



Meeting Minutes from CFWI Workshop in Northeast Florida June 29, 2015

Glenda Hood, Principal, triSect opened the meeting at 4:10pm and welcomed 54 attendees. Shelley Lauten, Principal, triSect noted that a series of Focus Group meetings were held with members of the environmental community, business & agriculture leaders, and government leaders in northeast Florida the week prior to the workshop in an effort to identify issues and concerns of importance to the leaders of the region as it relates to the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI). She noted that, resoundingly, the concern focused around conservation efforts and, therefore, the topic of today's conversation would be focused on what CFWI is and the conservation efforts of the CFWI solutions plan. Shelley then walked through the packet at each person's seat which included the agenda, a copy of the Power Point Presentation, a map of the CFWI area, extending into northeast Florida, a worksheet, and an evaluation sheet.

The attendees were then asked to introduce themselves and the organizations they represent, if applicable.

Dr. Ann Shortelle, Executive Director, St. Johns River Water Management District introduced herself and acknowledged that the two regions – Central Florida and Northeast Florida – shared concerns on the issue of water. She noted that she has been participating in the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership (NFRWSP) who has begun the same type of work as the CFWI. Dr. Shortelle noted that it is very important to protect our freshwater resources and our aquifer. She closed by noting that our regions need to come together to find solutions as we all care about water.

Michael Register, Director, Division of Regulatory, Engineering and Environmental, St. Johns River Water Management District discussed the similarities between CFWI and NFRWSP. He noted that they are both gathering stakeholders to understand everyone's concerns. He then reviewed the organizational structure for NFRWSP and the principles for CFWI, noting that the goals of both collaborations are similar.

Mark Hammond, Director, Resource Management, Southwest Florida Water Management District then took the podium to announce that the solutions plan had been released and that the CFWI is currently looking for feedback on it. He then discussed the current amount of water being used and what would be needed in the future. Mark then noted that it is important to remember that water issues did not develop overnight and the solutions will take some time to implement. He then noted that the solutions plan would be evaluated every five years for any course-correction measures that would need to take place. Mark noted that CFWI understands that more collaboration and coordination between regions is required to address water issues and solutions, which is why they have come to northeast Florida today. He noted that the CFWI solutions document focuses on regional projects; there are 150 projects listed in the RWSP that cities and counties can implement on their own, but there are 16 projects



that will require multiple jurisdictions to collaborate to maintain water supply. They also looked at the agriculture industry to determine need

Mark noted that CFWI used research to understand how much groundwater is currently available, to determine future water supply, and to develop a regional water supply plan. . Mark noted that conservation is heavily focused-upon in the solutions document.

Mark closed by noting that the next steps for CFWI are to begin phased-in implementation of the solutions plan as well as begin looking at consistent rules and regulations within the three water management districts. He asked the attendees to look specifically at the solutions plan executive summary and Chapter 7 on Conservation and provide feedback by July 31st.

Shelley asked if anyone needed clarification on any information that had been shared thus far:

- What were the names of the documents? RESPONSE: Regional Water Supply Plan and Solutions Plan; they can both be found at cfwiwater.com
- What type of assumptions have you made on the sustainable yield? Are you assuming same amount of rainfall? How are you addressing these uncertainties? RESPONSE: These issues have been factored in, but that is why the plan will be updated every five years so we can make adjustments as necessary
- How does the next generation model compare to the NFRWSP? The CFWI plan is not a conduit model but is a course management model; conduit flow is one of the things they are investigating
- Will the plan really be updated every 5 years? RESPONSE: Yes; it will have ongoing collaboration.

Steven Memberg, Chief Scientist, South Florida Water Management District reviewed the specific conservation data including:

- Historic water use v population 1.9M to 3M to 4M in 20 years
- GPCDD - gallons of capital per day divided by number of people to get at the mgd
- 180mgd to 144mgd over time
- 165 to 97mgd over time
 - We are seeing a decrease in this number without much regulation
 - The cheapest gallon is the gallon that is not used
 - Leaky pipes, etc are built into these numbers
 - Shows aggressive conversation is already going on
 - 15% reduction of use with irrigation regulations
 - 92% of water gets re-used
- Noted that there is funding of \$170M for conservation, some of which will be frontloaded to kick off efforts

Shelley asked the attendees if there were any questions of clarification:



- You show in your presentation that Central Florida is at 92% reuse, how is the water recharge being addressed? RESPONSE: Use of Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBS)
- What is GPCD? RESPONSE: Looking at all water use per capita. However, there are special situations like Reedy Creek that serves few residential users but many tourists. There are few conservation programs Reedy Creek can offer residential users in this area.
- Where did the numbers come from on the historic water use v population? CUPs are not metered so WMDs don't have a handle on how much water is used per day? RESPONSE: While we don't have every piece of data from every user, the plan does its best efforts to estimate this. A group through UF – BEBR – tracks population by county and we can use this information for how we must plan. Prior to 2003, the data was purely estimate, now there is actual data on what is metered; were are able to look at trends and they are very consistent.
- There needs to be a public relations / public announcements that will help with conservation measures; is there something at the state that would communicate to the tourists; who can promote that? RESPONSE: That will come in the next phase of outreach.

It was then noted by some in the audience that the presentation was not detailed enough in actual conservation solutions and they wanted to hear more specifics. Glenda and Shelley asked Mark to come back to the stage to offer more specific information about the conservation solutions in the plan.

Mark noted that the Conservation Plan was broken into six sections including:

- Public Supply Conservation Measures
 - Residential Indoor
 - Replacement of toilets
 - Replacement of showerheads
 - Replacement of faucets
 - Residential Outdoor
 - Irrigation system audits
 - Irrigation system improvements
 - Soil moisture sensors
 - CII (Commercial/Industrial/Institutional) BMPs
 - Replacement of pre-rinse spray valves
 - Replacement of toilets and urinals
 - Replacement of showerheads
 - Replacement of faucets
 - Site specific water audits
- Domestic Self-Supply Measures
 - Agriculture
 - Limited to crop irrigation
 - Estimates based on mobile irrigation laboratory evaluations



- Landscape / Recreational / Aesthetic
- Commercial / Industrial / Institutional
 - Directly proportional to that of CII uses served by public supply systems
 - Assumed that the CUP process and business economics already drive commercial and industrial establishments to minimize their use of process water
- Power Generation

Mark noted that if demands remain relatively flat, there will be more water because of conservation measures that are already in place. Further, he noted that the Solutions Group recommended additional studies as they felt there was not enough data available for assessment and there more opportunities for stormwater.

Shelley opened the floor for additional questions:

- There is a Florida Anti Fracking Coalition. The Legislature was ready to pass regulations on fracking. Has CFWI addressed fracking in the plan over the next 5 years? RESPONSE: No, there are no specific projections based on fracking. Industrial and agricultural use include projections on fracking. If it becomes more prominent, we will look at the issue more closely.
- The Naval Air Station in Jacksonville is implementing low-impact development. What are the districts doing to implement the same? RESPONSE: Low impact development is a great concept. Winter Haven is working to retrofit their system with grass swales instead of curbs and gutters. Shelley asked: If Winter Haven is a best management practice, is there a part of CFWI that can share those practices across boundaries. RESPONSE: The stormwater portion of the plan has looked at water supply, so increase recharge.
- David Dinkins noted that Dr. Jones from UF will work with any community that calls on him to plan for low impact development. UF is a leading education organization on this topic.
- The Park Service is looking at including charges for consumptive use. Are there ideas in the plan that will help us capture recreational use ie. meter tourists, rvs, etc.? RESPONSE: It is critical to evaluate what you are using to help make decisions in the future. Recreational use is an important piece and working more closely with the hotel and tourism industry on the education piece may be an opportunity.
- A lot of work has been put into the plan, but the bottom line is quality of water is as important as the quantity. RESPONSE: This plan does focus on water supply, but then it also focuses on protecting the systems so withdrawal does not impact quality.
- There are concerns about arsenic levels in the water. What if growth is curbed just a little bit to keep us in a sustainable level so we don't have to go to extreme measures? RESPONSE: There are opportunities for the individual



municipalities to look at their growth plans. Glenda noted that it is important to have local governments at table along with other stakeholders for this reason. Shelley noted that this is an excellent point and there needs to be more consensus on a growth management plan.

- The plan seems to be robbing Peter to pay Paul. RESPONSE: The Water Management Districts' job is to evaluate where the water can be withdrawn and ensuring that there are regional plans so we are not addressing issues in one area at the expense of another area. Glenda noted that that is why CFWI is holding the meeting in Northeast Florida and why it's important to have more people at the table.
- It was noted that there are alternative uses of existing water supply via stormwater run-off and collection. There are case study projects that the City of Daytona Beach is using now in conjunction with the SJRWMD. It is an opportunity for conservation and improved water quality.
- Residential irrigation is about 50% of the water used. More xeriscaping is suggested. RESPONSE: That is one of the solutions in the plan. We need more public support since this requires legislation for a statewide approach. Local governments can modify their landscape ordinance requirements. The current process is not working;
- Education is the key to citizen engagement. We have got to do a better job. We have go to set goals for individual consumption like the my river campaign.
- We need more public pressure on politicians to do the right thing
- We need tiered pricing to encourage conservation. Make it impossible to put a well at your home if you have access to a public water supply. RESPONSE: This runs into statutory issues so we need legislative help.
- On a state level we need to change the building codes like they did for hurricanes. Over time this will make a huge difference.
- Need to educate people on what the agriculture industry looks like today
- It is time to get aggressive and live within our water means. We need incentives, education, and mandatory regulation.

Michael reminded the attendees that the open comment period would run through July 31st and encourage them to make additional comments online.

Glenda thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.