

FSAWWA Utility Council Meeting

February 16, 2007
Kissimmee, Florida

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Suzanne Goss – Chair	JEA
Lisa Wilson-Davis – Secretary	City of Boca Raton
Doug Mann	Littlejohn, Mann & Associates
Rob Teegarden – FSAWWA Chair	OUC
Bobbie Hinde	FSAWWA Executive Director
Richard Griswold	Destin Water Users, Inc.
Bob Cushing	Carollo
Tom King	City of Oviedo
Kerry C. Shelby	Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
Patrick Farris	Aqua Utilities Florida
Teresa Atkisson	Polk County Utilities
Carl Larrabee	City of Cocoa
Jan McLean	City of Tampa
Rich McLean	Pinellas County
Sandra Anderson	Tampa Water Department

Call to Order:

- Suzanne Goss called the meeting to order at 9:08am. A booklet prepared by Littlejohn, Mann & Associates was handed out to all participants. Page numbers indicated in minutes refer to pages in the booklet.

Minutes from last meeting (Page 3-7):

- Minutes from the November 26, 2006 meeting were included in the booklet.
- Motion to approve the minutes was made by Richard Griswold and seconded by Kerry Shelby. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (page 9):

- Budget noted on pages 9 of booklet, balance to date - \$328,312.00.
- Invoices for FY 06-07 membership dues have been sent.
- UC and FSAWWA Board of Governors have approved the \$30,000.00 one-time contribution to the Conserve Florida Clearinghouse project. Suzanne Goss will follow-up on the status of the contribution.

Officers and Committees (page 11)

- Vice Chair Vacancy – Brian Wheeler was nominated for Vice Chair, motion by Richard Griswold, seconded by Lisa Wilson-Davis. Motion passed unanimously.
- Legislative Committee – Lisa Wilson-Davis was selected as the new Committee Chair by Suzanne Goss. Discussed need to have policies complete before November.
- Regulatory Committee – Suzanne Goss discussed the current status of this committee. It has been inactive for some time and needs new leadership. Randy Brown was suggested as a possible Chair or Vice Chair for this committee. Rich McLean and Jan McLean also expressed interest in participating on the committee.
- Annual Report – Suzanne Goss and the UC officers will work on the report this summer.
- Membership Committee – Lisa Wilson-Davis discussed the status of the new membership database. Group discussed the development of a new member outreach brochure and the need to identify the Utility Council as a unique and separate entity from the Florida Section and AWWA National.
 - Carl Larrabee, Teresa Atkisson, and Sandra Anderson volunteered to participate on the membership committee.
 - Sandra Anderson suggested the possibility of allowing multiple year renewal or early renewal discount rates.
 - Rob Teegarden suggested the possibility of a free trial membership for smaller utilities.
 - Some of the goals of the committee include:
 - Redesign of the dues invoice.
 - Designing an application for new members.
Need to clearly defining a primary and secondary representative from each member agency for voting purposes.
 - Create a PowerPoint presentation for outreach. This is a long-term goal
- Liaisons
 - Southeast Florida Utility Council – Don Baylor has been liaison. Need to confirm status; possibly suggest Mike Bailey from Cooper City.
 - Conserve Florida – Brian Wheeler and Lisa Krentz (Hazen & Sawyer)
 - Florida Section Liaisons – possibly create a link to this group or have the Liaisons attend UC meetings.

2007 Legislative Policies – Brochure handed out

- Suzanne Goss handed out the 2007 FSAWWAUC Legislative Policy Brochure.

- Brochures will be mailed to members of the Legislative Committee and available at Drinking Water Day. Doug Mann will distribute copies to the members of the WMD Governing Board.
- Process to generate the UC Legislative Policies starts in the summer.

Tallahassee Update

Doug Mann shared the following insight:

- New leadership in Tallahassee.
- New House process – may slow things down. House Council chairs now have more authority including budget. (Stan Mayfield and Trudy Williams).
- Senate committees structured similarly to past.
- Housing – Property tax reform will have impact on municipal and county governmental budgets.
- Major Reform of Water Management Districts (championed by Mayfield/Williams) is slowing down. Senate seems to have little interest.

Proposed Rule and Policy Review Group (page 13)

- Would give utilities a voice.

Conserve Florida (page 15-25)

- The UC has committed \$30,000.00 to the initial effort to create the Conserve Florida database. The database will be housed at the University of Florida.
- Jan McLean gave an update. Utilities may receive little benefit from guidance document. 30% of money will be spent on guidance document. Received e-mail from Janet Llewellyn (DEP) stating a goal based plan will be recognized/required as requirements by FS 370.227(4).
 - Need to ensure Water Management Districts recognize goal based conservation consistently.
 - Incentive and assurance is needed for Utilities – possibly crossing regulatory threshold and rulemaking may occur.
- Discussed how to get Utilities engaged. The guidance document is complex and the Utility Council will create an executive summary (Doug Mann, Eric Olson, and Jan McLean) that includes the legislative intent. Suzanne Goss will ensure the summary is sent out by the end of the month.

- Executive summary can be generated from a larger working issue document.
- Doug Mann recommended Eric Olson work with Jan McLean to draft a letter to Mike Sole regarding some of the concerns with the Conserve Florida program, and will include a request for a follow-up meeting. This should be sent out in about one week.
- This issue will be further discussed at Drinking Water Day.
- Brian Wheeler and Jan McLean will continue to champion the issue.

Central Florida Coordination Area Update (page 27-30)

- Cooperative effort between South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Southwest Florida WMD, and St. Johns River WMD.
- A summary letter of the issues by Hopping Green & Sams dated October 20, 2006 was included in the booklet.
- The lasted draft of the SFWMD proposed Regional Availability Rule was posted on November 20th.
- The consensus of the UC is to follow these issues closely as similar rules/policies have been or will be implemented in other Districts.

2007 Legislative Issues

Incentive Based Permitting (HB 297) (page 32-35)

- Could be an issue this year, will monitor.

Florida Springs Act (HB299) (page 37-42)

- Large area restrictions proposed – restricting spray fields.
- Has a Senate version that is harsher.
- Suzanne Goss commented that FWEAUC is the lead on this issue. FSAWWAUC will monitor this issue and support FWEAUC as appropriate.

Wekiva Onsite Sewage Grant Program (HB 357) (page 44-45)

- Grant program for aid in installing proper systems

- Suzanne Goss commented that FWEAUC is the lead on this issue. FSAWWAUC will continue to monitor this issue and support FWEAUC as appropriate.

Water Management Districts Records (SB 594) (page 47)

- Need to monitor in case changes proposed.

Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal Systems (SB 756) (page 49-50)

- Senator Geller sponsoring bill that provides for septic tank inspections.
- Suzanne Goss commented that FWEAUC is the lead on this issue. FSAWWAUC will continue to monitor and support FWEAUC as appropriate.

Everglades Restoration (SB 392) (page 52-53)

- Significant State funding is being allocated to this project.

Environmental Protection (SB 7040) (page 55-94)

- This legislation needs to be closely monitored by the wastewater industry.

Desalination Study (page 96-106)

- Summary of South Florida Water Management District study.
- Paper by Florida Atlantic University on page 98 regarding “Turning Waste Heat Into Water: A New Desalination Process”.

New FDEP Initiative (page 108 – 112)

- Of interest for utilities with power component – air quality issues.
- Renewable energy will be a hot topic.

Florida’s Water Future 2007

- Rob Teegarden gave an overview of Florida’s Water Future trends.
- Workshop on Florida’s Water Future 2007 will be discussed at Drinking Water Day.
- Program will be held during the Florida Water Resources Conference.
 - Workforce, finance, regulatory trends, total water management.
 - Build upon AWARF Utility Trends (19)

- Summit to be hosted by UCF during the 3rd week of September. FWEA and FES are co-sponsors.

Drinking Water Day

- March 28, 2007 in Tallahassee. Required registration which includes continental breakfast, luncheon, and reception. Attendee participation limited to 75.
 - \$50.00 early registration.
 - \$75.00 at the door.
- Agenda for the Drinking Water Day
 - Legislative Overview
 - Drinking Water Contest
 - Lunch – potential guest speaker is Mike Sole.
 - Issues Briefing – Conserve Florida/Florida’s Water Future
 - Meet your Legislature/attend committee meetings – Mentors will be available.
 - Evening reception.

9/01/06 Draft – Department of Health – Drinking Water Program: Guidelines for the Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notices (page 23-29)

- Guidelines for the Issuance of Precautionary Boil Water Notices were handed out. Effective February 15th. Need to ensure DEP and Health Departments are coordinated.

FAC 62-602, Drinking Water and Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators, and FAC 62-699, Treatment Plant Classification and Staffing Rule Development

- A workshop was held on January 25th in Gainesville. Comments on draft were due by February 9th. Utilities were encouraged to send comments to the DEP.
- Rule is moving forward.

Next Steps

- Suzanne Goss discussed the next meeting dates:
 - March 28th – Drinking Water Day in Tallahassee
 - May 24th – Orlando area
 - August 17th – Boca Raton
 - September – in conjunction w/ Florida Water Future Summit at UCF
 - October 23rd – Orlando; in conjunction with Environmental Permitting course. Goal of meeting to approve Legislative Policies prior to presenting to the Governing Board in November.
 - November 13th – Orlando; in conjunction with the FSAWWA Annual conference. Note: new meeting day will be Tuesday during the conference. Goal will be to focus on Strategic Planning.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Suzanne Goss, seconded by Rich McLean. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.