



Southeast Florida Utility Council

DATE: May 30, 2019
TO: Members of the Southeast Florida Utility Council
FROM: Alicia Magloire, SEFLUC Secretary
SUBJECT: MINUTES FOR MEETING WITH SEFLUC AND SFWMD - Drew Bartlett
1:00 – 3:00 PM
City of Boca Raton
1401 Glades Road
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Attendees:

SEFLUC:

Virginia Walsh (Chair)
Kara Mills (Treasurer)
Alicia Magloire (Secretary)
Anne Murray (Webmaster)
Lisa Wilson-Davis (Past Chair)
Randy Brown (Past Chair)
Kevin Carter (Broward County)
Chris Helfrich (Boca Raton)

SFWMD:

Drew Bartlett (Executive Director)
Jennifer Smith (Chief of Staff)
Jill Creech (Regulation Division Director)

1) Introductions:

- a) SEFLUC board members introduced themselves to SFWMD executive team and vice versa

2) C-51:

- a) The Florida Legislature established a 30-million-dollar loan program to assist phase one of the C-51 reservoir project, however the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is still working out details. SEFLUC members mentioned the four utilities currently with agreements for phase one – Broward County, Sunrise, Hallandale Beach, and Dania Beach
- b) Phase two of the project is still in the planning phase

3) Climate Change and Sea Level Rise:

- a) SFWMD is scheduled to have a sea level rise presentation in June
- b) SFWMD is currently working on flood protection level of service for each structure and plans to set aside recurring funds for structure maintenance
- c) SEFLUC inquired whether SFWMD had a new point of contact for climate change/sea level rise since Dr. Jayantha Obeysekera left. SFWMD indicated it has not been determined and they are working on it
- d) SEFLUC members expressed the need to be informed on how SFWMD will adjust the regional system in order to be able to predict long term infrastructure planning
- e) Kevin Carter gave a short overview of the Resilient Utility Coalition (RUC) which evolved from

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Alicia Magloire
City of Delray Beach



the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. One of the RUC's main objectives is operationalizing resilience for water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities

4) **Alternative Water Supplies (AWS)**

- a) 40 million dollars has been appropriated for funding of AWS projects, of which one million is designated to the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund (SB 444). The deployment of the remaining 39 million dollars is still being worked out. This money will probably not be awarded based on the previous SB 444 regional formula approach across the 5 WMDs. Instead projects will likely be ranked through specific WMD evaluation with an emphasis on the best bang for the buck and/or location in critical water stressed areas such as Central and Northeast Florida
- b) SEFLUC suggested the reimplementation of Cooperative Funding Projects and encouraged the SFWMD to utilize funds for projects in the Southeast

5) **Direct Potable Reuse:**

- a) Discussed the need for public outreach and education to change the perception of direct potable reuse

6) **Biosolids:**

- a) SEFLUC indicated biosolids is on the Council's radar and inquired about the recent denial of an ERP which included the use of biosolids. SFWMD indicated the permit application only showed partial containment and requested the applicant perform additional monitoring to ensure no adverse impacts. This was not agreeable to the applicant hence the reason for permit denial
- b) Potential for management of biosolids is expected to increase
- c) FDEP to start rulemaking on biosolids in the next few months

7) **Lake Okeechobee:**

- a) SEFLUC expressed concern with the current low level of Lake Okeechobee and the impacts it can have on utilities water supplies if enough rain isn't received this rainy season which could potentially trigger water shortages for next year's dry season
- b) In response to how the lake level impacts members, SEFLUC explained there are negative impacts of severe water restrictions because of the importance of keeping up distribution system pressure to ensure adequate supply is available for fire prevention and chlorine residuals remain above DOH minimum level requirements
- c) SFWMD acknowledged SEFLUC's concerns and indicated that every effort would be made to ensure the health of the Caloosahatchee is maintained if there should be water shortage restrictions next year

Meeting adjourned 2:30 PM and was followed by tour of Boca Raton's Water Treatment Plant.

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