

Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority
Friday, February 27, 2015

Meeting Summary

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

1. Introductions
 - a. Steering Committee members present: Drew Bartlett (FDEP), Michael Babb (SWFWMD- via telephone), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), John Miklos (SJRWMD), Rich Buddell (DACS)
 - b. Steering Committee members absent: Dan O'Keefe (SFWMD)
 - 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 January 30, 2015, Meeting Summary was approved.
3. 2015 Water Legislation related to CFWI
 - a. Colleen Thayer briefed the Steering Committee on HB 7003 which contained provisions to codify the CFWI effort and establish a process to keep the planning effort up to date. She felt it would be passed out of the House early in the session. There is currently no similar provision in the Senate.
4. Minimum Flows & Levels/ Reservation
 - a. Len Lindahl provided the following update the SJRWMD MFLs
 - The St. Johns River at SR520 (Lake Poinsett)
 - Technical report and peer review are complete
 - New MFL rulemaking planned to begin in summer 2015
 - Upper Ocklawaha River Basin (UORB)
 - Lake Apopka and Harris chain-of-lakes scheduled for rule adoption in 2015 will not be completed until 2 016
 - Refining surface water models
 - Intensive stakeholder/peer review panel process
 - b. Len Lindahl provided the following update the SWFWMD MFLs
 - Lake Hancock

- New MFL and a reservation expected in 2015.
- Reservation to be developed for water stored in the lake through the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project to aid in the recovery of MFLs for the upper Peace River.
- Other Lake MFLs
 - Six MFLs proposed for reevaluation by the end of 2015 (Clinch, Crooked, Eagle, McLeod, Starr, Wales)
 - Applying methodological enhancements, including hydrologic modeling approaches that were not previously used for adoption of the MFLs to improve consistency and support solution efforts.
- c. Len Lindahl provided the following update to the Kissimmee River reservation
 - Technical Publication draft
 - To be delivered in spring
 - Public comment on rule draft extended to coincide with Technical document
 - SFWMD's web site provides information
 - Additional workshops following document release
 - Prepare Statement of Estimated Costs
 - On schedule for 2015 adoption

5. Solutions Planning Team

- a. Mark Hammond updated the progress to complete the CFWI Plan and reviewed the following remaining work tasks:
 - Finalize the Regional Water Supply Plan
 - Finalize the CFWI 2035 Water Resources Protection and Water Supply Strategies Plan (CFWI Plan) including:
 - CFWI Regional AWS Priority Projects List
 - CFWI Regional Financial Plan
 - Finalize Options for Consistent Regulations & Implement Solutions Strategies
 - Implement Conservation to the Greatest Extent Practicable
 - Implement Critical Water Resource Data Collection

- Implement Investigations to Support Water Resource Projects
 - Update the ECFT Groundwater Model
 - Initiate Annual Status reports
 - Initiate a process for a 5 year assessment and update (2020)
- b. Drew Bartlett asked about the collection of data on conservation efforts for the CFWI and Brian Wheeler followed up with an inquiry about the funding for the Conserve Florida water conservation clearinghouse. Drew Bartlett responded that the Governor's budget contained a funding request for alternative water supplies and conservation that would provide an opportunity for funding of Conserve Florida. Representatives of the three water management districts reported that the districts proposed budgets for the coming fiscal year included the funding for the first year of the implementation of the DMIT recommendations
- c. The Steering Committee requested detail on the funding of the conservation programs/projects along with more specificity on the DMIT Minimum recommendations. The Management Oversight Committee will discuss at their March 2 teleconference and target completing this request by mid-March. The expanded funding detail would be used to help clarify the state funding request under consideration during the 2015 legislative session.
- d. Joanne Chamberlain provide an update to the current schedule for the final work product of the CFWI to be called 2035 Water Resources Protection & Water Supply Strategies Plan or the CFWI Plan for short. The CFWI Plan and the draft RWSP (including any revisions) will then go the Governing Boards of the WMDs for final review and approval. Brian Wheeler requested more effort to be given to coordinate the review of the various revisions. Drew Bartlett said revisions could be considered up until the final draft in late summer.
- e. Environmental benefits
- In response to the January 30th Steering Committee's request to better identify the various environmental benefits included in the CFWI Plan, Mark Hammond said the Solutions Planning Team reviewed the projects/programs by category. The SPT's evaluation identified the following general benefits for each category of projects/programs in the CFWI Plan:
 - Conservation
 - Enhances region's efficient use of water resources

- Reduces reliance of groundwater
- DMIT
 - Provides necessary information to better assess environmental systems
- Reclaimed Water Projects
 - Reduces reliance of groundwater
 - Augments potable supplies
 - Provides water for recharge
 - Reduces discharges and improves water quality
- Stormwater Projects
 - Augments reclaimed water supplies
 - Provides water for recharge
 - Improves water quality
- Surface Water Projects
 - Diversification of water supplies
 - Reduces reliance on groundwater
 - Provides water for recharge
 - Provides supplemental river flows
 - Reduces discharge impacts to estuaries
- Groundwater Projects
 - Further development of lower Floridan projects reduces reliance on traditional groundwater
 - Diversification of water supplies
- Mark Hammond reminded the SC that the CFWI effort was to identify water sources beyond traditional groundwater sources so by their nature they are not necessarily standalone environmentally beneficial projects unless they address a needed recovery. However, he did point out that all the water supply projects were being developed in an environmentally sustainable way.
- Mark provided an example of how potential recovery options were being developed for the Lake Wales area. These options are based on the SPT process and the stakeholder workgroup meetings that the

SWFWMD held for the SWUCA Ridge Lakes 5-year update. These options will be presented to the Governing Board for consideration in the next several months.

- Lake Wales is about 3.2 feet below the minimum level of 106.6 feet. This is based on the long-term median lake level since 1990 which is about 103.4 feet.
- Update MFLS
 - The SWFWMD is in the process of re-evaluating minimum levels for several lakes, including Lake Wales.
 - Goal is to make sure levels are based on improvements to the methodology that have been made since these levels were established
- Demand Management
 - Continue to implement conservation practices to reduce existing demands where possible and prevent/minimize growth within existing permitted quantities.
 - Implement FARMS projects
- Recharge
 - The Groundwater sub-team provided conceptual level estimates that recharge between 2.5 mgd and 4.2 mgd could result in the minimum level for Lake Wales being met by relocating and/or deepening wells
 - SWFWMD anticipates evaluating options to relocate withdrawals away from the lake and/or move wells to the lower Floridan aquifer.
- Replace existing withdrawals with AWS
 - SWFWMD anticipates evaluating options to develop additional AWS for the Lake Wales area.
- Drew Bartlett requested that more effort was needed to better describe and quantify the benefits in the CFWI Plan.

6. Regulatory Team

- a. Len Lindahl, Team Leader, reported that the Team's environmental representative Mary Jean Jon (Audubon Florida) has resigned from the Team and the position is proposed to be replaced by Eric Draper (Audubon Florida). The SC approved the change.

- b. Len reported on the ongoing process to follow the December 13, 2014, FDEP Guidance memo
- c. Ongoing Team topics:
 - Success Principles
 - Survey of WMD programs and their criteria
 - Delivered to the Solutions Planning Team for further discussion
 - Conjunctive Use
 - Review of existing rules and options for future criteria
 - Self-Supplied Landscape Irrigation
 - WMD review of well construction permits, conservation practices, compliance
 - Utility review of potable and reclaimed service areas
 - Geographic look at use and environmental features
 - RWSP Approval Process
 - Legal steps necessary for RWSP adoption
- d. The RT will continue progress on priority topics, coordinate with Solutions Planning Team, ongoing regulatory review of RWSP Projects and develop draft content for CFWI Strategies document

7. Regional Consensus Building

- a. Barbara Ross reviewed the 2015 CFWI Communications Plan. She explained the plan included the following strategies and would involve a combination of WMD staff working with triSect:
 - Educating and engaging the business and agriculture communities, environmental and civic groups, local governments and adjacent areas
 - Develop & support “champions”
 - Identify and secure speaking engagements
 - Meeting with key Legislators
 - Updating Governing Boards
 - Providing media opportunities
 - Engaging public and obtaining feedback

- Citizen section on website
 - Public meetings on draft Solutions Plan
 - Online comment form for input
 - Continuing internal communications
- b. The Steering Committee approved the 2015 Communications Plan.
8. Open Discussion - NONE
9. Public Comments
- a. David Gore (NE Polk County) requested the emails he had written earlier be addressed. He further stated the need to protect the surficial water table and said land use changes have resulted in the most impact to the water table. He felt more effort to recharge the aquifer was needed.
- b. Joe Bourassa via email to the Steering Committee members expressed concern over future water use estimated in the RWSP. He asked that his email be included in the meeting summary. (Attachment A)
10. Next SC meetings
- a. Mar 27, 2015- tentative, may not be needed.
- b. April 24, 2015- draft CFWI Plan for public review
- c. May 29, 2015
- d. June 26, 2015
- e. July 31, (tentative)
- f. Aug 28, Sept 25, 2015- Approve Final draft CFWI Plan and Final draft RWSP