

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWND)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
Upper East Coast Water Supply Plan Regional Workshop
SFWMD Martin/St. Lucie Service Center
780 SE Indian Street
Stuart, Florida
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010, 9:00 AM
MEETING SUMMARY

- Item 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Kevin Powers, Governing Board Member**
- Item 2. Introductions and Today’s Topics - Mark Elsner, Director Water Supply Development**
Mr. Elsner read a change to the agenda that gave Mr. Peter Spyke time to make a presentation during Item 4.
- Item 3. December 16, 2009 Meeting Follow-up – Linda Hoppes, Lead Planner, Water Supply Planning Section**
Ms. Hoppes reminded the meeting that issues, and goals and objectives for the plan are being finalized and to submit any comments.
- Item 4. Status of Citrus Agriculture – Doug Bournique, Executive Director, Indian River Citrus League and Peter Spyke, Arapaho Citrus Management, Inc..**
Questions and answers in this item regarding hydroponic method of citrus cultivation were:
Q. We have been told that citrus trees do not like to have their roots wet – is the information incorrect?
A. The correct air pulse in the water/nutrient delivery system is the key to not overwatering the roots.
Q. The state has violent weather – how will the trees with the shallow root systems succeed?
A. The roots are not deep but they are laterally extensive and merge into the roots of the other citrus trees and this provides the needed structural strength.
Q. Will trees grown in this manner have a need for freeze protection water?
A. South of SR 60, there should be no need for supplemental water. Some areas will need the water as this is the most effective and reliable method of protection.
Q. With this method of delivering the amount of water and nutrients needed by a tree for each day, will they need water even in rainy times?
A. Yes, while there may be sufficient water, the nutrients are also delivered in this way. Additionally, some soils will not hold the rainwater and with the shallow root system, will need irrigation water.

Item 5. Dispersed Water Storage and Treatment – Benita Whalen, Deputy Department Director, Environmental Resource Department.

Questions and answers in this item were:

Q. What will be presented to the March Governing Board?

A. We were asked to provide an update of where we are on the project. We are making progress but do not believe that we will have the draft endangered and threatened species agreement yet but feel that process is on track.

Q. How do the new EPA nutrient standards affect this?

A. We are not sure. It is possible that the EPA process will be a long one and there are unknowns. Our plan is to keep this project moving forward.

Item 6. Agricultural, Industrial/Commercial, Recreation and Thermoelectric Projected Water Demands – Linda Hoppes

It was asked what the reason for the large increase in projected Recreational demands in St. Lucie County as compared to Martin County? District staff stated they noticed this and have been reviewing the data. Permits for landscape irrigation in Traditions and St. Lucie West came in after the last update and this could be part of the reason. In some of these areas there is potential for reclaimed water in the future. This will continue to be reviewed.

Item 7. Update: Minimum Flows and levels and Water Reservations – Dave Swift, Lead Environmental Scientist, Federal and State Policy Division.

A question was asked about the reservation for the Northwest Fork of the St. Lucie River and the response was the reservation is not in effect until the CERP project is built.

Item 8. Update: Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects Update – Beth Kacvinsky, Project Manager, Project Coordination Division.

A comment was made and questions were asked regarding the Ten Mile creek project and these were addressed by Susan Kaynor of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Some feel the current condition is worse than the pre-built condition because of the need to keep water in the reservoir at a low level. This can exacerbate flooding conditions in the region and people feel the USACE has forgotten the region. A question was asked about what would happen if the reservoir was used and the response was the water would leak out. A question was asked if there is an issue regarding threatened and endangered species at the reservoir and the answer was the USACE is looking at this.

Item 9. Wrap Up/Next Steps – Linda Hoppes and Mark Elsner

There were no additional questions or comments.

Item 10. Adjourn: 11:25



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