

# Central Florida Water Initiative

TOHO Water Authority  
Friday, April 25, 2014

## Meeting Summary

(All presentations made to the Steering Committee have been posted on [cfwiwater.com](http://cfwiwater.com).)

### 1. Introductions

- a. Drew Bartlett, FDEP Deputy Secretary for Water Policy & Ecosystem Restoration, opened the meeting. Self-introductions of Steering Committee (SC): Paul Senft for Carlos Beruff (SWFWMD), John Miklos SJRWMD), Drew Bartlett (FDEP), Brian Wheeler (TOHO Water), Rich Budell (DACs). Dan O'Keefe (SFWMD) did not attend.
- b. Members of the audience introduced themselves and the sign in sheet for those in attendance has been posted to the website.

### 2. Consent Items

- a. The February 28, 2014, CFWI Meeting Summary was approved.

### 3. Hydrologic Analysis Team

- a. David MacIntyre provided an update on the activities of the Team and explained the reason Task A5 has been delayed was due to several higher priority issues the HAT needed to address. Task A5 should be completed by the next Steering Committee meeting.
- b. Recent activities of the HAT have included:
  - Revisions to the East Central Florida Transient model
  - Development of an East Central Florida Steady State model to be used to more rapidly evaluate options in support of the SPT tasks.
  - Process development for an enhanced planning level regional groundwater availability assessment including developing the means to communicate results graphically.
  - Routine interaction with the SPT on an as requested basis

### 4. Kissimmee River Reservation.

- a. Len Lindahl, SFWMD Deputy Executive Director, presented the schedule and objectives for the development of the reservations being contemplated for the Upper Kissimmee River, the "upper chain of lakes" and "headwaters lakes" which include:

- Lakes Kissimmee, Cypress and Hatchineha
  - Lake Tohopekaliga
  - East Lake Tohopekaliga, Fell's Cove, Lake Ajay
  - Lakes Hart and Mary Jane
  - Lakes Myrtle, Joel and Preston
  - Alligator Chain of Lakes (Alligator, Brick, Lizzie, Coon, Center and Trout)
  - Lake Gentry
- b. Len explained the key role the reservations have in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP).
- c. Brian Wheeler said the public water utilities support the overall goals of CERP but urged the SFWMD take action on the process without delay and complete the effort in a timely manner. Brian said the Kissimmee River was identified as a potential alternative water source in the current CFWI RWSP effort. Len Lindahl said the reservation will take longer than the initial CFWI 2035 Plan development being prepared by the Solutions Planning Team and that no water would be available until the completion of the reservation.
- d. Drew Bartlett requested that the SFWMD keep the SPT abreast on their progress.

**5. Regional Water Supply Plan Team**

- a. Tom Bartol briefed the SC on the comments received on the CFWI RWSP between Nov 26, 2013 and February 20, 2014.

	Number	Area of Comment		
Individuals commenting	1248	SJR/ WSIS AWS (93%)	Other (5%)	Niagara (2%)
Comments submitted	1634	SJR/ WSIS AWS (79%)	Other (19%)	Niagara (2%)

- b. Tom summarized the RWSP changes that have been included in the updated draft plan. These comments and the responses total over 400 pages and have been reviewed by the Technical teams and the MOC.

- c. Because the Solutions Planning Team's work may alter the RWSP the SC discussed requesting the three WMD Governing Boards to acknowledge delivery of the draft CFWI RWSP but take no action until the SPT's final 2035 Water Resources Protection & Water Supply Strategies Document (final CFWI Plan) is completed in May 2015.
- d. Prior to the SC voting on the RWSP, Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, expressed concern the proposed resolution by the three WMD Governing Boards to hold the CFWI Plan in abeyance was not clear. Also, she felt conservation needs to be given a higher priority and requested the SPT re-focus their effort on conservation. She stated her organization was opposed to any water withdrawals from the St. Johns River.
- e. Brian Wheeler commented that the present Draft Regional Water Supply Plan is a complete water supply plan that meets the requirements of preparing a water supply plan and is similar to other plans previously developed and approved by the Water Management Districts. The Solutions Phase is a step that has not been done in the past and the recommendation to delay formal approval of the regional water supply plan is to allow for the completion of the Solutions Phase and not because the plan is incomplete.
- f. The SC discussed the Revised Schedule and approved to delay approval of the RWSP until completion of the CFWI Plan.
- g. In a separate action, the SC discussed then approved the delivery of the final draft of the RWSP to be forwarded to the three WMD Governing Boards.

## **6. Data Monitoring and Investigations Team**

- a. Mary Thomas reviewed progress since last SC meeting. The Google Earth application has been completed and is now available on the CFWIwater website  
[http://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI\\_Inventory\\_20140331.kmz](http://cfwiwater.com/pdfs/CFWI_Inventory_20140331.kmz)
- b. Mary indicated the remaining Task D5 will be to present options for the SC to consider in recommending the number of regional monitoring sites within the surficial aquifer and upper & lower Floridan aquifers. The options will be available for discussion at the next SC meeting on June 27.
- c. Additionally, the SC directed the DMIT to prepare an implementation plan for monitoring. Mary indicated the Team could complete the plan by next SC meeting.

- d. Drew Bartlett questioned the nature of the monitoring options to be presented to the SC. Mary explained the locations would be general in nature but would include a number of sites describing minimum and optimal options. SC discussed then approved changing the completion date for the Regional Monitoring (Task D5) to June 27, 2014.

**7. Solutions Planning Team**

- a. Robert Beltran reviewed the SPT’s Team Objective #4 in the Guidance Document- “Identify regional water supply projects including cost-benefit analysis of yield , cost estimates, sources, water resource constraints, potential partnerships, additional pumping and transmission configurations, feasibility and permissibility, and funding options. These projects should be regional, multi-jurisdictional solutions that serve more than one utility”. Robert indicated the SPT will be focusing on the most significant regional projects which can generate approximately 90% of the estimated water to be generated by the RWSP.
- b. The SC discussed various options including the pros and cons related to the need to screen regional projects for the sub-teams to focus their efforts. The SC reiterated the screening criteria would not eliminate projects from the RWSP if they did not meet the screening criteria. Additionally, the SC requested the SPT provide a definition of what constitutes a multi-jurisdictional project. The SC discussed then voted individually on each of the sub-teams project focus. The table below summarizes the SC direction.

Project Criteria	
	Project Capacity
Reclaimed Water	>1 MGD
Surface Water	>10 MGD
Stormwater	>1 MGD
Groundwater	>5 MGD
Project criteria for the above must include multi-jurisdictional projects that encourages regional interconnects and maximizes economies of scale and efficiencies	

- c. The SC discussed various options including the pros and cons related to the Conservation Sub Team.
- Drew Bartlett discussed the need for a consistent per capita means to measure consumption. The SC concluded the “planning level” per capita measure was consistent within the CFWI but it may need additional review with respect to individual permits. The SC directed the Regulatory Team to address this issue.
  - Brian Wheeler restated the need to keep the SPT looking at big picture policy issues and stay away from getting into too much detail. Robert Beltran said the SPT would be focusing the larger scale BMPs and modeling benefits regionally, if at all.
  - The SC discussed then voted to direct the Conservation Sub Team’s project focus as follows:
    - Separate projects into three categories: Agriculture, Public Supply, and Other Self-Supply
    - Identify water conservation projects and programs for each category by quantifying the potential water savings and costs
- d. Robert Beltran reviewed options related to the Recovery & Prevention sub-team. Brian Wheeler said the utilities were not in favor of any of the options presented because Non-MFL wetlands were included in the Recovery & Prevention sub- team scope and MFLs have a different regulatory requirement than Non-MFLs. Non-MFLS have different regulatory requirements and cannot be combined with MFLs. The SC agreed with these concerns but also with the need to address non-MFL impacts. The SC directed the SPT to revise the scope for the Recovery & Prevention sub-team to broaden the scope to include assessment of impacts to both MFLs and Non-MFLs. The sub-team will be renamed to reflect the broadened scope. The issue will be addressed by the SPT and brought back to the SC June 27 for further discussion of options.

## 8. Regulatory Team

- a. The SC approved the addition of two individuals to the Team. They are shown in bold italics below.

<b>Team Leader</b>	Len Lindahl, SFWMD
<b>Water Management Districts</b>	Mike Register, SJRWMD Alba Más, SWFWMD Sharon Trost, SFWMD
<b>Florida Department of Environmental Protection</b>	Janet Llewellyn, Office of Water Policy
<b>Florida Department of Agriculture &amp; Consumer Services</b>	Steve Lamb, Federico, Lamb & Associates
<b>Environmental</b>	Jane Graham, Audubon Florida <b><i>Richard Hamann, University of Florida</i></b>
<b>Public Water Supply Utilities</b>	Krystal Azzarella, Polk County Debbie Bradshaw, OUC
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Mary Ellen Winkler, SJRWMD Laura Donaldson, SWFWMD Beth Ross, SFWMD Ed de la Parte, Public Water Supply <b><i>Silvia Alderman, Public Water Supply</i></b>

- b. Len Lindahl updated the SC on the Interim Steps taken in response to the FDEP Guidance memo (12/12/13).
- c. Len summarized activities included in Tasks H4- Reviewing local management activities
- i. Continued discussion and progress
  - ii. Working with Groundwater Availability (GAT), Hydrologic Assessment Team (HAT), and Groundwater sub-team to determine management strategies modeled under development of the CFWI RWSP
    - Reclaimed water projects
    - Mitigation
    - Wellfield operational plans
  - iii. Participated in Solutions Planning Team training held on April 15<sup>th</sup>
- d. The RT has draft “Caveat” Language for CFWI RWSP that will be used later next year when finalized with the addition of the Solutions Phase work. RT also addressed several Sunshine law issues.
- e. Len reiterated the role of the RT is to support and complement the efforts of the SPT.
- f. The RT has Field trips upcoming and a joint meeting with Solutions Planning Team on 5/21

## 9. Regional Consensus Building

- a. Steve Seibert introduced the partners of triSect to the SC and explained their scope and focus of this CFWI.
- b. He said they will be working under the direction of the WMD Communications offices. Their goals are:
  - i. Identify and expand key stakeholders, influencers and CFWI “champions” in three primary sectors: business community, local government/utilities, independent organizations
  - ii. Continue to build support for a multi-county approach
  - iii. Schedule one-on-one and small group meetings to identify stakeholders’ concerns and potential barriers to regional solutions
  - iv. Organize workshops for group discussion, brain-storming and problem solving
- c. The outreach timeline is:
  - i. Mid-April through mid-May
    - Two sector meetings with county and business community to identify key stakeholders and issues in each county
    - Meetings with chambers of commerce and economic development organizations
    - Community meetings co-hosted by chambers of commerce
  - ii. Mid-May through August
    - Workshops in each county, plus Orlando, with county managers and key elected officials who work with water issues
    - County caucuses on concerns about water issues with key business leader, utility and county representative
    - Understand what each county can come to a consensus on supporting
  - iii. Late August
    - Solutions Team uses feedback from Outreach Program to finalize CFWI 2035 Plan
- d. SC requested triSect engage Mark Middlebrooks, St. Johns River Alliance.

## 10. Open Discussion

- a. Brian Wheeler expressed concern with the direction SJRWMD was taking in regard to linking water quality to water use rules. While he does not object to the need for overall water quality improvement he is concerned the three WMDs will be furthering inconsistencies within the region. Hans Tanzler, SJRWMD Executive Director, responded by acknowledging the

concern but explained the need for them to proceed because of the linkages with springs. He stated the District would work with the other WMDs to avoid permit inconsistencies.

## **11. Public Comments**

- a. David Tomasko, ESA Associates, expressed the importance of addressing water quality benefits from maintaining higher lake levels.
- b. Donald Blanchard, St. Johns Riverkeeper, supports the need for delay of the RWSP until the completion of the CFWI Plan. He stressed expanding public outreach beyond CFWI regions because the impacts are felt beyond the CFWI area. He mentioned the concern with the lack of a water use fee for water being withdrawn from the aquifer.
- c. David Gore, Haines City, stressed the importance of recharge in maintaining the groundwater table and the importance of using science to manage the groundwater table.
- d. Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, expressed concern that more emphasis needs to be given to conservation and referred to an earlier SJRWMD plan to further conservation. The Riverkeeper organization is opposed to all surface water withdrawals. She applauded the increased efforts on public outreach.

## **12. Next SC meetings**

- June 27, 2014
- Aug 29 tentative
- Sep 26 tentative
- Oct 24 tentative
- Nov 21 tentative
- Dec 19 tentative

## **13. Adjourned @ 11:40 AM.**