

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

JOINT WORKSHOP
OF
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
AND
TAMPA BAY WATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tarpon Springs, Florida January 26, 2009

The Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) met at 9:00 a.m. on January 26, 2009, in Tarpon Springs, at the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center. The following persons were present:

SWFWMD Board Members Present

Neil Combee, Chair
Todd Pressman, Vice Chair
Jennifer E. Closshey, Secretary
Ronald E. Oakley, Treasurer
Bryan Beswick, Member
Patricia M. Glass, Member
Hugh Gramling, Member
Albert G. Joerger, Member
Sallie Parks, Member
Maritza Rovira-Forino, Member
H. Paul Senft, Member
Douglas B. Tharp, Member
Judith C. Whitehead, Member

SWFWMD Staff Members Present

David L. Moore, Executive Director
William S. Bilenky, General Counsel
Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director
Richard S. Owen, Deputy Executive Director
Eugene A. Schiller, Deputy Executive Director
Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director

TBW Board Members Present

Mark Sharpe, Chair
Anne Hildebrand, Vice Chair
Jamie Bennett, Member
Al Higginbotham, Member
Susan Latvala, Member
Charlie Miranda, Member
Ted Schrader, Member
Karen Seel, Member
Bruce C. Wirth, Deputy Executive Director

TBW Staff Members Present

Gerald J. Seeber, General Manager
Rick Lotspeich, General Counsel
Koni Cassini, Director, Finance and Admin.
Donald J. Polmann, Director, Science & Eng.

SWFWMD Recording Secretary

Annette D. Zielinski, Sr. Admin. Assistant

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site (www.WaterMatters.org).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Combee called the meeting to order and opened the workshop. Chairs Combee and Tampa Bay Water Chair Sharpe thanked one another for their commitment to their respective Boards and the communities they represent. Mr. Moore outlined the workshop agenda for the participants and audience. (CD 1/Track 01 - 00:00/06:52)

2. Status of the Partnership Plan Implementation

Mr. Seeber reviewed the Partnership Accomplishments. Over the past 10 years, Tampa Bay Water (TBW) has constructed a \$610 million Master Water Plan. The District provided \$183 million to that commitment. TBW has developed water and desalinated seawater alternative supplies, which has helped them reduce groundwater pumping from 147 million gallons per day (mgd) to 87 mgd. TBW completed construction of a 15.5 billion gallon capacity reservoir in March 2004. Despite the recent problems at the reservoir, it

remains an integral component of the overall system. TBW supplies in 2008 come from a combination of ground water, surface water, and desalination. Ten years ago, TBW relied on ground water as its sole source of water.

TBW plans and coordinates its water conservation programs with its member governments who actively implement these programs. The District provides cooperative funding for conservation and reclaimed water projects. By the end of 2007, approximately 26 mgd of water was being saved. Mr. Seeber said TBW has ongoing challenges with the long-term drought period and rainfall shortages, surface water is in short supply to be used as a source at this time, the reservoir's soil cement issue will need to be fixed, and regional water supply needs continue to grow. He said TBW expects to exceed the 90 mgd pumping threshold this spring. Discussion ensued regarding options during this time of drought. Mr. Moore said the two organizations have been discussing this situation at length. He said some emergency orders will take the Tampa Bypass Canal down to 10 feet from 12 feet, and ultimately to 9 feet, as a first course of action. He said Morris Bridge Sink is also being tested as a potential source. These two actions will help but not cover all of the water that is needed. Mr. Moore said conservation is a key element and the District will continue its efforts in that arena. (CD 1/Track 02 - 00:00/40:34)

3. **Status of the Northern Tampa Bay Recovery Plan**

Mr. Michael C. Hancock, Senior Professional Engineer, Resource Projects Department, said the purpose of this presentation was to provide the Boards with an update and status of the District's efforts to monitor water level recovery in the Northern Tampa Bay (NTB) area.

In 1998, the Governing Board approved a recovery strategy for the NTB area, including the Partnership Agreement, issuance of TBW's water use permit for its 11 regional wellfields (the Consolidated Permit), adoption of minimum flows and levels (MFLs), and changes to its water use and environmental resource permitting rules. Implementation of the Partnership Plan and issuance of the Consolidated Permit have brought alternative sources online, and enabled TBW to reduce and better optimize withdrawals from the wellfields to minimize impacts. Minimum levels for 41 cypress wetlands, 15 lakes, and seven Floridan aquifer wells were adopted in 1998, and minimum levels for an additional 54 lakes in the NTB area have been adopted to date. In addition, data relating to the health of approximately 500 wetlands and water levels in over 1,000 wells in the NTB area are routinely collected by both the District and TBW.

Since the inception of the NTB Recovery Strategy, the District and TBW staffs have been monitoring the water levels, flows, and biologic data in the area's water resources to assess changes in conditions as groundwater withdrawals in the area are reduced. While implementation of the Recovery Strategy is not yet complete and assessment is still ongoing, there are clear indications that progress toward recovery in the area has occurred. In 2010, the District Governing Board will have several critical decisions to make regarding water level recovery in the NTB area. These include the reevaluation of current MFLs and possible adoption of new MFLs, determining the need for a second phase of recovery, and the evaluation of TBW's Consolidated Permit. Over the past several years, District and TBW staffs have been working to ensure the necessary data and technical analysis will be available by 2010 to support the Board's decision-making process.

In summary, Mr. Hancock said the groundwater withdrawals have been significantly reduced since 1998, and the field data show a clear increasing trend in water levels in response to the withdrawal reductions. As expected, not all MFLs are being met, but it is still too early to determine the full effects of the reductions. (CD 1/Track 03 - 00:00/31:27)

4. Tampa Bay Water Master Water Supply Plan

Mr. Jon Kennedy, Tampa Bay Water, said the Long-Term Water Supply Plan and Master Water Plan was designed to protect and conserve the current water supply. He presented a brief overview that included support for the District's legislative program, potential sites for evaluation of a second reservoir, regional reclaimed water planning, and the development of future supplies. (CD 1/Track 04 - 00:00/05:59)

Ms. Paula Dye, Tampa Bay Water, said assessing climate variability remains a constant element in creating its Source Water Protection Plan. Tampa Bay Water continues to work with its members to update the Plan and explore new regional collaborations. In the process of developing future supplies and update the Master Water Plan, TBW staff continues to study seven projects. (CD 1/Track 05 - 00:00/10:39)

Chair Combee recessed the workshop for a short break.

5. Regional Reclaimed Water Project – Recharge Component

Mr. Mark D. Barcelo, Hydrologic Evaluation Program Director, Resource Projects Department, said the purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview and status of the Reclaimed Water Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study that is being conducted as part of the District's Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Initiative Project (RRWPIP). He said there are three major components of this project: (1) provide reclaimed water to industrial users, (2) assess feasibility of aquifer recharge to enable new groundwater withdrawals via net benefit, and (3) commitment to explore options to maximize beneficial use of reclaimed water. In 2008, the District initiated the RRWPIP to work with utilities in the Tampa Bay area to identify options for maximizing the beneficial use of reclaimed water flows. One of the options that has been identified proposes to use reclaimed water to recharge the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) to benefit water resources in the area and provide opportunity for additional groundwater withdrawals. Aquifer recharge using reclaimed water has been successfully implemented in other areas of the country. For example, the Groundwater Replenishment System in Orange County California currently provides up to 70 mgd of highly treated waste water for use in recharging the aquifer to augment drinking water supplies.

As part of the RRWPIP, a Recharge Steering Committee comprised of District staff and representatives of local governments and utilities in the area was formed in the spring of 2008 to further explore the concept of reclaimed water aquifer recharge in the area. It was agreed in meetings with the Steering Committee that a feasibility study was needed to assess the practicability of implementing this option in the area of southern Hillsborough and Polk counties. Working with the committee, District staff prepared a scope of work and contracted with the consulting firm Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) to conduct the study. The scope of work for the study involves three main tasks: (1) assessing permitting and treatment requirements; (2) quantifying water level improvements resulting from aquifer recharge and the subsequent amounts of groundwater withdrawals that may potentially be available; and (3) performing cost analyses of selected options. The study was initiated on October 1, 2008 and will be completed by March 31, 2009. MWH has completed the first two tasks and has begun work on the third task.

6. Open Discussion

Respective Board Members from each organization expressed their appreciation to one another's commitment to the protection of water resources and agreed that these workshops are an informative method of updating one another. (CD 1/Track 06 - 00:00/46:35)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Attest:

Chairman

The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions including one's access to, participation, employment, or treatment in its programs or activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Executive Department, telephone 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only), extension 4610; TDD ONLY 1-800-231-6108 (Florida only); FAX 352-754-6874.