

MEETING SUMMARY

**Joint Public Workshop
St. Johns River Water Management District
Southwest Florida Water Management District
South Florida Water Management District
2019 Draft Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule for the CFWI Area**

St. Cloud, Florida
September 5, 2019

A joint public workshop addressing annual updates for the minimum flows and levels priority lists and schedules of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), with an emphasis on the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) area, was held on September 5, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. to ~11:30 A.M. at the SFWMD St. Cloud Field Station at 3800 Old Canoe Creek Road in St. Cloud, Florida. The meeting was also accessible via teleconference and was advertised in the Florida Administrative Register, local newspapers, and on the District's web sites.

The SJRWMD was represented by Andrew Sutherland, Lori Burklew (teleconference access), Thomas Mayton, and Claire Muirhead (teleconference access). The SWFWMD was represented by Doug Leeper, Jordan Miller (teleconference access), and Mike Bray (teleconference access). The SFWMD was represented by Don Medellin. Nine stakeholders participated in the meeting in-person, seven of which acknowledged their participation on a workshop sign-in sheet. Teleconference participation by six or more additional stakeholders was noted, although not all chose to identify themselves.

A brief slide presentation highlighting the proposed priority lists and schedules of the three Districts with jurisdiction in the CFWI area was made by Don, Medellin, Andrew Sutherland, and Doug Leeper. Opportunities available to stakeholders for comment on each District's priority list and schedule were highlighted and include: providing oral or written comment during the workshop; providing written or oral comments to District representatives by September 20 (SFWMD) or October 1 (SJRWMD and SWFWMD); and providing input directly to the District Governing Boards during their respectively scheduled meetings on October 10 (SFWMD), October 22 (SWFWMD) and November 12 (SJRWMD).

A summary of questions and comments discussed during the workshop is provided below. A copy of the presentation slides shown during the workshop, workshop agenda, and sign-in sheet are available at the following link: <https://www.cfwiwater.com/meetings/2019.html>.

Workshop Participant Questions and Comments

1. A participant asked about the identification of potential cross-district-boundary impacts on prioritized water bodies. The ensuing discussion addressed the ongoing coordination among the water management districts and Department of Environmental Protection regarding characterization of cross-district withdrawal impacts on prioritized water bodies.
2. A participant suggested that the water management districts should consider potential changes in water depth and volume associated with fish harvesting when establishing minimum flows and levels. Lake Hancock and former phosphate mine pits in Polk

County were identified as example sites where fish harvesting issues could be a concern. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the SWFMWD has previously established minimum levels for Lake Hancock, is currently developing a reservation for the lake, and does not currently anticipate establishing minimum levels on any former phosphate mine pits. Water management district staff at the workshop indicated that they thought changes in water depths and volumes associated with fish removal would likely be negligible for most water bodies and would likely not be a primary consideration when establishing minimum flows and levels. The stakeholder indicated she would follow-up with SWFMWD staff to further discuss the issue.

3. A participant asked about scheduling for a public workshop associated with the development of a reservation for water bodies in the Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that SFWMD staff are currently reviewing/revising technical documents associated with the planned reservations and anticipate possibly scheduling a workshop by the end of the calendar year for stakeholder input.
4. A participant asked how the water management districts are addressing climate change in their minimum flows and levels programs. During the ensuing discussion, water management district staff noted that predictive climate models are, for the most part, not integrated into minimum flows and levels development. They noted, however, that future climate conditions and potential sea level change are important considerations that are considered for minimum flow and levels assessments, including the need for reevaluations of established minimum flows and levels. The stakeholder indicated he was satisfied with the response from each water management district of how this issue is currently being addressed.
5. Following the workshop, a stakeholder indicated they had some difficulty with the teleconferencing logistics, and provided written comments that suggested the water management districts should acknowledge and discuss the limitations in applying the ECFTX model for determining minimum flows and levels, and noted that in some instances, additional information is necessary for establishing and assessing minimum flows and levels.