Message from the Chair

We are officially into Summer 2021! It is truly amazing how much things have changed since the first issue of the Region VI Newsletter. Most notably, our Region is starting to lift COVID-19 restrictions which allows us to provide greater opportunity for planning and executing future in-person events.

As a Region, we continue to remain optimistic about 2021 and the future. To date, a few companies have committed to being Annual Regional Sponsors. To those companies, we extend a heartfelt thanks. To any company interested in supporting the growth and development of water professionals throughout the Region, there is still time to join us. Annual Sponsorship information is presented on Region VI’s website as well as the last page of this newsletter.

Again, sincere thanks to all our water utilities, sponsors, professional members, and volunteers for your continued efforts. Hopefully in the near future, you can join us at an event. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to continue to stay safe and healthy, and look forward to our Fall 2021 issue. We hope to see you soon at an in-person event! For any questions regarding FSAWWA Region VI, including volunteer opportunities, email Monique at mdurand@hazenandsawyer.com

Monique Durand, PE

Monique Durand is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She works as a senior Water/Wastewater Engineer/Project Manager at Hazen and Sawyer.

For questions and comments regarding FSAWWA Region VI, including volunteer opportunities or newsletter feature, email Monique at mdurand@hazenandsawyer.com
PAST EVENT

South Florida and Caribbean Link-Up

Two close neighbors – the Caribbean and Florida – recently came together to celebrate the American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) Drinking Water Week and our shared number one global resource - Water! The Florida Section of AWWA’s Region VI and VII co-hosted the virtual event ‘The Caribbean and Florida Water Link Up’ with our neighboring Caribbean water sector organizations on May 6th. The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association (CAWASA), Puerto Rico Water and Environment Association (PRW&EA), and FSAWWA leaders and members provided outstanding presentations on topics such as disaster planning and non-revenue water. Beyond celebrating Drinking Water Week, the event’s purpose was to exchange water sector expertise between the two neighboring regions and develop stronger relationships and dialogue. Based on the early results, it looks like we achieved our first-year goals. Over 100 attendees listened to 12 speakers from Florida, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Dominica, England, and Canada during the virtual event. An introduction session kicked off the event so attendees could learn about each organization. For example, did you know the CWWA is hosting its 30th Annual Conference and Exhibition virtually from October 3rd through the 8th, 2021? Many thanks to Lisa Wilson-Davis (City of Boca Raton) for representing FSAWWA well in the first session. The second excellent roundtable discussed disaster planning, response, and capacity building. While hurricanes were a major topic, recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico and a volcano eruption in St. Vincent & the Grenadines showed the water sector has many disasters to build resilience for. Finally, an exceptional non-revenue water panel detailed the topic’s seriousness worldwide and the challenges to solve the problem of water losses along the distribution system. Fortunately, several excellent solutions and programs were highlighted including by FSAWWA member Francisco Martinez (Miami-Dade County). Many thanks to Region VI Chair, Monique Durand (Hazen & Sawyer) and Region VII Chair Austin P’Pool (The Corradino Group) who facilitated the event. Additionally, many thanks to the sponsors from both regions for making this event possible. As always, many thanks to Peggy Guingona and Donna Metherall (FSAWWA) for being the anchors for these efforts. Please look for future issues of this forum when I will highlight different Caribbean utilities. Written By: Kevin Carter (Broward County) at kcarter@broward.org or 954-856-3879.

ONGOING EVENT

Summer Workshop Webinar Series

For over 20 years, AWWA has hosted an annual Summer Workshop event focused on providing training to Section leaders to build Section capacity. Many of you join AWWA every summer in Colorado to share your time and talents with other Section leaders. AWWA is hosting a webinar series in replace of the in-person summer workshop. Please note you must register for each webinar separately.

Webinar 1: AWWA Leadership Forum

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 / 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Join the Leadership Forum to hear about the coming year from AWWA CEO David LaFrance and AWWA’s newest President, Chi Ho Sham. David will share an update on the state of the Association and we will hear from Chi Ho about his vision for AWWA in the coming year.

Register Here

Webinar 2: Membership Works!

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 / 2:00 – 3:30 PM EST

Join Dean West from Association Laboratory, Inc. for an insightful session on what’s working with membership, how the theory of membership is changing long-term as a result of Covid-19, and address key concepts on membership operations.

Webinar 3: How to Wear Many Hats: The Difference Between Governance, Management, and Operations

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 / 1:00PM – 3:00 PM EST

Lines are easily blurred in the association world where everyone is ready and willing to support the mission. Learn from our expert panel of Section staff on how to distinguish between governance issues, management matters, and operations so your Section leaders can be the best possible stewards. Register Here
“Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season”
Written By: Kevin Carter

For those of us who are Jimmy Buffett fans, you will recognize the title of that iconic song of Jimmy ‘surviving’ a storm down in the Florida Keys. For the Florida water sector, hurricane season preparedness is especially important due to being in ‘Hurricane Alley’. In fact, this article was supposed to be focused on preparedness, but the 2021 season started early and with a bang around the 4th of July with Hurricane Elsa’s arrival. Fortunately, Southeast Florida felt minor impacts, but Elsa reminds us, it only takes one storm to make a difference. I recommend you review your county’s hurricane web site for useful information for your work and personal use (Broward County and Palm Beach County). Florida utilities have extensive emergency plans and many also run pre-season exercises to enhance their readiness. Municipal and county utility members also typically maintain some role with their respective Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) who are in close coordination with the state of Florida’s EOC. In addition to the EOCs, the Florida water sector started a Florida Water and Wastewater Response Network (FlaWARN) back in April 2005 due to the very active 2004 hurricane season. FlaWARN’s major purpose is “to coordinate initial communication between member utilities to ensure the responding utility sends the appropriate personnel with the tools and equipment necessary to both assess and assist the impacted utility.” The motto is ‘utilities helping utilities’ and in 2018, over 300 utility workers, including over 60 from South Florida, responded to the Florida Panhandle after Hurricane Michael left its devastation. I am privileged to be on the statewide FlaWARN steering committee and I am also the Southeast Florida regional coordinator. If you have any questions and want to learn more about FlaWARN please contact me at kcarter@broward.org. Hopefully, 2021 will be quiet for our state but as always “prepare for the worst and hope for the best.”

Region Volunteer Spotlight

In this issue, we recognize Grace Johns, a fellow member of Section VI for being awarded the George W. Fuller award. Grace has been an active Florida Section volunteer since joining AWWA in 1990 and has truly advanced the mission and goals of AWWA and the Florida Section. Her education began at University of Florida and then the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned degrees in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics. After an extraordinarily successful college experience, she joined an economics consulting firm in California and began work as an Economist. After the Loma Prieta earthquake struck California in 1989, she transferred her talents to a civil engineering firm in South Florida. She chose to work for a civil engineering firm because of this industry’s role in protecting our natural environment by developing sustainable water, stormwater, and wastewater systems. Through her work she has demonstrated that protecting Florida’s natural water-based environment has tremendous value to the state’s economy and its residents. In addition, Grace has developed, implemented, and/or made significant contributions to many Section programs including Chair of the Water for People Committee for many years ultimately receiving the Kenneth R. Miller Founder’s Award. As Treasurer, she managed the Section’s finances to better operate as a business. Procedures were instituted and accounts created to better track and report the financial status and success of the Section’s many initiatives and events. When Grace became the FSAWWA Chair-Elect, she began the tradition of presenting the incoming Chair with a tiara, which she presented to Kim Kunihiro in December 2015. When she received hers the next year, she proudly wore it that day proclaiming, “I am the boss now!”. The tiara and crown tradition continues to this day.
Florida 2021 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The 2021 regular Legislative Session began on March 2, 2021 and concluded April 30, 2021, and there was a subsequent special session during the week of May 17th to address gaming. During the regular session, 3,140 bills and Proposed Committee Bills (PCBs) were filed in the House and Senate and only 275 passed both Chambers. 15 bills were filed in the special session and 4 were ultimately approved by the Governor, all relating to gaming.

Buoyed by billions of dollars in federal stimulus money and rebounding state tax revenues, lawmakers passed a record $101.5 billion budget for the upcoming year. The budget includes such things as bonuses for first responders, providing services to more people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and addressing effects of rising sea levels. Also, lawmakers scrapped proposed cuts in Medicaid funding for hospitals and nursing homes.

The Florida Section of the America Water Works Association (FSAWWA) Water Utility Council (WUC) tracked over 100 bills and amendments throughout the Session. Bills of specific interest or impact to member water and wastewater utilities are detailed in the associated table including the bills that passed the legislature as well as a few that failed. These bills were identified as the highest priority for membership, on the bills that passed, the bill numbers in bold in the following table are the companion bills that were ultimately enrolled – or passed both chambers. Once bills are enrolled, they then need to be signed by the House and Senate Officers and presented to the Governor for approval or veto. If the Governor fails to take any action by June 30, 2021, the bill will automatically become law on July 1, 2021.

Once the 2021 Florida legislative session ended and after taking a “quick breath”, the WUC participated in the AWWA Washington “Virtual’ D.C. Fly-In in April, meeting with Florida congressional members and/or staff; 16 from US House of Representative, including three representatives themselves, and one Senate office member. Many thanks to the 15+ WUC members who participated in the briefings. Our D.C. conversations were primarily focused on water infrastructure funding and we should see a major federal infrastructure funding bill this summer. Please stay tuned to AWWA’s Bi-weekly Water Insiders to find out what passes or fails.

After our D.C. meetings, the WUC is now preparing for the 2022 legislative session. The 2022 legislative session is an “early session” and will run from January 11, 2022 to March 11, 2022 with Committee meetings starting the week of September 20, 2021, never a dull moment!
Governor:

Bills of specific interest or impact that passed and approved by the Summer 2021

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title (Link to bill)</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS/CS/SB 53 and CS/CS/CS/ SB 1076</td>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>• Places certain restrictions on Public Works projects that exceeds $1M and have any state-appropriated funds • Requires 20-yr. needs analysis to be done by wastewater and stormwater providers, submit to County, then roll up to the State by June 30, 2022 • Require the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to include an analysis of the expenditures necessary to repair, replace, and expand water-related infrastructure in its annual assessment of Florida’s water resources and conserva- tion lands.</td>
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<td>CS/SB 64 and CS/HB 263</td>
<td>Reclaimed Water</td>
<td>• Elimination of certain surface water discharges by 2032 - original economic hardship language was removed. • Report/plan on eliminating the discharges due to FDEP by November 1, 2021, may be conceptual but end goal must be met. • FDEP to submit report to President of the Senate and Speaker of the House on status of average gallons per day no longer being discharged, dates discharges ceased, level of treatment of discharges, and modifications to plans by December 31, 2021 and annually after.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 1309 and CS/ SB 7060</td>
<td>Environmental Regulation</td>
<td>• Ratification of Department Rules - Biosolids - CFWI and CFWI grant program (From SB 7060)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 2512 and HB 5401</td>
<td>Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions</td>
<td>• Redistributes documentary stamp tax distribution funds to include Resilient Florida Trust Fund (SB 4514, see next two bills) and Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund under the wastewater grants program (403.0673 Florida Statutes (F.S.)) to be administered by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). • The state budget (SB 2500) includes $116 million for the wastewater grant programs from this fund and also $500 million from federal funds. The $616 million is for the wastewater grant program in 403.0673 F.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 2514 and HB 7021</td>
<td>Resilient Florida Trust Fund</td>
<td>• Creates the Resilient Florida Trust Fund within FDEP where the state legislature can place funds for CS/CS/SB 1954’s programs and provisions (please see next bill). Funds described in CS/CS/SB 1954 are housed here.</td>
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CS/HSB 1051 and CS/SB 964 | Environmental Compliance Costs | • Adds water reuse projects to eligible “environmental compliance costs” for electrical utilities under 366.8255 F.S. • Facilitates reclaimed water use at energy facilities by allowing cost recovery for such projects. |

CS/HB 35 and CS/CS/SB 402 | Legal Notices | • Allows/describes publishing of legal notices on publicly accessible websites |

CS/SB 44 and SB 518 | Drones | • Describes when governmental agencies can use drones - Can use to assess damage due to a flood, wildfire, or any other natural disaster or for wildlife management on publicly owned land or water. |

CS/SB 912 and CS/HB 859 | Land Use and Development | • Tackling and extending the expiration of specified consensual use water permits and development permits and agreements during a natural emergency declared by the Governor; extending the time period for local governments to administer local incentive programs for projects within certain enterprise zones and boundaries, etc. |

HB 169 and SB 362 | Purchase of Commodities and Services by WMD | • Provide WMDs more flexibility in the procurement process |

CS/SB 72 and CS/HB 7 | Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 | • Provides requirements for civil action based on COVID-19 related claims, provides that plaintiff has burden of proof in such action; provides statute of limitations, provides retroactive applicability. |

SB 2500 and HB 5001 | Appropriations | • Beyond budget items listed above, $40 million appropriated for Alternative Water Supply projects for the third year in a row. • 117 local water projects located statewide were funded collectively over $116 million. This is a significant increase from recent years. |

Bills of specific interest or impact that failed (may be filed next year):

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<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Title (Links to bill)</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS/HSB 219 and CS/CS/SB 522</td>
<td>Vacation Rentals</td>
<td>• Contained a provision to prohibit certain inspections or licensing of public lodging establishments, including vacation rentals, or public food service establishment – would include new grease trap or backflows at these properties.</td>
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<td>CS/HB 773 and CS/SB 1058</td>
<td>Sanitary Sewer Laterals</td>
<td>• If a local government implements a sanitary sewer lateral inspection program, then this legislation would prescribe very specific components of the program. This may result in utilities opting out of the development of such programs. FHEA UC members are encouraged to closely review this legislation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 705 and CS/ SB 1054</td>
<td>Soil and Ground Water Contamination</td>
<td>• Included extensive PFAS provisions • Although this bill failed, there was $1M in appropriations to UF for PFAS research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB 1225 and SB 1522</td>
<td>Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force</td>
<td>• Requiring owners of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to have the system periodically inspected, beginning on a specified date; requiring the Department of Health to administer the inspection program; requiring the department to implement program standards, procedures, and requirements; providing for rulemaking; requiring new or revised basin management action plans to include an identification and prioritization of certain spatially focused projects, etc.</td>
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CS = Committee Substitute (bill amended), HB = House Bill, SB = Senate Bill
Summer 2021

State and Federal Regulator Update

FDEP’s potable reuse rulemaking continues as we head into the summer. On June 2nd, FDEP hosted its second public workshop to discuss Chapters 62-610, 62-625, 62-550, and 62-555 F.A.C. rulemaking which mainly involved a presentation of public comments received to date and there was very little discussion. We are waiting for the actual revised language to be published.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) embarked on a Lead Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) public engagement series in April and it will extend into July. The series targets general public, stakeholders groups, as well as co-regulators (e.g., state agencies). As the previous administration finalized the LCRR in January 2021, the new USEPA leadership is collecting information and perspectives to understand the new rules’ provisions. USEPA also requested public comment to move the LCRR effective date to December 16, 2021 and compliance deadline to September 16, 2024. The WUC continues to coordinate with AWWA’s Government Affairs as the LCRR evolves. In the interim, utilities should be reviewing and planning on how to meet the new LCRR requirements. As the WUC receives new information it will be passed along to membership.

USEPA also started a public engagements series for ‘Potential Revisions of the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Rules’ (MDBP) in May that will extend into November 2021. Information discussed and obtained during this process could lead to regulatory revisions for eight National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) - chlorite, Cryptosporidium, haloacetic acids, heterotrophic bacteria, Giardia lamblia, Legionella, total trihalomethanes, and viruses. The WUC is forming a MDBP committee to track this process and provide input to our AWWA Government Affairs. Please let Kevin or Lisa know if you are interested in joining this committee.

PFAS. Continuing its busy 2021, USEPA formed a ‘EPA Council on PFAS’ “to strategize the best way to use the EPA’s authorities, expertise and partnerships to mitigate and reduce PFAS pollution and protect public health and the environment” (please see April 27, 2021 memorandum). While USEPA has focused on PFAS with its Action Plan, this new Council indicates an even stronger focus for the agency. Tracy Mehan, AWWA Government Affairs’ Executive Director, recently testified to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) on AWWA’s perspectives on PFAS. The hearing entitled ‘PFAS: the View from Affected Citizens and States’ is available at the EPW website.

About the FSAWWA Water Utility Council

The Water Utility Council (aka WUC) represents over 130-member community water systems providing drinking water to approximately 80 percent of Florida residents and visitors (9 million people daily) from across the world. The Water Utility Council recognizes the importance of protecting and ensuring the health and safety of our Customers.

Members of the WUC and guests at the 2019 Annual Tallahassee Fly-In

The WUC:

- Is a resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of drinking water;
- Provides development of action plans to initiate, evaluate, and provide expert comments on legislative, regulatory, and other policy members affecting membership; and
- Works closely with our sibling organization, the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council (FWEAUC), as well as coordinates with other associations such as the FWPCOA/FLWARN and FSAWWA Council/Committees.

Main actives of the WUC include:

- Legislative advocacy (develop/comment/engage with legislature)
- Regulatory (develop/comment/engage with regulatory agencies)
- Outreach
- Fly-in (State and Congressional)
- Workshops
UPCOMING FSAWWA WEBINARS

FSAWWA MAC New Technology & Training Showcase Webinar Series

**Session 7**
Friday, July 30, 2021 / 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT
GIS Asset Management & Work Order Systems / Tony Shriner & Grease Management Technologies / Scott Shugart (Course #05100556/0.2 CEUs/2.0 PDHs) [Register Here]

**Session 8**
Friday, August 27, 2021 / 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT
A Technical Case for Non-Revenue Water & Inflow/Infiltration Measurement / John Broadway & Mitigating Inflow & Infiltration / Mark McDowell (Course # 05100557/0.2 CEUs/2.0 PDHs) [Register Here]

UPCOMING FSAWWA CONFERENCES

**2021 AWWA/WEF Utility Management Conference**
To help utilities navigate these challenges, this year’s AWWA/WEF UMC21 presents a mindfully-curated, robust set of programs designed to address every aspect of the new normal.
August 3-August 6, 2021
Atlanta, GA

**2021 FSAWWA Annual Fall Conference**
The FSAWWA Fall Conference brings together utilities, consultants, manufacturers, regulators, and students. Register and learn from the industry’s best through technical sessions, workshops, and exhibits.
November 28-December 2, 2021
Orlando, FL

PAST REGION VI WEBINARS

**June 2021**
The webinar, 2021 Legislative & Regulatory Activities Update & Future Issues, was brought together by Region VI. The presentation covered a summary of House and Senate bills from this year’s Legislative Session relating to sewage spills, septic tanks, and reclaimed water. Additionally, a preview of what to expect at next year’s Legislative Session was presented.

REGION VI CURRENT OFFICERS

Monique Durand—Chair
Kevin Cevallos—Vice Chair
Mark Ludwigson —Treasurer
Kara Mills—Secretary
Pranoti Kikale—Web Manager
Richard Gallant—YP Chair
Monica Pazahanick—Membership Chair

REGION VI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Carter—Utility Committee
Lisa Davis—Utility Committee
Tyler Tedcastle—Utility Committee
Grace Johns—Water for People Committee
Emma Johnson—Newsletter Committee
Kara Mills—Newsletter Committee
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For the opportunity to sponsor or renew current sponsorship with Region VI, see below.

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Renewing Sponsor:
www.fsawwa.org/reg6returningsponsor

Any questions can be directed to
tdavis@globaltechdb.com