INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, November 7, 2023 – 10:00 AM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

MINUTES

Committee Members Present
James Morris – CEMEX (Chair)
Ilia Balcom – Duke Energy Florida
Keith Nadaskay – Mosaic Fertilizer (alternate)
Chris Cooley – Port of Tampa
Nick Fletcher – Tampa Electric Company (alternate)

Staff Members
Andrew Thornquest
April Breton
Catherine Wolden
Jennette Seachrist
Jennifer Soberal
Jeremy McKay
Jerry Harding
Jordan Miller
Michael Molligan
Robyn Felix
Steve Desmith
Ted Gates

Board Administrative Support
Virginia Singer
Barbara Matrone

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**
   The Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, via Microsoft Teams.

   Chair James Morris called the meeting to order, and attendance was called.

2. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
   Ms. Virginia Singer stated that a Hydrologic Conditions Update would be added as item # 5 to the agenda.

3. **Approval of the August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
   A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comments**
   None.

5. **Hydrologic Conditions Update**
   Mr. Steve Desmith, Senior Professional Geologist, gave a hydrologic conditions update. The District's wet season includes the months of June, July, August, and September. September is the last month of the four-month wet season and this year it was drier than expected. The District

averages about 7.0 inches of rainfall in September, but this past September only received 5.0 inches, which was a 2-inch rainfall deficit. The highest amount of rainfall in September was in Highlands County at 14.1 inches and the lowest was at 0.4 inches in Pinellas County. The District averages about 31.0 inches of rainfall in the four-month wet season, but this year only received 26.2 inches, which was a 4.8-inch rainfall deficit. Mr. Desmith showed a graph of the 12-month rainfall distribution from October 2022 through September 2023. The District averages about 52.7 inches of rainfall for the 12-month period, but this past 12-month period through September only received 42.8 inches, which is a 9.9-inch rainfall deficit. The difference between last year and this year was the heavy rainfall due to Hurricane Ian.

Mr. Desmith showed a graph of the 12-month departure from the mean and discussed the rainfall surplus and deficits for September. Last year at this time there was a 3.1 inch surplus due to Hurricane Ian, but as of September of this year, we have a 9.9-inch rainfall deficit. He showed the provisional rainfall distribution for October of this year and stated that it was another dry, below-average rainfall month. The District averages about 3 inches of rainfall but only received 1.4 inches, which was a 1.6-inch rainfall deficit.

He then discussed the groundwater levels in the northern, central, and southern counties from January 2004 through October 2023, as well as the surface water levels in the Northern Lakes, Tampa Bay Lakes, Polk Upland Lakes, and Lake Wales Ridge Lakes regions.

He then showed graphs and discussed surface water discharge and the eight-week mean discharge of the Withlacoochee, Hillsborough, Alafia, and Peace rivers. Mr. Desmith then discussed the public supply levels for the City of Tampa's "Hillsborough" Reservoir and public supply volumes for the Bill Young Reservoir in the Hillsborough and Alafia rivers, and the water quantities in the Peace River Reservoir. He then discussed the Climate Prediction Center Near-Term Climate Forecast showing seasonal outlooks for temperature and precipitation. The Center is predicting above normal rainfall and normal temperatures for the next three months within the District. For the extended climate forecast, above normal rainfall is predicted now through May 2024. The District is still in tropical storm season which runs from June 1 through November 30, but there is nothing in the outlook for tropical weather in the next seven days.

6. <u>Overview of the District's Water Quality Monitoring Networks</u>

Ms. Catherine Wolden, Water Quality Monitoring Program Manager, gave an overview of the District's water quality monitoring networks. The Data Collection Bureau (DCB) is composed of an administration section and four data collection sections:

- The Geohydrologic Data section performs exploratory coring, monitor well construction oversight, aquifer testing, and well repairs, abandonments, and modifications.
- The Hydrologic Data section collects hydrologic data including groundwater and surface water levels and atmospheric data.
- The Water Quality Monitoring section performs water quality sampling from wells and surface water bodies, and the chemistry lab analyzes water samples for District projects and initiatives.
- The Mapping and GIS section provides visualization and management of spatial data using mapping products, and the survey section provides professional surveying services for District projects and initiatives.

The main goal of DCB's data collection efforts is to support resource management decisions.

Ms. Wolden briefly discussed the timeline of the District's Water Quality Monitoring Program (WQMP) and provided dates from 1979 when the lab was first established until 2012 when the current organizational structure of the WQMP within the DCB was instituted.

The WQMP and lab are made up of 21 staff members, including field and lab technicians, chemists, a data analyst, data managers, a professional geologist, student interns and two supervisors. Data

sample collection and laboratory analysis are performed for surface, groundwater, and springs water quality projects. Annually, 2,700 samples are collected and analyzed for the parameters that are relevant to the objectives of the project. Approximately 60,000 individual analyses are performed annually in the lab and 21,000 field observations are collected to accompany the laboratory data in the database.

The mission of the DCB is the collection of high-quality data with a focus on time and cost efficiency. Numerous quality checks are performed on data collection and documentation activities throughout the bureau. Staff audits on the Chemistry Lab are performed every two years to maintain certification with the state. The WQMP supervisor performs audits on field staff to ensure the sampling methods and safety practices are being followed. The bureau has a safety team that meets monthly to assess field safety, health and safety plans, and equipment needs. Data Governance is a check and balance used to track and manage requests for new data collection.

The WQMP and lab support many programs and initiatives throughout the District. Some of the main areas of support are for groundwater modeling, watershed management, minimum flows and levels, restoration initiatives, surface water improvement waterbody management, Central Florida Water Initiative, real time data collection, structure operations, surface and groundwater status and trends monitoring, and regulatory assessments. The District maintains and collects data from several networks of observation wells and springs to evaluate water quality trends at over 500 sites. The primary goal of these networks is to track water quality changes in groundwater throughout the District. These networks include coastal groundwater, water use permitting, inland Floridan aquifer system, springs, and the upper Floridan aquifer nutrients networks.

In addition to groundwater monitoring, surface water networks track water quality changes in surface water throughout the District. The primary intent of our rivers, streams and coastal spring-fed river monitoring networks is to track nutrients within these systems. These systems drain into the coastal and estuarine areas and increased nutrient levels have the potential to affect aquatic ecosystems by stimulating the growth of nuisance aquatic vegetation within the rivers, streams, and their receiving waterbodies. Lakes monitoring is primarily used in support of establishing and tracking minimum water levels for District lakes. In addition to using this data for District projects and initiatives, it is also provided to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for use in determining the impairment status of waterbodies and aquifers.

Ms. Wolden concluded by demonstrating how to access the data and tools on the District's website.

7. **Field Trip Discussion**
   Ms. Ilia Balcom suggested a tour of the Hines Energy Complex in Polk County.

8. **Committee Expansion Discussion**
   Ms. Robyn Felix, Communications and Board Services Bureau Chief, gave an update on the status of the committee expansion for the Industrial Advisory Committee.

9. **Development of Agenda Topics**
   None.

10. **Announcements and Other Business**
    None.

11. **Adjournment**
    The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.