

Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority
Friday, August 16, 2013
9:30 AM

Meeting Summary

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

1. Introductions

- a. Tom Beck, FDEP Office of Water Policy, opened the meeting and explained he was filling in for Greg Munson who had a conflict.
- b. Self introductions of Steering Committee (SC): Dan O'Keefe (SFWMD), Paul Senft (SFWMD), John Miklos SJRWMD), Tom Beck for Greg Munson (FDEP), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), Ray Scott for Rich Budell (DACS).
- c. Sign in sheet for those in attendance have been posted to the website.

2. Consent Items

- a. Meeting Summary of the June 28, SC meeting was approved.

3. CFWI schedule update

- a. Schedule update was presented and accepted. Paul Senft emphasized the need to maintain the schedule.

4. MFL Team

- a. Proposed revisions to the Guidance Document were presented by Doug Leeper (SFWMD) who serves as Team Leader for the MFL and Reservations Team.
- b. Doug reviewed each change and explained the reasons for the change which has been thoroughly vetted through the Management Oversight Committee. More emphasis was placed on development of measuring sticks. Developing options for MFL compliance was added.
- c. Dan O'Keefe stated the changes reflect what we are doing and complimented the Team's effort
- d. The Steering Committee accepted all the proposed changes as presented.
- e. Paul Senft thanked the Team for their hard work.

5. Groundwater Availability Team

- a. Mark Hammond explained current water use within the CFWI was estimated to be 800 MGD based on a 15-year annual average (1995-2010). This amount can vary significantly due to climate variability. Mark restated the 2035 demand is estimated to be 1100 MGD so an additional 300 MGD of water supply is needed above current demand. Demand management/conservation can reduce the 1100 MGD of future demand. The question is how much of the future demand can be satisfied from sustainable groundwater sources.
- b. Mark Hammond restated the purpose of the GAT was to address Guiding Principle #1 which was determining the “planning level” of sustainable groundwater that would be available in the CFWI area.
- c. Mark reviewed how measuring sticks were used to make the determination from the model developed by the HAT. The primary measuring sticks used were :
 - i. Established and proposed MFLs within the CFWI
 - ii. Regulatory constraints including SWUCA
 - iii. Non-MFL lakes/wetlands
 - iv. Non-MFL springs
 - v. Aquifer water quality/saltwater intrusion
- d. Mark reviewed the findings that were concluded by the Groundwater Availability Team and the Steering Committee accepted the findings of the Team:
 - i. Traditional groundwater sources can meet some, but not all projected needs in the CFWI.
 - ii. Areas that limit future groundwater availability based on measuring sticks
 - Wekiva Springs/River System
 - West Seminole County/West Orange County
 - South Lake County
 - Lake Wales Ridge
 - Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA)
- e. To answer Guiding Principle #1, the GAT is recommending that because of the high variability of factors influencing the availability of sustainable groundwater that:
 - i. The lower level planning estimate of sustainable groundwater is 850 MGD.

- ii. Through management activities, such as, using reclaimed water for irrigation, aquifer recharge, shifting withdrawal locations or deepening withdrawals and environmental mitigation the lower limit of sustainable groundwater might be able to be increased up to 925 MGD.
- f. In response to these recommendations Brian Wheeler made the following points:
 - i. Existing permitted amounts are approximately 1050 MGD, much of that amount from groundwater sources
 - ii. New permits are currently being processed that will exceed 1050 MGD in total
 - iii. If 850 MGD is available from groundwater sources and with a great deal of effort we might be able to pump 925 MGD we still will not have sufficient groundwater to fulfill the permitted demands let alone the future demands. Brian commented it will be critical that we address policy, rules, and regulations to properly manage the water resources in the CFWI.
- g. Paul Senft agreed that we absolutely have a big challenge.
- h. John Miklos stated he was not comfortable with having a broad range of sustainable groundwater and felt that we need to be very clear on what is reasonably available. He stated the Solutions Planning Team's responsibility should be to identify those management efforts that could confirm the availability of up to 925 MGD. He felt the Steering Committee should be conservative and accept the lower level of the range.
- i. After discussion, the Steering Committee approved the amount of sustainable quantities of traditional groundwater sources available for water supply that can be used without causing unacceptable harm to the water resources and associated natural systems would be 850 MGD.
- j. Also, the Steering Committee directed the Solutions Planning Team's scope of work include the option of identifying (with appropriate management and operational controls) how an additional amount of sustainable groundwater up to 925 MGD could be developed.
- k. Ray Scott wanted everyone to understand that for purposes of the RWSP 850 MGD is the amount determined to be available from traditional groundwater sources. An additional 250 MGD of additional water supply is needed to meet the 2035 demand, and it appears very likely that no more than 75 mgd of that will come from groundwater sources. The availability of that additional 75 mgd depends upon the Solutions Planning Team identifying additional management measures that will allow additional groundwater sources to be developed without causing harm to the resource.

6. Regional Water Supply Plan Team

- a. Tom Bartol provided the following update to the RWSP:
 - i. Writing and editing draft chapters
 - ii. Coordinating with groundwater availability team for results of technical team analyses
 - iii. Once groundwater availability portion complete results will be incorporated into plan

- b. Tom also gave the following update on his Team's outreach efforts:
 - i. Since Oct. 2012, direct outreach to approx. 530 people via 44 presentations. Almost half of the public outreach conducted has occurred during the past two months
 - ii. There are other presentations scheduled with stakeholder groups, including:
 - City of Haines City (Aug. 15)
 - City of Eagle Lake (Aug. 19)
 - City of Orlando senior staff (Aug. 21)
 - City of Winter Garden Commission (Aug. 22)
 - Windermere town manager (Aug. 28)
 - City of Apopka Commission (Sept. 4)
 - Osceola County Commission (Sept. 16)
 - City of Polk City (Sept. 16)
 - City of Ocoee (Sept. 17)
 - Orange County Commission (Sept. 24)

- c. Public participation in this process is critical to ensure the plan reflects the needs and issues of the people that live in the region. The tentative time frame is provided here.
 - i. The 45-day public comment period on the draft RWSP starts on Nov. 26, when it is posted to the CFWI website.
 - ii. The December 12 public workshop occurs during the public comment period. The WMDs will take the draft RWSP to GBs during the public comment period. The comment period ends on Jan. 10, 2014.
 - iii. Draft RWSP as info item to
 - SFWMD GB on Dec. 12, 2013
 - SWFWMD GB on Dec. 17, 2013
 - SJRWMD GB on Dec 10, 2013
 - iv. Final RWSP to WMD's GBs for approval in late spring/early summer 2014.

- d. Aug. 29 CFWI live webinar will focus on the draft Regional Water Supply Plan, public engagement opportunities and answer questions about CFWI and the RWSP.
 - i. A Webinar will be promoted through emails to all stakeholders as well as traditional and social media

- ii. Targeted length of webinar is one hour. There is no need to register in advance, just go to the website to participate.
 - iii. It will also be recorded for future broadcast and will be made available for any local government wishing to air on their local government access channel.
 - iv. CFWI experts serving on-camera roles include John Shearer (CFWI facilitator), Tom Bartol (SJRWMD), Ray Scott (FDACS), Gary Fries (Utilities Rep) and Mark Hammond (SWFWMD).
- e. Paul Senft stressed that we need to make sure that the general public is invited to the public meetings.

7. Solutions Planning Team

- a. Robert Beltran updated the Steering committee on their recent activity.
 - 8/8/13 First Meeting
 - 9/12/13 Next Meeting
 - Finalize Scope by October
- b. Membership roster was updated based on SC direction. Alternate members are being identified. Ray Scott requested that DACS be given an alternate member position.

REPRESENTING	MEMBER
Water Management Districts	Robert Beltran (SWFWMD) Woody Boynton (SJRWMD) Len Lindahl (SFWMD)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Tom Beck (FDEP)
Agriculture	Jim Fletcher (IFAS Osceola County)
Public Water Suppliers	Andy Neff (Seminole County) Gary Fries (Polk County)
Environmental Community	Milissa Holland
Congress of Regional Leaders	Bob Dallari (Seminole County Commission)
Central Florida Partnership	Michael Minton (Dean Mead)

- c. Schedule
 - Review of RWSP, projects, demand locations- Sept 2013
 - Scope Development- Sept 2013
 - Confirmation of Scope- October 2013 SC meeting
 - Creation of Sub Teams / Projects- October 2013
 - Solutions Team Work Phase Begins- November 2013
 - Solutions Team Work completed- December 2014
- d. Several Solutions sub teams are contemplated and the existing Technical Teams will support their efforts on an as needed basis.

8. Myregion.org

- a. Robert Beltran provided an update on behalf of Dave Rathke (SWFWMD) who is discussing the scope of services for community outreach with Shelley Lauten, triSects, on behalf myregion.org.
- b. Dan O’Keefe expressed a concern that some of the work by the myregion.org group would be duplicative of the work that is ongoing by the WMD staffs. Paul Senft indicated he felt the work would be complimentary to the other work and would engage stakeholder groups that are not usually engaged in the process such as local government elected officials and the business community. Mr. Senft also said that some of the conclusions and recommended actions in the myregion.org Water Strategy report may not be consistent with the new science developed through the CFWI process Paul requested the “White Paper” prepared by myregion be provided to the SC members for review. He stressed needing support from elected officials.
- c. Role of myregion.org to be discussed further by the Management Oversight Committee (MOC) and the Steering Committee.

9. Open Discussion – none

10. Public Comments

- a. Mr. David Gore of Haines City spoke of his concerns with protecting the water resources in the area. He questioned whether the water table fluctuations were truly understood by the participants in this effort and that he felt the bottom line would be the need to store water for future use.

11. Next SC meetings

- September 27 was cancelled.
- The MOC was directed to schedule the next meeting in October.

12. Adjourn at 10:55 AM.