

Central Florida Water Initiative

Regulatory Team (Reg Team)

Scope of Work *(to be inserted in the CFWI Guidance Document)*

Team Leader: Lennart Lindahl

The Central Florida Water Initiative's (CFWI) primary focus is to provide for more effective water resource planning, development and management procedures. The Regulatory Team will build upon the results of the CFWI technical analysis and planning process as well as perform additional analysis as detailed below.

Background: After careful evaluation by the CFWI technical teams, it has been determined that the sustainable quantities of traditional groundwater sources available for water supply that can be used without causing unacceptable harm to the water resources and associated natural systems is 850 MGD. An additional 75 MGD of groundwater may be available through regional management activities but environmental constraints and economic realities, along with regionally appropriate management and operational controls including additional local mitigation, will need to be carefully considered. There is a need to ensure that appropriate management activities (regulatory and non-regulatory) reflect a balanced approach between public interest considerations, permitted water user rights and sustainability of the water resources. In addition, the three water management district regulatory programs are not currently aligned to address the CFWI's unique water resource challenges. The Regulatory Team will address these issues by identifying options for consideration.

Goal: Guiding Principle three for the CFWI is to "establish consistent rules and regulations for the three water management district that meet the Collaborative Process Goals and implement the results of this Central Florida Water Initiative".

Team Approach:

The Regulatory Team is comprised of regulatory staff from the South, Southwest, and St. John's Water Management Districts (WMDs); a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) representative, a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) representative; and public water supply utility and environmental group representatives. The Regulatory Team will work under the guidance of the Steering Committee (SC) and Management Oversight Committee (MOC) to fulfill the Guiding Principles of the CFWI. The Regulatory Team will interact with the other CFWI technical teams to evaluate regulatory options identified for ensuring sustainable water supplies. The Regulatory Team's approach will be a collaborative sharing of ideas, information, alternatives, and responsibilities.

Team Objectives:

The Regulatory Team will develop options for consistent regulations as well as identify Legislative changes, as needed, to implement the solution strategies identified in the CFWI process, to assist with resource recovery strategies, and to provide for equitable and predictable review of consumptive use permit applications among the districts.

Team Scope of Work:

- The WMDs will generate monthly WMD reports of consumptive use program data such as: pending applications, 10 year compliance reports, and anticipated renewal applications.
- Understand the products and deliverables from the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). Identify options to solve regulatory impediments to implementing Team(s) recommendations, including options for regulatory or statutory changes as needed.
- Develop options for a consistent regulatory definition of sustainable water withdrawals and reasonable-beneficial demands in the CFWI region and associated implementation strategies.
- Review management activities associated with permitted uses to maximize yield and minimize environmental impacts to maximize use of traditional supplies.
- Identify options for alignment of regulatory programs to employ appropriate implementation strategies and management activities identified above.
- Identify a process to analyze implementation of CFWI strategies and provide for on-going consistency in implementation by the districts.
- Present findings of the above evaluations to the Management Oversight Committee and Steering Committee.
- In coordination with the Regulatory Team's strategies and Solutions Planning Team's recommended projects, develop options, as needed, to better align permitted quantities with reasonable-beneficial demands over the term of the permit, consistent with State Water Policy concerning water conservation.

Team Schedule - TBD