



FWEA Utility Council

Protecting Florida's Clean Water Environment

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www.fweauc.org

Memorandum

Date: January 26, 2017
To: FWEA Board
From: FWEAUC
RE: Report of FWEAUC Activities

1. On January 25, 2017, FWEAUC President Lisa Wilson-Davis (City of Boca Raton) and Board Member Rick Hutton (Gainesville Regional Utilities) presented testimony to the 15-member House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee meeting at the request of subcommittee Chair Representative Peters. The purpose of the testimony was to present information to subcommittee members describing wastewater treatment collection and treatment as well as asset management, strategies to reduce SSOs, and SSO response. The educational presentations generated discussion between the presenters and the subcommittee members and were well received. After the presentation, FDEP Director of the Division of Water Resource Management, Justin Green, provided an overview of the regulatory requirements for sanitary sewer collection, treatment, and discharge systems.
2. The FWEAUC also held a joint meeting with the FSAWWAUC on January 24, 2017 in Tallahassee. This meeting was attended by ~45 people. Topics discussed included the FSAWWAUC's Introduction to Water Policy for legislators as well as potential legislation regarding: "Blue Star" utilities, reclaimed water, and pollution notification.
3. On January 5, 2017, Board members traveled to Tampa to meet with Representative Kathleen Peters and Senator Jeff Brandes to discuss SSOs and utility response. There was some discussion regarding potential Pollution Notification legislation. The meeting lasted over two hours and resulted in an invitation from Representative Peters to the FWEAUC to give a presentation to the House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee which she chairs.

4. FWEAUC continued to engage in the FDEP Emergency Pollution Notification Rule process by providing comments on the final rule by November 9, 2016. Subsequent to the publication of Final Rule, five entities filed a challenge to the rule arguing that FDEP went beyond its regulatory authority and failed to consider the proposed lower cost regulatory alternatives. A hearing before Judge Cantor was held on December 20th. On December 30th, 2016, a final order striking down the proposed rule was entered, thus nullifying FDEP's rule.
5. On December 12, 2016, the FWEAUC held our annual joint meeting with the Southeast Florida Utility Council (SEFLUC) in Boca Raton Florida with over 50 people in attendance. The FWEAUC Board gave a recap of the meeting with FDEP on November 3, 2016 as well as the Pollution Notification rule status. A brief discussion on the FDEP Reclaimed Workgroup efforts also took place – efforts are status quo. A lengthy discussion regarding the 2016 Hurricane Season and utility responses sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) occurred in anticipation of legislation regarding the prevention of SSOs.
6. Budget Update: Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual FWEA Utility Council Dues Invoices and cover letter from the UC President were sent out to members in October. FYTD Income is \$227,403.45.
7. Committee – Council Coordination – Members of the Utility Council have inquired to the UC President about the WR3 Committee and the potential to have increased coordination of activities.
8. The next Utility Council meeting is on March 17, 2017 is in Jacksonville at the JEA building downtown followed by the Utility Council Annual Board meeting on April 26th at the FWRC in West Palm Beach.