



**INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, May 9, 2023 – 10:00 AM**  
**2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604**

**MINUTES**

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Committee Members Present

Ilia Balcom, Duke Energy Florida  
Keith Nadaskay, Mosaic Fertilizer  
Justin Gostnell, Seminole Electric  
Brandon Wren, Standard Sand & Silica

Governing Board Liaison

Ashley Bell Barnett

Staff Members

Robyn Felix  
Randy Smith  
Chris Zajac  
April Breton  
Jason Patterson  
Jason LaRoche  
Jeremy McKay  
Steve Desmith

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, May 9, 2023, via Microsoft Teams.

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

Governing Board Liaison Ashley Bell Barnett welcomed the committee.

**2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Ms. Virginia Singer stated that the committee would be approving the November 8, 2022 meeting minutes along with the February 17, 2023 minutes.

**3. Approval of the November 8, 2022 and February 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2022 meeting and the February 17, 2023 Port of Tampa tour. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Public Comments**

None.

**5. SWUCA Five-Year Assessment**

Mr. Randy Smith, Natural Systems & Restoration Bureau Chief, gave a presentation on the third Five-Year Assessment of the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) Recovery Strategy. This assessment covers the five-year period from 2017–2021. The SWUCA is the southern half of the District and is a 5,100-square-mile area which includes all or part of eight counties. The SWUCA was established by the Governing Board in 1992 due to long-term declines in aquifer

levels. In 2006 the Governing Board approved the SWUCA Recovery Strategy due to the minimum flows and minimum water levels not being achieved. On January 1, 2007, the Recovery Strategy became effective by rule which required annual assessments to be provided to the Governing Board as well as five-year reviews to assess progress. The first five-year assessment was completed for the 2007-2011 period and the second assessment was completed for the 2012-2016 period. The third assessment is in the final draft phase for the period of 2017-2021.

There are four Recovery Strategy goals to achieve by 2025:

- 1) Restore minimum levels to priority lakes in the Ridge area.
- 2) Restore minimum flows to the upper Peace River.
- 3) Reduce the rate of saltwater intrusion in coastal Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties by achieving the saltwater intrusion minimum aquifer level (SWIMAL).
- 4) Ensure that there are sufficient water supplies for all existing and projected reasonable beneficial uses.

The Recovery Strategy identified six major elements needed to accomplish these goals:

- 1) Development of a regional water supply plan.
- 2) Use of existing rule.
- 3) Enhancements to the existing rules.
- 4) Provide financial incentives for conservation and development of alternative water supplies.
- 5) Development and implementation of water resource projects to aid in meeting minimum flows to rivers and enhance recharge.
- 6) Resource monitoring, reporting and cumulative impact analysis.

Mr. Smith showed graphs and discussed the hydrologic conditions and the groundwater withdrawals in the SWUCA since the Recovery Strategy was adopted.

Mr. Smith then discussed each of the Recovery Strategy goals and gave the status and recommendations for each.

- Goal one is to restore minimum levels to priority lakes by 2025. During the first assessment of the 2007-2011 period, there were 27 lakes with adopted minimum lake levels (MLL) and 11 of the 27 were being met (41%). In the second assessment of the 2012-2016 period, there were 28 lakes with adopted MLL with 12 of 28 being met (43%). For the current assessment period of 2017-2021, there are 32 lakes with adopted MLL with 23 of the 32 being met (72%). Eight of the nine lakes that are not currently meeting their MLL have moved closer to being met. The recommendations for goal one are to continue implementation of previously identified options, including conservation and Alternative Water Supply (AWS) development, continue to support the Lake Eva Aquifer Recharge Project, enhance and continue monitoring, and complete future lake MLL reevaluations. District staff recently completed peer review of the new xeric wetland/lake standard and will use this new information to reevaluate the 9 lakes that are not currently achieving their MLL over the next few years. This will ensure the MLLs are set based on the best available information and the outcomes of the reevaluations will help guide the determination of any additional lake recovery projects.
- Goal two is to restore minimum flows in the upper Peace River by 2025. During the first assessment of the 2007-2011 period, MFLs were not being met. For the second assessment of the 2012-2016 period, MFLs were not met. However, in 2015 the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project became operational. The Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project is a large water resource development project completed by the District. It involved constructing a new water control structure on Lake Hancock raising the lake level by approximately 1.5 feet, allowing more water to be stored during the wet season that could be strategically released during the dry season to meet the minimum low flows in the Upper peace river. For the current assessment period of 2017 – 2021, the upper Peace river MFLs were met and achieved in 2020. For the upper Peace River MFLs

to be considered met they had to be achieved for three consecutive years. Achievement of this goal can largely be attributed to the Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification project, which was a major element of the recovery strategy and was operational throughout the current status assessment period. District staff continued collecting data and monitoring during this assessment period. The Governing Board adopted Lake Hancock/lower Saddle Creek Reservation. District staff continued to refine operational protocols for the Lake Hancock project. District staff are currently working on the development of medium and high flows MFLs for the upper Peace River along with the reevaluation of the currently adopted low flow minimum level which are both scheduled to be completed in 2025. The recommendations for goal two are to continue operation and monitoring of Lake Hancock Lake Level Modification and Outfall Treatment projects, continue to establish medium and high flow MFLs and reevaluate the low flow MFL and the Lake Hancock Reservation, continue to refine operational protocols for Lake Hancock, and to continue the adaptive management approach.

- Goal three is to reduce the rate of saltwater intrusion by 2025 by achieving the SWIMAL. During the first assessment of the 2007-2011 period, the SWIMAL was not met, and groundwater usage was declining. In the second assessment of the 2012-2016 period, the SWIMAL was not met, there was a continuation of declining groundwater use in the region, and aquifer levels were trending up and within 0.5 feet of the SWIMAL. For the current assessment period of 2017-2021, the SWIMAL is not met, there is a continuation of declining groundwater use in the region, the 10-year moving average has been above the SWIMAL for four consecutive years, and it is anticipated that the SWIMAL will be met when the 2022 status assessment is completed later this year. For the SWIMAL to be considered met it must be achieved five consecutive years. The recommendations for goal three are to continue expansion of coastal monitoring network, continue support for aquifer recharge projects, and continue conservation efforts through FARMS, regulation, and Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) funding for AWS projects.
- Goal four is to ensure sufficient water supplies. Since 2007, the District has made significant efforts to ensure a sustainable and sufficient water supply for the region. This included a substantial investment, by the District, in the development of regional alternative water supplies (AWS), beneficial reclaimed water projects, conservation and FARMS projects that have resulted in significantly offsetting the use of traditional groundwater sources within the SWUCA. These projects and their resulting water supply and conservation savings have included: Between 2007-2011 46 million gallons a day (mgd) was made available through AWS conservation and FARMS projects. From 2012-2016, 51 mgd was made available through AWS conservation and FARMS projects. For the current assessment period of 2017-2021, 18 mgd was made available through AWS conservation and FARMS projects. This goal continues to be met as the District and its partners have been able to meet all reasonable and beneficial uses since 2007. The District aims to invest more than \$600 million for AWS projects in the SWUCA including up to 9 mgd from ongoing CFI and District initiative projects by 2025. Recommendations for goal four are to continue support of regional water supply entities and regional water supply development initiatives, continue conservation efforts through FARMS, Mini-FARMS, CFI and WISE programs, regulation, and outreach efforts such as Florida Water Star, prioritize development of AWS projects, maintain participation in the CFWI, and continue regional water supply planning efforts.

In summary, the District continues to make progress toward achieving the four SWUCA Recovery Strategy goals. Two of the four SWUCA Recovery goals are currently being met and achievement of an additional goal is anticipated later this year when the 2022 status assessment for the SWIMAL is completed.

Chair Balcom asked if there had been any discussion regarding establishing a new deadline or a new timeline for achieving the lake levels.

Mr. Smith responded that the focus right now is on reevaluating the lakes in the ridge, but discussion will start soon prior to 2025.

### **Hydrologic Conditions Update**

Mr. Jason Patterson, Lead Scientific Data Analyst, gave a hydrologic conditions update. The end of May marks the end of the dry season and the beginning of the wet season. The dry season has been particularly dry, but late-April rainfall has helped totals significantly. Overall, rainfall across the District for April 2023 is considered “normal.” Mr. Patterson demonstrated that from May 2022 through April 2023, rainfall in the northern portion of the District has been “drier than normal,” the central portion was considered “normal,” and the southern portion considered “wetter than normal.” He showed a figure that demonstrated cumulative rainfall for the first week of May 2023. Mr. Patterson discussed District groundwater levels, lake levels, and streamflow stations for the month of April. Additionally, Mr. Patterson discussed the public supply volume for the Peace River, Hillsborough River, Alafia River and the C.W. Bill Young Reservoir. He concluded by discussing the Climate Prediction Center Near-Term Climate Forecast showing seasonal outlooks for temperature, precipitation, and the extended climate forecast.

Governing Board Liaison Ashley Bell Barnett asked which body of water is of most concern in terms of meeting minimum flows as we are entering rainy season.

Mr. Patterson replied when looking at rainfall patterns, the northern District is not receiving as much rain as the southern or central portion, and essentially anything north of Pasco County has not received as much rain as the southern portions of the District.

Chair Balcom asked if the La Nina year is being taken into consideration.

Mr. Patterson responded that the predictions come from the Climate Prediction Center, and they do take it into consideration.

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

None.

**7. Announcements and Other Business**

Ms. Singer announced that committee elections for Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the August meeting.

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.