

Public Supply Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE – FEBRUARY 11, 2020

LIAISON REPORT – KELLY S. RICE

Lower Hillsborough River Minimum Flows Five-Year Assessment

- Ms. Danielle Rogers, environmental project manager, provided results from the draft report of the Lower Hillsborough River minimum flows, the minimum flows recovery strategy five-year assessment, as well as ongoing activities. Overall, seasonal flow targets of 20 and 24 cubic feet per second were achieved 88 percent of the time during the second five-year assessment, and water quality is improving at the extension toward Sulphur Springs, reflecting decreased salinity and increased dissolved oxygen over time. Additional tools that have become available since the assessment period have increased the success rate in 2019 to 99 percent seasonal flow targets achieved.
- Ms. Debra Burden asked what is affecting missing flow data in 2018. Ms. Rogers explained the period of record ended in May 2018.
- Mr. Charles Cullen asked whether dissolved oxygen is caused by the increase in flows or from the aeration flume. Ms. Rogers explained the data indicates the flume has contributed to the dissolved oxygen.
- Discussion ensued regarding the choice to use a sluice gate. Ms. Rogers explained the decision was made by the City of Tampa.
- Mr. Warren Hogg asked whether the Morris Bridge project is on schedule to be constructed. Ms. Rogers explained staff does not anticipate Morris Bridge needing to be pumped, but the tools (and permit) are available if needed.

Governing Board Workshop Recap and Results

- Ms. Mandi Rice, assistant executive director, provided a summary of the December 2019 Governing Board Workshop. She explained the Board has provided direction for the District to prioritize water supply and fund alternative water supply (AWS) through regional entities, assisting with potable reuse projects and continuation to fund septic-to-sewer projects. Additional project prioritization may be required in the future based on financial projections.
- Mr. Richard Owen asked about the option to borrow money and Ms. Rice explained the Strategic Plan language has not been changed based on Board discussion of this issue, as we'll continue to operate in a pay-as-you-go manner and not incur debt.
- Mr. Owen asked what kinds of projects would not be funded by the Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) due to additional prioritization. Ms. Rice explained it depends on the projects submitted in any given year, their alignment with the Strategic Plan and their measurable benefits. She identified the current ranking system and explained projects with high and medium rankings are usually funded. A numerical ranking may be necessary.
- Mr. Cullen asked how does the District balance regionalization and individual utilities' potable reuse. Ms. Rice explained the Governing Board has decided that (1) potable reuse is considered alternative water supply (AWS) and (2) any AWS project requesting CFI funding needs to be submitted by a regional entity (or provide a support letter if not a member).

Conservation Education Program

- Ms. Katherine Munson, senior communications coordinator, introduced the Conservation Education Program. This is a new District program that partners with utilities to develop, implement and evaluate conservation education projects to reduce residential water use.
- Ms. Phoenix McKinney asked about the feedback from customers receiving a flier that shows their household is not meeting the water conservation objectives. Mr. Bryan Schmalz, a current cooperator in the CEP program, explained the feedback at Bay Laurel is mixed, but it has opened conversations about the effort. Ms. Burden, also a cooperator, added Citrus County has received mostly positive feedback.
- Mr. Ruffin Gray explained Lakeland's experience with recent mailouts, outside of the CEP. It was found that they received less than one percent response when mailouts went out in envelopes, followed by four to five percent response from cards without envelopes, and even greater response from emails.
- Ms. McKinney asked if the conservation media campaign through the CEP was utilizing Facebook outreach. Ms. Munson explained the cooperator implementing this project had not chosen to incorporate Facebook, but it is an option.
- Members discussed conservation (rate) structures and identified that some communities will easily pay the overage fees whereas homeowners in other communities have put in irrigation wells to avoid fees.

Water Use Permitting (WUP) Applicants Handbook Change – Compliance Per Capita Water Use Reclaimed Water Deduction

- Ms. April Breton, water use permit manager, explained an update in the WUP handbook to include reclaimed water deduction rule changes. The rule will be changed from limiting the allowable amount of reclaimed water to 50 percent, to include the actual amount beneficially supplied to count as an allowable deduction. This rule change is subject to Governing Board approval.
- Mr. Owen said this is consistent with the resource objectives of the District while being fair with the utilities that implement reuse programs that do not directly offset their residential customer in demand. The committee agreed with Mr. Owen.
- ***Mr. Owen made a motion for the Public Supply Advisory Committee to support the rule change presented. The vote was seconded and passed unanimously.***

Advisory Committee Outreach Survey Results

- Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee and External Relations Division director, provided results from the advisory committee outreach survey staff conducted in December and January.
- Members asked how advisory committee information is presented to the Board. Mr. Molligan explained the liaison report is provided to the Governing Board to review and discuss at their meeting.

Legislative Update

- Mr. Molligan provided a legislative update to the committee, which includes the Clean Waterways Act, reclaimed water definition, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve, waterways restoration, and a change in boundaries for SRWMD to include all of Levy County (currently partially within the District's boundaries).