



REGIONAL COMMUNITY INSTITUTE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, INC.

Water Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 2pm

NEFRC

100 Festival Park Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32202

Meeting Summary

Chair White introduced himself and staff and asked participants to introduce themselves. The Chair noted that public input is always welcome. He reviewed the summary of the March 8 meeting, including the ideas that might be considered as the committee thinks about recommendations. He reminded the group what questions it asked related to today's subject, Best Practices:

- Low Impact – Land use management and impacts
- Sustainable capacity of water in Region
- Conservation of water - Water re-use
- Regional Water Supply Authorities

The GTM NERR provided information regarding low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure, and provided links to be posted for resources that already exist. The City of Jacksonville has begun but not finished a LID manual. No one was aware of low impact developments in Duval County. It was observed that these can be difficult to get through permitting anywhere as they are not the usual way of doing business. The Georgia Stormwater Management District has a Coastal Stormwater Supplement and Green Growth Guidelines, both of which may be of value to the Committee. The North Carolina Coastal federation also has extensive resources that could be used as models. It was noted that St. Johns County considered, but did not approve, a LID ordinance drafted by staff.

JEA reminded the group that the District Water Supply Plan (DWSP) goes out to 2035 and projects an increase in demand of 24%. Existing sources could meet that given conservation and some water supply projects. Most JEA projects are reclaimed water related or those designed to catch high flows. It was noted that the DWSP does not measure supply, only demand. Plans use minimum flows and levels (MFLs) to identify sustainable yield, not actual supply. Population is increasing but demand is decreasing.

Paving recharge areas is an issue in some counties based on soils and potential for recharge. There are currently no regulations in Northeast Florida restricting land uses in recharge areas. North Florida Land trust is mapping these areas. The Tri-County Ag area, Keystone Heights and Pringle Creek will be mapped. They are also working on modeling silviculture/recharge/MFLs.



Current SJRWMD program and Chapter 373, F.S. are both based on impacts. MFLs is the easiest to measure. JEA introduced tiered pricing in 2008 and demand dropped immediately. JEA is in the business of selling less. They are working on conservation and sponsor One Water billboards, free irrigation audits and water tracker tools. A water shortage drought warning has been issued. Rainfall is decreasing. It was observed that we know we are impacting the resource but we are still issuing consumptive use permits. Nocatee uses no potable water on landscaping, only reclaimed, surface or stormwater runoff from roads. Education of end users helps with conservation. It was noted that more discussion was needed on JEAs overarching “big” water conservation efforts.

Savannah has been a “red” zone, with limited or no additional permitting for water use. Large users were asked to negotiate and come up with an approach that would work for them. Savannah is considering use of surface water.

In JEA reclaimed service areas, new construction must hook up. Issue with reclaimed water is that it is not plentiful when it is most needed. JEA has excess reclaimed capacity. Retrofitting existing neighborhoods for reclaimed water does not work as it is expensive and homes often do not have irrigation systems. Retrofit should be dealt with by irrigation and landscaping policies. DR Horton has a LID approach. Homeowners associations cannot require landscaping that is inconsistent with Florida Friendly landscaping. The Utility Coordinating Group is looking at regional stormwater sharing.

Staff is noting ideas that come up, to be considered as the committee considers recommendations at the end of the process:

- Consider a model LID ordinance, perhaps based on St. Johns County or another model.
- Model language for comprehensive plans
- Use land use plan definitions and maps
- Match soil types with land uses
- Transfer of development rights for recharge areas
- Coordinated tiered pricing
- Consumptive Use Permits that vary with rainfall
- Offer density bonuses if you use LID practices
- Use North Florida Utility Coordinating Group in lieu of a Regional Water Authority
- Consider purified water
- Make the cost benefit argument for conservation
- Collect and use stormwater more extensively
- Collect stormwater from roads
- Use water from FDOT retention ponds



The Chair asked for public comment and it was noted that Jacksonville Aquafest will be at MOSH on May 6. It is the annual educational water festival. The next meeting will be May 10 at NEFRC. The meeting ended at 4pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9 and 9/13