

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
LOWER WEST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP 5  
Tuesday, August 28, 2012 2:00 PM**

**Lower West Coast Service Center  
2301 McGregor Blvd.  
Fort Myers, FL 33901**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Item 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks Dean Powell, Chief, Water Supply Bureau, SFWMD**

Mr. Powell welcomed all to the meeting and stated that the draft plan documents are available on the District web page and comments on the plan are strongly encouraged.

**Item 2. Introductions, Updates and Today's Topics – Mark Elsner, Administrator, Water Supply Development Section, SFWMD**

Mr. Elsner described the remainder of the plan development schedule leading up to presentation of the final draft to the District's Water Resources Advisory Commission and Governing Board in November. The deadline for written comments on the draft Plan is September 28. Presentation of the draft plan to the District's Water Resources Advisory Commission and Governing Board will be made in September.

**Item 3. April 4 Workshop Follow-up – Linda Hoppes, Lead Planner, Water Supply Development Section, SFWMD**

**Item 4. Overview of the Draft 2012 Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan Status Update – Linda Hoppes, Mark Elsner and, Dean Powell**

As a part of this presentation, the speakers reviewed the goal and objectives of the plan as well as a brief summary of each chapter. Questions and comments from meeting participants were:

- Will the District consider adding an Environmental Restoration category in the manner that SWFWMD has done? *After the last meeting we considered what would be involved to do this and in the end decided to use the categories directed by the Florida DEP for regional water supply plans.*
- Can you provide the name of the stations used for monitoring inflows downstream of S-79? *This information will be sent to the requestor.*
- There were questions regarding when water from the C-43 Reservoir can be reserved (*not until the reservoir is complete – water that doesn't exist cannot be permitted*) and how allocations from the Lake Okeechobee Restricted Allocation Area are handled. *In the Lake Okeechobee RAA, no additional allocations from Lake Okeechobee or canals hydraulically connected to the lake are allowed. There have been some retired permits and these allocations have remained 'in the lake'. In only one case (Okeechobee*

*Utilities Authority) was additional water allocated. The policy of the District Governing Board is to look at each case individually.*

- *The Caloosahatchee MFL relies on the C-43 Reservoir. What is the back-up plan? Can the back-up plan be included in the Recovery Strategy? In the documents, we have listed a number of non-MFL planned improvements. Some of the projects are not completely District projects and therefore we don't have complete control. Other projects are primarily water quality related. We chose to not include operational changes and procedures in the recovery strategy because we need to retain operational flexibility. One of our core missions is flood control and we need to be able to respond appropriately.*
- *Even with the completion of the C-43 Reservoir, we believe that an additional 400,000 acre-feet are needed. The schedule for reservations is made by the Governing Board and submitted to the DEP. Changes or additions to the list occur annually and an additional reservation would need to be added to the list.*
- *Are modeling runs available for the agricultural irrigation? AFSIRS was used for the calculations and staff can answer questions about the effective rainfall in an area or for a crop. The process, as well as data, that was used to develop the agricultural water demands is located in Appendix A.*
- *The climate change section is sparse and does not address structures. It also does not address the climate instability which will create more episodes of freezes, higher ET rates, longer dry seasons, and shorter, more intense rainy seasons. These will affect the volume and timing of water needed and rainfall. The Southwest Regional Planning Council has a climate change vulnerability document that could be helpful.*
- *IFAS promotes recycled water containment areas. Will these be a part of the plan? This is different than the tailwater recovery Best Management Practices and is more like dispersed water management. We will look at including this.*
- *Will the plan make a recommendation of two days per week landscape irrigation? If not, could this be a default condition in a drought? The plan is not making this recommendation; local governments have the ability to make this change for their area. Restrictions in a drought event are tailored to the conditions and area affected.*
- *Has the USACE provided an estimate of the volume of additional storage in Lake Okeechobee? In general, the lake holds 375,000 acre-feet of water for a foot of storage.*
- *Do we have information on what has worked well for dispersed water management sites? The District staff at this workshop does not have that information and the requestor said he will contact Benita Whalen.*

**Item 5.      Wrap Up/Next Steps – Linda Hoppes and Mark Elsner**

Final questions and comments were:

- *How does the District respond to written comments on this final review? Staff maintains a log of the comments and action taken. This will be posted on the web page.*

**Adjourned - 3:23 PM**