

# Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority

Friday, June 26, 2015

## Meeting Summary

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

### 1. Introductions

- a. Steering Committee members present: Drew Bartlett (FDEP), Paul Senft- alternate (SWFWMD), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), John Miklos (SJRWMD), Ray Scott- alternate (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. May 8, 2015, Meeting Summary was approved

### 3. 2015 Water Legislation related to CFWI

- a. Colleen Thayer (via conference phone) briefed the Steering Committee

- The legislature did not address any of the issues in the water bills from the regular session (SB918/HB7003) during special session
- SB2500A-Budget
  - Land acquisition - \$17,400,000
  - WMDs- land management - \$11,000,000
  - Springs restoration - \$6,352,985 (GR) \$38,575,538 Land Acquisition Trust Fund
  - Water projects - \$73,343,000
- SB2516A
  - Implementation of the water and land conservation constitutional amendment
  - Implements Article X, Section 29 of the Florida Constitution
  - Requires 33 percent of the doc stamp revenue be distributed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) within the DEP
  - Prohibits funds from the LATF from being used for other than specified purposes provided in the Amendment;
  - Prohibits the comingling of the LATF with the general revenue fund.

#### 4. Minimum Flows & Levels/ Reservation

- a. Steven Memberg provided the following update the SJRWMD MFLs
  - The St. Johns River at SR520 (Lake Poinsett)
    - Technical report and peer review are complete
    - HSPF model will be updated with planned completion in January 2016
    - 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. Steven Memberg 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. Steven Memberg provided the following update to the Kissimmee River reservation
  - Draft Rules released 12/12/14
  - 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. CFWI Draft Plan feedback from Public Meetings

- a. Barbara Ross 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, 21 and June 17 COMPLETED
  - Water Supply Plan public meetings COMPLETED
    - Winter Haven, June 1
    - Winter Garden, June 4
  - Governing Board presentations (April & May) COMPLETED
  - Jacksonville-area stakeholder meeting scheduled for June 29
- b. 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 website also has provisions for citizens to ask questions and comment on the CFWI Plan.
- c. Lynette Reynolds, triSect, provided a summary of the various community outreach efforts. She estimate that over 1300 individuals will have been directly engaged at the various outreach meetings. From these meetings Lynette summarized the following:
- Successes:
    - New "voices" at the table
    - New & improved CFWI website
    - Updated collateral to tell the CFWI story
  - Opportunities:
    - Increase the number of "new voices"
    - Develop enhanced engagement strategies
    - Build trust among stakeholders
    - Continued education on conservation measures
    - Be the best management practice leader in regional conservation practices
    - Articulate solutions & implementation in a more simplified way
  - Most concerns expressed by those in attendance fell into the following areas:
    - Conservation
      - Need to better understand what has been done
      - More detail on how much more conservation can be achieved
      - A process and timeframe to achieve additional conservation
    - Reclaimed water use
    - Address existing impacts to water resources within the CFWI area

## 6. CFWI Draft Plan review progress

### a. Mark Hammond Reviewed the remaining steps on the CFWI Plan Schedule:

- May/June/July
  - May 8 Steering Committee Meeting
    - Approve Draft CFWI Document Series for Public Review
  - Public review period
    - Post to website May 8
    - Extended Review Period - ~82 days
    - Ends July 31
  - August/September
    - Finalize CFWI Document Series
  - October
    - Steering Committee meeting to consider approval of CFWI RWSP including the Solutions Strategies and Appendices for WMD Governing Board consideration
  - November
    - District Governing Board Meetings
      - A. Consider approval of the CFWI RWSP including the Solutions Strategies and Appendices

### b. Mark Hammond reviewed the efforts by existing water users to enhance water conservation. Mark restated the Steering committee's direction to "maximize water conservation to the greatest extent partible". From earlier estimates water conservation is estimated to save:

- Public supply 159 MGD
- Agriculture 23 MGD

### c. The CFWI Plan outlines efforts needed to increase water conservation

- Public Supply & Other Self Supply: 10 BMPs
- Adopt High-Efficiency Standards
  - Landscape and Irrigation Systems
  - Plumbing Fixtures and Appliances
- Public Education
- Clearinghouse/Conservation Planning Tools/Research
- Agriculture (Programmatic Approach)
  - 7 BMP categories
  - Includes training workshops, on-site demonstrations, mobile labs and support for Extension Services

- d. Mark Hammond addressed the concern that wastewater use is not being targeted as a means to reduce water demands. Mark stated that Central Florida has the highest wastewater reuse utilization rates in Florida and perhaps in the U.S. for communities of its size. In addition to the 5 regional type reuse projects in the Solutions CFWI Plan, there are numerous smaller projects within the RWSP that are important to the success of CFWI. The communities are beneficially reusing over 90% of their wastewater flows as estimated by the FDEP.
- e. Mark Hammond reviewed the prevention and recovery efforts developed through conceptual modeling described in the CFWI Plan. Projects and investigations are currently funded to review conservation opportunities, targeted recharge, withdrawal relocation and alternative water supplies as opportunities to address existing impacts.
- f. Drew Bartlett wanted the CFWI to achieve a “gold star” for conservation and felt a strong implementation goal was necessary along with detailed metrics to account for and measure its achievement. Brian Wheeler restated the fact about how much conservation has already been achieved and felt public water utilities always choose enhanced conservation over costly alternative water sources. Brian agreed that better data would help explain what has been done and what might be expected to be achieved. Drew requested that a firm schedule be developed to achieve consistency required by Guiding Principle #3.

## 7. Regulatory Team

- a. Steven Memberg reported on the ongoing process to follow the December 13, 2013, FDEP Guidance memo.
- b. Steven said the establishment of consistent regulations is a Guiding Principle of the CFWI Plan.
- c. The legislative water direction for CFWI was not finalized, but can provide future direction.
- d. 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.

e. Drew Bartlett stated we do not need legislation to address the “consistency” need embodied in Guidance Principle #3. He said we have the structure in place to address these issues.

## 8. Open Discussion NONE

## 9. Public Comments

- a. Karen Chadwick, Putnam County Environmental Council (PCEC), expressed the concerns of her organization over future surface water withdrawals and the impacts of over-permitting, lack of monitoring, potential of arsenic migration and salt water intrusion. She presented a

statement signed by Timothy Keyser, President of PCEC (Attachment A).

- b. Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, stated the importance of protecting the St. Johns River and her organization's concern that most of the alternative water sources in the CFWI Plan come from the St. Johns River. Her organization felt there is a lack of MFL protections in the Plan, a lack of understanding of the impacts of sea level rise and a poor understanding of the water quality aspects of future water withdrawals from the river.
- c. David Gore, NE Polk County resident, stressed the importance of conservation and the need to store more water in the system, both in the surface and underground.

#### 10. Next SC meetings

- a. July 31, 2015 Cancelled
- b. Aug 28, 2015 (tentative)
- c. Sept 25, 2015 (tentative, new date pending)
- d. October 30, 2015 Approve Final draft CFWI Plan and Final draft RWSP

#### 11. Adjourn

Attachment A  
6-26-15  
CFWI



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**COMMENT ON CENTRAL FLORIDA WATER INITIATIVE**

The Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. (PCEC) is dedicated to the protection of Florida's natural resources. It has many members who reside in the basins of surface waters being considered for water supply purposes. PCEC is currently litigating the use of surface waters for such purposes because the law limits such designations to capture water predominately during wet weather flow. See § 373.019(1), Florida Statutes.

PCEC also objects to more allocations of surface waters for water supply because the water levels of the bodies intended for withdrawals are already at historic low levels. Further withdrawals will cause harmful impacts to fish, wildlife, and the overall ecology of surface water bodies used for water supply.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Keyser, President

6-25-15