

Minimum Flows and Levels Prevention/Recovery Strategy Development Public Meeting

May 17, 2011

10:00 to 11:30 am

**Green Cove Springs City Hall
321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs**

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions –Tom Bartol, SJRWMD

Tom Bartol, Division Director of Water Supply Management, welcomed all attendees, introduced key SJRWMD staff, and reviewed the agenda.

MFLs Overview – Tom Bartol, SJRWMD

Materials: PowerPoint Presentation

Highlights:

- Mr. Bartol described MFL P/R strategy development as bridging between the District Water Supply Plan (DWSP) process and the MFL assessment process.
- Mr. Bartol reviewed what MFLs are, why they are developed, how they are established, and where they have been adopted. He further discussed how MFLs are evaluated using ground water flow and surface water budget models, and how prevention and recovery strategies may affect the MFL water bodies.
- The possible outcomes of MFLs evaluation include: 1) flows/levels in a water body will be sufficient to meet the MFLs through 2030; 2) flows/levels currently do not meet an MFL (recovery); or 3) flows/levels currently meet the MFL, but are predicted to not meet the MFL sometime before 2030 (prevention).
- SJRWMD is starting a collaborative process to develop strategies that address water bodies in which flows/levels do not currently or are expected to not meet their MFLs before 2030.
- Mr. Bartol presented a timeline for strategies to be developed through mid-2013.

MFLs Prevention/Recovery Strategy Approach – Jennifer Gihring, SJRWMD

Materials: PowerPoint Presentation

Highlights:

- Jennifer Gihring, Project Manager, Division of Water Supply Management, reviewed SRJWMD's MFL Prevention and Recovery Strategy project.

- Ms. Gihring discussed statutory requirements, Strategy components, Strategy development areas, the roles of stakeholders and the District, a timeline, and how interested stakeholders can get involved in the process.
- Ms. Gihring reviewed the Strategy development areas in the District. She outlined a general Strategy development approach that begins with District Water Supply Plan (DWSP) projects, current Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) rules, and technical evaluation tools.
- Stakeholder teams will be formed for each of the four (4) strategy development areas. The stakeholder teams will collaboratively evaluate proposed strategies, select those most feasible, and work in cooperation with District staff and all stakeholders to implement them.
- Strategy development will occur on an expeditious timeframe.
- Ms. Gihring presented a timeline for strategies to be developed by mid-2013.
- Information was provided on how interested parties can get involved, along with times and places for future meetings. Four strategy areas will kick-off this summer:
 - Clay-Putnam Area, Keystone Heights City Hall, June 23, 2011 , 10 a.m. – noon
 - Volusia Area, DeLand Commission Chambers, June 28, 2011, 10 a.m. – noon
 - South Lake – West Orange, Minneola City Hall, July 14, 2011, 10 a.m. – Noon
 - Seminole – North Orange, Sanford Commission Chambers, July 28, 2011, 10 a.m. – Noon
 - *(Post-meeting note: Meeting dates, times, and locations may change. Check the MFL Prevention and Recovery Strategy webpage for the most current information: <http://floridaswater.com/minimumflowsandlevels/prevention-recovery.html>)*
- The presentation concluded and the meeting was then opened to public input.

Public Input

Question	Response (provided by Mr. Bartol)
Will stakeholders need to be a member of a group to be involved?	SJRWMD is open to participation by all stakeholders. We will seek volunteers for each Strategy Area.
Will the Strategy identify funding sources?	Yes, the Strategy will include funding sources for proposed measures.
Will the Strategy identify the relative responsibility among stakeholders, i.e. who is contributing to the problem?	The Strategy will contain an estimate of the relative contribution to the problem among water users.
What type of agreements will be needed to implement the Strategy?	Implementation may occur through voluntary agreements among stakeholders, permit conditions, or by rule.
How will equity be applied to the Strategy? If JEA (<i>Jacksonville Electric Authority</i>) is 15-20% of the problem, will we identify the remaining 80%?	15-20% of the influence on the lake levels is due to water withdrawals, but this is not just JEA.

How were the four lakes selected? What about other lakes in western Putnam County?	Lakes Brooklyn, Cowpen, Geneva, and Grandin have adopted MFLs and are identified as either currently not meeting their MFLs or are predicted to not meet their MFLs, meaning they are prevention or recovery.
Would recovery affect any of the other lakes in the region beyond the four prevention and recovery lakes?	Lake respond differently to changes in groundwater, though we would expect improvements in those lakes that are connected to the aquifer
Are there any springs involved?	Eight springs have adopted MFLs, though none are in the Clay-Putnam Strategy Area.
What is the status of the District's Water Supply Plan?	Several portions of the 2010 District Water Supply Plan have been published and are available on the website.
Could the District set up a message board or other online tool to enhance participation?	The District is establishing a website to support this process, and we will look into similar approaches.

Closing Comments by SJRWMD

In closing, Mr. Bartol reviewed the highlights of the presentation, reiterating that strategies must be implementable, and that their effectiveness must be measureable in relation to the affected water bodies. He emphasized the District's message that all stakeholders should be engaged in the process.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30AM.

Meeting handouts, presentations, and supporting information are available online:
<http://floridaswater.com/minimumflowsandlevels/prevention-recovery.html>

For more information, contact Jennifer Gihring, jgihring@sjrwmd.com, or 386-329-4397.

Attendees

St. Johns River Water Management District

Sign-In Sheet

PRINT CLEARLY

Date: 5/17/11

Event: MFL P/R Strategy Kick Off Meeting (Northern)

Location: City of Green Cove Springs, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 - City Hall

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