

Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority

Friday, May 8, 2015

Meeting Summary

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

1. Introductions

- a. Steering Committee members present: Drew Bartlett (FDEP), Michael Babb (SWFWMD), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), John Miklos (SJRWMD), Rich Buddell (DACS), Paul Senft (SWFWMD Alternate)
- b. Steering Committee members absent: Dan O'Keefe (SFWMMD)
- 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. February 27, 2015, Meeting Summary was approved
- b. February 27, 2015 follow up to Item 5c was accepted.

3. 2015 Water Legislation related to CFWI

- a. Colleen Thayer briefed the Steering Committee on SB 918/HB 7003 which contained provisions to codify the CFWI effort and establish a process to keep the planning effort up to date. She explained the legislature failed to take action on the water bill and unless it is addressed in the special session it will be up to the 2016 Legislature to address.
- b. CFWI codification in the draft bills included the following provisions:
 - Three District's, DEP and FDACS to continue the collaborative process - develop a single, multidistrict regional water supply plan and a single hydrologic planning model;
 - DEP, in coordination with the Districts and DACS, must adopt uniform rules for CFWI, including calculating per capita and a per capita goal, a single process for permit reviews, a single process for setting MFLs and/or water reservations;
 - Uniform rules must include existing recovery strategies would have been adopted before July 1, 2015 (i.e., SWUCA);
 - DEP would have initiated rulemaking by December 31, 2015 and rules would be applied by the District's only within the CFWI.

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 2016
 - 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
 - SWFWMD's web site provides information
 - Additional workshops following document release
 - Prepare Statement of Estimated Costs
 - On schedule for 2015 adoption

5. Guidance Document

- a. John Shearer (Facilitator) review overall progress of the various tasks from the CFWI Guidance Document. He stated that all tasks have been completed or on track to be completed prior to adoption of the CFWI Plan and RWSP draft update. All relevant scientific and technical reports developed as part of the CFWI effort are available on the CFWI website.
- b. Priorities of the Steering Committee are included in the RWSP and the CFWI Plan:
 - addressing historic water resource impacts

- increasing water conservation to the maximum extent practicable
- maximizing reclaimed water use
- completing the Data Management Investigations Team's recommendation within five years
- focusing on programs and projects of regional significance

6. Solutions Planning Team

a. Mark Hammond discussed the key findings of the Solutions Planning Team (SPT):

- Water conservation is an important element for long term water supply
- The SPT stated that sufficient options to meet the regions' needs through 2035 are available (150 options > 334 mgd)
- Conceptual management strategies can be developed into specific projects to further expand the water supply
- Stakeholder engagement is necessary to achieve the CFWI Plan
- Many project options are available. One possible scenario estimated costs of \$2.8 billion for 225 mgd of water
- Establishment of consistent rules and regulations still need to be developed to implement the results of CFWI Plan
- Implementing results of CFWI will be critical to assume a long-term sustainable water supply

b. Mark Hammond reviewed the CFWI Plan schedule:

- May 8 Steering Committee Meeting (today)
 - Approve Draft CFWI Document Series for Public Review
- Public review period
 - Post to website May 8 (today)
 - Extended Review Period ~82 days
 - Ends July 31, 2015
- August/September
 - Finalize CFWI Document Series
- October 30, 2015
 - Steering Committee meeting to approve CFWI Document Series for each of the Water Management District's Governing Boards' approval
- November
 - Districts' Governing Board Meetings to approve the CFWI Document Series

c. Mark Hammond presented the final draft of the 2035 Water Resources Protection & Water Supply Strategies Plan (CFWI Plan) to the Steering Committee and requested that it be considered for approval to be used in the public comment process that will occur over the next several months.

- d. Drew Bartlett commented that the CFWI Plan was a well-documented roadmap that showed the path forward for Central Florida. Paul Senft added that the process stressed the importance of collaboration and science based decision making. Paul commended the utilities and Brian Wheeler's leadership in particular for helping keep the effort moving toward its conclusion.
- e. Brian Wheeler said that when all the public input has been accommodated and we come back later to approve the final CFWI Plan it will not mean much if we do not follow through. This road map will help us stay on course but we will all need to commit to make it a reality.
- f. Drew Bartlett remarked on the challenges of developing scientific consensus on a relatively short time frame. He said the work products in the appendices are very impressive.
- g. Drew Bartlett, Chairman of the Steering Committee, open the meeting for public comment. No one requested to speak.
- h. Brian Wheeler made a motion to accept the final draft of the CFWI Plan for public review and the motion was seconded by Rich Budell. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Regulatory Team

- a. Len Lindahl reported on the ongoing process to follow the December 13, 2014, FDEP Guidance memo.
- b. Len said the establishment of consistent regulations is a Key Finding of the CFWI RWSP and CFWI Plan.
- c. In the interim, the Regulatory Team found consistent themes and programmatic goals that should be considered when developing consistent regulations, These are more thoroughly described in Chapter 7 namely:
 - Overall Program Description:
 - The program's approach / regulatory tools must match the problem.
 - Performance measures are needed to gauge success in achieving the program goals.
 - Time tables, interim milestones, and deadlines to achieve program goals must be established.
 - Resource sustainability:
 - Define the role of regulation and integration with other programs in achieving sustainability of the water resources.
 - Incorporate water resource development and restoration projects in achieving sustainability.
 - The program follows Legislative direction in addressing sustainability.
 - The program provides for adaptive management.

- Existing legal user rights:
 - Defines existing legal uses (e.g., actual use, permitted use or projected use)
 - Program considers implementation timing in regards to permit renewal.
 - Regulatory components of prevention and recovery are apportioned among the existing legal uses.
 - Programs establish waivers, variances, or other forms of relief based on hardship.
 - Programs provide funding to implement changes to existing legal uses.
 - Future projected uses:
 - The program provides pathways for all projected reasonable-beneficial uses of water (e.g., optimization, efficiency, conservation, preferred sources, alternative water supplies, water resource development).
 - Programs provide funding for future new water supply projects.
- d. Len Lindahl explained the Regulatory Team can provide options for the Steering Committee to consider after “harmful to the water resources” is defined.
- e. Also, the Regulatory Items are those topics already investigated by the Regulatory Team (Appendix G). However, other items may be necessary, such as conjunctive use.
- f. Brian Wheeler mentioned the legislation is pending and may not pass this year and asked what we should do in the meantime. Drew Bartlett suggested the June 26 Steering Committee should be focused on discussing this issue and laying out a going forward approach.

8. Regional Consensus Buildings

- a. Barbara Ross reviewed the 2015 communications Team’ s goal:
- Effectively communicate to all key stakeholders and the general public about the development of the *2035 Water Resources Protection and Water Supply Strategies Plan* as well as the finalization of the draft *Regional Water Supply Plan*.
- b. Barbara summarized the status of the Outreach activities
- Government and business focus groups- COMPLETED
 - Pre-meetings with environmental, agriculture and business stakeholders COMPLETED
 - Stakeholder workshops scheduled for May 18, 20 and 21
 - Water Supply Plan public meetings
 - Winter Haven, June 1
 - Winter Garden, June 4

- Governing Board presentations (April & May)
 - Jacksonville-area stakeholder meeting (TBD)
 - Media interviews, editorial board outreach
 - Speaking engagements (ongoing)
 - Online resources & engagement
- c. Barbara went through the new format for the CFWI website which should enhance the public's ability to understand the process and access relevant data. The new website will be going live this afternoon. The website also has provisions for citizens to ask questions and comment on the CFWI Plan.

9. Open Discussion NONE

10. Public Comments NONE

11. Next SC meetings

- a. May 29, 2015. Cancelled
- b. June 26, 2015- meeting focus will be on a process to achieve regulatory consistency.
- c. July 31, Aug 28, Sept 25, 2015 (tentative)
- d. October 30, 2015 Approve Final draft CFWI Plan and Final draft RWSP

12. Adjourn