

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE – JANUARY 10, 2017
LIAISON REPORT – MICHELLE WILLIAMSON

Mosaic Sinkhole Update

- Mr. Dave Jellerson, Senior Director for Environmental & Phosphate Projects, spoke to the committee regarding the gypsum stack sinkhole at Mosaic's New Wales Plant.
- Once the sinkhole was determined to exist, slurry was diverted from the pond into another on-site pond, pumps were used to remove the remaining water from the affected pond, pumping from an on-site recovery well was started, and concerned citizens were offered free testing of private wells.
- Mosaic has entered into a consent order with FDEP to start sealing the sinkhole and continue the removal of water using the recovery on-site well. As part of the consent order, another recovery well (P4) is being added to the site down-stream of the current recovery well to ensure that no contaminants are missed.
- Mr. Jellerson told members that currently none of the private wells that Mosaic has tested has shown any of the contaminants that were in the water lost to the sinkhole. Mr. Jellerson did note that about 80 of the wells tested did show poor water quality, which was not uncommon for wells that were installed decades ago.
- Members inquired about the depth of the new recovery well P4 and how long pumping from the well will take to capture the water that was lost. Mr. Jellerson noted that it would take several years to recover the water and that the well would be cased down to the most productive zone.

District Road Evaluation Project

- Mr. Will VanGelder, Land Management Manager, reviewed the District's Road Evaluation Project, which identifies what roads are used on the properties, who uses them, and for what reason.
- The first phase of this project evaluated three District properties: Starkey Wilderness Preserve, Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve and Cypress Creek Preserve.
- The information from stakeholders was used to develop a GIS layer to show the needs of the various users of District lands. These maps were then used to determine the roads utilized to produce a list of what roads could be abandoned.
- Based on this review, the District could abandon 69 miles of road on the Starkey site, saving about \$8,694 in maintenance costs; 15 miles could be abandoned at the Lower Hillsborough site saving close to \$1,890; and 35 miles at Cypress Creek saving close to \$1,050.
- Members inquired about what will happen to the abandoned roads. Mr. VanGelder told members that the roads would be allowed to revegetate.
- Florida Trail Association voiced an interest in assisting with the evaluation of the District Green Swamp property.

Lake Pretty and Armistead Lake Level Guidelines

- Ms. Diana Koontz, Structure Operations Manager, told members that the lake level guidelines for Lake Pretty and Armistead were reviewed by the District following requests from residents and based on the effects of a rain event in August 2015.
- New recommended guidelines were created following the review of data and residents input.
- The Committee voted to send its support to the Governing Board for the process used in the review of Lake Pretty and Armistead Lake Levels and recommended that the District use the process as a model for future reviews.

Aquifer Recharge at Flatford Swamp for SWUCA Recovery and Natural System Improvement

- Ms. Lisann Morris, Senior Professional Engineer, presented members with an overview of the Aquifer Recharge Project at Flatford Swamp, that will help with recovery of the SWUCA and improve the salt water intrusion minimum aquifer levels.
- Members were concerned about the outreach for the downstream water use permittees. Ms. Morris stated the District is actively engaged in outreach to the public including a Public

Information Open House at the District's Sarasota office on Monday, January 9, 2017 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

- Members asked about why there was too much water flowing into the swamp. Mr. Morris noted that changes to the basin and run-off from agricultural operations due to clay confinement in the area.
- Members asked about the effects downstream of removing the “excess water” from the system. Ms. Morris noted that during the desktop modeling the downstream system would not be impacted.
- Members asked about the difference between this project and other ASR projects. Mr. Morris noted that this project is for aquifer recharge not storage and recovering.
- Members voted to send their support of the “Test Phase” of this project to the Governing Board and requested additional updates of this project as test results become available.

Revisions to Governing Board CFI Policy (130-4)

- Mr. Eric DeHaven, Assistant Director, Resource Management, reviewed the changes that are being proposed to District Board Policy 130-4, Cooperative Funding Initiative.
- The two major changes being made is the addition of a third-party review for projects over 5 million dollars and the removal of the reference to the Basin Boards and the delegation to those boards.
- Members asked who selects the third party to review the project. Mr. DeHaven told members that the District selects the firm to do the review, using the District's General Engineering Services contract.
- Members were confused by the meaning of the statement in the proposed policy “*It is the intent of the District's Governing Board that the quantity made available...*” members asked that this statement be made clearer and less confusing.
- Members asked what happens to a project that does not move forward based on third-party review. Mr. DeHaven noted that the District would pay through the 30 percent design stage.

Minimum Flows and Levels for Rainbow River, Crystal River/ Kings Bay and Pithlachascotee River

- Mr. Eric DeHaven, Assistant Director, Resource Management, stated the District has completed its review of three systems and is in the process of setting the MFLs for two springs systems: the Rainbow River in Marion County, Crystal River/Kings Bay in Citrus County and one river system, the Pithlachascotee River in Pasco County.
- The District has made recommendations for the three systems and a peer review of those recommendations is in the process of being completed. Once the peer review has been completed the District will reconcile the recommendations of the peer review panel and then present the MFLs to the Governing Board. Rainbow River is expected to be presented in March 2017, Kings Bay/Crystal River in May 2017 and the Pithlachascotee being presented in June 2017.
- Members asked if the District has gotten any support or push-back on the plan for the Rainbow River. Mr. DeHaven told members that the District expects to get some push-back in regard to the quality of pumpage data for the system.
- Members voiced a concern about water use permit quantities and the effects those permits might have on the recommended flows and levels. Members were told that during the renewal of the permits the minimum flows and levels are taken into consideration.