



**PUBLIC SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, November 5, 2024 – 1:00 PM**  
**2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604**

**MINUTES**

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Committee Members Present

Bryan Schmaltz – Bay Laurel Center Community Dev.  
Margaret Dorge – Citrus County Water Resources (alternate)  
LaTishia Smith – City of Bradenton Utilities  
Tania McMillan – City of Lakeland Water Utilities  
Ricky Jaynes – City of Lakeland Water Utilities (alternate)  
Michael Acosta – City of North Port Utilities  
Lynn Spivey – City of Plant City Utilities  
Mike Darrow – City of Plant City Utilities (alternate)  
Steve Adams – City of Punta Gorda Utilities  
Sheree Greer – City of St. Petersburg Utilities  
James Kramer – City of St. Petersburg Utilities (alternate)  
Ryan Smith – City of Tampa Water Department  
Greg Harris – DeSoto County Utilities  
Alys Brockway – Hernando County Utilities  
David Glicksberg – Hillsborough County Utilities  
Olga Wolanin – Manatee County Utilities (Chair)  
Josh Kramer – Marion County Utilities  
Jim Guida – Peace River Manasota Reg. Water Supply Auth.  
David Adams – Pinellas County Utilities  
Dan Umberger – Pinellas County Utilities (alternate)  
Tamara Richardson – Polk County Utilities  
Krystal Azzarella – Polk County Utilities (alternate)  
Stoney Pope – Sarasota County Utilities  
Brian Fagan – Sarasota County Utilities (alternate)  
Cathleen Jonas – Tampa Bay Water  
Erin Hayes – Tampa Bay Water (alternate)  
Trey Arnett – The Villages  
Suzannah Folsom – Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Staff Members

Adrienne Vining  
April Breton  
Brian Starford  
Dave Dickens  
Devon Villareal  
Frank Gargano  
Jay Hoecker  
Jeremy McKay  
John Clarke  
Jordan Miller  
Josh Madden  
Mandi Rice  
Robyn Felix  
Ryan Pearson  
Tamera McBride

Board Administrative Support

Virginia Singer  
Barbara Matrone

Governing Board Liaison

Robert Stern

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

The Public Supply Advisory Committee (PSAC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

Chair Olga Wolanin called the meeting to order, and attendance was called.

Governing Board Liaison Robert Stern welcomed the committee.

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

Ms. Virginia Singer stated that there would be an additional presentation on the District's Hurricane Response following item #6.

**3. Approval of the August 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Public Comments**

None.

**5. Hydrologic Conditions Update**

Ms. Tamera McBride, Hydrologic Data Manager, provided a hydrologic conditions update. The District is in the second month of the eight-month dry season. The wet season which ended in September was very wet. There was rainfall as a result of Hurricane Debby in August, Hurricane Helene in September, and Hurricane Milton in October which provided a lot of rainfall and widespread flooding across the District. By October 15, the annual rainfall at the Tampa gauge broke the National Weather Service's record held since 1957. The station received nearly 33 inches above normal rainfall between January 1 and Oct. 15. The 12-month rainfall total is now above average since July of 2023. The El Niño/Southern Oscillation or the ENSO cycle is still in the normal phase right now and is predicted to move into a La Niña situation sometime this month.

Looking at the provisional rainfall distribution for September, the District normally averages 7 inches of rainfall, but districtwide received 8.3 inches, which is a surplus of 1.3 inches.

Ms. McBride showed a figure of the 12-month rainfall distribution from October 2023 through September 2024. The District normally averages 52.7 inches of rainfall for the 12-month period, but provisional data indicate 12-month rainfall totals through September were 55.1 inches. This resulted in a surplus of 2.4 inches. For Districtwide rainfall, the September 12-month departure was 2.4 inches above average where this time last year it was nearly 10 inches below average.

Looking at the rainfall distribution from Hurricane Milton, the areas that received greater than 12 inches of rain were in the central part of Florida in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties. For provisional October rainfall data, the District normally receives 3.0 inches but received 9.0 inches which resulted in a surplus of 6.0 inches due to Hurricane Milton. For the wet season from June through September 2024, the District normally receives 31.1 inches of rainfall but received 36.0 inches which resulted in a surplus of 4.9 inches due to Hurricanes Debby and Helene.

Ms. McBride then discussed recent groundwater levels in the northern, central, and southern counties, as well as surface water levels in the Northern Lakes, Tampa Bay Lakes, Polk Upland Lakes, and Lake Wales Ridge Lakes regions. She showed another set of graphs and discussed the eight-week mean discharge of the Withlacoochee, Hillsborough, Alafia, and Peace rivers. She also discussed public supply levels for the City of Tampa's Hillsborough River Reservoir, public supply volumes for the C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, and the water quantities stored in the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority's reservoir and aquifer storage and recovery wellfield.

Ms. McBride discussed the Near-Term Climate Forecast and showed seasonal outlooks for temperature and precipitation for November 2024 to January 2025. There is a 40 to 50% chance of above normal temperatures and precipitation. With the extended precipitation forecast for December 2024 through July 2025, La Niña is anticipated to develop by November which means a drier winter. As predicted by the Climate Prediction Center, precipitation is predicted to be below normal from winter through the spring.

Ms. McBride concluded by discussing the tropical storm origins for November, which typically has a formation in the Caribbean Sea that moves northeastward. For the 7-day tropical weather outlook from the National Weather Service, there is Tropical Storm Rafael just south of Cuba which is expected to move west and form into a hurricane. There is also another disturbance with a chance of formation of less than 40% but it is not currently predicted to affect Florida.

Mr. David Glicksberg asked if the record amount of rainfall in the 50s was a total for the calendar year. Ms. McBride responded yes; the record was set over the calendar year in 1957 according to the National Weather Service. The annual record was broken by October 2024 so we have not even seen all of the rainfall that we could see this year.

## **6. Tampa Bay Water's Conservation Efforts**

Ms. Amelia Brown, Demand Management Program Manager with Tampa Bay Water (TBW), presented on the regional water conservation program. TBW is a wholesale water provider to Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties and the cities of Tampa, New Port Richey, and St. Petersburg in the Tampa Bay area. Back in the late 1990s the Tampa region was 100% reliant on groundwater but has since diversified its water supplies to also use surface water and desalination. These resources were developed through a long-term master water plan, which gets updated every five years. Looking ahead over the next 20 years, it's projected there will be significantly increased water demand for another 10-20 million gallons required by 2033. Over the last several years, when looking at new water supply projects and the associated costs, they analyzed the role that water conservation could play to reduce demand, and to help delay the need for some of the newer, more expensive water supply projects.

In 2020, a program called Tampa Bay Water Wise was born. Water conservation has always been a part of the long-term master water plan. This program represented a change because it was a partnership between TBW and the six-member governments and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District). They set quantifiable goals for how much water could be saved. Currently the goal is to save about 4,000,000 gallons per day by 2030. Part of the value of the conservation program is that water conservation is less expensive than new water supply projects. There are rebates for all classes of customers whether you own a home, an apartment, student housing, nursing homes or other types of buildings such as commercial, industrial, schools, local governments and hospitals. Rebates help pay for changes that will reduce water usage in a variety of ways through outdoor irrigation devices and indoor elements.

TBW manages the program and has hired a third-party rebate administrator, EGIA, to execute it. EGIA receives the rebate applications, approves or denies them and then issues the checks. They also manage the marketing. The District co-funds the program through the Cooperative Funding Initiative and their Water Incentives Supporting Efficiency (WISE) program. Member governments guide the program's development by providing input and voting on changes to the rebate program.

Ms. Brown showed a graph of the program's progress and discussed the past and future cumulative gallons saved from 2020 to 2025. She also discussed the devices that were installed, and the cumulative total rebates of \$867,177 which increased due to the number of multi-family projects. She then went over the fiscal year 2024 year-end results and the progression toward the 2030 water savings goal. She discussed the program growth over time with many incremental changes and showed some examples of multi-family rebates for toilets, showerheads, and aerators. Ms. Brown concluded by reviewing the marketing activities and how they are looking for program savings growth. They have already been successful with single family toilets, irrigation controllers, and multi-family, but aim to grow in hotel and hospitality, restaurants, schools, local governments, and new construction. There are a lot of new promising developments in terms of the types of rebates offered. They have been looking at leak detection and prevention technologies as well as submetering, greywater, cooling towers, and homeowner association (HOA) irrigation projects.

Ms. Alys Brockway asked what was being done in the leak detection section of the program. Ms. Brown responded that they are in an exploratory phase looking at different technologies, especially ones that are appropriate for residential or multi-family. They haven't landed on one yet because the most affordable one is the kind that straps onto a water meter and that goes against the rules.

Chair Wolanin asked if HOA's are required to be on potable irrigation to participate in the rebate program. Ms. Brown responded that it does need to be potable water since they are a potable water provider but when they are not, they direct them to the District's WISE program.

## **7. Hurricane Response Efforts**

Mr. Dave Dickens, General Services Bureau Chief, provided an update on hurricane response efforts. The District uses the structured process for emergency response, called National Incident Management System (NIMS). Hurricane Debby made landfall near Steinhatchee on August 5 as a Category one. Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Bend area on September 26 as a Category four, and Hurricane Milton made landfall near Siesta Key on October 9 as a Category three. Debby saturated most of western Florida in August. Helene added to already wet conditions in September, and Milton inundated central Florida with record-setting rainfall in October.

In preparation for Hurricane Milton, the District activated its emergency operations center to a level two, or partial activation on Monday, October 7 and then elevated to a full or level one on Tuesday, October 8. Prior to the event, they focused on communication and coordination. They prepared District campuses, activated the flood hotline, checked water control structures including generators, lowered water levels, and activated the Tampa Bypass Canal (TBC)/Lower Hillsborough River Flood Detention Area (LHRFDA) right before the impacts of the storm.

During the storm and even while the storm was bearing down on us, there was a lot of work to be conducted. Communication and coordination are continued, as did monitoring water control structures and associated water levels. Post storm, the District continued communication and coordination with our partners, monitored water levels and operated structures, conducted multiple helicopter surveys and damage assessments, took high-water surveys, executed call tree and wellness checks and assisted our local partners.

Mr. Dickens then showed a short video demonstrating the District's response and impact from Hurricane Milton.

The Withlacoochee River had a noteworthy response in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. With a large amount of rainfall in the headwaters of the river, water continued to stack up in the river basin and made its way down the stream. It was the third largest crest on record. It beat out the record set by Donna in 1960. Hurricane Milton landed on October 9 and the Withlacoochee River did not crest in Dunnellon until November 2.

District staff created a GIS application for field staff to conduct damage assessments. Photos were uploaded and viewed by the District's emergency operations center. The application assisted with scheduling repairs and responses to the event. As of the last week of October, staff completed over 1,500 submissions.

One of the District's flood protection tools is the TBC system. During activation of the LHRFDA, Gate S-155 was closed and waters that normally go down the Hillsborough River were diverted to the TBC. Due to the filling of the LHRFDA, Morris Bridge Road was impacted. Mr. Dickens invited committee members to visit the District's website for more information regarding how the TBC system works. The structure operators activated TBC and the LHRFDA just prior to the impact of Hurricane Milton on October 8 and was not deactivated until October 28. District staff assisted local partners on several missions. Staff assisted the Lakeland Mission for Lake Bonny. The District provided support after Hurricane Milton in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the

City of Lakeland, Polk County, the State and Emergency Response Team and FEMA in order to provide flood relief to the citizens of Lake Bonny.

**8. Development of Agenda Topics**

Chair Wolanin mentioned a possible tour of the Manatee County Wastewater Treatment Plant to replace the February meeting. Ms. Virginia Singer added that a survey would be sent out by Friday to see what date works best for everyone. Chair Wolanin also requested a presentation summarizing the data utilities submitted to the District.

**9. Announcements and Other Business**

Ms. Robyn Felix mentioned that the National Water Reuse Association Symposium will be taking place in Tampa in March. Chair Wolanin mentioned that the Florida Session American Water Works Association (AWWA) Conference will be taking place in Orlando in December. Mr. Jim Guida mentioned a bar-b-que event with a drinking water contest given by the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority to be held on November 15.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.