

**WATER WORKSHOP MINUTES  
ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION  
September 11, 2018  
9:30 A.M.**

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**Present:**

**COMMISSIONERS:**

Gregory D. Lee, President  
Cesar E. Calvet, First Vice President  
Britta Gross, Second Vice President  
Larry Mills, Commissioner  
Buddy Dyer, Mayor

Clint Bullock, General Manager & Chief Executive Officer  
Jan Aspuru, Chief Operating Officer  
Mindy Brenay, Chief Financial Officer  
W. Christopher Browder, Chief Legal Officer  
Linda Ferrone, Chief Customer Officer  
Jerry Sullivan, Chief Information Officer  
LeMoyne Adams, Luz Aviles, Wade Gillingham, Roseann Harrington, Chip Merriam, & Ken Zambito, Vice Presidents  
Nanci Schwartz, Recording Secretary

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The Water Workshop of the Orlando Utilities Commission was held Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 9:30 A.M., in the Orlando Utilities Commission's Reliable Plaza Commission Chambers.

President Lee welcomed everyone to the workshop and noted that no official action will be taken.

Clint Bullock provided opening remarks explaining OUC's Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) and the importance of identifying alternative water supplies.

Chip Merriam provided background information regarding OUC's four pillars of water strategy, Florida's water laws, OUC's CUP (which expires in 2023), and concerns regarding future water supply.

Mr. Bullock added that staff is working on all 46 conditions of the 2004 Project RENEW permit, even though the main focus is on 3 specific conditions.

Commissioner Mills noted that OUC already working under the permit allocations is a good-news story. Mr. Merriam responded that OUC's approach

has been to operate under the 100 million gallon per day level in order to avoid resource impacts.

Commissioner Gross expressed concern about where the core expertise resides in the Water Management Districts and other Boards. Mr. Merriam responded that there used to be a core number of staff that remained in place regardless of political turnover, but decreased funding has caused many of these experts to be hired by engineering corporations. He stressed the importance of the Water Management Districts and retaining experts.

President Lee asked for clarification about the 2016 legislative session and OUC's current water concerns. Mr. Merriam explained about rulemaking affecting springs protection and consumptive use.

Commissioner Calvet asked for clarification regarding the two sets of standards concerning hydraulic feed. Mr. Merriam stated that each water management district has its own basis for models and explained the various differences.

Christine Russell provided additional information regarding the Central Florida Water Initiative, OUC's historical and projected water demands, and planning scenarios to meet customer demands should groundwater be limited.

Mr. Bullock commented on the unforeseen increase in supply of reclaimed water, the economic downturn affecting the number of active meters and overall consumption, and conservation and price issues.

Commissioner Gross asked if the block rates put in place in 2001 explain the drop-off in demand from 2000 to 2001. Mr. Merriam responded that the drop-off was caused by several factors. Mr. Bullock added that the 2000 drought raised water consumption by 36 percent, resulting in a year with higher than average water consumption.

Commissioner Gross inquired if environmental groups have responded to OUC's decrease in gallons per capita per day (GPCD). Ms. Russell responded that number has trended downward over time, but it is difficult to make direct year comparisons due to numerous factors. Commissioner Mills noted that reclaimed water has increased since 1995. Mr. Merriam stated that environmental groups are not necessarily satisfied by the decrease in GPCD. OUC will investigate alternative water supplies that do not have environmental impacts.

Commissioner Calvet inquired which customers are impacted by the 30,000 gallon water price increase. Mr. Bullock responded these are residential, single-family homes on larger lots, which require more irrigation. OUC will continue to investigate such price signals.

Mr. Bullock commented on alternative water supply meeting needs of the customers over the permitted groundwater withdrawal level.

Commissioner Mills asked if it's normal that the major city in a county is under a different permit. Mr. Merriam responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Gross asked if other entities are experiencing similar water demand issues. Mr. Merriam responded affirmatively. Mayor Dyer commented that the City of Orlando is more cooperative with other local entities. Mr. Bullock stated that OUC has the opportunity to be more progressive and aggressive in regards to conservation. From a water rate standpoint, OUC has the most competitive rates, allowing for more programs and more rate adjustments. Staff is also investigating how to leverage AMI meters.

Terry McCue discussed OUC's conservation, reclaimed water, and alternative water supply options to meet long-term water demands.

Commissioner Gross inquired which percentage customers are contacted with the behavioral program. Ms. Aviles stated that customers are selected by specific demographics, and there are control groups to measure conservation. Such control groups can change from year to year. President Lee commented on a notice his household received.

Mr. Bullock commented about installing reclaimed water in older neighborhoods is very costly and OUC's approach is to target new developments. He noted that the Water Integrated Resource Plan (WIRP) will discuss these sorts of issues in-depth.

Commissioner Calvet asked for additional information about the Taylor Creek Reservoir. Mr. Merriam provided background information about the project.

Commissioner Gross asked for additional information regarding the costs of water from the Taylor Creek Reservoir. Mr. Merriam responded that the costs include capital projects that will be spread out over time.

Mr. Merriam explained future challenges and opportunities for OUC, including next steps for the CUP, next step for alternative water supplies, and the direction leading to the 2020 WIRP.

President Lee inquired about possibly utilizing or repurposing older citrus wells. Mr. Merriam stated that the benefit would be the lack of a withdrawal from the surface, which would lessen impacts. There is a team in the CFWI that studies agricultural conversion. There is a question of balancing land use change with new consumption.

Commissioner Gross inquired about modeling and OUC's confidence. Mr. Merriam explained that OUC has received models from the South Florida

Water Management District, which contains more data than OUC could provide by itself.

Commissioner Calvet asked about the latest technology regarding converting salt water from the Atlantic Ocean. Mr. Merriam discussed various regions that utilize reverse osmosis, however it is very energy intensive and creates storage demands.

Mr. Bullock stated that staff will present various action items to the Board as work continues on the existing CUP. Work will continue with CFWI and staff will engage in a WIRP to further evaluate alternative water supplies. Conservation and education will continue to be discussed. OUC has an opportunity to leverage the water AMI technology, and various rate structures may be discussed going forward. He thanked everyone for their time and attention.

President Lee adjourned the workshop at 11:24 A.M.