



INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, November 8, 2022 – 10:00 AM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Ilia Balcom, Duke Energy
Rachel McGraw, Duke Energy (alternate)
Chris Cooley, Port of Tampa
Fred Crabill, SE Environmental Solutions
Michael Lee, Seminole Electric Cooperative
(alternate)
Terry Eastley, Tampa Electric Company

Governing Board Liaison

Ms. Ashley Bell Barnett – Not in Attendance

Staff Members

Michelle Weaver
Patrick Casey
Jason Patterson
Tamera McBride
April Breton
Jeremy McKay

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 8, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

Vice Chair Ilia Balcom called the meeting to order, and attendance was called.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Approval of the August 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2022 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

None.

Vice Chair Balcom reordered the agenda items starting with #6.

**6. Hurricane Ian
Emergency Response**

Ms. Michelle Weaver, General Services Bureau Chief, gave a presentation on the District's emergency response for tropical systems and the pre-, during, and post-storm activities associated with Hurricane Ian. Ms. Weaver stated that throughout the hurricane season the District normally stays at level 3, which is a general state of monitoring. On Saturday, September 24, as Hurricane Ian approached the area, the District's Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

activated to a level 2 and was staffed with emergency management personnel and the leadership team. Monitoring and communications were enhanced, and District bureaus were asked to implement their pre-storm checklists. On Sunday, September 25 the EOC activated to a level 1, full activation status, where all emergency management staff were involved, routine meetings were held twice a day and communications were enhanced. The storm passed through on Wednesday and Thursday and then on Friday, September 30 the EOC was deactivated back to a level 3, general state of monitoring. Some of the enhanced communications that were performed before the storm were sending daily situation reports to the Florida Department of Emergency Management, sending hydrologic status reports to the District's Governing Board and Executive staff, participating on State Emergency Operations Center calls, and working very closely with other government and local agencies to make sure needs were met. Checks were performed on all water control structures including emergency generators, and one emergency generator was repaired at structure S-160. Water levels were lowered on some of the water bodies where appropriate to increase storage in preparation for the storm, and assistance was received from the Hillsborough County Fire Department to unlock the gates to structure S-155 to prepare for activation of the Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area. During the storm, communication and coordination efforts continued to enhance including 24-hour monitoring of water control structures and information technology network systems and infrastructures. Following the storm, call tree and wellness checks were initiated for leadership to reach out to their direct reports. There was no storm damage to any District facilities, however several staff were impacted with flooding, loss of power, and loss of cell service. Helicopter surveys were conducted at the Peace Creek Canal to identify any debris or erosion needing to be maintained. High-water surveys were conducted to help the Resource Management Division to develop floodplain maps for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The District participated in a mission request for Charlotte County to do water quality sampling at 13 locations in the freshwater portions of the Peace River, Myakka River, and Big Slough Canal. A mission request was also received by the City of Englewood for debris clearing so they could access their lift stations. The District also assisted Sarasota County with water quality sampling as part of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Lastly, the District's Employee Committee led a volunteer effort to collect and deploy needed supplies to those impacted by the hurricane.

Structure Operations Before, During, and After Hurricane Ian – Mr. Patrick Casey, Lead Structure Controls Analyst, gave an overview of how structure operations handled activities before, during, and after the storm. The District has 84 water control structures which serve two purposes: flood control and water conservation. There are 18 flood control structures that are designed to move large amounts of water quickly and 80% of District structures are designed to conserve water. The District uses software that pulls in water level data to keep track of the water control structures to monitor water levels. Using the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, 37 of 84 structures are remotely controlled. Some of the pre-storm activities included closely monitoring the weather forecast as well as monitoring hydrologic conditions, lowering water levels where possible, testing equipment and generators, maintaining a pre-storm checklist, staging field staff, handling phone calls from concerned citizens, and coordinating with partners: City of Tampa, Tampa Bay Water, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. During the storm, water levels, gate opening status, power status, and communication with structure are monitored around the clock. Loss of power and communications with the cell phone type modem used is expected. During Hurricane Ian, there was a loss of power to all structures in Polk County and to several structures in Hillsborough County. Mr. Casey explained that losing power to a structure during the storm means they cannot operate that structure, unless there is a generator at the structure, and since they cannot go out into the storm, they have to guess what the gate opening should be 48 hours in advance. Post-storm activities include staff safety checks, structure inspections, reporting power outages, checking for debris, and continued monitoring of water levels and operating structures. Lastly, there was major flooding issues in both Lake Hancock and North Winter Haven Chain of Lakes due to Hurricane Ian, but both lakes were back to normal 28-30 days after the storm.

Vice Chair Balcom asked if there were any lessons learned from this storm that could better prepare them for the next storm event.

Mr. Casey replied that they did find a bug in the SCADA software, and it was reported to the vendor. He also stated that each storm is different, and they always learn something new and are always looking for ways to be more efficient.

Ms. Weaver added that there is a deliberate process that is followed after storms to capture lessons learned that are used to develop actions to implement prior to the next storm season.

5. Hydrologic Conditions

Mr. Jason Patterson, Lead Scientific Data Analyst, gave a hydrologic conditions update. Mr. Patterson stated that September was the last month of the wet season, and the latter part of this season has been particularly wet due to Hurricane Ian. Rainfall and tropical storm activity picked up in late August after the Saharan Air Layer diminished. There has been record rainfall in the Southern Region, and record river stages and major flooding in the Myakka and Peace rivers, as well as Horse Creek. Hurricane Ian was a Category 4 hurricane and made landfall on September 28 and traveled northeast across the state, exiting on September 29. Mr. Patterson showed the gauge-adjusted radar rainfall that is a radar data calibrated to field measured data. The southern part of the District received the most rain during Ian with bands that extended through Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto, Polk, and Highlands counties. Highlands County had the highest total at 23.2 inches. Mr. Patterson showed a comparison of rainfall received between September 1 and September 26 before the storm and rainfall totals after the storm through September 30. He stated that since 1915, September rainfall was the most received in a single month for the Southern Region, and it is the 5th largest monthly rainfall total for the District. Mr. Patterson discussed the 12-month rainfall distribution for October 2021 to September 2022 and stated that the District received a mean rainfall of 53.7 inches. He then discussed the District-wide rainfall 12-month departure from mean and the 12-month moving trend. He showed graphs of the groundwater levels in the northern, central, and southern counties and the surface water levels in the northern, Tampa Bay, Polk Upland, and Lake Wales Ridge lakes, as well as the Hillsborough, Withlacoochee, and Alafia rivers. Mr. Patterson discussed the public supply volume for the Peace River and the near-term climate forecast as well as the extended climate forecast and precipitation. He concluded with discussing the November tropical storm origins and subtropical storm Nicole.

7. Field Trip Discussion for February

Mr. Chris Cooley offered to host a water-based tour of the Port of Tampa. Ms. Virginia Singer stated that she would send out an email to the committee to choose a Friday that works best for everyone, and that she would also put together an official invitation with an itinerary.

8. Development of agenda topics for the next Industrial Advisory Committee meeting tentatively at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2023

None.

9. Announcements and Other Business

None.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 am