

MEETING SUMMARY

Industrial Advisory Committee Southwest Florida Water Management District August 14, 2018

The Industrial (IAC) Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 10:00 a.m., August 14, 2018, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

IAC Committee Members Present

Ilia Balcom, Duke Energy
Subrata Bandy, Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC
Marc Hurst, Standard Sand and Silica
Justin Gostnell, Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Others Present

Rebecca Smith, Board Member

Recording Secretary

Kelly Page

Staff Members Present

Caroline McKnight, Facilitator
Ross Morton
Kevin Wills
Natasha Mendez-Ferrer
Lois Sorensen
Josh Madden
Luke LeMond
Robin Grantham
Michael Molligan

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 presentation.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Marc Hurst called the meeting to order.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None

3. Approval of the May 15, 2018 Committee Meeting Summary

A motion was made for approval of May 15, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

No public comment was given.

5. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made for Ilia Balcom to be named Chair and Marc Hurst to be named Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

6. SWFWMD Water Conservation Initiative Phase II

Mr. Ross Morton, ombudsman, presented the District's effort to assist utilities, particularly those in the North, in lowering the regional compliance per capita. The Water Conservation Initiative (WCI) consists of three phases: outreach and feedback, development of conservation proposals, and implementation. He explained this initiative involves three District divisions -- Regulatory, Communications, and Water Supply -- which have been working closely to ensure collaboration and consistency for utilities/permittees.

Mr. Morton explained the second phase is composed of feedback from the District's initial outreach efforts, which includes five proposals: (1) uniform review of rate structures, (2) non-cyclic funding opportunities, (3) conservation education programs, (4) water-conserving ordinances, and (5) support from the WCI team. These proposals were presented by WCI team members Luke LeMond, chief professional geologist; Josh Madden, staff environmental scientist, and Robin Grantham, lead communications coordinator.

1. Mr. LeMond proposed the District provide a more uniform rate structure review, which will assist utilities in working toward the same water-conserving goal. This will address the concern with utilities that rate structures often work against other conservation measures.
2. Mr. Madden addressed another concern of the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) process and requirements by proposing a non-cyclic funding opportunity to (a) entities as well as (b) authorities.
 - a. The Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency (WISE) program would offer funds for conservation implementation to entities that would not normally apply for CFI. These funds would follow guidelines similar to mini-farms, except the cost-share would be up to 50 percent and there would be a contractual five-year maintenance period.
 - b. The Regional Conservation Fund includes assistance to utilities to meet District conservation goals. This program would be similar to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and would apply a 10 percent administration fee. This proposal has been tabled for future consideration.
3. Ms. Grantham explained the proposal to establish a conservation educational outreach program, with which District staff will partner with utilities to develop, implement and evaluate educational outreach programs. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 is \$30,000.
4. Mr. Morton addressed a proposal to develop a District conservation ordinance team that will offer guidance to entities in enforcing conservation-based ordinances.
5. Mr. Morton addressed the final proposal, which is to continue with WCI team communication and meetings to ensure coordination and collaboration among divisions.

Members asked if this program is available to all users. Mr. Madden responded that the WCI is available for all users, except agriculture, as they already have programs in place. Mr. Morton explained the District's efforts are targeted in the North, mostly due to larger lot sizes/future development, however, the program will be available Districtwide.

Members asked if the District influences rate structures at all, and Mr. LeMond responded in the negative. He stated the only rule is that utilities have a water-conserving rate structure.

Members appreciate the District's effort in education and stated the average person has no conception of the amount of one inch of rainfall. Members also suggested to contact the College of Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida to assist in outreach efforts.

7. Draft 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan Projections

Mr. Kevin Wills, senior economist, explained the purpose of the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) as well as the proposed assessments for demand methods for the industrial commercial water use sector. Mr. Wills explained the 2020 horizon includes a new method for power generation water demands as well as industrial and commercial mining.

The most recent site plans collected from power generations are from April 2018 and include historic and future megawatts. The District uses this information and the water use data to calculate a five-year average historic water use per megawatt per facility for all water sources. This value is

applied to future megawatt to project future water demand. Projections indicate a one to 1.3 percent growth per year.

Historically, surface water loss has not been recorded; only ground water demand for power generation was recognized. Through the 2015 Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) plan, the Districts have added a methodology to account for surface water used as well as a two percent evaporated loss.

Members asked if rainfall capture is included in the calculations, and Mr. Wills replied in the negative, but mentioned that surface water withdrawal quantity is captured. Members also asked if the water use procedure is the same as the CFWI and Mr. Wills responded in the affirmative.

8. Lower Withlacoochee River MFLs

Ms. Natasha Mendez-Ferrer, staff environmentalist scientist, discussed the purpose and methodologies of the minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the Lower Withlacoochee River. MFLs are meant to protect the water source from significant harm due to water withdrawals, including the ecology and the function of the source of water.

The process includes collecting and analyzing data, drafting a report, an external review by scientists before going to the Governing Board for approval. These rules are used for planning Water Use Permits and prevention and recovery of MFLs. As of June 2018, the District has set 127 MFLs for lakes, 41 for wetlands, 23 for freshwater and estuarian, and 10 MFLs for springs.

Ms. Natasha-Mendez explained that some of the data collected along the Lower Withlacoochee River include salinity levels, temperature and depth, oyster and barnacle characterization, and shoreline vegetation. The District is just starting data collection and literature review.

9. Hydrologic Conditions Update

Ms. Lois Sorensen, Demand Management program manager, provided an update on hydrological conditions, stating that rainfall in March was very dry, however April and May experienced above normal rainfall, followed by slightly less than normal rainfall in June. Overall, the District is experiencing warmer than normal temperatures and precipitation is within normal range.

The groundwater index in the northern and southern regions is in the above normal range overall. Peace River Regional Manasota Water Supply Authority currently has 548 days worth of water in storage, or 13.6 million gallons.

10. Development of agenda topics for the next Industrial Advisory Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 in the District's Tampa Office.

None

11. Announcements and Other Business

Ms. McKnight announced the fiscal year 2019 calendar is waiting for approval at the August Governing Board meeting.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.