

MEETING SUMMARY

Public Supply Advisory Committee Southwest Florida Water Management District November 7, 2017

The Public Supply (PSAC) Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District convened for a regular meeting at 1:00 p.m., November 7, 2017, at the Tampa Service Office, 7601 US Highway 301 North, Tampa, Florida.

PSAC Committee Members Present

Chair Richard Anderson, Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority
Vice Chair Richard Owen, Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority
Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water
Trey Arnett, Arnett Environmental, LLC
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities
Debra Burden, Citrus County (Water Resources)
Christopher Cole, Sarasota County Utilities
Norm Davis, Hillsborough County Utilities
Ruffin Gray, City of Lakeland Water Utilities
Jill Lehman, City of Tampa Water Department
Phoenix McKinney, City of Tampa Water Department
Olga Wolanin, Manatee County Utilities
Jim Kramer, City of St. Petersburg
Mike Acosta, City of North Port

Staff Members Present

Cara Martin, Facilitator
George Schlutermann
Jason Patterson
Vivianna Bendixson
Thomas Kiger
Jaime Swindasz
Jerry Mallams

Recording Secretary

Kelly Schwegel

Others Present

David Buyens
Bill Anderson
Brian Pickard
Adalid Capacyadi

Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's website WaterMatters.org.

The numbers preceding the items below correspond to the order of presentations.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Richard Anderson called the meeting to order. He welcomed members, staff and interested persons and asked for member introductions.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Ms. Cara Martin, Board and Executive Services Manager, stated there were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of the February 21, 2017 Committee Meeting Summary

Following consideration, the committee approved the February 21, 2017 meeting summary.

4. Public Comments

No public comment was given.

5. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Anderson nominated Debra Burden for Chair. Vote was seconded and passed unanimous. Ms. Burden nominated Richard Owen for Vice Chair. The vote was seconded and passed unanimously.

6. Exploration of the Lower Aquifer in Polk County

Mr. George Schlutermann, senior hydrogeologist, Water Supply, spoke to the committee regarding the District's hydrogeological investigation to determine whether the Lower Floridan Aquifer has sufficient water supply. These tests are determined by examining the water quality variations at varying depths of the aquifer.

This is a three-year project involving three phases of the exploration. The first phase is a drilling and testing phase and includes the installation of new wells and initial testing. Past drilling sites did not drill deep enough to reach proper testing and are being redrilled at greater depths. The second phase is also drilling and testing, and is the development of production wells for aquifer performance tests. The final phase is the development of coring rigs.

There are currently five drill sites with one, Crooked Lake Well, currently in phase three. Two new sites, Frostproof and Lake Wales, are scheduled to begin next Fall.

Members asked if the water from the upper aquifer is mixing with the lower water when sampling. Mr. Schlutermann explained that the water does mix, however, the casings have improved to eliminate the mixing while drilling.

Members asked whether the Crooked Lake Well is a test well or production well. Mr. Schlutermann explained it is a test well. Because this is conservation land, the District cannot drill a production well, however it will be a monitor well. The other two sites mentioned, however, can become test production wells.

Members asked where the replenishing water is coming from. Mr. Schlutermann explained the preliminary data suggest the water is confined and does not impact the Upper Floridan Aquifer, but there is still a lot of testing needed to confirm this.

Members asked whether test wells are being funded solely by the District funds. Mr. Schlutermann confirmed these wells are being funded solely by the District. Once test wells become production wells, they would be transferred to the Polk Water Cooperative.

7. Ridge Lakes Recovery Efforts

Mr. Jason Patterson, hydrogeologist, reviewed the District's goal to work cooperatively with stakeholders in identifying and evaluating potential projects to recover lake levels. This effort is part of the Southern Water Use Caution Area goal to restore minimum levels to priority lakes in the Ridge area.

A five-year assessment was initialized in 2015 and will continue to monitor lake levels and develop lake specific recovery plans. The District plans to begin recovery efforts by 2025.

Mr. Patterson showed a chart that lists the types of projects in discussion, as well as the potential benefits and issues of each. These projects include: reduce or relocate groundwater withdrawals, recharge the upper Floridan aquifer, recharge the superficial aquifer, direct lake augmentation, source substitution, and deepen wells.

Members asked if the District's attempt to reach out to stakeholders is District initiatives or Cooperative initiatives. Mr. Patterson explained the District funds the studies and then discusses the results and plan of action with stakeholders as a Cooperative funding.

8. Water Conservation Initiative Update

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, environmental scientist, Water Supply, explained the mission of the initiative is to develop an integrated water conservation program to promote inter-bureau collaboration, maximize assistance to public suppliers in achieving compliance per capita goals, and track the District's public supply water conservation efforts.

Two priority areas include the Northern Planning Region and the Heartland Planning Region. Utilities already involved are those who have greater than 150 compliance per capita (CPC) because they

have a greater impact on the region. The District encourages the involvement of public suppliers in implementation of conservation efforts as well as giving valuable feedback.

Members asked about cooperative funding for those who do not meet the 150 CPC. Ms. Bendixson explained the cooperative funding is available for any utilities to apply for and is not limited to water conservation. Utilities will not be out compliance until after 2019 so the District is trying to promote utilities to get in compliance and stay in compliance now.

Members questioned whether utilities over 150 CPC have a higher ranking for projects. Ms. Bendixson explained all projects that meet the guidelines will be considered.

Members suggested to update the slide that lists the regions to read Tampa Bay rather than Tampa. Members asked if there has been discussion on how the District will address the utilities that do not meet compliance in 2019. Ms. Bendixson said this question is in discussion with the Regulation department.

9. Water Loss Reduction Program Overview

Mr. Thomas Kiger, professional engineer, Water Supply, discussed a District service to help utilities minimize water loss within their distribution systems through the water audit and leak detection programs.

The water audit program helps identify ways to reduce loss and leakage in water distribution systems to improve utility operations, achieve water conservation and improve revenues and reduce costs. The program helps discover losses including leaks in water supply, systematic errors, customer meter issues, and it also helps utilities understand where more data might need to be collected. There was a total of 36 water audits in 2017 and more than 15 million gallons per day were investigated.

Members asked who to contact for these services. Mr. Kiger offered to send a list of contacts via email following the meeting. Members also requested a copy of the presentation.

10. Wetland Five-Year Assessment

Ms. Jaime Swindasz, environmental scientist, Water Resources, presented the program as an examination of the effects of groundwater withdraw cutbacks within the Tampa Bay Water Use Permit. This assessment takes place every five years to determine if pumping cutbacks have ecological benefits.

Ms. Swindasz showed a wetland map and explained that of 386 wetlands within the study area, 45 percent were in good condition, 40 percent in fair condition and 15 percent still in poor condition. Ms. Swindasz noted that all habitats have increased in wetland health from the 1998 assessments to present assessments.

Members asked if the team has looked outside of study area to compare wetland health. Ms. Swindasz said they have not, but the CFWI will soon begin separate wetland assessment studies.

11. Hurricane Irma Update

Mr. Jerry Mallams, bureau chief, Operations, presented members with an overview of the impact of Hurricane Irma and how the District's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) responded. Florida issued Executive Order 17-235 on September 4, 2017 which declared a state of emergency for every county. District Emergency Order SWF Order 17-042 was issued on September 6, 2017 which suspended certain rules and orders in order to assist in response activities. This order authorizes temporary field authorizations and delegation of executive director authority.

District responses included prestorm preparedness and protective measures, such as exercise of water control structures and generators, topped off fuel tanks and installed storm shutters, as well as

monitoring and control of structures and levels during the storm. After the storm, the District EOC conducted debris assessments and cleanup and repaired water control structures and date collection sites, as well as supported state and local governments.

Hurricane impacts included loss of power or control of water control structures, minor impacts to data collection sites, structural impacts on two conservation sites, two flood control structures impacted, one water conservation structure fire (due to lightning), roadway and structure flooding, debris obstructing waterways, and low dissolved oxygen resulting in fish kills.

Total financial impact was \$310,715, including staff costs reaching upwards of \$204,000. Debris assessments are still ongoing. Potential reimbursements include FEMA, for compensation time, vehicles and equipment, US Corps of Engineers, to assist with Tampa Bypass and Tsala Apopka Outfall Canals, and NCRS, to assist with debris removal from Peace Creek Canal, Flint Creek, Withlacoochie River, and the Upper Peace River.

Members asked what the maximum estimated rate of diversion down the Tampa Bay Canal was. Mr. Mallams noted 6,000 cubic feet per second.

12. Development of agenda topics for the next Industrial Advisory Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 in the District's Tampa Office.

Members requested to have an overview of the Public Supply Annual Report and the Legislative Update.

13. Announcements and Other Business - None

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.