

**Regional Water Supply Plan Presentation Focusing on Agriculture
Public Meeting/Webex
May 28, 2015
Brooksville Headquarters 5:30 p.m.**

Board Meeting Room Participants:

Duane Brooks, Citizen
Eddie Esch, Dunnellon
Al Grubman, Citizen
Jan Grubman, Citizen
Larry Hartman, Citizen
Frank Heath, Citizen
Terri Holcomb, HDR Engineering
Paul Marraffino, Citizen
Sarah Moyer, City of Brooksville
Richard Owen, WRWSA
Jeffrey Siewert, Stanley Consultants

District Staff:

Jonathan Bilby
Ed Craig
Randy Emberg
John Ferguson
Jay Hoecker
Mary Margaret Hull
Josh Madden
Tamera McBride
Jason Mickel
Amy Poxson
George Schlutermann, Project Manager
Jay Yingling
Kevin Wills
Chris Zajac

Online Attendees:

Ann
Carolyn Voyles, DEP

Below is a list of questions and answers from the workshop.

Audience Comments, Questions and Answers:

Duane Brooks, Citrus County

Comment: Heard the term water transfer which worries him. No one in Citrus County wants to see water transferred elsewhere from their County.

Paul Marraffino, Rainbow River Conservation

Question: In the Central/Heartland District it was mentioned about having a transmission system to move water around to ease environmental problems, is there a similar system planned for the Northern Region?

Answer: The project mentioned was to move water around in Polk County in order to disburse withdrawals away from impacted waterbodies, share capacity for reliability and emergencies, and provide new alternative water supplies (AWS) to multiple utilities. There are no similar projects in the Northern Region.

Richard Owen, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority

Question: On the demand projections table in the presentation, one of the categories was environmental restoration which was not discussed. How are those numbers determined and what are they comprised of? It was my understanding that from Public Supply Advisory Committee that this went away. Is this only in the planning regions that are designated as Water Use Caution Areas? Does it have a strategy that requires some form of environmental restoration?

Answer: The numbers are regional specific and are based on the quantity of AWS to be developed, or permitted quantity to be retired, as needed to achieve recovery for impaired MFL waterbodies. There aren't any MFL Recovery projects currently planned for the Northern Region. There are, however, projects planned for other regions that are specific to help with recovery of environmental concerns in those areas.

Questions: In the Heartland Region, groundwater was identified as a source. In the past, it was believed that the District had determined that not only the Heartland Region but also the Southern and Tampa Bay Region were entirely within Water Use Caution Areas where it had been determined that actual use of groundwater was causing unacceptable impacts. How is there such an increase in this area?

Answer: In the Heartland Region, the 59 mgd of available groundwater included about 51 mgd of already permitted but unused water and about 8 mgd of surficial and intermediate aquifer unpermitted water that may or may not fall within the SWUCA and is subject to a rigorous, case-by-case permitting review. Similar availability of water is present in the Southern and Tampa Bay Regions. This is explained in detail in Chapter 4 of each regional document.

Frank Heath, Citrus County

Question: Is there any truth to the rumors that the District plans to construct a reservoir off of SR 200 at Lake Panasoffkee?

Answer: There are no immediate plans to construct a water supply reservoir in this area. This is one of multiple AWS project options shown in the plan as submitted by Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority and is a project option for water supply for the Authority members. Other AWS options may prove to be more environmentally and economically advantageous once demands require the evaluation AWS sources in the distant future. As to how the project compares or whether it moves forward is not part of this planning effort. This effort is to identify potential water supply options.

Question: Why would desalination be included as a source for consideration when it is not necessary?

Answer: For the Northern Region this is identified as a potential alternative source of water supply should groundwater sources be exhausted in this area.

Duane Brooks, Citrus County

Comment: Senator Nancy Argenziano passed a bill called Local Sources First to keep each county's water resources within their respective county. It sounds like the District has combined

counties into a region and now want to transfer water from one county to another within its region. Again, Citrus County does not want its resources transferred to another county.

If they cleaned the muck from Hernando Lake there would potentially be a natural reservoir there.

Frank Heath, Citrus County

Question: Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) are not established for all water sources in the Northern District. What are the guidelines being used to establish long-term sources of water?

Answer: This document includes a copy of the MFLs priority list and schedule. Within that list it identifies the water bodies which the District has set MFLs and those that will be set over the next several years. The District has made significant progress and has set more MFLs than any other District in the state. The Water Resources Act passed in 1972 requires the establishment of MFLs to prevent significant harm associated with water use. Too much water use can cause adverse effects in the environment and the goal is to set MFLs to prevent this. Where these MFLs have been exceeded, the District is required to develop and implement recovery strategies to recover flows and levels to promote the health of the ecosystems.

Additional Questions and Answers:

Question: Who at the District has been providing input into the Draft Regional Water Supply Plan?

Answer: A large number of District employees have been contributing effort into the development of these planning documents. Including employees from the Resource Management (Water Resources and Natural Systems and Restoration, Farms Program), Regulation, Public Affairs, IT, and Finance.

Question: Did the District look at water conservation option in the Northern Planning Region?

Answer: Yes, the District identified water conservation options in all four planning regions. In coordination with Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority we identified 12 water conservation Best Management Practices that would be most cost effective to implement in the Region.

Comment Card Input:

Terri Holcomb, HDR Engineering

Comment: Appreciate the opportunity to talk with District staff with respect to the development of the RWSP. It was very informative, well organized, and concise.