

MEETING SUMMARY

Public Supply Advisory Committee Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa, FL

January 14, 2005

The Public Supply Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management Water District met at 9:30 a.m. on January 14, 2005, at the Department of Environmental Protection Tampa Office, 3804 Coconut Palm Drive. The following individuals were present:

Committee Members Present

Warren Hogg, Vice-Chair
Sandra Anderson
Frank Coughenour
Chuck Garing
Tom Jackson
Pam Reynolds
Gary Ross
Dave Slonena
Richard Voakes
Vicky Zimarino

Staff Members Present

Richard Owen, Facilitator
Yassert Gonzalez
Terry Johnson
Gary Kuhl
Trisha Neasman

Governing Board Members Present

Janet Kovach

Others Present

Duke Clem, Polk County
Bill Harper, City of Punta Gorda

Recording Secretary

Tonya Parker

A list of all present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the District. Tape recordings have been used to record these proceedings and are on file in the permanent files of the District, as well as copies of the materials and handouts provided at the meeting.

The numbers preceding the items below correspond with the published agenda.

1. Call to Order, Introduction and Announcements

Warren Hogg, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. There were no announcements at this time.

2. Approval of the October 15, 2004, Meeting Summary

Following consideration, Vicki Zimarino moved, seconded by Chuck Garing, to approve the October 15, 2004, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on 40D-21 Water Shortage Rulemaking

Richard Owen provided a brief update on 40D-21 Water Shortage Rulemaking. This discussion included an inquiry from Dave Slonena on the next steps subsequent to the planned workshops. Mr. Owen noted that staff would consider all input received, then take the proposed rule to the Board. The Governing Board's March meeting was cited as the earliest date for such discussion.

4. Southern Water Use Caution Area Update

a) Recovery Strategy and Associated Rules

Mr. Owen noted that the primary outstanding issue remaining is how this strategy will be incorporated into District rules. The relocations, lapsed quantity and competing applications provisions have been removed from the strategy and proposed rule. A new concept, Cumulative Impact Analysis, has been added that is consistent with Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. Copies of the revised strategy and rules will be made available to the Committee. February will be the earliest the Governing Board will be requested to authorize publication of the rules in the Florida Administrative Weekly.

- Mr. Slonena questioned the extent (whether regional), accuracy and modeling frequency of the SWUCA groundwater model. Mr. Owen stated the model has a regional perspective and can provide whatever degree of accuracy is needed. He also indicated changes would be modeled on an ongoing basis and the actual recovery rate would be determined annually in the “truing up” process.
- In addition, Mr. Slonena questioned the use of different approaches for evaluating water resources in the SWUCA and Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area (NTBWUCA) and whether the Recovery Strategy would have timelines for certain activities. Mr. Owen explained the varied approaches are due to differences in the aquifer systems, withdrawal distribution and use sectors. In regards to the timeline inquiry, he mentioned the Recovery Strategy contains several timelines, including a recommended timeline of 2025 for achieving all MFLs and schedule and budget for each recovery project.
- Frank Coughenour asked about modeling protocol for applications received concurrently and whether the Cumulative Impact Analysis would apply to areas outside the SWUCA. Subsequent to a discussion with Legal, Mr. Owen stated priority would be based on application completeness. For the Cumulative Impact Analysis question, he advised members the proposed rule clearly addresses the topic. He also explained only withdrawal points within SWUCA would be subject to the rules but outside points cannot impact the Most Impacted Area (MIA). The Cumulative Impact Analysis only applies to the MIA.
- Gary Ross voiced concern with the determination of groundwater levels. Mr. Owen indicated the 10-year moving average for several wells, not just one well, would be used.
- Ms. Zimarino inquired about the status of feasibility studies for the recovery projects and commented projects qualifying for permitting quantities should be clear. Mr. Owen explained consultants perform the actual studies and District staff act as project managers. He advised the next Recovery Strategy would contain more details on the proposed recovery projects. Terry Johnson added the Regional Water Supply Plan identified several projects to address the situation.
- Duke Clem questioned whether the model for evaluating SWUCA groundwater levels was developed internally, or by an outside source. Mr. Owen stated the model is a regional, public domain model and agreed to provide additional details on it.
- Governing Board Member Janet Kovach inquired about whether the MIA designation would remain intact, increased groundwater monitoring for the Cumulative Impact Analysis process and peer review for recovery projects. Mr. Owen indicated certain

aspects of the MIA would be rescinded but the definition would remain because it supports the establishment of minimum aquifer levels. In response to the groundwater monitoring question, he mentioned the District's Regional Observation Monitor-Well Program (ROMP) is constantly drilling new groundwater monitoring wells. Members were also informed the SWUCA contains several monitoring wells but the ones with the longest period of record are commonly relied on for analyzing change. For the peer review question, he indicated restoration projects are not typically peer reviewed.

- Mr. Hogg asked about the deadline for submitting comments. Mr. Owen noted comments should be submitted prior to the Governing Board's January meeting.
- Mr. Garing requested an executive summary on the model, and commented its circulation should increase user understanding and confidence.

b) Update on Population Served Methodology

In Jay Yingling's absence, Yassert Gonzalez briefed members on the Florida Water Rates Study and the Population Served Methodology. Discussion included the following:

- Mr. Slonena, in response to a study finding relating to price elasticity and the availability of substitute water sources, questioned whether the study captured changes in water sources. Mr. Owen and Mr. Gonzalez stated the survey addresses the availability of other sources.
- Sandra Anderson questioned whether the study included utilities using an average rate structure and its implications for the Cooperative Funding process. Mr. Owen commented the study examined several utilities so it could include some that average bills. He advised price structuring is already addressed in the regulatory rules to some degree.
- Mr. Cougenhour asked whether the study considered both potable and reclaimed water, and subsequently expressed an interest in a similar study for reclaimed water. Mr. Owen commented the survey asked about the availability of reclaimed water, and suggested follow up with Kathy Scott on a study for it.

5. District Hurricane Response

Gary Kuhl highlighted the District's hurricane effort. Ms. Anderson inquired about District participation in the hurricane discussion at the upcoming American Water Works Association, Florida Chapter meeting. Mr. Kuhl indicated attendance is planned.

6. Joint Statement of Commitment/Public Supply Conservation Effort

Terry Johnson reported on the Joint Statement of Committee (JSOC)/Public Supply Conservation Effort. This discussion included an inquiry from Gary Ross about the status of statewide irrigation initiatives. Mr. Johnson commented the Statewide and JSOC irrigation initiatives are only recommendations, not requirements.

7. 2005 Update to the District Water Management Plan

Mr. Johnson also provided the District Water Management Plan Update. Committee comments included Mr. Slonena's request for a summary of the top three changes. Mr. Johnson identified the program descriptions, issues and strategies for addressing them as areas where change would likely occur. Both Pamela Reynolds and Mr. Hogg questioned the availability of a draft. Mr. Johnson indicated a draft plan and summary would be circulated to members.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Next Scheduled Meeting – April 15, 2005

Discuss Tentative Agenda

Southern Water Use Caution Area Update

Water Shortage Rulemaking

District Water Management Updates

10. Adjournment

There being no further business or announcements to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.