FSAWWA UC Meeting
January 30, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
St. Cloud, FL

Attendees
Charlotte St. John   Broward County
Brian Wheeler       Toho Water
Doug Mann           Littlejohn, Mann & Assoc.
Suzanne Goss        JEA
Ted McKim           Reedy Creek Improvement District
Harold Aiken        MWH
Tom Miller          Palm Beach Co.
Todd Swingle        City of St. Could
Chuck Carden        Tampa Bay Water
Paula Dye           Tampa Bay Water
Ana Maria Gonzalez  Hazen and Sawyer
Kelly Merrit        City of St. Cloud
Rick Lotspeich      Tampa Bay Water
Rob Birrenkott      Manson Law Group
Matt Alvarez        CH2M HILL
Khalil Atasi        CDM
Jason Yarborough    City of Palm Bay

Motion to approve Mr. Yarborough as Secretary for FSAWWA UC by Mr. Carden and seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - Jason Yarborough

Motion to approve minutes from December 2, 2008 made by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Ms. St. John. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report - Suzanne Goss

Chairperson Goss presented a budget balance of $289,488.94. Ms. Goss communicated that half of the 131 members had paid their dues. She stated that the membership was comprised of about 100 Utilities with the remainder being associate members.

Legislative & Regulatory Policy Committee - Tom Miller

Mr. Miller gave an overview of current activities of this committee. Key regulatory issues are:

A brief overview of the changes to 62-4 was presented – proposing to revise permit fees; construction fees; operating permit fees may double.

A brief overview of the changes to 62-550 & 62-560 (Cross Connection) was presented.
**Stormwater TAC - Todd Swingle**

In general, the concern is that stormwater needs the same scrutiny as reuse water. Another concern is that the messaging from the stormwater community that reclaimed water promotes increased nitrogen and phosphorus in the environment. Discharge would be very strict. Preconstruction standards would be sought.

Key items:

Storage of Reclaim in Ponds - no proposals to keep reclaimed water from being stored in isolated stormwater ponds. Currently no discussion or proposed action related to existing ponds or existing permitted activities. FDEP does not like it but would not prevent it. Mass balance approach to see if the system could handle it.

Stormwater Reuse – discussion regarding stormwater reuse as a viable means to control N/P loads.

Stormwater Reuse Quality – general premise is that water reused from a stormwater pond may need to be filtered and disinfected if pulled directly from the pond, but not if using horizontal wells under or near the pond.

Reuse N/P Loads - Revising stormwater rule so that more nitrogen and phosphorus would be reduced

**Legislative Report - Doug Mann**

Mr. Mann presented an overview of key bills of interest, which are referenced in the meeting booklet and the Legislative & Regulatory Policy spreadsheet.

- Bills of interest
  - Senate Bill 630 – Moratorium on impact fees for three years, which may include guaranteed revenue and connection fees.
  - House Bill 611 is another attempt to require public construction projects to be bid if private sector can do them cheaper.
  - Any bill that has financial impact will have difficulty passing.
  - Senator Baker has introduced a bill to have Water Management District (WMD) boards elected.

    Mr. Mann reported the Rep. Williams is looking at several ways to deal with WMD boards, for example:
      - PSC Model – legislature recommends three candidates for each seat to Governor.
      - ERP Model – different entities represented with major players at the table.
        - Important to have proportional representation.
• Water Conservation Plan Amendments

Mr. Mann and Mr. Wheeler spoke about the water conservation plan. Some utilities are uncomfortable with measurement requirements.

Alternative Water Supply funding dollars under Senate Bill 444 have been reduced to a little over $5 million. We may lose that with the $5 + billion shortfall in state revenues.

A working group has suggested to Rep. Williams that the 3-prong test for CUPs be more clearly defined in the Florida Statutes, as a guide to the WMDs.

Mr. Lotspeich reported that State Representative Trudy Williams is looking to revise F.S. 373, and will probably do as a committee bill. Mr. Mann updated the group on the efforts by the Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties, City of Tampa, and FWEA to draft reclaimed water legislation. FWEA met with FDEP Secretary Mike Sole and agreed not to push legislation this session on reclaimed water, but work with a FDEP task force on this issue.

FDEP invited utilities to participate in the reuse stakeholder process. FDEP acknowledges that the WMDs do not have the authority to regulate reclaimed water; however, they will not commit that to writing.

Mr. Lotspeich reported on Rep. Williams efforts to introduce a bill that would create a new Part 7 of F.S. 373. This would move all references on water supply policy planning and funding to a new Part 7.

Ms. Goss reminded the attendees of the following teleconference/meeting:

Legislative & Regulatory Policy - Consumptive Use Modeling Work Group will hold a teleconference on Feb. 3 from 1-2 p.m.

The next UC meeting, which will be a joint meeting with FWEA UC, will meet at Reedy Creek on February 27. The meeting will focus on review proposed legislation and preparing for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Other Business

• FL2030 Update

Mr. Carden stated that the nine chairs worked well together in preparing the Issue papers for the Water Congress. He suggested conducting a FSAWWA Water Summit in the fall of 2009. A Legislative Action Team is being created that will move forward on items generated from the water summit. There was discussion regarding whether the Legislative Action Team should be under or separate from the Florida Utility Council. It was agreed that the FL203 Legislative Action Team will link to the UC via the Legislative & Regulatory Policy Committee.

• Conserve Florida

Ms. Goss gave an overview of the Conserve Florida program. Runs on an annual budget of $500,000. The University of Florida houses Conserve Florida clearinghouse under contract from FDEP.
FDEP feels that in order for the Conserve Florida program to survive, the Section and UC would need to take over; specifically in the area of outreach. Although the UC and the Section support Conserve Florida, the general consensus was the FSAWWA should not take on fully supporting the Conserve Florida program until the WMDs get unified in accepting the program, and that a dedicated funding source be secured to ensure long-term sustainability. It was suggested that operational permit fees could be used to fund the program if FSAWWA were to take on the role. Who else should help fund?

- **Economic Stimulus**

  U.S. House has passed its version of economic stimulus bill with $2 billion for water projects and $6 billion for wastewater. The funding will flow through the states with 50% as grants and 50% as loans with no match.

  U.S. Senate bill provides for $2 billion for water and $4 billion for wastewater with all of it going to grants with no match. Projects currently not on SRF list would be allowed on list.

  Things could dramatically change before the bill is signed into law.

- **Organizational Structure**

  Ms. Goss presented a draft organizational chart of the UC. There was discussion about using liaisons from the regional utility councils to share information with the Legislative & Regulatory Policy Committee. There was also general discussion on a Membership/Marketing Committee and an Annual Report Committee.

- **FSAWWA Website**

  The new Section website will be launched on March 27. It will be more interactive for members to keep contact information current, to sign-up for activities/committees, and allow Council and Regional Chairs to have control on their webpage content.

**Future Meetings/Activities**

- Joint FSAWWA/FWEA UCs @ Reedy Creek Improvement District on February 27, 2009
- AWWA National Fly-in during March 24-25, 2009
- Joint UCs – Legislative Updates by Teleconference. Every Friday at 1 PM, starting March 6-May 8, 2009
- FSAWWA UC – Drinking Water Day @ Tallahassee on April 1, 2009
- Florida Water Resource Conference @ West Palm Beach during April 4-8, 2009

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.