

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2007

EVERGLADES RESTORATION:

- Recommended moving forward with the C-111 Spreader Canal and Compartment C Buildout designs
- Recommended that a document entitled “Clarifying State Assurances for Acceler8 Projects” be presented to the Governing Board, accompanied by comments from stakeholders.
- Recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) clarify proposed revisions to “Guidance Memorandum 4”, and extend the deadline for comments to 60 days.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY RESTORATION AND PROTECTION:

- Supported legislation proposed for the 2007 Florida Legislative session to improve and protect Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.
- After reviewing the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update, recommended that the plan focus on achieving the phosphorous reduction goals and meeting the future Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the lake.
- Re: Proposed Interim Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Revisions: Recommended that SFWMD staff work with stakeholders and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to:
 - Develop more appropriate low lake level operational terms for the USACE Lake Water Control Plan
 - Revise the SFWMD Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations; and
 - Amend the SFWMD Water Shortage Plan.
- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to extend the time deadline for publication of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Interim Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.
- Recommended a series of workshops be held to develop a revised rule for Lake Okeechobee Service Area Water Supply.
- Regarding “Understanding Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation and Spillway, Alternative Plan six and Everglades Agricultural Area Storage”: Recommended the following statement: “Cost effective

opportunities for additional storage, treatment, and conveyance throughout the Everglades ecosystem will continue to be evaluated in the implementation of the Everglades restoration components.”

- The Lake Okeechobee Committee recommended and the WRAC agreed that the “Lake Okeechobee Operations Simulation”, a centerpiece presentation at the SFWMD Water Summit, be posted to the SFWMD website and presented to County Commissions, Chambers of Commerce and civic groups to educate citizens about SFWMD water management decision-making.

WATER QUALITY:

- Recommended that the proposed Naples Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan be presented to the Governing Board for review and approval. The Governing Board subsequently approved the plan.
- Recommended that the proposed Lower Charlotte Harbor Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan be presented to the Governing Board for review and approval. The governing Board subsequently approved the plan.

WATER SUPPLY:

- Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2008 “Minimum Flows and Levels” Annual Priority List and recommended moving it forward to the SFWMD Governing Board.
- Recommended a draft Regional Water Availability Rule be presented to the Governing Board for review and approval.
- Reviewed presentations regarding the Floridan Aquifer to ensure better understanding of the extent of sustainable yield of the Floridan Aquifer, to avoid future adverse impacts.
- Recommended forwarding the proposed Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan to the SFWMD Governing Board.
- **Year-round Landscape Irrigation Measures:** Agreed that the proposed rule as written is valid in concept and is a good start, however, need answers to questions about implementation, accomplishing the stated goals and golf courses as rulemaking proceeds.
- **Final Consumptive Use Permitting Rule Language for Central Florida Coordination Area:** Agreed with condition, that the proposed rule be moved on to the Governing Board. Condition was that impacts to

Polk County from proposed rule be worked out between SFWMD and Polk County.

- Recommended initiation of rulemaking for the establishment of a water reservation for the Indian River Lagoon South project.

RECREATIONAL USE AND PUBLIC ACCESS ON SFWMD LANDS:

- Recommended creation of bank fishing opportunities for youth on Stormwater Treatment Areas.
- Everglades National Park (ENP) General Management Plan (GMP)“Alternative E”: Agreed without objection, but with comments, that the Governing Board support the concepts included in “Alternative E” to the Everglades National Park General Management Plan. “Alternative E” was developed by fishing guides, citizens and Park users.
- Recommended Governing Board approve proposed alligator hunting for 2007 season provided that better alligator population counts be made so that future hunting would be based on more accurate numbers.
- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with SFWMD and Broward County to include language re: Broward Water Preserve Areas Greenways project in either the Chief of Engineers’ Report, or the Record of Decision on the Project Implementation Report; and, present the issue to the Quarterly Review Board as soon as possible.
- Recreation Management and Partnership Plan: Agreed with staff recommendations about the Recreation Management and Partnership Plan for presentation to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval.