

**MINUTES
GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006
USDA, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory
2001 South Rock Road
Ft. Pierce, Florida 34945**

Governing Board Members

Kevin McCarty, Chair
Irela Bagué
Alice Carlson
Mike Collins
Nicolas Gutiérrez
Lennart Lindahl

Harkley Thornton
Malcolm "Bubba" Wade
Alice Carlson (arrived at 3:20 pm)

Absent: Miya Burt-Stewart

1. Call to Order by Chair McCarty at 1:44 pm.

2. Agenda Changes/Additions/Deletions

Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown. Based upon that authority, the Chair of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District determines that good cause exists to make the following changes.

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. FY2006 Alternative Water Supply Funding-Program Issues Follow-Up from April Governing Board Meeting (Mark Elsner, Division Director, Implementation).

Mr. Elsner, presented information on the funding program, as a follow-up from the April Governing Board. Mr. Elsner reported on the FY2006 project selection process. Mr. Elsner reported on some entities inquiring about shifting and/or increasing funding during this past year. Staff recommendations are 1) no mid-year changes or shifting and 2) rollover any unused funds to FY2007.

Mr. Collins agreed with staff recommendations. Mr. Wade said the entities need to know there are no expectations that the funds will be rolled over in the future.

Public Comment: Roy Anderson representing Collier County Utilities agreed with District staff recommendations.

4. Reclaimed Water as an Alternative Water Supply (Carlyn Kowalsky, Director, Water Supply Department; Mike Sole, Florida Department of Environmental Protection).

Ms. Kowalsky presented information on reclaimed water as an alternative water supply. Ms. Kowalsky reported on the five different wastewater treatment levels.

Ms. Bagué asked questions about reverse osmosis in Biscayne Bay and, Mr. Collins reported on reverse osmosis and the impacts to Biscayne Bay. Mr. Collins made comments on policy issues, canal recharge, and minimum flows and level.

Chair McCarty asked questions about secondary treatment vs. advanced secondary treatment. Ms. Kowalsky provided additional information pertaining to the differences in treatments.

Ms. Kowalsky reported on Miami-Dade County, Broward and Palm Beach County wastewater flow. She reported on current water supply issues concerning Lake Okeechobee. Ms. Kowalsky provided information on construction and operations & maintenance costs for a reclaimed water plant. She reported there are over 500 million gallons a day (MGD) of reclaimed water that could replace water historically delivered from the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee.

Mike Sole, Deputy Secretary, Florida Department of Environment Protection (FDEP), presented information on water quality issues. He reported on the responsibilities of FDEP which include water policy, water quality standards, water quality monitoring, permitting, compliance, enforcement, and technical assistant Total Maximum Daily Loads, loan and grant funding, and conservation and reuse. Mr. Sole reported on water quality standards and the designated uses.

Mr. Sole provided information on the different treatment requirements and wastewater use in southeast Florida. He reported on the water needs in the southeast region, the amount of water to ocean outfalls and deep-well injections that could be obtained and put into reuse. Mr. Sole also reported on the economic impacts and FDEP's reuse authority.

Mr. Sole said there is a need to explore all alternative water supply options (conservation and reuse), promote high levels of treatment to maximize options, move away from ocean outfalls and underground injection as primary options, evaluation water quality standards and focus policies, priorities and resources together.

Mr. Collins agreed with the fundamental principals on this item. Mr. Collins spoke of Miami Dade County consumptive use permits (CUP).

Mr. Lindahl reported on the cost of reuse. Mr. Lindahl spoke on reuse alternatives that can be researched. Mr. Lindahl spoke on the Homestead CUP.

Mr. Lindahl said we should not use water once and throw it away. We have as an agency an enormous amount of infrastructure that can be used. There is a need to upgrade the treatment level and get above the secondary treatment level to get into AWT. Mr. Lindahl doesn't believe it has to go from AWT to Reverse Osmosis (RO) to achieve the utilization of our infrastructure in order to achieve a reasonable cost basis solution for distributing the reuse water back into the system. Mr. Lindahl spoke on the classifications. He expressed his concern on the impairments, regulations and water quality standards of different agencies.

Mr. Sole provided additional information regarding Mr. Lindahl's concerns. He said this could be a reality with third-party agencies. Mr. Sole said it is going to take some evaluation and analysis to identify a water quality based affluent limit specific to each project.

Ms. Bagué made comments on the costs of reverse osmosis.

Mr. Gutiérrez thanked Mr. Sole for his support in Miami Dade County concerning water matters. He spoke on the 18-month permit extension and the 20-year permit for the county.

Mr. Wade asked questions regarding CUPs, wastewater and consent orders. Mr. Sole provided additional information. Mr. Wade had additional questions regarding percentages of deep-well injections and ocean outfalls. Mr. Sole provided additional information on this issue.

Carol Wehle, Executive Director, provided information on Miami-Dade County's CUP. She reported on the additional MGDs that the county is requesting with their CUP.

Mr. Merriam spoke on reuse and the cost of it in southeast Florida. Mr. Sole provided additional information on reuse. Ms. Wehle spoke on other disposal mechanisms.

Mr. Collins reported on ocean outfalls, the impacts and the nutrient levels.

Mr. Lindahl reported that 1) we need to get a representative from the District on the Public Advisory Water Quality Committee and 2) get quarterly reports as to what is moving forward with the designation of impaired waters and what it means in terms of restrictions or constraints.

Ms. Wehle reported staff will work with FDEP on how to address these issues, work through the site-specific issues to start participating, and come back with suggestions on definitions, answers and clarity on this issue.

Mr. Merriam spoke on the feasibility study for Miami-Dade County and their CUP. Scott Burns, Director, Water Supply Policy Implementation provided additional information on the feasibility study.

Public Comment: Patrick Hayes representing Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District provided comment regarding lakes, coastal estuaries and funding.

Mr. Collins commented on the minimum, flows and levels for Biscayne Bay. He requested FDEP and District staff work on a pilot project. Ms. Wehle said staff will work on proposing a pilot project that will be part of the discussions coming back to the Board next quarter.

5. Strategic Plan/WRAC Comments – David Gilpin Hudson, Lead Planner

Mr. Gilpin Hudson presented information on Item 43 of the consent agenda to adopt the updated ten-year strategic plan. Mr. Collins commented on WRAC discussions and the estuaries problems. Mr. Gilpin-Hudson said he would put it in the matter as a placeholder in the Strategic Plan.

6. FY06 Second Quarter Update and Mid-Year Redirection of Funds. Project Sponsors (Doug Bergstrom, Program Coordinators, Tier 1 and Tier II Project Managers)

Tom Olliff, Assistant Executive Director, reported on the 2006 mid-year management goals and the District's accomplishments over the last six months.

Mr. Bergstrom presented information on the FY2006 Second Quarter Update. He reported on the overall work plan status. There were presentations provided by each program coordinator and program manager on their specific projects. Ms. Carlson had questions on the burn rate with STA enhancements. Mr. Horne provided additional information.

Mr. Collins had questions regarding the Regional Simulation Model (RSM) and ET. Ken Tarboton, Division Director, provided additional information.

Chair McCarty had questions about cost savings on the Site 1 project. Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, ACCELER8, provided information on this issue.

Mr. Lindahl requested a workshop on RECOVER.

Chair McCarty postponed the remainder of the Governing Board Workshop due to time constraints.

Adjournment.

Chair McCarty adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Kevin McCarty, Chair
Governing Board
South Florida Water Management District

Recorded by:

Cathy Widness, Administrative Assistant, Senior
Governing Board & Executive Services
SFWMD