

# Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority

Friday, October 30, 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. The sign in sheet for those in attendance has been posted to the website.

### 2. Consent Items

- a. September 24, 2015, Meeting Summary was approved as presented.

### 3. Minimum Flows & Levels/ Reservation

- a. Len Lindahl (SFWMD) provided the following update the SJRWMD MFLs
  - Annual update of MFLs priority list and schedule is ongoing; public meetings held Oct 14 & 16.
  - MFLs reports, priority list and public meeting information is available from District web pages.
  - Final list/schedule to Governing Board on 11/10/2015
    - 2017: Lake Apopka
    - 2018
      - Lake Johns
      - Lake Apshawa South (re-evaluation)
      - Lake Prevatt (re-evaluation)
      - Wekiva River at SR 46 Bridge and associated springs (re-evaluation)
    - 2019
      - East Crystal Lake
      - Lake Hodge

- b. Len Lindahl provided the following update the SWFWMD MFLs

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- Lake Hancock MFLs and water reservation scheduled for this year.
  - Updated draft report on proposed MFLs for Lake Hancock completed (available on District web site).
  - Public workshop on proposed MFLs held in October.
  - Final MFLs report and rule amendments approved by Governing Board in late October
  - Reservation for Lake Hancock/Peace River being developed to support MFLs recovery in upper Peace River.
  - Reservation rulemaking reauthorized in July 2015; technical work is ongoing.
- Lakes Eagle & McLeod scheduled for MFLs reevaluation this year.
  - Draft reevaluation reports complete in late September (available on District web site).
  - Public workshop held in late September.
  - Final MFLs reports and rule amendments approved by Governing Board in late October
- Lakes Starr & Wales scheduled for MFLs reevaluation this year.
  - Draft reevaluation reports for lakes Starr & Wales completed in early October (available on District web site).
  - Public workshop for lakes Starr & Wales held in mid-October.
  - Final MFLs reports and rule amendments to be presented to Governing Board in mid-December.
- Lakes Clinch scheduled for MFLs reevaluation this year.
  - Draft reevaluation report for Lake Clinch expected in early November (will be made available on District web site).
  - Public workshop for Lake Clinch scheduled for mid-November.
  - Final MFLs report and rule amendments for Lake Clinch to be presented to Governing Board in mid-December
- Other Lakes in Polk County scheduled for MFLs development in 2016.
  - Crooked Lake MFLs reevaluation rescheduled from 2015 to 2016.
  - Initial MFLs development scheduled for lakes Eva and Lowery in 2016.
  - Lake Lowery MFLs previously set by SJRWMD prior to modification of District boundaries.

- Annual update of MFLs priority list and schedule is ongoing; public meeting held in late September. Final list approved by Governing Board in late October.
  - Informational web pages: MFLs reports, priority list and public meeting information all available from District web pages.
- 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](http://www.sfwmd.gov/reservations)
4. CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan & CFWI 2035 Water Resources Protection and Water Supply Strategies
- a. Mark Hammond (SWFWMD) reviewed the genesis of the CFWI as a collaborative water supply planning effort to protect, develop, conserve and restore Central Florida's water resources. Seven major river systems have headwaters in the CFWI and its surface area is 33% lakes & wetlands
- b. Mark provided an overview of the comments received from various stakeholder groups and discussed the "Next Steps" that were recommended in the CFWI Plan (for detail see meeting summary from September 24, 2015). He explained these plans provide a path forward to provide long-term water sustainability and that this effort is the "foundation step" in a long term and ongoing process.
- c. Mark requested the Steering Committee take the following action:
- Accept delivery of the 2015 CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan including the Solutions Strategies and associated appendices and;
  - Recommend the Governing Boards approve the 2015 CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan.

d. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. David Gore (NE Polk County) expressed concern that his comments were never addressed, that science has not been properly applied in making decisions, that the water table is not being protected and managed, that the plan makes the situation worse, and that more emphasis needs to be given to store more water in the region. He concluded by stated he did not feel the plan was very good.
- e. Brian Wheeler expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gore for his interest and sincerity. He said that he and all his water supply utility colleagues feel their jobs are to protect the environment while providing reliable water supplies to their citizens. Brian said the CFWI Plan is a wakeup call that acknowledges we have issues and challenges that must be addressed. He stated the CFWI plan is a long range plan that provides a vehicle for ongoing constructive dialogue. He emphasized that the plan does not authorize any expenditures of money for projects directly and he said he and other public water suppliers would only consider them only when they are needed and made economic sense. He referenced earlier RWSP efforts as examples of long range plans that are never fully implemented. He felt the CFWI process was the most collaborative and open process he has been involved in his 40 plus years of his professional career. He favors moving the process forward to the Governing Boards of the WMDs for their action.
- f. Ray Scott said he too favors moving the plans to the Governing Boards. However, he said the data upon which some of the planning was based needs to be updated. Ray was pleased with the Solutions Planning phase and felt this has improved the RWSP process. He felt the water use projections need to be updated as quickly as possible and some of the proposed projects need updating on a timelier basis.
- g. John Miklos acknowledged the timing of the process has been a challenge. We need to move forward with the plan and move forward to update the information. He favors being conservative in our planning projections so we can avoid creating situations such as the ones California is currently facing.
- h. Paul Senft felt some of the delay was necessary to accommodate all the stakeholders concerns. He said the plan is not perfect. He felt all regions

of the state need to do similar regional planning. He wants the CFWI to help support NE Florida with their plans.

- i. Drew Bartlett assured the Steering Committee that if the FDEP felt the CFWI Plan was harmful they would not be for it. The FDEP will be supporting the effort to enhance the region's water resources.
- j. Drew Bartlett made the following motions that were discussed individually, then approved individually by the Steering Committee:

- I. Motion

- The CFWI Steering Committee endorses the 2015 CFWI Regional Water Supply Plan including the Solutions Strategies and associated appendices and encourages the Governing Boards of the SJRWMD, SWFWMD and SFWMD approval of these Plans at their next meeting.

- II. Motion

- The CFWI Steering Committee directs the Conservation Sub-team to continue the effort to advance conservation beyond the estimates established in the Regional Water Supply Plan.

- III. Motion

- The CFWI Steering Committee moves to update the water supply projections and the East Central Florida Transient model within two years, and requests that the Management Oversight Committee provide options for updating the Regional Water Supply Plan at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

- IV. Motion

- The CFWI Steering Committee directs the CFWI Regulatory Team to develop a consistent rule framework for the region that recognizes the water resource challenges of the area.

- 5. Memorandum of Understanding

- a. Len Lindahl (SFWMD) summarized the comments received from stakeholders:

- MOU is unnecessary as agencies have already been working collaboratively
  - Draft regulatory provisions have not been vetted
  - Duration of the MOU is too long / too short
  - Termination clause is insufficient
  - MOU approval process may require rulemaking
  - Approval timing takes focus away from the RWSP
  - MOU is premature ahead of the upcoming legislative session
- b. Len explained the following options are under consideration and will keep the Steering Committee apprised of the decision:
- Continue to work with stakeholders on existing Draft MOU.
  - Simplify Draft MOU to focus on high-level commitment to the Guiding Document and CFWI process.
  - Water Management District Governing Boards take a policy action to affirm CFWI.
  - No action at this time. Drafting the MOU has provided a good forum for topics to be discussed ahead of the legislative session.

## 6. Regulatory Team

- a. Len Lindahl reported on the ongoing process to follow the December 13, 2013, FDEP Guidance memo.
- b. Len updated the current areas of focus:
- Consumptive Use Permitting /Minimum Flows and Levels
    - Groups combined to avoid overlap
    - Priority topics identified
    - Developing consistency options
  - SJRWMD topics
    - Environmental resource permitting / consumptive use permitting concurrency

- Variance process for soil moisture sensors for landscape irrigation

7. Facilitation Services

- a. Len Lindahl advised the contract for Facilitation Services with Shearer Consulting was extended through September 30, 2016. His services are being jointly funded by the three water management districts.

8. Open Discussion NONE

9. Public Comments

- a. David Gore, NE Polk County resident, wanted the Steering Committee to focus more on providing storage in the region to recharge the water table.

10. Next SC meetings

- a. December 4, 2015. Review options presented by the MOC for continuing the CFWI effort to address the "Next Steps" recommended by the CFWI 2015 Plan.

11. Adjourn