

**APPROVED  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Green Industry Advisory Committee  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
February 26, 2009**

The Green Industry Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:05 a.m., February 26, 2009, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

**Committee Members Present**

George Cook, Chair, FL Golf Course Superintendent's Assoc.  
Corinne Olvey, Vice Chair, FL Cemetery, Funeral &  
Cremation Association  
Beth Bodenstein, Polk County Builders Assoc.  
Richard Carroll, FL Nursery, Growers, & Landscape Assoc.  
Raylena Cather, Landscape Maintenance Assoc.  
Travis Council, FL Sod Growers Coop., Inc.  
John Miragliotta, FL Irrigation Society

**Staff Members Present**

Lou Kavouras, Facilitator  
Eric DeHaven  
Susan Douglas  
Clark Hull  
Danny Kushmer  
Bobby Lue  
Joanne McClellan  
Alison Ramoy  
Lois Sorensen

**Governing Board Member Present**

Hugh Gramling

**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**

Chair George Cook 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. Danny Kushmer will present item 12, *Legislative Preview*, instead of Cori Cuttler.

**3. Approval of the August 23, 2007, May 29, 2008, and August 28, 2008 Meeting Summaries**

Following consideration, a motion was made by John Miragliotta and seconded by Beth Bodenstein to approve the August 23, 2007, May 29, 2008, and August 28, 2008 meeting summaries as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Election of Vice Chair**

Mr. Cook opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Green Industry Advisory Committee. A motion was made and seconded to elect Ms. Corinne Olvey, Florida Cemetery, Funeral & Cremation Association (SCI Funeral Services). Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Drought Update**

Lois Sorensen, Demand Management Coordinator, said we are still in a 36-44 month rainfall deficit. Groundwater is still below normal with several months of the dry season yet to go. River flows are still quite low. The rain forecast through May is below normal. There is some indication that the second half of the hurricane season may be more productive; however, for the rest of the dry season there is a growing concern. Ms. Sorensen explained in detail the Extension of the Phase II Water Shortage Order, the revisions to Phase III Water Shortage Order, additional requirements for Phase III Water Shortage, and the implications of a Phase IV Water Shortage. Details of the Water Shortage requirements can be found on the District's website, [www.watermatters.org](http://www.watermatters.org). Mr. Gramling stated the Governing Board is looking for specific discussion from the advisory committees on these Water Shortage actions, how they affect their respective industries, the implications of limitations on outdoor watering and hand watering, and morning versus evening hours. Discussion among the committee members included: in favor of keeping this region in Phase III Water Shortage if the science backs it up; irrigation applied to lawns and landscapes after sundown encourages diseases, especially with St. Augustinegrass; limiting irrigation to evening hours only could cause staffing issues at cemeteries, many have manual systems; limiting irrigation to evening hours only may make sense from an off-peak electricity perspective; it takes more water to keep sod and plants hydrated that have been grown in muck soil or peat. Mr. Gramling encouraged committee members to attend the upcoming Governing Board meetings and provide additional input regarding the Water Shortage actions.

**6. Turfgrass Renovation Restrictions**

Lois Sorensen, asked for comment from the committee if the 15/15 day watering for new or replacement lawns is still acceptable for the March to June timeframe. Consensus from the committee is to keep the 15/15 turf establishment in place for March-June if the science backs it. Recommended Dr. Lori Trenholm (IFAS) be asked to evaluate. Irrigation system audits will help improve efficiency. Perhaps require audits prior to lawn replacement or renovation.

**7. Enhanced Water Conservation Measures for Water Use Permitting Update**

Bobby Lue, Brooksville Regulation Director, stated the Governing Board directed staff to address water use efficiency concerns in the northern portions of the District and enhance public supply conservation Districtwide. The SWUCA conservation strategies will be expanded to the northern District. There have been five public meetings to discuss this rule language and they have received great input and made changes. The draft rule is on the District's website for the committee's review and comment. Staff hope to take this rule to the April/May Governing Board for approval.

**8. Statewide Uniform Stormwater Rule**

Clark Hull, Regulation Program Director, discussed efforts to develop a new statewide stormwater rule. He said that each water management district has adopted stormwater rules that are similar but not identical; however, Florida Statutes requires a statewide, coordinated and consistent permitting approach. Mr. Hull said the proposed rulemaking will have a single statewide stormwater treatment rule adopted by DEP and implemented by water management districts; more stringent basin specific rules adopted by each water management district, if needed; the formation of a work group among staff of DEP and the water management districts for development of a conceptual rule; and provide for input from stakeholder advisory committees to assist in the rulemaking effort. The projected date for rule adoption by the Secretary of DEP is in 2010.

**9. ERP Mitigation Rule Revisions and Fee Adjustments**

Clark Hull said the Governing Board authorized initiation of rulemaking to amend ERP Rules 40D-4.091 and Basis of Review regarding mitigation for impacts to wetlands and other surface waters. On March 31, 2008, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued revised regulations

governing compensatory mitigation that includes: improved performance and success of compensatory mitigation projects; equivalent standards for all forms of mitigation; science-based and results-oriented standards; and watershed-based decisionmaking. Staff will continue to have discussions with ERP Advisory Groups, Governing Board Advisory Committees, and will schedule public workshops if requested.

Clark Hull said the Governing Board approved initiation of rulemaking to amend rule 40D-1.607 regarding permit fees. Senate Bill 1294 amends S.373.109, Florida Statutes which requires an increase in ERP fees and establishes new fees for certain activities. The Bill states "to ensure that such fees reflect, at a minimum, any upward adjustment in the Consumer Price Index or other similar inflation indicator, since the original fee was established or most recently revised." Mr. Hull stated staff will work with DEP and other Water Management Districts to establish a consistent basis for inflation adjustments to permit fees, discuss proposed fee revisions with ERP Advisory Groups and Governing Board Advisory Committees, and return to the Governing Board at a future date for adoption of new permit fees.

**10. Other Rulemaking**

Lou Kavouras provided the following rulemaking update: 1) The Governing Board approved the merger of the Northwest Hillsborough and Hillsborough River Basin Boards effective in January. Rulemaking is going forward to change those areas in the rule where the legal descriptions for the Basin boundaries are contained. 2) In January the Governing Board voted to expand delegation of authority to the Executive Director for certain ERP's and WUP's. The deadline for DEP and comments from the JAPC is coming up at the end of April. 3) The Year-round Conservation Measures were adopted by the Governing Board to achieve consistency with the other water management districts when we are not in a water shortage.

**11. Advisory Committee Policy Review, Membership, and Sunshine Law**

Lou Kavouras said revisions for all advisory committee policies will be taken to the April Governing Board meeting for approval. She reviewed updates to this committee's policy, terms of membership, and reminded members they are subject to the Sunshine Law, which means they are not allowed to discuss issues outside of meetings that may come before the committee for a vote, there must be public notice of meetings, and minutes must be taken of the meeting. Comments or suggestions can be sent to Ms. Kavouras.

**12. Legislative Preview**

Danny Kushmer, Community Affairs Program Manager, stated the 2009 session begins March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The major issues being tracked this year are the budget and how that will affect state trust funds and our abilities to acquire and manage lands; streamlining permitting; the Sunset Review; the confirmation of our Executive Director; and the West-Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan (WRAP). Ms. Kavouras added members will receive weekly legislative updates during the session via email.

**ADD-ON ITEM: Agricultural Research Projects and District Research Committee**

Eric DeHaven, Resource Conservation and Data Director, said research is done to provide defensible scientific data to assist the District in achieving its mission for flood protection, natural systems, water quality, and water supply while supporting viable agricultural and landscape industries with the information they need to continue to improve production without adversely impacting the state's water resources. Mr. DeHaven reviewed the proposed FY2010 new research projects, and explained in detail two projects related to this committee: determination of irrigation deficit on turf grass; and determination of landscape irrigation water use. Currently under review is

the establishment of a District research workgroup to establish a workflow process for research project development and review which includes input from advisory committees.

**13. Landscape Ordinance Review and Evaluation**

Alison Ramoy, Senior Water Conservation Analyst, discussed Florida-Friendly landscaping principles directly related to water conservation and water quality. She reviewed DEP's model ordinance for landscape guidelines, the District's Landscape Irrigation & Florida-friendly Design Standards document, and provided additional resource information the committee members can access for landscape ordinance information. Ms. Ramoy explained how the District tracks and evaluates the landscape ordinances for the 98 local governments within the District.

**14. Water Star Gold Program**

Susan Douglas, Florida Water Star Gold Coordinator for the District, provided information regarding the program which is a voluntary certification program that positively impacts indoor and outdoor water use. Ms. Douglas explained the process to obtain certification. This program can benefit builders, developers, new homebuyers, and water management districts. A kick-off event is planned for March 25<sup>th</sup> in Dunedin.

**15. State of the Water Resources Workshop Update**

Mr. Cook provided a brief overview of the workshop. Ms. Kavouras added the workshop will likely not be held every year, but possibly every 2-3 years to engage in water resource discussions with former and current Governing Board, Basin Board and Advisory Committee members.

**16. Remainder FY2009 Meetings**

The remainder FY2009 GIAC meetings are for 9:00 a.m. in the District's Tampa Service Office on May 28, 2009 and August 27, 2009.

**17. Development of Agenda Topics for the May 28, 2009 Meeting**

- Potential Future Research Topics
- Laurie Trenholme (IFAS)
- ET Rates
- Water Budget
- 2010 Update of the Regional Water Supply Plan
- 2009 Demand Projections for Recreation and Aesthetic Water Use
- FEMA Map Modernization

**18. Announcements and Other Business**

There were no announcements or other business.

**19. Adjournment**

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.