

## **Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee**

MEETING DATE – SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

LIAISON REPORT – MICHELLE WILLIAMSON

### **Elections of Chair and Vice Chair**

- ***Members unanimously voted Phil Christman, Florida Recreation and Parks Association, to serve as committee chair.***
- ***Members unanimously voted BJ Jarvis, UF/IFAS Research, to serve as vice chair.***

### **Soil Compaction Phase II**

- Dr. Eban Bean, UF/IFAS research, provided a presentation on the study of soil compaction and improving soil quality. He discussed the comparison of leachate, runoff, nitrate and phosphorus among compacted soil, tilled soil, and compost amended soil. This study can help homeowners to adjust their irrigation by reducing runtime as much as 25 percent. An agreement has been set up with Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop a guidance document for applying compost and incorporating into new landscapes and they have also expressed interest in offering TMDL credits for reducing runoff nutrients and new development credits for stormwater reduction.
- Mr. Travis Council asked how long the turf was established before the study and whether they have data beyond three years. Mr. Bean explained turf in this study was established two years prior and data goes back to three years as this is the length of Dr. Bean's tenure with IFAS.
- Mr. Council asked if Florida Water Star has been in contact with this group and Ms. Robin Grantham replied in the affirmative. She explained a challenge with builders is the cost (\$1,000-2,000 per lot) and the success of this reduction relies on human behavior. She also mentioned the homes in this study are all Florida Water Star.

### **Citrus Task Force (CTF) Update**

- Mr. Ross Morton, ombudsman, provided an update on the Citrus Task Force, which included updating the data entry system, memorializing compliance processes to include evaluation of rainfall prior to listing the permittee on the water use over pumpage list, revising the District's water use allocation model to include current practices and recognize drought prone areas, expanding the invitation list for the WUP Advisory meetings, FARMS program improvements, extension on recertification requirements for agricultural related stormwater management systems authorized by the District, and revising the rules associated with combining of water use permits.
- Members applauded the CTF for their efforts in communication and helping to solve issues.
- Mr. Travis Council said participants of a statewide best management practice convention he attended were talking of the CTF and their interest in replicating the District's and CTF's changes.

### **FARMS Board Policy Update**

- Mr. Chris Zajac, FARMS Program manager, provided an update to the FARMS Board Policy. Mr. Zajac explained feedback from the Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee was well received at the June 2019 advisory meeting and since then this has been taken to Executive and nothing has changed. Mr. Zajac is asking the Governing Board to approve the repeal of the FARMS Rule and replace it with the FARMS Board Policy effective immediately.

- Members asked for confirmation that the new policy will include both water quality and water quantity cost-share and Mr. Zajac replied in the affirmative.
- Members asked how the old process played out with a water quantity project. Mr. Zajac explained projects were presented to the Board with an explanation of why it should be funded despite it being outside of the typical parameters. The new policy would eliminate the need for a formal presentation and would be placed on the consent agenda for approval.
- ***Mr. Council made a motion to write a letter in support of the FARMS changes as stated at this meeting. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Carraway asked Mr. Molligan to assist in drafting this letter.***

#### **Migration to the Environmental Data Portal**

- Mr. Granville Kinsman, Hydrologic Data manager, provided a brief overview of the current corporate database known as Water Management Information system. It consists of two components: Data Collection Regulatory. The District is in the process of migrating data to a new system known as the Water Information System by Kisters (WISKi), and information can be accessed through the interface known as the Environmental Data Portal (EDP). The EDP will be introduced in coming months and training will follow closely upon its release.
- Mr. Carraway asked who these new tools are intended for and Mr. Kinsman replied both the public and staff.
- Mr. Phil Christman asked when the public can see these changes online and Mr. Granville replied within two months.
- Ms. BJ Jarvis asked when permitting data is being moved and Mr. Kinsman explained this is a separate effort provided by Regulatory and would take effect in the next two years.

#### **2020 Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP)**

- Mr. Joseph Quinn, senior Water Supply project manager, discussed the 2020 Regional Water Supply Plan and the progress to date, which includes a draft communication and outreach plan as well as draft demand estimates and projections for all water use categories. Staff are currently evaluating the results of the expanded East Central Florida Transient model, which is used to evaluate the effects from changes in groundwater withdrawals on lakes, rivers, springs and wetlands within the District. Mr. Quinn noted the current schedule includes a March 2020 Governing Board review and approval to release the 2020 RWSP Public Draft. The public comment period would occur during April to July 2020, with Governing Board approval of the 2020 RWSP Final Draft in November 2020. Staff will present the Public Draft to the advisory committees during the public comment period for their review and feedback.
- Mr. Carraway asked if aspects of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) are incorporated into the District's 2020 RWSP. Mr. Quinn explained the District's 2020 RWSP is reflective of and consistent with CFWI for Polk and Lake counties, however, certain methodologies used for the remainder of our 2020 RWSP are slightly different.
- Ms. Jarvis asked about the ongoing availability of funding for water supply projects. Mr. Quinn noted that the cost for some of these types of projects tends to be fairly significant, however, the District remains committed to the support and funding of such projects through its Cooperative Funding Initiative program.

- Mr. Carraway and Mr. Quinn briefly discussed the conservation aspect of RWSP projects for agriculture or green industry. Mr. Molligan mentioned an upcoming water supply workshop with the District's Governing Board that will discuss projects and funding. Mr. Carraway asked if recreation/aesthetic water use is considered part of public supply. Mr. Quinn explained that water demands and uses for this category are addressed separately in the technical memoranda, however, a certain amount of recreation/aesthetic use is also incorporated within the public supply demands.