

Southeast Florida Utility Council

SEFLUC Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2008
1:33 PM
Broward County WWS

Meeting called by:	<i>Hector Castro, Chair</i>	Type of meeting:	<i>Regular Meeting</i>
Facilitator:	<i>Hector Castro</i>	Note taker:	<i>Charlotte St. John, Secretary</i>
Attendees:	<i>See Attached List</i>		

Minutes

Agenda item:	<i>Approval of Minutes – May 12, 2008</i>	Presenter:	<i>Hector Castro</i>
Discussion:	<i>No discussion.</i>		
Conclusions:	Motion By: <i>Julie Leonard</i>	Second By: <i>Brian Shields</i>	Vote: <i>Passed without objection</i>

Agenda item:	<i>Bylaw Committee Appointment</i>	Presenter:	<i>Hector Castro</i>
Discussion:	<i>Hector pointed out that SEFLUC's bylaws were written in 1993 and suggested that they probably need to be updated. Julie Leonard volunteered to chair and Jean Dupuis, Coconut Creek and Joel Wasserman, City of Hollywood volunteered to serve on the committee.</i>		
Conclusions:	<i>Hector thanked the volunteers.</i>		

Agenda Item:	<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	Presenter:	<i>Brian Shields, Treasurer</i>
Discussion:	<i>Brian reported a closing balance on May 31, 2008 of \$81,964.08</i>		
Conclusions:	<i>Report accepted</i>		

Agenda item:	<i>The Main Event: "Conceptual C-51 Reservoir – Status Update"</i>	Presenter:	<i>Albert Carbon, Fort Lauderdale & Pat Davis, Hazen and Sawyer</i>
Discussion:	<i>Highlights of the power point presentation by Albert Carbon:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>In 2007, seven utilities joined together to examine the possibility of using C-51 as a storage reservoir to offset projected new water supply needs / meet the intent of the SFWMD LEC Plan and Water Availability Rule.</i><i>Group hired Hazen and Sawyer; SFWMD provided facilitator; 6 Tasks were identified</i><i>Survey projected that raw water demand not met = 248 mgd. 248 MGD "demand-not-met" requires 186 MGD new water (raw); C-51 provides 120 MGD; therefore 66 MGD "alternative water supply" required.</i><i>Most likely source of the 66 mgd would come from the Floridan Aquifer and Reclaimed Water</i><i>Storing raw water in C-51 Reservoir would allow water to cascade to southern PBC</i>		

- *and Broward County – offsetting the need for expensive AWS projects and facilities.*
- *Estimated reservoir capital costs (very preliminary): \$353 for a cost of \$2.6/gal*
- *Current situation – see charts:*
 - First 10 years mandated by DCA: build 1st group of AWS projects, sized for 2018, mostly Floridan aquifer and reuse*
 - C-51 Reservoir – all water above 248 MGD will be lost to tide or disposed of (DIW)*
 - Ocean Outfall shutdown legislation will require reuse of approximately 300 MGD*
 - ... bringing the total amount of water available to 400 MGD*
 - ... in other words – more water than we need*
- *Comparing the relative energy use and capital costs of alternatives:*
 - C-51 is lowest / AWS is middle / OO shut down is highest*
- *Study suggests if AWS is re-scheduled - optimizing sustainable design concepts - far fewer AWS projects may be required*

Discussion:

Albert Carbon emphasized that just as important as the lower costs are the environmental benefits: storing water in the Reservoir saves water that would be lost to tide, keeps water flowing into the environmentally sensitive marsh areas, and reduces energy costs (global warming / reduced energy demand / lower carbon footprint)

Pat Davis explained that this model may not work for all utilities; each utility will have to run the numbers / assess their systems / make the best determination. Fort Lauderdale and Sunrise have the largest unmet need at this time. Estimates for the costs of Floridan aquifer water are \$6 – 8 vs. C-51 at \$2.6

Time is of the essence because of many deadlines:

- *10 Year Water Supply Facilities Plan due to DCA in August (many have already been approved by local governments)*
- *LEC Water Supply Plan (may be out of date primarily due to the SFWMD Conservation Plan, the Year-round irrigation rule, and Ocean Outfall legislation)*
- *Broward County has proposed / written a resolution to establish a County –Wide Water Resources Task Force with all municipalities invited to participate – including the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee*
- *SFWMD rule of borrowing water for only 5 years ... to 2013 (most projects take that long to complete)*

Tom Miller (PBCWD) made the following motion:

“SEFLUC to compose a letter to the Governor’s Office, recommending that the SFWMD, FDEP and FDOH amend the LECWSP in conjunction with the FDCA, postponing implementation of the of planned alternative water supply projects until regional impacts of the Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule, in combination with the C-51 Reservoir Project, the L-40 Levee Conveyance Project, and elimination of the LEC Ocean Outfall Projects be evaluated for the opportunity potential they bring to significantly improve coastal ecosystems and radically minimize escalating public water supply development costs.”

Randy Brown (Pompano Beach Water) seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Bert Waters, SFWMD, explained that the Governing Board / executive staff are just carrying out legislation and have no authority to amend process of the LEC / 10 year plans. (Later clarified to me that LEC is a dynamic document; scheduled for updates every 5 year; but feels that even if we started the update now, it would be five years before the process could be completed). He suggested that perhaps the BC Task Force would be interested and perhaps give it their support;

TF members have not been appointed yet; resolutions are making the round of municipalities. Carole Morris (SFWMD) added that the TF will also have Technical Advisory Committee.

Hector Castro (Sunrise): stated that his desire to make this a coordinated and positive effort; need the SFWMD, FDOH, FDEP and BC Task Force's understanding and support. Maybe they will agree that this is a better option. But we face many challenges. Need strong consensus.

Hank Breitenkam (Plantation): suggested we need to follow the science – but also follow good economics – make right decisions for both ecology and economy.

Conclusions:

Chairman called the vote; motion passed without objection.

Agenda item: *Year-Round Water Conservation Rule (Rule)* **Presenter:** *Hector Castro*

Discussion: *Hector gave a brief intro re the Rule, noting that the SFWMD Governing Board will most likely vote on the Rule in August; that it's being "driven" by the Governor's Office. Mark Elsner (SFWMD) offered the following: "The Rule is still a working draft. The draft was discussed by the District's Governing Board last Wednesday at their workshop in Fort Myers. The Board wants to provide incentives for people to use reclaimed water. Recent changes and direction from the Board include reclaimed water, and supplemented reclaimed water may irrigate 7 days a week, except from 10 AM to 4 PM. Incentives for utilities that have implemented alternative water supplies are still under consideration. The District will prepare a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Cost (SERC) for this rule. The Board authorized rule development for Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C. to amend the rule to recognize residential irrigation through a "No-Notice General Permit by Rule." It is anticipated the year-round rule will be discussed by the Board in August and staff will also request authorization for rulemaking in August. The rule should be final by November, to become effective January 1, 2009."*

Discussion followed about the need to let others know our concerns beyond just SFWMD, i.e., perhaps send the Rule letter to Governor, Legislators, County and City Commissioners, etc.

Conclusions: ***Randy Brown so moved; Tom Miller made the second; Chairman called for the vote; Motion passed without objection.***

Agenda item: *SFWMD Conservation Plan – Status Update* **Presenter:** *Randy Brown, Pompano Beach*

Discussion: *Randy gave a brief overview; last discussion was at WRAC in Hollywood included Mobile Irrigation Labs; concerns from utilities - most of which have conservation programs in effect – need flexibility; suggestion to amend plan to encourage AMR or other water saving technologies where appropriate. Mark added that the Board also has requested a cost estimate for this program. To the GB in July.*

Conclusions: *Update accepted.*

Agenda item: *FS/AWWA Utility Council Meeting, May 30, 2008* **Presenter:** *Lisa Wilson-Davis*

Discussion: *Lisa distributed a one-page report. A summary of the 2008 Legislative Session is available. This year the combined FSAWWA and FWEA conference calls were an excellent method of communicating and coordinating efforts on mutual issues. There was also good coordination and mutual support from the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties during the session. This very successful collaboration will continue. Randy Brown has resigned his position as Regulatory Committee Chair; candidates are invited to contact Suzanne Goss if they are interested. In the absence of a regulatory chair, Lisa has formed a small Year-Round Irrigation Rulemaking ad hoc working group with reps from each of the 5 WMDs to develop a matrix that compares current rules with proposed changes/issues/concerns/impacts – goal is*

development of a statewide perspective to aid in responding to rulemaking in each WMD. Next FS/AWWA UC meeting will be held in conjunction with FWEA UC in Orlando, August 1, 2008.

Conclusions: Hector thanked Lisa for her report.

Standing Sub-Committees:

1. *Hurricane Sub-Committee (Brian Shields, PBCWUD): Brian urged everyone to conduct hurricane drills and be prepared! Thanks to Broward County for collection all the information for FloridaWarn. Check the Website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/northeast/water/FLWarn.htm>*
2. *Bird Rule Sub-Committee (Miguel Arroyo, FLWU): No changes to report.*
3. *UIC Friend of the Court (Brian Shields, PBCWUD): Brian reported that the 11th Circuit Court of appeals has denied the UIC challenge. Ed de la Parte sent a memo last week which was forwarded to all SEFLUC members.*
4. *Year-Round Watering Guidelines (Randy Brown, PBPW): See discussion above.*

New Business:

1. *Brian explained the memo that had previously been Emailed to member utilities regarding Backflow Prevention Devices. During recent permitting of the extension of PBCWUD's reclaimed water system to nine local communities, FDEP interpreted the rule (FAC 62-555.360) in such a manner as will greatly impact residents who use lakes, canals or individual wells for landscape irrigation. Specifically, they are defining such irrigation systems as supplemental water supplies and requiring that expensive backflow prevention devices (RPZs) be installed at the water meters of individual residences. Final permits are being delayed while draft permits received give them 5 years to require all homeowners to install the devices. PBCWUD estimates the potential cost of this in PBC alone is a staggering \$80M. PBC disagrees with FDEP's interpretation and action and believes that the current backflow prevention program and installation of dual check valves at customer's meters is adequate and protective of the public health. They further feel that the new interpretation is so different than what is specifically stated in the rule that they should go to a rulemaking process if they wish to proceed.*

Following discussion, Tom Miller made the following motion: "SEFLUC draft a letter to Mike Sole in support of Palm Beach County Water Utility Department's position as stated above on this matter" (see highlighted section above)

Miguel Arroyo, Fort Lauderdale, seconded the motion.

Chairman Hector Castro called the vote. Motion passed without objection.

2. *Randy announced that the Florida AWWA Water Utility Management Institute / UF TREEO Center will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, September 15 – 17 at the Embassy Suites. Cost is \$525; 2.0 CEUs. They're looking for instructors for sessions on Budgeting and Public Affairs. Leisa Tica offered to contact Terry Cole with Jordan, Jones and Goulding. (Note: Terry has agreed to handle the Public Affairs session).*

3. *Lisa announced that the August meeting will be held in Boca Raton in conjunction with a workshop on rate-making. WateRate Workshop in the morning, then lunch, then SEFLUC at the regular time 1:30 – 3:00.*

Meeting Adjourned: 3:24 pm

Submitted:

Approved:

C. St. John 9/23/08 *Hector Castro* 9/23/08
Charlotte St. John Date: Hector Castro Date: