



Protecting Florida's Clean Water Environment

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Memorandum

Date: April 4, 2018
To: FWEA Board
From: FWEAUC
RE: Report of FWEAUC January, February, March Activities

1. 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2018 legislative session ended on March 11, 2018 (Regular session from 1/9/18 – 3/9/18). The FWEAUC and legal and policy consultants continued to monitor, support and move legislation that benefits our members.

The “Blue Star” Domestic Wastewater Collection System Assessment and Maintenance Legislation (SB 244 / HB 837) was ultimately rolled into HB 1149 which passed both the House and the Senate and was presented to the Governor for signature. This part of the legislation specifically:

- Establishes in FDEP a statewide voluntary program for advanced collection system assessment, investment, rehabilitation, and electric power outage mitigation planning.
- Provides regulatory incentives for utilities to implement the program.
- Allows financially disadvantaged utilities to apply for grant funds to implement the program.
- Allows certified utilities to demonstrate they are making the right investments to protect the public health and environment.

The Aquifer Recharge Legislation (SB 1308 / HB 1149) morphed in the final weeks of session to include the Blue Star Domestic Wastewater Collection System Assessment and Maintenance legislation (see above) as well as Senator Book’s SB 992 relating to the C-51 Reservoir project. In response to misinformation regarding HB 1149, the

FWEAUC submitted a letter of clarification and support for HB 1149 to the Governor on March 22nd and submitted an editorial to the Miami Herald on March 30th.

The amended bill does the following:

- Identical to Sen. Book's SB 992, facilitates government partnerships in relation to the **C-51 Reservoir** project;
- Streamlines and clarifies existing environmental permitting processes applicable to **beneficial reuse projects**, while maintaining all existing rules protecting state ground water and surface water quality;
- Facilitates the **rebuilding single family docks**;
- Assists with **residential recycling**;
- Helps with local government credits relating to the uniform mitigation assessment;
- Creates a **domestic wastewater collection system best management program** to limit and prevent sanitary sewer overflows;
- Allows the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to reissue the construction phase of an expired individual environmental resource permit if the applicant can demonstrate that they can reasonably complete construction meeting original permit requirements; and
- Authorizes the DEP to issue additional grants under the small community sewer construction assistance program.

The FWEAUC and consulting team successfully amended SB 324 / HB 697 regarding Impact Fees. The amendment clarified water and sewer impact/connection fees are exempt from the proposed requirements. This bill died.

Other bills the FWEAUC monitored were:

- SB 658 / HB 585 – Tourism Development Tax – rolled into HB 7087 – Signed on 3/27/18
- SB 806 / HB 703 – Water Management District Surplus Lands – Passed both House and Senate – waiting for Governor Signature (by April 10th)
- SB 1402 – State's effort to assume the section 404 wetland permitting program for the Army Corps of Engineers. - Passed both House and Senate – waiting for Governor Signature (by April 10th)
- SB 204, SB 786 / HB 339, and SB 370 / HB 1353 – Land Acquisition Trust Fund - Died
- SB 912 / HB 83 – Agency Rulemaking - Died

2. OSTDS WORKGROUP

The workgroup continues to work with Terri Lowery of Jones Edmunds on the Guidance Document to Assist Communities with Developments and Implementation of OSTDS Remediation Plans. The final report is being formatted for publication.

3. RECLAIMED WATER WORKGROUP

The workgroup focused efforts on successfully moving the Aquifer Recharge (SB 1308 / HB 1149) through the House and Senate this session.

The workgroup also held multiple conference calls during January and February with focused discussion on the development of the Florida Potable Reuse Commission.

4. FWEAUC BOARD MEETINGS

FWEAUC held a Board meeting on January 26th which was hosted by the City of Altamonte Springs. Approximately 30 people were in attendance or called in by phone. Members selected Kevin Carter, Broward County to fill a Board vacancy. The 2018 Board of Director Election Nominating Committee was also appointed. Members include Paul Steinbrecher – JEA, Brian Wheeler – TOHO, Monica Autrey – Destin Water Users, Jo Ann Jackson – Altamonte Springs, and Rusella Bowes – Johnson – Ocala. An update on the WaterReuse Florida Potable Reuse Commission was presented and the Board approved providing a contribution of up to \$20,000.00 for the first year’s effort. Paul Steinbrecher and Jo Ann Jackson were ultimately chosen to represent the FWEAUC on the Commission with Rick Hutton as an alternate. Other discussion involved the joint FWRC workshop, legislative and regulatory updates. A tour of the City of Altamonte Springs Wastewater Reclamation Facility followed the meeting.

FWEAUC held a Board meeting on March 2nd hosted by Gainesville Regional Utilities. Over 35 people were in attendance or called in by phone. In this meeting the Board approved the FY 2018 – 2019 proposed budget and dues. It is important to note that the only differences between the FY 2018 -2019 and the FY 2017 – 2018 budget and dues are an increase in projected income of \$20,000.00 because of the increase in membership this year and an increase of \$20,000.00 to the Reclaimed Water budget line item to account for the FWEAUC participation in the Florida Potable Reuse Commission, dues remain the same. The nominating committee presented their proposed slate of officers for FY 2018 – 2020. A motion to approve the appointments was approved. The FY 2018 – 2020 slate of officers are:

President	Paul Steinbrecher	Directors-at-Large	Jeff Greenwell
Vice President	Rick Hutton		Sondra Lee
Past President	Lisa Wilson-Davis		JoAnn Jackson
Secretary/Treasurer	Donald Palmer		Kevin Carter
			Todd Swingle
			Chuck Webber

Other items discussed at the meeting included preparation for the Annual Meeting, the Florida Potable Reuse Commission, FY 2018 – 2019 meeting schedule, website coordination (formed an new Website workgroup, members include: Lisa Wilson-Davis, Jo Ann Jackson, Rick Hutton, Sondra Lee, Tara Lamoureux, and Terri Lowery) as

well as a regulatory and legislative update. A tour of the Gainesville Deport Park followed the meeting.

The next FWEAUC meeting is the FWEAUC Annual Business Meeting (breakfast) being held in conjunction with the FWRC in Daytona Beach on Wednesday, April 18th at 9:00am.

5. FLORIDA POTABLE REUSE COMMISSION (PRC)

The PRC is a consensus driven partnership between the Florida WaterReuse Association, Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, and the FWEAUC. The PRC is comprised of representatives from utilities, agriculture, environment, public health, universities, and the business community. FWEAUC Board members Paul Steinbrecher (PRC – Vice chair) and Jo Ann Jackson (PRC – member) attended the inaugural PRC meeting on February 16th and the second meeting on March 16th, both hosted by TOHO in Kissimmee. There was discussion regarding the makeup of the PRC board members and their goals for the upcoming meetings and workshop. Eric Olson (Hopping Green & Sams) presented on existing State statutes. The first PRC workshop will be held on April 6th at the Kissimmee Civic Center with the next PRC meeting on April 11th at TOHO. The meeting schedule is listed below:

Date	Meeting	Location
April 6, 2018	PRC Stakeholder Workshop #1	Kissimmee Civic Center
April 11, 2018	Potable Reuse Commission	Toho Water Authority
May 18, 2018	Potable Reuse Commission	Toho Water Authority
June 15, 2018	Potable Reuse Commission	Toho Water Authority
July 12, 2018	Potable Reuse Commission	Toho Water Authority
August 10, 2018	Potable Reuse Commission	Toho Water Authority
September 21, 2018	Potable Reuse Commission	Toho Water Authority

6. FWEA CERTIFICATION TASK FORCE

The task force is still gathering information on existing programs as well as developing a proposed certification framework for wastewater mechanics, electricians, collections, telemetry, and lift station personnel.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE SESSION AT FWRC

The FWEA Water Resources, Reuse, and Resiliency Committee (WR3), FWEA Utility Council (FWEAUC), and FSAWWA Utility Council (FSAWWAUC) have pulled together their resources to present this highly informative and interactive workshop. Each of the three workshop topics listed below will be led by technical and policy experts. The panelist will give short presentations designed to provide valuable information and generate discussion.

Overview of Integrated Water Reuse in Florida and Related Legislative and Regulatory Issues Update

- The Diverse Hydrology of Florida and its Relationship to Integrated Water Reuse and Water Management
- Spot Light on Managing Integrated Reuse Projects Across the State – Right Use, Right Place, Right Time
- Florida Water and Wastewater Policy Start – to – Finish: An Overview of the State’s Legislative and Related Rulemaking Processes, an Update of Current Issues, and What’s on the Horizon

The discussions will be facilitated by members of the FWEA WR3 Committee, FWEAUC, and FSAWWAUC and the panelist include representatives from three Water Management Districts, Utilities, Consultants, and Legal, Policy and Governmental Relations experts. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to gain insight and discuss the diversity of integrated water reuse in Florida and the related current and upcoming legislative and policy issues.

The session will be held on Monday, April 16th from 1:30 – 4:30pm. Please encourage all of our members to attend!