

Public Supply Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE – AUGUST 11, 2020

LIAISON REPORT – KELLY S. RICE

Cooperative Funding Initiative Updates

- Mr. Scott Letasi, Project Management office chief, provided the schedule of fiscal year (FY) 2022 Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) funding cycle as well as CFI applications changes, third-party reviews, cost increase guidelines and use of contingency funds. Mr. Letasi is requesting feedback on the five percent contingency threshold for FY2022 construction projects.
- Mr. Charles Cullen asked how many fully executed projects have remained within their original budget. Mr. Letasi explained staff evaluated completed projects over the last five years and the majority were on or under budget. He explained about two percent of projects were approved for budget increases and on average three percent of the total project cost was used for contingency items. Mr. Cullen expressed concern that cooperators could overestimate their project budget to keep within their contingency limit, and this would result in an excess of funding amounts that could go towards other projects. Mr. Letasi explained staff evaluates cost effectiveness of each project budget and contingency on the actual construction contract so projects should be well defined.

Lower Peace River Proposed MFL

- Mr. Yonas Ghile, lead hydrologist, presented the proposed minimum flow levels (MFLs) for the Lower Peace River. He explained the District's approach for setting MFLs including criteria used for resources protection. The proposed MFLs are protective of all relevant environmental values identified for consideration in the Water Resource Implementation Rule. Current reevaluation suggests the permitted minimum flows are currently met and are projected to be met during the next 20-year planning period.
- Mr. Christopher Cole suggested to show a graph of a typical dry year versus a wet year to help demonstrate how the proposed MFL would allow the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) to withdraw more water in the wet years and prevent them from taking too much in dry years when compared to the existing MFLs.
- Ms. Jennifer Desrosiers asked whether this discussion has been presented to environmental groups. Mr. Ghile said the Charlotte Harbor Estuary Program has seen this, and staff are planning to present to the Environmental Advisory Committee in October as well.

MFL Priority List and Schedule

- Mr. Chris Zajac, Environmental Flows and Assessment manager, discussed the annual update process, legal requirements, and proposed changes to the 2020 MFL Priority List and Schedule. Proposed changes include a three-year list to be submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with the Water Resource Implementation Rule, as well as additions and deletions of various water bodies when compared to the 2019 MFL Priority List and Schedule.

Regional Water Supply Plan Update

- Mr. Joseph Quinn, Water Supply project manager, provided an overview and update of the Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP). Mr. Quinn explained the RWSP serves as a long-range

(20-year) planning guide on water supply and water resource management decisions. The current five-year evaluation suggests water supply and demands can be met through 2040.

- Mr. Thomas Kiger expressed appreciation for the RWSP.
- Ms. Desrosiers asked what per capita rate staff use on the water consumption side of demand projections. Mr. Quinn explained staff use historic utility per capita rates (five-year period) to come up with a 2015 base year demand estimate and demand projections to 2040. Ms. Desrosiers questioned whether this is a good representation with new construction rules regarding water consumption reductions, as it could unnecessarily inflate the projection. Mr. Quinn explained such increased efficiencies are captured and reflected in the per capita rates, however, there could be unique situations for select utilities that may need to be looked at individually.

ePermitting Replacement Project

- Ms. Eryn Worthington, Regulatory Support project manager, and Wendy Tipton, Regulatory Support business analyst, provided an update and demonstration on the ePermitting Replacement Project. Regulation, in partnership with the Information Technology Bureau (ITB) and Appian consultants, have begun the five-year ePermitting Replacement Project by focusing on the redesign of the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) and eCompliance submittal to be followed by Compliance, Water Use and Well Construction Permits.
- Ms. Debra Burden asked whether the ePermitting process covers homeowner wells or just environmental permitting. Ms. Tipton explained it will cover well construction permitting in another step of this project. Ms. Burden asked if this will be GIS-related so permittees will have the same option required to choose a location. Ms. Tipton explained it does integrate with the GIS permit.