

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD
City of Jacksonville, Florida
Monday, October 21, 2013
4:30 p.m.

Water Committee Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Michelle Tappouni, Acting Chair
Lucinda Sonnenberg, Ph.D.
Gary Bowers

Members not Present:

Nick Howland, Chair

Staff/Resources Present:

James Richardson, EPB Program Administrator
Jody Brooks, OGC
Ruby Tucker, Executive Secretary
Dana Brown, Environmental Enforcement Administrator
John Flowe, Environmental Engineering Manager
Richard Robinson, Environmental Programs Manager
Betsy Deuerling, Environmental Scientist

Visitor(s):

None

Call to Order

Chair Michelle Tappouni called the Water Committee meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Enforcement

Board Cases

Ms. Brown asked that the following order be presented to the Board for approval under Consent Order settlements:

- **Regency Park, LLC (WP-13-17)** - Failure to maintain system so as to function as intended; failure to comply with sewerage design standards; failure to provide operator maintenance, perform required maintenance and maintain permanent log – settlement \$1,980

Motion that the consent order be forwarded to the Steering Committee was properly seconded and approved.

Some discussion ensued about the status of cases currently with the General Counsel's Office and the collection efforts. Concern was expressed with the age of those cases. The committee continues to express concern over the number and age of the cases and if any can be written off as it presents a resource issue to the city.

Dr. Sonnenberg asked for an update of the Erosion & Control process changes to be implemented by the Public Works Department.

Legislative Update

- Staff is putting together comments for Senator Simmons' "Springs" legislation.
- Staff is reviewing FDEP's legislative budget request. In the Tanks Cleanup and Compliance Verification Program they are cutting just over \$500,000. For the Cleanup program, they are removing sites from local programs and taking them on in Tallahassee, and for Compliance Verification, they are reducing inspections from every two years to three years for sites with "excellent compliance", which is not defined, due to the fact that the tanks are double walled. We have issues with the reduction of inspections because even though the tanks are double walled, the piping is not and still presents issues with potential system discharges. They are cutting monies from the Water Supply Restoration Program which is used for people with contaminated wells. The money is used to subsidize individuals required to purchase filters to remove nitrates and/or those required to hookup to a public drinking water supply. It is also used to subsidize well owners who are in delineated contaminated areas and have to drill more expensive wells. The program is being cut by \$300,000. Finally, it appears they are cutting \$1.65 million from the Statewide Numeric Nutrient Monitoring Network which would be of concern to EQD. There is not enough of a description to determine what impacts those cuts will have. These are the requested 5% cuts as proposed by FDEP.

Groundwater Resources

Richard Robinson, Environmental Program Manager reported the following for September 2013:

- 98 well permits were issued
- 2 Well related complaints
- 2 irrigation complaints
- 12 Surficial Aquifer Systems (57%)
- 4 Intermediate Aquifer System - Hawthorn (19%)
- 5 Florida Aquifer Systems (24%)

Mr. Robinson shared that the total well permits issued for the fiscal year is 1,265 which compares to last year well permits issued of 1,247.

There was 24% increase in the percentile of water levels District-wide median monthly percentile for the month of September 2013 in comparison to September 2012. In the region there was a 4% increase from August 2013. Rainfall for August was 3.58 inches. There are no drought conditions in Duval County, or in the entire state of Florida.

Water Quality

Betsy Deuerling, Environmental Scientist, provided an overview of the EQD Water Quality Monitoring Program. (Presentation available upon request)

EPB/Department Report

- With November meetings we will be moving to non-paper meetings. Meeting materials to be distributed electronically. Bring printed copies of anything you wish to meetings with you.
- John Shellhorn apologized for not being in attendance. He will have John Flowe and Steve Pace to attend committee meetings. He will attend board and steering committee meetings.

Old/New Business

- COJ BMAP Status – Chair Jenkins accepted Councilwoman Boyer's request to assist with BMAP status. The method has not been determined yet. Waterways Commission has begun a process of fact-finding.
- Erosion & Sediment Control Issues – Public Works Director will be contacted to get a status update on process changes for future meeting.

Question was asked of staff as to the status of the EQD Chief position. Mr. Richardson and Mr. Flowe shared that interviews have been conducted, however there has not been a selection made. Ms. Tappouni shared concern with the timeframe involved and would like the Chair to discuss the issue during the Steering Committee meeting.

Comments from the Public

None

Items Forwarded to the Steering Committee

Board Case listed above and EQD Chief status.

Date Scheduled for Next Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2013 (meeting may be cancelled)

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Water Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruby Tucker, Executive Secretary I
Environmental Protection Board