundwater withdrawals might be considered and areas where withdrawals might be limited.

- e. Hans Tanzler questioned the rainfall basis for the model and if highly variable rainfall patterns affect the model results. David Macintyre responded to explain that the rainfall driving the model were a recent 12 year period based on average rainfall patterns that mimic historic patterns.
- f. Greg Munson reiterated the importance of developing strong results because the CFWI must present usable results and said doing nothing is not an option.

**7. Regional Water Supply Plan Team (RWSPT)**

- a. Tom Bartol reported the current effort is focus on water supply options:
  - Water Source Options
  - Water Supply Development Component
  - Water Resource Development Component
  - Funding for WS and WR Projects
- b. Tom emphasized the November completion for RWSP relies on GAT delivering results by the end of July 2013.
- c. Public participation in this process is critical to ensure the plan reflects the needs and issues of the people who live in the region.
- d. Opportunities for public involvement

Components	Proposed Time Frame
Briefings/Presentations	Begin Jul 2013
Webinar	August 2013
Public Status Update Workshop	Sep 2013
Technical Methods Workshop	Nov 2013
Draft Regional Water Supply Plan Workshop	Dec 2013
Final RWSP to WMD Governing Boards	Spring 2014

- e. A webinar is being planned to engage stakeholders and provide opportunities to ask questions about the CFWI RWSP in a live forum

- this will be video-recorded and distributed to municipalities and others for their use.
- f. Paul Senft wanted clarification on what happens after the draft RWSP is completed in November. Tom stated the RWSP Team will present both the draft this year and final RWSP to the Governing Boards in early 2014, which will be an additional way to garner public feedback on the RWSP
- g. Dan O’Keefe further emphasized the importance of public participation and wants to be sure that each WMD takes the responsibility to ensure the public in their respective Districts are being properly engaged.

**8. Solutions Planning Team (SPT)**

- a. Robert Beltran presented the process and schedule the SPT would follow over the next 18 months.
- b. The recommendations for SPT participants were accepted by the Steering Committee. However, the SC directed additional membership from the SJRWMD and SFWMD be represented on the Team and that the utilities be given a total of two representatives. Rich Budell felt that agriculture was adequately represented and did not feel the need to add another member.
- c. The Steering Committee will discuss membership further at the next SC meeting.

REPRESENTING	MEMBER
Water Management Districts	Robert Beltran (SWFWMD) ADD (SJRWMD) ADD (SFWMD)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Tom Beck
Agriculture	Jim Fletcher (IFAS Osceola County)
Public Water Suppliers	Andy Neff (Seminole County) ADD (TBD)
Environmental Community	Milissa Holland
Congress of Regional Leaders	Bob Dallari (Seminole County Commission)
Central Florida Partnership	Michael Minton (Dean Mead)

- d. Development of the SPT scope of work would be delayed until after the next SC meeting at which time the membership will be finalized.

## **9. Myregion.org**

- a. Robert Beltran reported that he met with myregion.org and suggested they prepare a scope of work to describe their proposed outreach effort.
- b. Their engagement will be brought back to the SC for further discussion.

## **10. Open Discussion. None.**

## **11. Public Comments**

- a. Mr. Joe Bourassa presented information concerning the declining water use within the CFWI. He questioned the projected future water use and felt the future needs were distorted. He said rainfall is the biggest variable on groundwater levels. The information Mr. Bourassa distributed to the SC is shown in Attachment A.
- b. Ms. Jane Graham representing Audubon Florida highlighted the need to ensure sufficient water was available for the Kissimmee River and for Everglades restoration. She emphasized the importance of demand management with water users.
- c. Mr. Charles Lee with Audubon Florida discussed the project for Dispersed Water Management in the Northern Everglades. He emphasized the importance of retaining water on land will be to manage the long term water needs for the Everglades Restoration effort. Mr. Lee distributed a paper (Attachment B) to the SC members describing the Dispersed Water Management effort. Dan O'Keefe commented on the tremendous potential that this idea held.
- d. Mr. David Gore expressed his concern with the declining water table and felt many factors in addition to groundwater withdrawals were contributing to its decline. He said the focus must be on maintaining the water table.

## **12. Next Steering Committee meetings**

- August 16 (confirmed)
- September 27 (tentative)

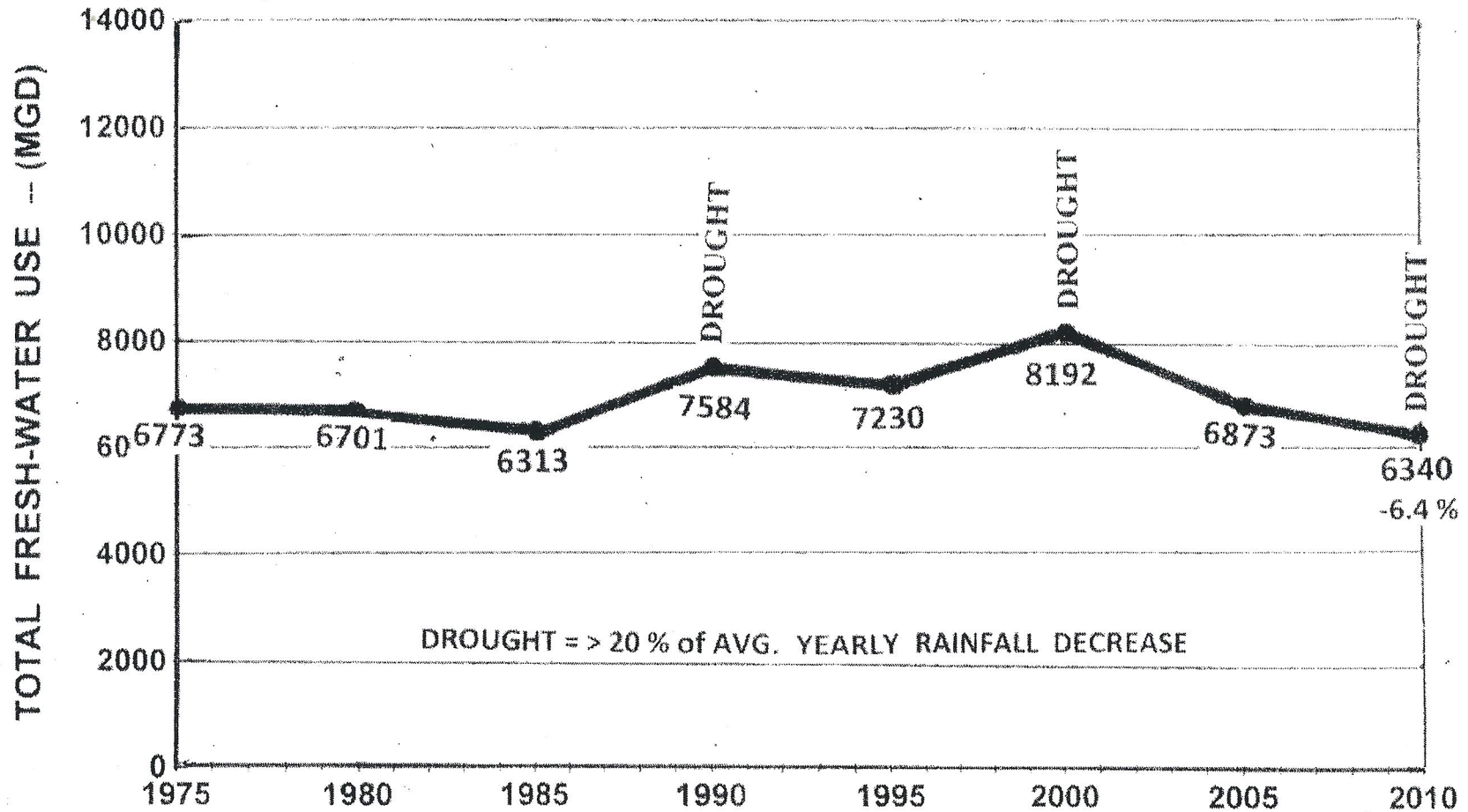
## **13. Adjourn at 11:35 AM.**

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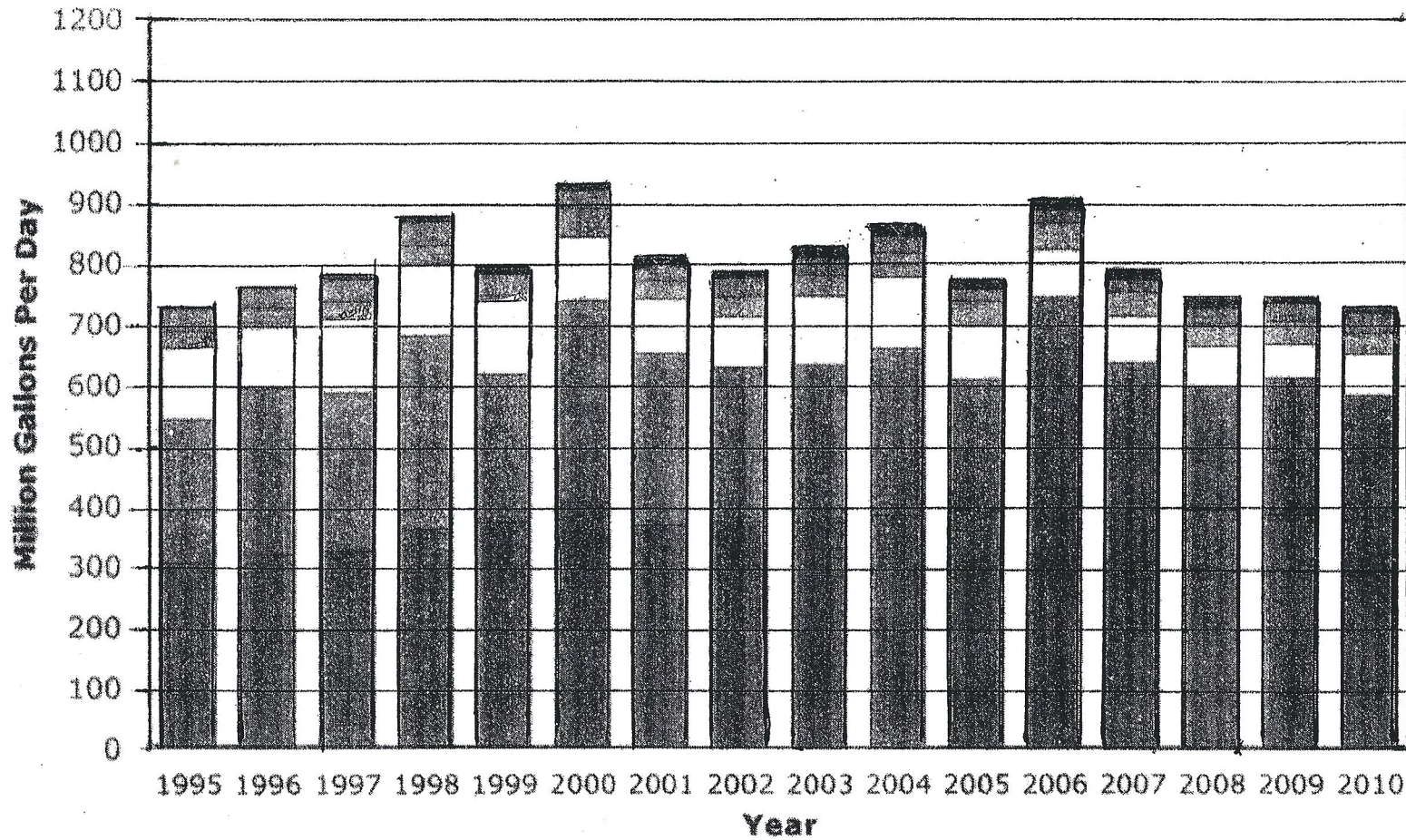
Mr. Bourassa

# FLORIDA TOTAL FW WATER USE HISTORY 1975 -- 2010



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ZJS

### Historic Water Use



DATA: CFWI by SJRWMD

MODIFIED by JB June 27, 2013



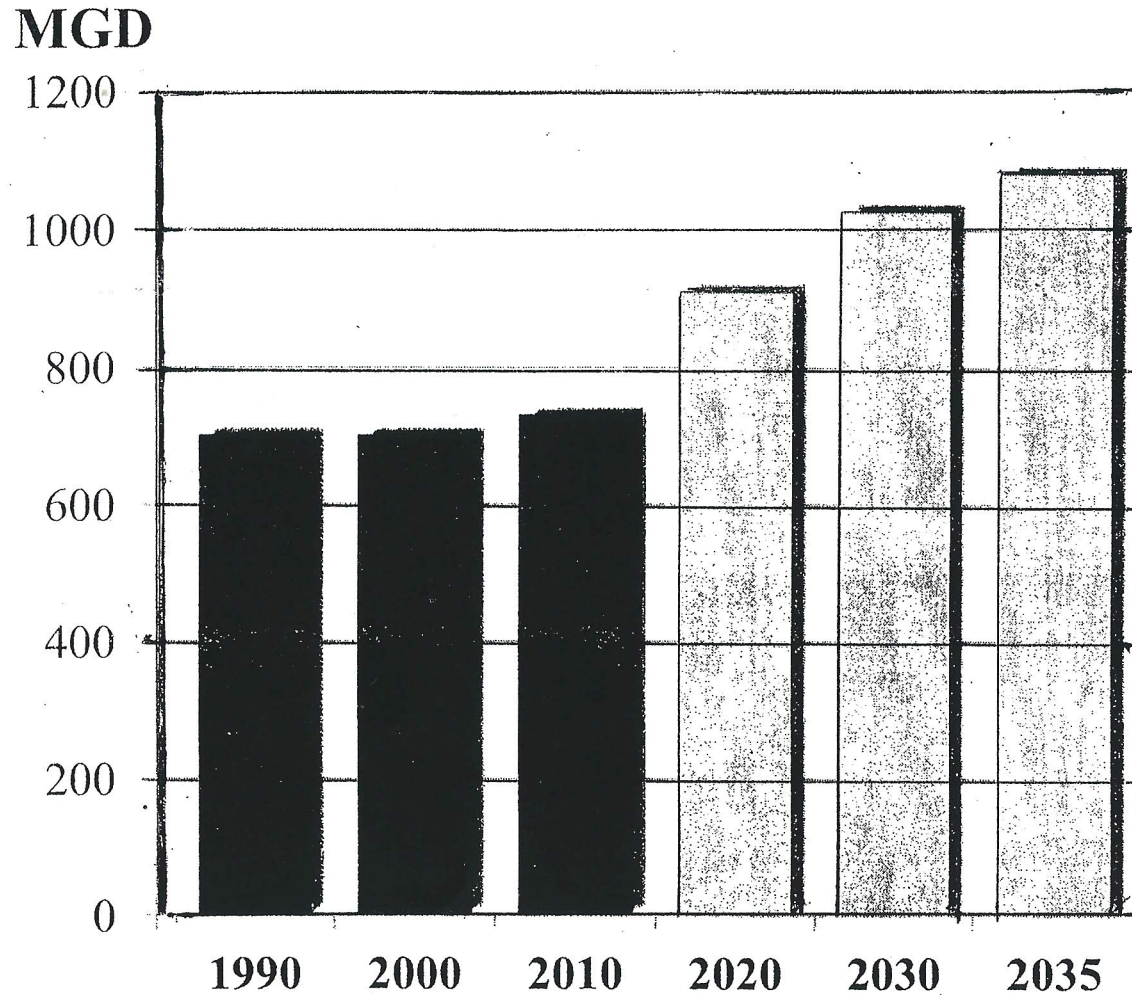
# Water Use

All Classes

ATTACHMENT "A"

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Historic

Projected

DATA; CFWI by SJRWMD

MODIFIED by JB June 27, 2013

## CFWI UTILITIES REAL USE vs PROJECTIONS

UTILITY by SIZE	2010 -- 2012			2012 -- 2015		
	2010 REAL	2012 REAL	2010-2012 % CHG/YR	2015 PROJ.	2012--2015 REAL CHG.	2012-2015 % CHG/Yr
OUC	85.78	79.99	-3.62%	88.33	8.34	3.47%
OCU	66.88	61.43	-4.07%	78.07	16.64	9.03%
TOHO	34.88	32.19	-3.86%	39.98	7.79	8.07%
TOTAL	187.54	173.61	-3.71%	206.38	32.77	6.29%

NOTES: 1; ALL All Data in MGD  
 2; 2012 DATA from OUC & TOHO UTILITIES  
 3; 2012 OCU DATA is SUMMED FROM SJRWMD & SFWMD

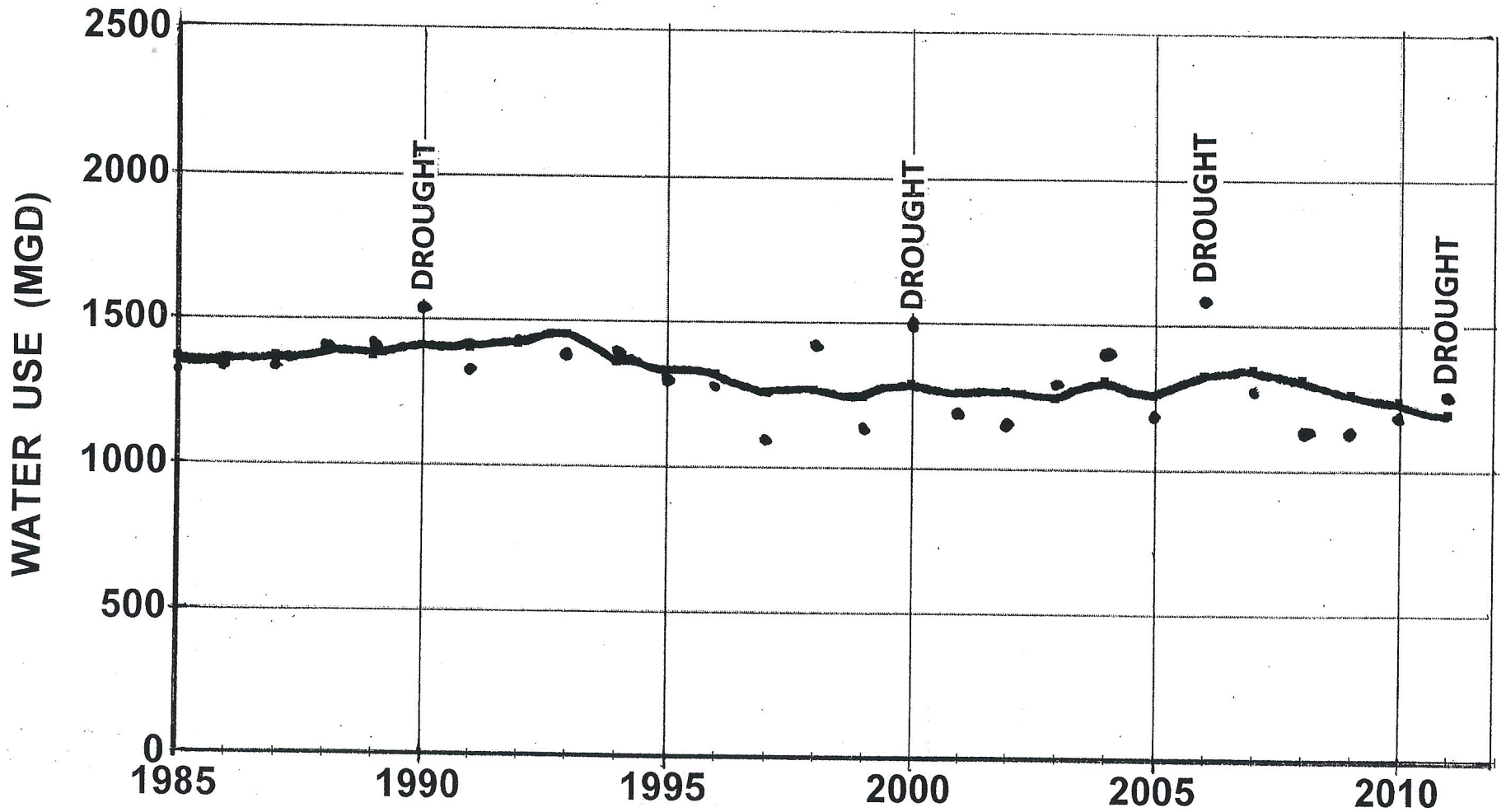
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# SJRWMD TOTAL WATER USE

1985 -- 2012





# Audubon FLORIDA

## Dispersed Water Management in the Northern Everglades: An Opportunity to Expand a Successful Program

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Audubon Florida congratulates the South Florida Water Management District (District) for implementing and continuing to fund the successful Dispersed Water Management (DWM) Program in the Northern Everglades. The Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services (NE-PES) approach is an important component of this program. The District approved the first eight NE-PES 10-year contracts for approximately \$7 million and has budgeted \$2.7 million in funds for the second NE-PES solicitation in Fiscal Year 2013. In 2011 the District entered into a 10-year lease/project agreement with Lykes Brothers, Inc. for the 16,000 acre Nicodemus Slough Water Management Project which will accommodate approximately 34,000 acre-feet of regional water storage. In addition, the District recently advertised a Dispersed Water Management Invitation for Water Farming Pilot Projects to solicit proposals from landowners to retain or store water on fallow citrus lands to reduce the regional system volume of water being released to the St. Lucie Estuary.

### Benefits of the Dispersed Water Management Program

Benefits of the Dispersed Water Management Program are many:

- Flow Attenuation – Reduces volume and rate of flow to the local watershed and damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.
- Base Flow - Increases dry season flows to lakes and rivers to support natural systems and water supplies.
- Wildlife Benefits – Provides habitat enhancement for multiple species at a watershed scale.
- Groundwater Recharge – Allows increased groundwater recharge which reduces the need for alternative water supply projects.
- Water Quality – Improves water quality by providing nutrient and other pollutant uptake by vegetation on project sites.
- Economic – Contributes to the financial viability of ranching and farming as a more extensive working agricultural land use.
- Adaptive Management – Contracts are reviewed and renewed on 10-year increments which gives the District flexibility to modify contractual terms as future conditions change. This is not an option with traditional storage projects.

- Expeditious – Projects can be implemented quickly.
- Fiscal Management – Provides the District and other agencies with water management and environmental benefits without large up-front capital expenditures and long term operations and maintenance costs.

### Recommendation

Water quality data from the District indicate that the Lake Okeechobee TMDLs are not being met. This is a serious trend which has continued after several regional water quality enhancement projects have come on line. In addition, previous SFWMD planning efforts identified a need for around 900,000- 1,300,000 acre feet of storage/detention in the Northern Everglades. It is clear that additional creative solutions are needed to temporarily store and clean up water before it enters Lake Okeechobee.

Audubon Florida strongly recommends that the District expand the existing DWM to include more projects covering more land area in the Northern Everglades Basin. The DWM Program has proven to have water management and environmental benefits at a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

Ranchers and farmers in the Northern Everglades Basin are very supportive of the DWM Program and would be interested in considering expansion of the Program on their lands.

In light of current fiscal constraints being faced by the District and agriculture community it makes sense to expand the DWM Program to allow for more sources of funding to gain storage of water from the regional system on privately owned lands.

### Logical Next Step

A logical first step prior to formally expanding the DWM Program would be to conduct an assessment of the potential basin-wide storage and water quality benefits associated with DWM expansion. Audubon Florida recommends that District staff or a consultant calculate the amount of surface water storage that would be reasonably expected to be stored if the DWM Program were expanded in the Kissimmee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie river basins. The assessment could include a cost comparison between the costs of expanding the DWM Programs against the costs of using a more traditionally engineered surface water reservoir systems, ASR wells, and/or Storm Water Treatment Areas to capture the same amount of water. This valuable information would provide the District Governing Board with objective data to properly evaluate alternatives for storing and improving the quality of water flowing into Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades Agriculture Area and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.