

Public Supply Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE – AUGUST 13, 2019

LIAISON REPORT – H. PAUL SENFT

Elections of Chair and Vice Chair

- *Members unanimously voted Jennifer Desrosiers to serve as committee chair.*
- *Members unanimously voted Olga Wolanin to serve as vice chair.*

Lower Floridan Aquifer Exploratory Program Update

- Mr. George Schlutermann, senior hydrogeologist, discussed the first phase of exploring the Lower Floridan Aquifer, which includes drilling and testing. Staff were able to develop a geological framework of the aquifer system, identified production capability, and confirmed a good confining layer between the Upper and Lower Florida Aquifer at the Frostproof site. Next steps include completion of the dual zone monitoring well at the site as well as pump testing at the Crooked Lake site and investigation at the Lake Wales Site.
- Mr. Allan Bittlecomb asked if the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is investigating. Mr. Schlutermann explained SFWMD is working on projects in the area but is unaware of what, specifically, they are doing.
- Mr. Warren Hogg asked about the timeframe for the aquifer performance test. Mr. Schlutermann explained staff will complete the test production well in one year and will start the aquifer performance test soon after. Potential yield indications will be determined after testing has been completed.
- Ms. Debra Burden asked about leakage in monitoring. Mr. Schlutermann explained when a packer is inserted, water levels of the opposing zone are checked for leakage, and since there was none detected in this exploration, the data received is credible. Members asked if the sites will be monitored long term and Mr. Schlutermann explained water levels and water quality will be monitored long term.

Minimum Flows and Levels Prioritization, Establishment and Status

- Mr. Doug Leeper, MFLs program lead, explained minimum flows and water levels as well as the prioritization schedule. He explained the process for finalizing the schedule, which include input from the Governing Board, public workshops, and Department of Environmental Protection. Status information is provided annually and can be found in the Statewide Annual Report (STAR). As of last year's reporting, there are 210 MFLs in the District; 29 percent are not being met and 71 are being met.
- Mr. Richard Owen asked if all MFLs not being met are subject to a recovery strategy, and Mr. Leeper replied in the affirmative, stating this is per state law requirement.
- Mr. Charles Cullen asked if there is any way to gage the improvement of a water body. Mr. Leeper referred to the data available in the STAR report. He reminded the committee staff perform assessments every year so they are aware of their status.

Chassahowitzka and Homosassa MFLs

- Mr. Gabe Herrick, senior environmental scientist, provided an overview of the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems as well as staff's efforts in reevaluation of the MFLs. Mr. Herrick explained the aquifer flows have decreased since 1965, but this is due to

fluctuation in rainfall and not withdrawals. Mr. Herrick explained the proposed MFLs are eight percent reduction for Chassahowitzka and five percent reduction for Homosassa. Because withdrawals are less than two percent, projections do not indicate a need for recovery strategy or prevention strategy.

- Ms. Olga Wolanin asked if sea level rise is considered with MFLs and Mr. Leeper replied in the affirmative. He said the US Army Corps of Engineers provides sea level rise projections and staff use this to determine impacts.
- Ms. Burden asked if homeowner wells are being captured and Mr. DeHaven replied these are not private wells in the slide, however, private wells are captured in domestic self-supply.

CFI Policy Update

- Mr. Eric DeHaven, Resource Management assistant bureau chief, identified two changes in the CFI policy: addition of a paragraph that identifies the role of Governing Board subcommittees and a sentence that confirms indirect and direct potable reuse are alternative water supply (AWS) projects and are subject to AWS guidelines within the policy.
- Mr. Hogg noted Tampa Bay Water staff reviewed the proposed changes and feel the changes are beneficial. He referred to the delayed Governing Board workshop in October and asked how information will be communicated back to cooperators. Mr. DeHaven said staff would work with cooperators to update applications immediately.
- Ms. Burden respectfully disagreed with adding the definition of the AWS projects, stating regional water authorities do not have a place in AWS projects using reclaimed water, since direct or indirect potable reuse can only come from where the wastewater is produced. The verbiage is unfair to local water authorities because it puts them into the lowest priority.

Migration to the Environmental Data Portal

- Mr. Granville Kinsman, Hydrologic Data manager, provided an overview of the District's new data collection, storage and management system, Water Information System by Kisters (WISKi), which will take the place of the current Water Management Information System (WMIS). He described the additional benefits of WISKi, including the web access component, known as the Environmental Data Portal (EDP). He explained the two separate modules in migration: the resource data module, which is being presented today, and the regulatory data, which is in the earlier stages of migration.
- Mr. Hogg asked if there are customizable scripts and whether they could be saved for future use and Mr. Granville replied in the affirmative.
- Ms. Burden mentioned the difficulties in looking up information on private wells in WMIS and asked if the new program will provide easier access and Mr. Kinsman said it should be easier.
- Ms. Wolanin asked if the Regulatory data will be updated separately and Mr. Kinsman replied in the affirmative. Members requested information and training on this module as well.