

Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority
Friday, August 29, 2014

Meeting Summary

(All presentations made to the Steering Committee have been posted on cfwiwater.com.)

Introductions

- a. Steering Committee members present: Drew Bartlett (FDEP), Michael Babb (SWFWMD) via telephone (Paul Senft served as alternate), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), Rich Budell (DACS)
- b. Steering Committee members absent: Dan O'Keefe (SFWMD), John Miklos (SJRWMD)
- c. Members of the audience introduced themselves and the sign in sheet for those in attendance has been posted to the website.

2. Consent Items

- a. The June 27, 2014 Meeting Summary was approved.
- b. Drew Bartlett asked for clarification on the northern CFWI boundary in Lake County that was discussed at the June 27 SC meeting. Joanne Chamberlin (SJRWMD) explained the northern boundary was established in 2006 during the Central Florida Coordination Area interim rule process (predecessor to the CFWI). To avoid splitting municipal service areas the boundary meanders to match the water service areas for the Cities of Mascotte, Groveland and Mineola. (see "CFWI boundary 082914.pdf" on SC website)

3. Hydrologic Analysis Team

- a. Peter Kwiatkowski, Team Leader, summarized the recent activities of the team to complete Task A5:
 - Final Model Document submitted to the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) on June 23
 - TOC meet to discuss Document on June 30 with final TOC comments by July 7 subject to final edits
 - Completed final edits on August 28
- b. Prior to the individual discussion of the Report for Task A5, public comment was received.
 - David Gore (Haines City) said the model uses limited information based on what is available and felt additional data collection was needed to improve the model's usefulness.
- c. Paul Senft commended the HAT for their work and especially what has been accomplished by their diligence to complete this very complex modeling effort. Blake Guillory said that all models have their limitations but this is a great start. He agrees that more data is needed in the region to better understand and protect the water resources.

- a. Steering Committee accepted the work product of Task A5 by the HAT.
- b. Brian Wheeler reminded the Steering Committee that additional data collection was recommended by the Data Management and Information Team (DMIT) to update and refine the model. Drew Bartlett stated after the June 27 SC meeting, the FDEP and the WMDs discussed this need and the WMDs will be including the DMIT's minimum recommendations in their updates to their annual monitoring plans. Brian Wheeler said we must do this- monitoring is a priority.
- c. Peter Kwiatkowski said the final Model Documentation to be posted on the website next week.

4. Kissimmee River Reservation

- a. Len Lindahl provided the following update as part of the requested progress briefing to the SC:
 - Public workshop held July 30th in Kissimmee
 - Rule development for the water reservation will bring together stakeholders to continue an ongoing public review of Kissimmee science and technical data, with the goal of adopting a final rule in 2015.

5. South Lake Regional Water Initiative (SLRWI)

- a. Alan Oyler, consultant to the SLRWI provided background to the \$300K appropriation from the 2014 Florida Legislature to take a cooperative approach to water resource development in South Lake County.
- b. Lake County, acting as the facilitator, prepared an Interlocal agreement for the SLRWI members to hire a common consultant to evaluate and study water resource options.
 - Review and refine demand projects – potable and irrigation
 - Review available water resources – groundwater (UFA and LFA), reclaimed water, surface water, stormwater, and water from other providers
 - Identify MFL impacts, identify source of impact and recommend mitigation strategies
 - Identify infrastructure needs to convey water resources to SLRWI member systems
 - Prepare preliminary cost estimates
 - Prepare a report of findings and recommendations
 - Assist with evaluation of funding sources and recommendation of mechanism for implementing selected projects
 - Attend public meetings throughout the process to keep community informed and involved
- c. The consulting firm is expected to begin their work in late 2014 with completion in July 2015.
- d. Additionally, Mr. Oyler expressed concern that the CFWI has identified six water bodies in Lake County that are expected to have their MFLs violated but no definitive effort has begun to address the cause of these impacts.

- e. Brian Wheeler said the SLRWI's schedule does not match the CFWI schedule. He said their work will be completed after the CFWI is completed. Mr. Oyler said that the SLRWI will be much more detailed than the CFWI and he expects the water demands to be greater than those identified in the RWSP. Mr. Wheeler suggested that perhaps the CFWI completion date needs to be delayed.
- f. Lake County Commissioner Sean Parks and the City of Groveland Mayor Tim Loucks addressed the Steering Committee. The stressed the vision of the SLRWI effort was to foster an effort of co-operatively working together to address water resource challenges. He said the SLRWI partners are assembling a task force to work on water conservation strategies in parallel with the water resource study.
- g. Commissioner Parks asked the Steering Committee if they had any concerns about the purpose of the SLRWI since he has heard that some of the CFWI utilities are concerned. Drew Bartlett said he was not aware of any concerns and applauded the County for their leadership to take a regional look at the water resources. Brian Wheeler restated his worry is with the schedules being disconnected and how that might affect the final work product. Paul Senft stressed the importance of supporting each other's efforts to work together. Hans Tanzler supported the need for the SLRWI to be synergistic with the CFWI. Brian Wheeler thought more detailed work within the SLRWI was great and reinforced the importance of working together especially in the area of funding regional projects.

6. Solutions Planning Team (SPT)

- a. Prior to taking action on Sub Team membership, public comment was received.
 - David Gore (Haines City) felt the SPT should consider drainage impact not just water withdrawals.
- b. The Steering Committee approved the following changes to the Sub Team membership:
 - Groundwater- Jerry Mallams (SWFWMD) as leader, Mike Britt (Winter Haven), Amy Miles (Winter Haven, alternate);
 - Reclaimed Water- Doug Lowell (Duke Energy);
 - Conservation- David Trimble (FDEP)
- c. Robert Beltran, Team Leader, summarized the water supply challenges before the region: according to the plan a minimum of 116 MGD of alternative water supplies (AWS) will be needed to meet the 2035 demands. This number could increase to 191 MGD of AWS if the groundwater management options are not implemented.
- d. Robert explained the effort of the SPT is to identify those projects of regional significance as the Steering Committee directed. Of the 142 projects in the draft RWSP only 35 were deemed to be regionally significant. However the regionally significant projects generate 80% of future water supply needs.
- e. Mr. Beltran explained the current focus of the SPT is to ensure that water conservation is given the highest priority. He said the SPT is addressing the SC request to do all that is possible to maximize conservation and to develop options to increase the target beyond the 42 MGD identified in the draft RWSP. The SPT presented options to identify how best address water conservation.
- f. Rich Buddell (FDACS) was supportive of the option to prioritize the effort on the largest agriculture water users including the use of incentives. Blake Guillory

(SFWMD) agreed but said that the smaller Ag users also need to be supported. Hans Tanzler (SJRWMD) said this was relevant to the challenges in protecting the springs in that all water saving efforts also had a water quality benefit and felt that incentives to increase conservation made good sense. Brian Wheeler (TOHO) felt that opportunities for public water suppliers to partner with Ag water users should be identified but felt better communication with the Ag community was needed. Paul Senft (SWFWMD) said SWFWMD has had a very successful program over the past 8 years with the AG community.

- g. The SC directed the SPT to prioritize programmatic water conservation with the largest agriculture water supply users which were felt to provide the most cost effective benefit.
- h. Drew Bartlett emphasized the importance of water conservation in achieving the overall goals of the CFWI effort. Blake Guillory agreed and felt the SC needed to spend more time understanding what has been done and what needs to be done. Mr. Bartlett requested a thorough discussion on water conservation at the September 27 Steering Committee meeting.
- i. Brian Wheeler said one area that needs additional study is the use of domestic self-supply (DSS) wells. He related a recent experience where a subdivision in Osceola County installed three 2” wells for irrigation to avoid having to obtain a consumptive use permit.
- j. Robert Beltran reviewed the SPT schedule and critical path dates. The SC modified and approved the following dates for the CFWI Plan and RWSP completion:
 - Nov 20 – Steering Committee – Final draft Solutions Team regional projects
 - Nov 21 - Central Florida Regional Leadership Forum
 - Dec 2 – SPT – Review CFWI Plan
 - Dec 12 – All CFWI Plan comments due to Production Team
 - Dec 19 – Steering Committee – Receive Draft CFWI Plan
 - Jan/Feb – Steering Committee – Approve Draft CFWI Plan for public review period
 - Mar/Apr 2015 – Public Review period
 - May/Jun 2015 – Steering Committee – Approve CFWI Plan and RWSP
 - Jun/Jul 2015 – Governing Board – Approve CFWI Plan and RWSP
- k. CFWI Plan was reviewed by Joanne Chamberlin. Several changes in the chapter outline were proposed to the 2035 Water Resources Protection & Water Supply Strategies Plan (CFWI Plan). They were approved by the SC as follows:
 - Introduction
 - Goals
 - Public Outreach
 - Planning / Solutions process
 - Regional Water Supply Plan
 - Water Resource Assessment

- Water Conservation
- Solutions Projects
 - Groundwater
 - Reclaimed Water
 - Surface Water
 - Stormwater
- Environmental Evaluation
- Regulation
- Financial Assessment
- Conclusions/Strategies
- Appendices: TBD

- I. Ms. Chamberlin also explained the CFWI Document series and how all the various works products of the entire CFWI effort relate to each other and how the work products will be collected for ongoing future reference. (see “CFWIPlan 082914.pdf” on SC website)

7. Regulatory Team (RT)

- a. Len Lindahl, Team Leader, reported on the ongoing process to follow the December 13 FDEP Guidance memo.
- WMD coordination on pending applications
 - Review of permit duration
 - Water conservation criteria
 - Reporting consumptive use data
 - Updated list of pending consumptive use permit applications, separated by District
 - Requested permit duration
 - Identifies requests for new quantities by source
 - Available on www.cfwiwater.com
- b. Completed RT topics
- Water use per capita
 - Aquifer recharge and impact offset sources and programs
 - Resource redistribution
 - Interdistrict transfer of ground and / or surface water
- c. Outstanding RT Topics (to be addressed)
- Water shortage criteria comparison
 - Existing Memorandum on WMD coordination
 - Literature distributed concerning shortage declarations
 - Caution area example review
 - Public interest (3rd prong test interpretation)
 - Conjunctive Use
 - Added per request of the SPT

- Defining the issue
 - Review of existing criteria and permitted examples
 - Applicability to selected projects
- d. Strategies Document support by the RT
- Draft table of Regulatory Team's contents provided to the Regional Water Supply Plan Team
 - Tables and documents produced to answer Regulatory Topics may be included as Appendices
 - Document will include Regulatory Team input on project options selected by the Solutions Planning Team
- e. Conservation Measures support to the SPT sub team
- Participated at Conservation Sub-Team meeting
 - Draft list of measures from the Conservation Sub-Team
 - High-level Team review on based on current regulatory authorization (Yes, No, Further Study)
 - Guidance delivered for consideration

8. Regional Consensus Building

- a. Steve Seibert (triSects Inc.) summarized the high level message they have been communicating to the region's leaders:
- Celebrate the regional/science based approach to solving the region's water issues
 - Understand that a long-term regional program to assure future water supplies is doable, but it will be more costly
 - Encourage open and honest conversations within the region's communities
- b. Hans Tanzler stressed the importance of proactive communication especially with communities along the St. Johns River
- c. Upcoming Workshops
- Tri-County League of Cities
 - Date: October 16th
 - Time: 1 to 3pm
 - Place: Town of Oakland
 - Second Workshop
 - Investigating if Lake & Polk meetings can be combined
 - Potentially in the Four Corners area
 - October or early November timeframe
- d. Central Florida Regional Leadership Forum
- Working Together to Advance a Regional Water Strategy
 - Date: Friday, November 21st
 - Time: 8:00 am - 11:30 am

- Place: Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport
- The Solutions Team and Steering Committee are invited to attend

9. Open Discussion

10. Public Comments

- a. David Gore (Haines City) expressed concern with the cumulative impact of all withdrawals and the CFWI effort needs to provide a better means to capture and store water.

11. Next SC meetings

- a. Sep 26
- b. Oct 24
- c. Nov 20 (Thursday)
- d. Dec 19

12. Adjourn