

MEETING SUMMARY

Public Supply Advisory Committee Southwest Florida Water Management District November 6, 2018

The Public Supply (PSAC) Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:00 p.m., November 6, 2018, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

PSAC Committee Members Present

Chair Debra Burden, Citrus County (Water Resources)
Vice Chair Richard Owen, Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water
Richard Anderson, Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority
Norman Davis, Hillsborough County Utilities
Ruffin Gray, City of Lakeland Water Utilities
Phoenix McKinney, City of Tampa Water Department
Olga Wolanin, Manatee County Utilities
Jen Desrosiers, City of North Port
Jeff Harris, Pasco County Utilities
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Jim Kramer, City of St. Petersburg Utilities

Staff Members Present

Michael Molligan, Facilitator
Joseph Quinn
Thomas Kiger
Mike Hancock
Lois Sorenson
Eric DeHaven

Recording Secretary

Kelly Page

Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's website WaterMatters.org.

The numbers preceding the items below correspond to the order of presentations.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Debra Burden called the meeting to order.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Mr. Molligan stated the Potable Reuse Commission Update has been added to the agenda.

3. Approval of the August 14, 2018 Committee Meeting Summary

A motion was made for approval of August 14, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

No public comment was given.

5. Advisory Committee Policy Updates

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee and External Relations division director, explained staff have proposed changes to the advisory committee policies in order to encourage participation and not hinder those willing to serve on the committees. Mr. Molligan presented the proposed changes to advisory committee policies, which include:

1. Removing the member names within the policy
2. Removing specific requirements for attendance
3. Removing the length of terms for memberships
4. Changing the voting requirements from requiring a quorum to requiring majority present

Mr. Molligan encouraged feedback from the committee before going to the Governing Board with proposed changes in December and January. Mr. Molligan will provide a copy of the proposal for advisory committees prior to presenting to the Governing Board.

Members asked how the makeup of the committee is determined and Mr. Molligan explained the members are listed on the website and are written in the current policy. Members are chosen by the executive director to represent key stakeholders in the various industries or sectors of that committee.

Members asked how the committees were originally established and Mr. Richard Owen, who was present at the District during this time, explained the members were specifically listed in the policies so the Governing Board would be aware of the representation when approving the policy.

Members asked about the timeframe for taking these changes to the Governing Board and Mr. Molligan said the changes will be discussed in December and voted on at the January Board meeting.

6. Addition: Potable Reuse Commission Update

Mr. Thomas Kiger, Water Supply engineer, provided an update on the Potable Reuse Commission (PRC), which is in an ongoing effort to further potable reuse in the state of Florida. The PRC was formed earlier this year with the purpose of establishing the framework for potable reuse implementation to augment future water supplies and support water quality initiatives.

The PRC working group holds monthly meetings with its members as well as public workshops to discuss and develop a framework for potable reuse. Recommendations and stakeholder feedback will be incorporated into a draft report for the potable reuse framework. Mr. Kiger explained this report will be available for public review next month, followed by a public workshop to review this draft report. The final potable reuse framework will be published in December, which will lead into a potable reuse regulatory framework including potential recommendations for legislative action in 2019.

Members asked where they could find the draft report for potable reuse and Mr. Kiger explained it can be found on the WaterReuse Florida website and offered to send it to the committee once the document is published.

7. Reclaimed Water Progress within the Southwest Florida Water Management District

Mr. Joseph Quinn, Water Supply project manager, discussed the background of reuse development within the District. Since 1987, the District has been involved in the development of reclaimed projects to offset potable water demands for uses that could use reclaimed water as an alternative source. To date, the District has been able to offset 131 million gallons per day (mgd) of potable water uses through the development of projects providing 191 million gpd of beneficial reuse flows.

As of 2017, approximately 50 percent of the available reclaimed water within the District is utilized, with a goal of 75 percent reuse by 2040. Mr. Quinn explained the public supply sector's use of reclaimed water to offset potable water demands. Some current and proposed projects utilizing indirect potable reuse include the Clearwater Groundwater Replenishment Project, South Hillsborough Aquifer Recharge Project (SHARP/SHARE) and Tampa Augmentation Project (TAP). In addition, there are 11 power plants using reclaimed water. Mr. Quinn highlighted the Shady Hills Energy Reclaimed Water Project and TECO/Lakeland/Mulberry/Polk Southwest Reclaimed Water Project, which are recent large projects.

Members asked for the link to reclaimed water mapping.

Members asked if other districts consider rapid infiltration basins (RIBS) as a beneficial reuse. Mr. Quinn explained the other districts and the state do consider some RIBS as a beneficial reuse. The District does not consider them a beneficial reuse unless they are offsetting potable water use, creating a new water supply or providing specific environmental benefits.

8. Pasco County's Reclaimed Water Natural Systems Treatment and Restoration Project Overview

Mr. Mike Hancock, chief professional engineer, discussed the concept of the Reclaimed Water Reuse Project in Central Pasco County, which uses excess reclaimed water to provide recharge in the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area. This project is in response to impacted surface water systems due to population growth/increased pumping.

A partnership agreement was formed in the late 1990s, which intended to replace 85 million gallons of groundwater use with alternative sources. Using Pasco County's reclaimed water pipeline, the central Pasco County area, near the Cross Bar wellfield, receives excess reclaimed water for recharge. The project constructed 176 acres of wetlands to naturally treat the reclaimed water before it recharges into the underlying aquifers. Benefits of this project include reduction in draw downs, reclaimed water disposal, improved water quality, creation of wetland habitat, and wildlife corridor extension.

Members asked who is charged with long term maintenance and what is the benefit to Pasco County. Mr. Hancock responded the County is responsible as part of the agreement, and Mr. Jeff Harris, Pasco County Utilities, explained the goal is to put water to better use. Mr. Harris also identified the many awards the County has received from this project.

Members requested to tour Pasco County's project site in lieu of their regular February meeting.

9. Hydrologic Conditions Update

Ms. Lois Sorensen, Demand Management program manager, provided an update on hydrological conditions. Since the last meeting, the District has been experienced warmer than normal weather and below normal rainfall in October. Overall, hydrologic conditions remain elevated but within a healthy range. She also mentioned a wet winter and spring are likely.

Groundwater in the northern region is in the 70th percentile; central counties are in the 62nd percentile; southern counties has declined to the 42nd percentile.

10. Open Discussion

Chair Burden shared with the committee her request to Mr. Wills to investigate the private irrigation wells in Sugarmill Woods' public supply territory because the numbers in the Regional Water Supply Plan seemed low. Results of the investigation identified almost 400 wells are being used for irrigation in Sugarmill Woods' three water use areas. Mr. Harris discussed the District's criteria for funding projects. District staff agreed to provide a presentation at a future meeting regarding its funding criteria.

11. Development of agenda topics for the next Public Supply Advisory Committee meeting at 1:00p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 in the District's Tampa Office.

Members suggested to tour Pasco County's project in February, and suggested the District offer topics for the May meeting.

12. Announcements and Other Business

None

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.