

Public Supply Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE – NOVEMBER 10, 2020

LIAISON REPORT – ED ARMSTRONG

Hydrologic Conditions Update

- Mr. Granville Kinsman, Hydrologic Data manager, provided an update on the state of the hydrologic conditions through the end of October 2020. Mr. Granville explained the rainy season, overall, received average rainfall. The winter and spring forecast is expected to be drier and warmer than normal, however, the District's water supply is very healthy.

Recycled Water: Public Sentiment

- Ms. Michele Sager, lead communications coordinator, provided a presentation on public perception on recycled water. Ms. Sager identified the One Water Florida partnership as well as a statewide survey that was conducted on the public's perception of reclaimed water as well as direct and indirect potable reuse. Following education on indirect and direct potable reuse, 65 percent of respondents support reuse for household purposes including drinking and 6 percent oppose. Ms. Sager explained One Water Florida and its partners will kick off a recycled water campaign in effort to educate users about potable reuse as a future water supply in Florida.
- Mr. Richard Anderson asked why percentages are higher for people supporting direct potable versus indirect. Ms. Sager explained this was discussed but there is no affirmative factor that influenced feedback results.
- Ms. Debra Burden asked whether public water supply customers or those on a well were asked if they felt drinking water is safe to drink from the tap. Ms. Robin Grantham, lead communications coordinator, explained the water source was not the focus, however she would check with the survey company, Taproot, to see if they can provide this information.
- Ms. Jennifer Desrosiers asked how this information is going to translate into funding. whether has funding mechanisms for local utilities. Mr. Anthony Andrade, reuse coordinator, explained many of the District's reclaimed water projects include a public information segment. Ms. Desrosiers asked if there is a plan to continue that funding in the future. Mr. Andrade responded in the affirmative. Mr. Michael Milligan, Employee and External Relations division director, explained water reuse projects have been identified as a priority for the District. He identified three components for these projects: funding, regulation, and education. The District is taking lead on behalf of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on the education outreach campaigning.
- Mr. Dave Adams appreciates the efforts, however, indirect potable seems to be a much more viable option for a lot of counties, as it provides a way to treat water with environmental and cost-saving benefits. Ms. Desrosiers said North Port has a unique situation where direct potable reuse could be more economical than indirect.

Discussion on Remote Meetings

- Mr. Michael Molligan explained the decision to facilitate remote meetings was a result of COVID, and as offices reopen to the public, staff would like feedback from advisory committee members as to whether meetings should continue remote or in person.
- Committee members suggested to hold some meetings in person and some remotely.