

**APPROVED  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
May 28, 2009**

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:08 p.m., May 28, 2009, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

**Committee Members Present**

Mac Carraway, Vice Chair, FL Turfgrass Association  
John Baxter, FL Citrus Mutual  
David Boozer, FL Tropical Fish Farms Association  
Barbara Carlton, PRVCGA  
Jeffrey Krieger, FL Irrigation Society  
Dale Lewis, FL Nursery, Growers and Landscape Assoc.  
Jerry Mixon Jr., FL Fruit & Veg Assoc.  
Patsy Nathe, FL Forestry Association  
Shaun O'Brien, FL Sod Growers Cooperative, Inc.

**Staff Members Present**

Lou Kavouras, Facilitator  
Margit Crowell  
April Davis  
Roy Mazur  
Joanne McClellan  
Mehrshad Nourani  
Lois Sorensen

**Committee Members Absent**

FL Farm Bureau Federation – Cara Martin/Ray Crawford  
Am Society of Ag Engineers – Assefa Melesse  
FL Cattlemen's Assoc. – Jim Strickland/Larry Rooks  
FL Citrus Production Managers Assoc. – No Current Rep  
FL Strawberry Growers Assoc. – Allen Williford/Maurice Turgeau  
Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers – Greg Shiver

**Guest Speaker**

Michael Cantin, NOAA

**Governing Board Members Present**

Hugh Gramling, Liaison  
Ronald Oakley

**Recording Secretary**

Teri Hudson

Approved minutes from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site ([www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org))

*The numbers preceding the items below correspond to the order of presentation.*

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Vice Chair Mac Carraway called the meeting to order. He welcomed members, staff, and interested persons and asked for member introductions.

**2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning and Board Services, stated there were no additions or deletions to the revised agenda as printed.

**3. Approval of the February 26, 2009 Meeting Summary**

Following consideration, a motion was made by David Boozer and seconded by Barbara Carlton to approve the February 26, 2009 meeting summary as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Aq Weather Product**

Michael Cantin, Senior Forecaster/Customer Service-NOAA, provided an overview of NOAA and stated the local NOAA office works with agricultural customers and is hoping to expand this network. Their mission is to protect the lives and property of citizens and the economy from weather-related hazards and disasters using timely service and warnings. Mr. Cantin requested input from the agricultural community on a new frost advisory that offers minimum shelter temperature forecast from 33 to 36 degrees during the growing season, along with radiational cooling and light winds. He also discussed access to radar data and other services through NOAA Weather Service. More information can be found at [www.weather.gov/tampa](http://www.weather.gov/tampa). Committee members thanked Mr. Cantin for his presentation and the contact information provided.

**5. Hydrologic Conditions/Drought Update and Water Shortage Restrictions**

Lois Sorensen, Demand Management Coordinator, said the current hydrologic conditions show increased drought Districtwide; however, with the significant rains in May, groundwater is rebounding with rainfall in the north over 10", in the central area with just under 9" and in the southern region with over 8". Surface water is also beginning to rebound. In the short term, upstream river flows are improving. The reservoirs within the District have come up significantly. In the Tampa Bay region, the demand in water use has seen dramatic drops. The rainfall forecast is for above normal precipitation. Ms. Sorensen explained modified Phase IV restrictions for the Tampa Bay area and compared Phase III and Phase IV restrictions for lawn and landscape irrigation. Details of all water restriction phases can be found on the District's website. All water shortage orders are set to expire June 30, 2009. Ms. Sorensen discussed new and replacement turfgrass establishment under the standard Phase III watering restrictions, and provided input from Dr. Trenholm of IFAS. In regard to the statewide consistency initiative for year-round water conservation measures, Ms. Sorensen said consensus has been reached among the water management districts as to days and hours per week as a watering schedule, but some regional variations will remain. Committee members from the nursery and landscape industry would like to see the water shortage orders scaled back to Phase II; sod industry has not seen negative impacts from customers regarding 15/15 for new sod establishment but would like to see restrictions eased a bit; need to get out to customers that with current restrictions you will not see optimum results, but the sod will survive; and need to pursue the education of homeowners possibly with providing scientific data.

**6. 2010 Update of the Regional Water Supply Plan**

Roy Mazur, Planning Director, discussed current ongoing efforts for the update to the 2010 RWSP. The updated plan will include the northern counties and the District will be divided into four regions and the plan will include four volumes plus an executive summary. There will be an expanded discussion on climate change and the initiation of Community Sheets will contain data that is required in 10-year Water Supply Facilities Work Plans. A draft will be available for comment in April 2010. Mr. Mazur requested committee comments on the four volume approach to the Plan and who outside the advisory committees staff should target for input. Committee members expressed general consensus with the four-volume approach which will highlight collaborative efforts while recognizing the regional differences within each volume; it was suggested to have a District representative come to various agricultural and commodity group meetings; there may be an overlap among the volumes, but it is important to break out regional issues; suggestion to keep assumptions and basic information consistent among the volumes; question whether conservation methods include incentives; other documents will be referenced in RWSP for additional conservation information.

**7. 2009 Annual Demand Projections for Agricultural Water Use**

Mehrshad Nourani, Senior Conservation Analyst, discussed the old methodology vs. the new methodology in collecting agricultural data, the source of that data and how the demands and projections were calculated. Ms. Kavouras reminded the committee that these projections are for planning purposes only and will be updated annually.

**8. Other Rulemaking**

Lou Kavouras informed the committee of several items that will go before the Governing Board in June: Expansion of delegated authority to the Executive Director to approve Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) and Water Use Permits (WUP) that have met specified criteria; the increased and new fees for ERPs; the Enhanced Water Conservation measures; the 20-Year Permit criteria; and later this fall, the reservation of water due to increased lake levels on Lake Hancock that is to be used to meet the MFL in the Upper Peace River (workshops to come).

**9. Resource Data Capability of WMIS**

Margit Crowell, Senior Hydrologist, provided a brief overview of hydrologic data access using WMIS and GIS. Ms. Crowell demonstrated how WMIS could be used to search for sites at which data have been collected or permits issued, as well as download hydrologic, water-quality, and atmospheric data and permit-related information.

**10. Orthophoto Program**

April Davis, GIS Analyst 3, provided a brief history of the Orthophoto program and how orthophotos have become completely integrated into the District's business processes. She demonstrated various types of mapping including baseline maps, aerial maps and a refined orthophoto map that is a valuable tool when generating accurate measurements. Ms. Davis informed the committee this data is available to the public.

**11. Remaining FY2009 Meeting**

The remaining FY2009 meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the District's Tampa Service Office on August 27, 2009.

**12. Proposed FY2010 Meetings**

The proposed FY2010 meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the District's Tampa Service Office on November 5, 2009, February 25, 2010, May 27, 2010, and August 26, 2010.

**13. Development of Agenda Topics for the August 27, 2009 meeting**

- Future Ag Research Projects – Eric DeHaven
- FEMA Map Modernization – November meeting
- Hydrologic Conditions Report
- Rulemaking Update

**14. Announcements and Other Business**

Ms. Kavouras announced the possibility of holding a joint meeting of the Green Industry and Agricultural Advisory committees in November.

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.