

Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority

Friday, August 28, 2015

Meeting Summary

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

1. Introductions

- a. Steering Committee members present: Drew Bartlett (FDEP), Paul Senft-alternate (SWFWMD), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), Dan O'Keefe (SFWMD), Ray Scott- alternate (DACS)
- b. Steering Committee members absent: 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. June 26, 2015, Meeting Summary was approved

3. Minimum Flows & Levels/ Reservation

- a. Len Lindahl provided the following update the SJRWMD MFLs
 - St. Johns River at SR520 (Lake Poinsett)
 - Technical report and peer review complete
 - HSPF model being updated -planned completion Jan 2016
 - MFL rulemaking schedule under review
 - Upper Ocklawaha River Basin (Lake Apopka and Harris chain-of-lakes)
 - CFWI peer review process is ongoing
 - Field trip with peer reviewers and interested stakeholders completed
 - MFL rulemaking schedule under review
 - Wekiva River
 - Re-evaluation ongoing –including CFWI Peer Review Process
 - Survey to support recreational values –Sept 2015
- 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 recovery of upper Peace River MFLs. Initiation of rulemaking for the reservation reauthorized in July 2015

- 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.
 - Priority List and Schedule
 - Draft list/schedule to Governing Board on 9/29/2015
 - Public meeting at Tampa office on 9/30/2015
 - Final list/schedule to Governing Board on 10/27/2015
- c. Len Lindahl provided the following update to the Kissimmee River reservation
- Kissimmee Basin Reservation
 - Draft Rules released 12/12/14
 - Technical Publication Draft released 4/1/15
 - Staff are evaluating public comments
 - Additional workshops and stakeholder meetings to be scheduled
 - Prepare Statement of Estimated Costs
 - Information can be found at: www.sfwmd.gov/reservations

4. Regional Consensus Building

- a. Colleen Thayer (SWFWMD) summarized the efforts of the Communication's Team to date and summarized the main messages from the meetings:
- Ongoing, consistent communications is needed
 - Strong partnerships need to be created
 - Engagement of bordering regions in the CFWI process
 - Targeted strategy must be developed for engaging local governments
 - Coordinated education/outreach to general public is a priority
 - Identification of existing conservation efforts must be better quantified by each entity and reported broadly
- b. Colleen stated the near term next steps for the Communications Team
- Present the final draft consensus-building report to the Steering Committee on September 24 for approval. When approved the report will be posted to CFWI website
 - Prepare informational material for upcoming 2016 legislative outreach

- Prepare recommendations for tools to expand water conservation messaging
 - Coordinate continued outreach & consensus-building with the next steps in the CFWI process
 - c. Drew Bartlett praised the outreach efforts and expressed his satisfaction with the effort of the team.

- 5. CFWI Draft Plan review progress
 - a. Mark Hammond explained the work of the CFWI is captured in the series of documents that make up the Regional Water Supply Plan, the Solution Strategies document together with their appendices.
 - b. Mark reviewed the steps on the CFWI Plan Schedule:
 - May/June/July 2015
 - May 8 Steering Committee Meeting approved Draft CFWI Document Series for Public Review
 - Public review period
 - Posted to website May 8 and the review period was extended to August 17... 100 days total for public comment.
 - August 28/ September 24
 - Finalize CFWI Document Series with the Steering Committee
 - October 30
 - 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 to consider approval of the CFWI RWSP including the Solutions Strategies and Appendices
 - c. Mark indicated that 445 comments were received from 150 different entities and individuals through the public comment period. The RWSP Team will respond to all comments. The comments encompassed the following major themes can be summarized as follows:
 - Conservation
 - A lot has been done but it is not well understood and the feeling the target in the Plan (37 MGD) is too low.
 - Want the CFWI be a “model” the rest of the State could follow
 - St Johns River Projects
 - More conservation reduces the need or delays until later the need for surface water withdrawals
 - Communications

- More effort needed to engage local citizens and more outreach to areas outside the CFWI
- Data Management
 - More high quality data is needed for better decision-making
 - Fund the DMIT recommendations
- Model Improvements
- Consistency
 - Between RWSP and Solutions Strategies
 - Amongst WMDs for various programs
- d. Mark Hammond reviewed the Next Steps that need to be taken:
 - The CFWI Plan is a planning document that sets the stage for continuing open dialogue
 - Need for a commitment to keep the process moving forward
 - Importance of water conservation, recovery of impacted areas from over drainage and water use, consistent regulations, data collection.
 - Plumbing code changes are already being considered to be changed to reflect water use indoor, outdoor and industrial uses.
- e. Drew Bartlett said he was pleased with the progress to date and felt the building code revision effort is a critical component for enhanced conservation. Drew stated the FDEP has committed \$2 million to enhance conservation.
- f. Brian Wheeler felt that reclaimed water reuse and stormwater reuse should be also be a component of the conservation effort. He said the SB 536 reports emphasized this opportunity. He restated the importance of funding the Conservation Clearinghouse at the University of Florida.
- g. Dan O'Keefe was supportive of the conservation efforts and felt the current target was appropriate. He favored emphasizing capital projects to increase conservation and to reduce inefficient water uses.
- h. Paul Senft stressed the importance of earning the communities' trust and making available understandable reports that track progress in achieving the objectives of the CFWI Plan.
- i. Ray Scott said the next update to the CFWI Plans need to be undertaken immediately. Some of the data is already outdated.

6. Regulatory Team

- a. Len Lindahl reported on the ongoing process to follow the December 13, 2013, FDEP Guidance memo.

b. Three areas of focus:

- Consumptive Use Permitting Prioritization
 - Priority topics identified
 - Opportunities for overlap with MFL subgroup and MOU efforts
 - Developing consistency options
 - Additional meetings to be scheduled
- Minimum Flows and Levels
 - High-level issues identified including:
 - Identification of Waterbodies
 - MFL establishment in CFWI
 - Prevention and Recovery Strategies
 - Use of MFLs in consumptive use permitting
 - Meetings are ongoing
- Memorandum of Understanding

c. 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.

7. Memorandum of Understanding

a. Len Lindahl explained that a Draft MOU produced by WMDs, FDEP, and FDACS distributed to the Regulatory Team for comment on 8/19

b. Topics include:

- Water Resource Investigations
 - Model Development
 - DMIT Recommendations
- Water Supply Planning
 - Update to CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan
 - Minimum Flows and Levels
- Water Use Regulation
 - Coordination in permit decisions
 - Uniform rules
- Water Conservation
 - CFWI Comprehensive Water Conservation Implementation
 - Initiatives, research, education, outreach, and funding
- Water Shortage Management
 - Regional management
- General Provisions

c. Proposed schedule

- Regulatory Team
 - September 4th
 - September 18th
- Steering Committee
 - August 28th
 - September 24th
- Approval Process
 - SWFWMD on September 29th
 - SFWMD on October 8th
 - SJRWMD on October 13th
 - FDACS
 - FDEP

d. Brian Wheeler questioned the timeframe for MOU approval. He wants to have a more thorough dialogue and felt the utilities and others have been left out of the process. Len said this was the first draft and is seeking comments. Len said if necessary a thorough section by section review of the MOU will be presented at the next Steering Committee September 24.

8. Open Discussion NONE

9. Public Comments

- a. 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. He felt we should live with more water in the environment and decisions be made with real data and not rely solely on estimates or projections.

10. Next SC meetings

- a. Sept 24, 2015
- b. October 30, 2015 Approve Final draft CFWI Plan and Final draft RWSP

11. Adjourn