

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable

March 14, 2016

Minutes of Meeting

President Lofgren called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of Feb. 8, 2016 were accepted as modified.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the Civic Roundtable account was reported as \$1107.89.

President Lofgren introduced Geoffrey Sample, Intergovernmental Coordinator at St. Johns County River Water Management District.

Geoff said the public is often not aware of the process involved in water management and planning. He noted that 39,450 units have been approved for construction in St. Johns County of which only 4,600 have been built. While water management has no control over the increased demand for water that level of growth creates, it must respond to it.

Geoff then introduced Scott Laidlaw P.G. , Bureau Chief Water Supply Management at St. Johns River Water Management District. Scott, a professional geologist

reported that Florida receives 54 inches of rain, has 50,000 miles of rivers and streams and over 7,000 lakes. In spite of all that surface water, we get 90% of our water from the aquifer. Florida's aquifer is the most productive in the world yielding 1.1 billion gallons per day according to Mr. Laidlaw. The aquifer varies from 40 to more than 200 feet under ground depending on the local geography.

Scott noted that Water Management:

- 1) Uses a twenty year planning horizon.
- 2) Identify water sources
- 3) Conduct public information meetings
- 4) Get approval for plans from a governing board.

He also reported that since no "fracking" is currently underway in peninsular Florida, they currently have no policy on that activity.

John Fitzgerald, Planning Coordinator for the St. Johns River Water Management.

His projections for St. Johns County water use.

2010 54 million gallons 2035 81 million gallons

An increase of 27 million gallons or 51% Most of the increase is residential with another contribution from recreational landscape (golf courses etc.)

Special note: Agricultural water use projections are done by the Florida State Department of Agriculture.

Traditional groundwater sources will not be adequate to the increased water use projected out 20 years. Other sources such as recovered storm water will be needed to meet needs.

A \$30 million dollar project(Altamonte Springs) is currently underway using treated water run off from Interstate 4 for agriculture and other uses where non-potable water is acceptable.

Gordon Smith, PE. County Utility Engineering Manager and Assistant Director for Engineering and Planning.

Pointed out that much of the growth in St. Johns County will be inland with the Ponte Vedra Beach area showing little increase in water demand because it is largely built out.

Our county with a population over 100,000 consuming 25 million gallons of water per day supplied through 1,300 miles of pipelines.(includes sewer and reuse lines) the future is a significant challenge. Inland population is projected to increase 85,000 over the next 25 years. In 2025 we may exceed permitted withdrawals from the aquifer.

Efforts to deal with water demand include:

- 1) Three tier rate system. (In effect now)
- 2) Customer education
- 3) Automated water meter reads
- 4) Meter monitoring
- 5) Reclaimed water
- 6) Land development codes
- 7) Irrigation rules
- 8) Storm water reclamation
- 9) Soil moisture monitoring to regulate irrigation
- 10) Tanks to store reclaimed water
- 11) "Purple Pipes" in new communities to transport reclaimed water

Contact info: web site: www.co.st-johns.fl.us/utilities/1wrp.aspx

Gordon Smith PE email gssmith@sjcfl.us

Other business: Ed Olsen distributed lists of potential Civic Roundtable member organizations to several volunteers. They will check list accuracy and offer membership opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Froio, Secretary