



Meet the CFWI Steering Committee

The Steering Committee oversees the CFWI process and provides guidance to the technical teams and technical oversight/management committees that are developing and refining information on all aspects of central Florida's water resources.

The Steering Committee includes a governing board member from each water management district and a representative from a public water supply utility, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).

Ben Butler, South Florida Water Management District



Ben Butler, of Lorida, is the manager of Butler Oaks Farm, a family owned dairy farm.

Butler Oaks Farm has operated for more than 80 years and has received the Agricultural-Environmental Leadership Award from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Butler has been a director of the Okeechobee Farm Bureau since 2007 and the past president and director of the Okeechobee Youth Livestock Show since 2008. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science from the University of Florida.

Butler has taken an active role on his family's farm since 2005. He has been actively involved in his family's water use for agricultural and production purposes. He has become the farm's contact for its consumptive water use permits and has gained valuable experiences about water conservation practices, permitting requirements, and alternative water supply issues and opportunities. Butler understands the importance of water to not only agriculture, but to the entire central and south Florida growing population and industries. He hopes to use his real-world experiences to provide a background of understanding, while acknowledging the complexities and challenges with water use and availability.

Butler serves as an at-large Governing Board member for the South Florida Water Management District, representing an area that includes Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola and Polk counties.

James G. Murphy, Southwest Florida Water Management District



James G. Murphy of Lakeland was appointed to the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board in July 2017.

A native of New York, Murphy graduated from Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio. He went on to attend Ohio State University.

Murphy has more than 30 years' experience in the fluid handling industry. He is a Florida Certified General Contractor and a member of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers.

Having learned the importance of water to industrial sector processes, Murphy believes his experience and skills as well as his ability to listen and be fair make him well qualified for his role as a Governing Board member.

Murphy represents Polk County.

Susan Dolan, St. Johns River Water Management District



Serving on the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Governing Board since March 2017, Susan Dolan is Director of Community Affairs and Government Relations for Waste Pro of Florida, Inc., Central Florida, which includes Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Flagler counties.

She was appointed to an at-large seat on the SJRWMD Governing Board for a four-year term by Gov. Rick Scott.

A native Floridian, Dolan was born in Miami and raised in the Daytona/Port Orange area. Prior to her current position at Waste Pro, she spent 25 years as a litigation paralegal in the east and central Florida areas. Dolan is very active in the region, working with community leaders to promote charitable events and organizations in the community.

Dolan's Community affiliations and work include 2017 President of the Deland Area Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County Republican State Committeewoman, Board of Directors for the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County Parks and Preservation Advisory Committee, Board Member PARCs Foundation (Seminole County), Seminole County Value Adjustment Board, Lake Mary Rotary Club, and Seminole County Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner Sponsorship Committee. She also previously has been involved in the Boys and Girls Club of Volusia/Flagler (Board Member 2013–2016), Leadership Seminole Class 20, Leadership Winter Park Class 24, Leadership West Volusia Graduate 2014, Leadership Ormond Beach Graduate Class XII and the South Seminole Hospital Women's Advisory Council.

Todd Swingle, Toho Water Authority



Todd Swingle serves as the Executive Director for the Toho Water Authority (TWA) in Kissimmee, FL.

TWA serves more than 100,000 metered connections with services that include water, wastewater, and reclaimed water, supporting not only the residents of Osceola County, the City of Kissimmee, and portions of Polk County, but Central Florida's thriving visitor population.

Prior to joining TWA, Swingle spent more than 25 years serving in various environmental and utility roles, including consulting, service to the global manufacturing company Cummins Inc. as the Manager of Water Programs and Director of Environmental Strategy, and public sector roles as Public Services Administrator for the City of St. Cloud, FL and Deputy Director for Orange County, FL Utilities. Swingle is active in a variety of civic and professional organizations and currently serves on the board of the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council and as Chair of WEF's Utility Management Committee as well as other local leadership roles.

Swingle holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Environmental Engineering from the University of Central Florida and a M.B.A. from the University of Florida. He is also a registered Professional Engineer.

Stephen James, Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Stephen James is the Director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Water Policy.

James is responsible for overseeing the coordination and implementation of Florida's statewide water policy with water management districts and other agencies. He has a strong background in environmental and water policy, local government, and legislative affairs in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the Department, James served as the Senior Associate Director of Public Policy and Legislative Staff Attorney for the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), with a focus on environmental and agricultural issues. Prior to his work with FAC, James represented public and private clients on environmental, growth-management and water-resource matters as a lobbyist and consultant in Tallahassee. He has also practiced environmental and land-use law for prominent law firms in Miami and Seattle.

James earned his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Miami, where he was a Gerald Ehrich scholar and served on the Miami Law Review. He has also earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Florida International University.

Chris Pettit, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Christopher Pettit is the Director of the Office of Agricultural Water Policy for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The Office is responsible for the development and implementation of best management practices on agricultural properties related to water quality and conservation. Pettit previously served in the offices of counsel for both the South Florida and Southwest Florida water management districts and as a Policy and Legislation Manager handling water and environmental issues for Palm Beach County.

He earned a law degree from the University of Florida, an LLM from the University of Cape Town, and undertook doctoral studies at the University of London.



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The CFWI encompasses five counties: Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole and southern Lake. Through the CFWI, three water management districts — South Florida, Southwest Florida and St. Johns River — are working collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to implement effective water resource planning, including water resource and supply development and management strategies to protect, conserve and restore our water resources. To learn more, please visit cfwiwater.com.