

**APPROVED
MEETING SUMMARY
Green Industry Advisory Committee
Southwest Florida Water Management District
August 27, 2009**

The Green Industry Advisory Committee (GIAC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 9:05 a.m., August 27, 2009, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

Committee Members Present

George Cook, Chair, FL Golf Course Supt. Assoc.
Keenan Knopke, FL Cemetery, Funeral & Cremation Assoc.
John Miragliotta, FL Irrigation Society
George Kish, FL Native Plant Society, Suncoast Chapter
Travis Council - FL Sod Growers Coop., Inc.
Jack Tichenor, IFAS/Manatee County Extension Office
Raylena Cather, Landscape Maintenance Association
Beth Bodenstein, Polk County Builders Association

Committee Members Absent

Celia Nichols, American Society of Landscape Architects
K.C. Fisher, Associated Landscape Contractors of America
Richard Carroll, FNGLA
Jim Rainey, FL Recreation & Parks Association

Guest Speakers

Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water
Sandra Anderson, City of Tampa Water Dept.

Recording Secretary

Joanne McClellan

Staff Members Present

David Rathke
Lois Sorensen
Allison Ramoy
Teri Hudson

Governing Board Members Present

None

Approved summary from previous meetings can be found on the District's Web site (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 requested member introductions.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

David Rathke, Community and Legislative Affairs Director, provided staff meeting facilitation for Lou Kavouras, Deputy Executive Director, Outreach, Planning and Board Services. Mr. Rathke informed the Committee of three deletions from the agenda: Item #4 – Overview of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority; Item #11 – Evapotranspiration and Water Budget; and, Item #12 – Demonstration of WMIS for On-line Crop Reporting and On-line Meter Reading. The Committee agreed these agenda items be brought back at the next meeting.

3. Approval of the May 28, 2009 Meeting Summary

Following consideration, a motion was made by John Miragliotta and seconded by Beth Bodenstein to approve the May 28, 2009 meeting summary as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Overview of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

This item was deleted.

5. Tampa Bay Water Infrastructure Overview

Warren Hogg, Senior Manager Evaluation & Permitting at Tampa Bay Water, discussed the history of Tampa Bay Water (TBW) and provided an overview of the facilities, the system operation, and current issues. He explained the regional rainfall deficit that has led to problems with surface water supplies; discussed the flows on the Alafia and Hillsborough Rivers; the depletion of the reservoir of usable storage; and wellfield pumpage. Mr. Hogg discussed water production from the desalination facility which is anticipated to be at full production in September 2009. Mr. Hogg said the C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir remains safe; there is no structural safety issue and the cracking in the sides of the reservoir continue to be inspected and tested. Short-term repairs are ongoing and a permanent fix to the reservoir construction is planned to begin the summer of 2012. Mr. Hogg explained the mix of groundwater, surface water, and desal water that will be used while the reservoir is out of service.

6. **City of Tampa Reclaimed Water Master Plan**

Sandra Anderson, Reclaimed Water and Continuous Improvement Manager for the City of Tampa, provided an overview of the program goals: use all reclaimed water within City of Tampa boundary; maximize potable water offsets; develop fiscally responsible plan; city in control of its resource; develop a prioritized plan; and removal of nitrogen from the Tampa Bay. Ms. Anderson discussed recommended implementation, funding strategies including changes to their rate structure, and recommended changes to policies and procedures. In conclusion, Ms. Anderson stated the reclaimed water master plan supports the City of Tampa's green initiative by conserving drinking water, reducing nutrient load to Hillsborough Bay, protecting landscape investment, and makes Tampa more drought resistant.

Governing Board Requests for Input/Comment

7. **Rulemaking Update**

David Rathke provided information on the following rulemaking issues: 1) At their July meeting the Governing Board approved the rulemaking for the Issuance of 20-year Permits for Alternative Water Supplies and the 5-year Compliance Review. 2) Staff plans to discuss amendments to Phase II of the Northern Tampa Bay Recovery Strategy at the September Governing Board meeting. 3) Enhanced Water Conservation Requirements currently in Northern Tampa Bay and SWUCA will be expanded to other areas of the District to promote water use efficiency. This item will go back to the Governing Board in September. 4) In July, the Governing Board moved forward on amendments to the ERP Basis of Review that deal with quantity of water to be sure the methodology used is the best science in our FEMA mapping process and that watershed evaluation has a tie-in to the ERP program. 5) Staff is looking at amendments to Year-round Water Conservation Measures in an effort to create statewide consistency primarily with the three large water management districts. Lois Sorensen added that the primary issue, discovered after publication, was that when the District changed the exact days of the week from twice a week, to be consistent with the other districts, the establishment period days to match the new schedule did not totally change. This amendment is now consistent with the 30-30 approach to establishment and is more than enough under which year-round measures are in place.

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

Lois Sorensen discussed the water shortage orders—Modified II, Modified III, and Modified IV—and showed a comparison of each type. The Governing Board at the August meeting let the Modified Phase IV Order expire at the end of August. Rainfall is at a deficit and has not been consistent or voluminous. Groundwater is up into the normal range of fluctuation, but seeing declines. Lake levels have not reached the normal range. Surface water—rivers came up to the low end of the normal range; however, flows are below normal. The current forecast is for above normal rainfall.

Information Items

9. **Overview of Senate Bills 2080 and 494 Relative to the Green Industry**

Alison Ramoy discussed Senate Bill 2080, a water resources bill that includes a provision to encourage Florida-friendly landscaping. Elements of Senate Bill 2080 are as follows: Replace "Xeriscape" with "Florida-friendly Landscaping"; follow the principles of the Florida Yards & Neighborhood program; water management districts are required to provide model Florida-friendly landscaping ordinances to local governments, use their own model, or use the model created by FDEP; property owners can implement Florida-friendly landscaping; water management district shall use Florida-friendly landscaping on their property; rules will require use of Florida-friendly landscaping on public property constructed after June 30, 2009 and develop a 5-year plan to phase in properties built before July 1, 2009. Allison then discussed the elements of Senate Bill 494 relating to irrigation as follows: All irrigation systems are required to use an automatic shutoff device; sets up contractor requirements; license contractor is defined; *Model Ordinance for Florida-friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes*; Best Management Practices training and testing; an on-line database; and exemptions to the bill.

Lois Sorensen discussed the Regulatory aspects of Senate Bills 494 and 2080. Elements of Senate Bill 494 follow: The "rain sensor law" was amended in reference to technology leaving it open ended as to the type rain sensor used to inhibit or interrupt operations of a system when there is sufficient moisture; licensed contractors to report violations to an appropriate authority; provides a "uniform variance process" to get relief from irrigation restrictions for smart irrigation systems; special criteria and protections of

variances. Elements of Senate Bill 2080 follow: Recognizes that SWUCA is part of the West-Central Florida Water Restoration Action Plan and opens the possibility of State funding for projects; Water Use and Environmental Resource Permits can be issued by staff with denials still going to the Governing Board; provides for public input opportunities to permitting through the District website, direct staff contact, public workshops, and a Governing Board "submit and file" report; and, in reference to demand management, language was added to have the full Florida-friendly landscaping principles be in State law; minimize the use of irrigation; and, deed restriction or covenant may not create a requirement or limitation in conflict with a water shortage rule or order adopted by the District. Workshops will be held to help homeowner associations with the content of these bills.

10. Plant Establishment Study

Alison Ramoy discussed a multi-phased study, *Protocol for Water Needs of Shrubs During Establishment*, conducted by IFAS to determine how much irrigation is needed to establish and maintain shrubs installed in Florida landscapes. The following are project conclusions for central Florida: 3 gallon shrubs can be established with 3 liters of water applied every 8 days for 20 weeks or every 4 days for optimal growth and when planting during extended dry periods; supplemental irrigation is required for up to 2 years during extended dry periods; and water requirements in *real* landscapes may vary.

11. Evapotranspiration and Water Budget

This item was deleted.

12. Demonstration of WMIS for On-line Crop Reporting and On-line Meter Reading

This item was deleted.

13. The next AAC meeting is a **Joint Meeting of the GIAC and AAC at 9 a.m. on November 5, 2009** in the District's Tampa Service Office.

14. The remaining FY2010 AAC meetings will begin at 9 a.m. in the District's Tampa Service Office on **February 25, 2010; May 27, 2010; and August 26, 2010.**

15. Development of Agenda Topics for the November 5, 2009 Meeting

- Overview of the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
- FEMA Map Modernization
- Evapotranspiration and Water Budget
- Demonstration of WMIS for On-line Crop Reporting and On-line Meter Reading
- Progress report of public workshops on the Senate Bills 494 and 2080
- Legislative Preview

16. Announcements and Other Business

17. Adjournment

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.