

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board
FROM: Kirk B. Webster, Deputy Executive Director *KBW*
THRU: David Still, Executive Director *DS*
RE: Activity Report, Department of Water Resources

Water Supply Planning:

- The consultant is working on the development of the District-wide Water Supply Assessment and Upper Santa Fe River Basin (USFRB) Water Supply Plan.
- Staff attended a meeting with North Florida utility directors at the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). The meeting was held at the request of the utilities that have formed a consortium to hire consultants for the purpose of evaluating the models being used by the SJRWMD in their water supply planning process. The SJRWMD welcomes scrutiny of their models. Questions came up about the cooperative water supply planning effort between the District and SJRWMD, including the relationship of the Suwannee River Water Management District's groundwater model and the various models being used by SJRWMD. The District will participate in all upcoming meetings related to the utility consortium.
- SRWMD and SJRWMD staff will be meeting with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division on June 15 to discuss data availability and other water supply issues.
- Please note that the joint SJRWMD/SRWMD Water Supply Planning meeting will be held on June 18th at 9:00 a.m. at the Alachua County Health Department, 224 SE 24th Street, Gainesville, Florida. This is a key meeting for explaining to stakeholders the purpose, process and schedule for water supply planning by both districts.

Springs:

- Staff continues to meet with individuals and groups to discuss and solicit support for The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP).
- Farmers in Columbia County have purchased the Best Management Practices (BMP) tools associated with the Santa Fe Soil and Water Conservation District contract. Suwannee River Partnership staff will continue to work with these farmers in the use of their BMP tools.

Spring Protection, Surfacewater, Groundwater and Biological Monitoring:

- Staff continues to monitor water chemistry monthly at 42 surfacewater stations.
- Staff measured levels of 181 wells, 21 lakes, and 46 river stations.
- Rainfall was recorded at 51 sites.

Water Use:

- Staff has started the installation of the next 50 water use monitoring units on selected agriculture operations. When installations are complete, there will be 100 monitoring devices providing water use data.
- Recently it was decided that staff should assess water use permits between 100,000 and 500,000 gallons per day in the upper Santa Fe Basin.

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs):

- Staff continues to work on reviewing the Lower Santa Fe draft technical documents.

Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) Activities:

- Staff continues to work with farmers and other partners in the Suwannee and Santa Fe River basins by providing technical assistance to participating farmers in nutrient and irrigation management.
- The Ninth Annual CARES dinner is scheduled for the evening of June 25 at Dwight Stansel's Farm and Nursery.

/dd