

Approved

MEETING SUMMARY

Agricultural and Green Industry Joint Advisory Committee
Southwest Florida Water Management District
September 5, 2019

The Agricultural (AAC) and Green Industry (GIAC) Joint Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a meeting at 9:00 a.m., September 5, 2019, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

Committee Members Present

Travis Council, Chair, Turf Producers of Florida
Curt Williams, FL Farm Bureau Federation
Dale Lewis, FL Nursery, Growers & Landscape Assoc.
Kenneth Parker, FL Strawberry Growers Assoc.
BJ Jarvis, UF/IFAS
Phil Christman, Florida Recreation and Parks Assoc.
Eric Dixon, FL Golf Course Sup Assoc.
Gail Huff, FL Irrigation Society
Mac Carraway, FL Turfgrass Assoc.

Staff Members Present

Michael Molligan, Facilitator
Ross Morton
Chris Zajac
Granville Kinsman
Joseph Quinn
Robin Grantham

Recording Secretary

Kelly Page

Others

Dr. Eban Bean, UF/IFAS Research

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Travis Council called the meeting to order. He welcomed Governing Board Chair Bryan Beswick and advisory committee members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of June 6, 2019 Minutes

Members unanimously voted for approval of the June 6, 2019 meeting minutes.

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None

4. Public Comments

None

5. 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.

6. 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.

Dr. Bean explained an agreement has been set up with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to develop a guidance document for applying compost and incorporating into new landscapes. FDEP has also expressed interest in offering Total Maximum Daily Loads 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.

7. Citrus Task Force (CTF) Update

Mr. Ross Morton, ombudsman, provided a brief update on the Citrus Task Force, which included a listening tour with the Citrus Industry. As a result, the District made several service improvements that will affect the entire agricultural industry. These include updating the data entry system, updating AGMOD, holding staff-facilitated Water Use Permitting advisory meetings to include permittees, reevaluating meter requirement rules, as well as FARMS program improvements.

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 about the CTF and their interest in replicating the District's and CTF's changes.

8. 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.

9. 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 and 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.

10. 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 demands and agriculture estimates and projections. Staff are currently evaluating the results of the East Central Florida Transient Expanded model to include in the plan as well. Mr. Quinn explained staff plan to bring the plan to the public and to the advisory committees for feedback during April to July 2020 and then to the Governing Board for approval in November.

Mr. Carraway asked if aspects of the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) are incorporated into the RWSP and Mr. Quinn explained the RWSP is reflective and consistent with CFWI but the methodology is a little different.

Ms. Jarvis asked about the funding stream for water supply projects and Mr. Quinn explained some projects will be fairly significant, and they all will be considered by the Governing Board.

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 that will discuss projects and funding.

Mr. Carraway asked if recreation aesthetic considered part of public supply and Mr. Quinn explained this is tracked separately in the technical memorandum but is incorporated into public supply.

10. Development of agenda topics for the next Agricultural and Green Industry Advisory Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m. on December 3, 2019 in the District's Tampa Office.

Members asked for information on the Florida Water Star Advisory Committee and how input from the Agricultural and Green Industry Committee could be included at the Florida Water Star Advisory Committee. Mr. Molligan explained he would look into it.

Members requested an update of ongoing research activities or projects that might have impacted the committee as well as the Governing Board's thoughts on research.

11. Governing Board Liaison Comments

None

12. Announcements and Other Business

None

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.