



**REGIONAL COMMUNITY INSTITUTE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, INC.**

**Water Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 2pm**

**Northeast Florida Regional Council**

Board Room

100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32202

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**Meeting Summary**

Chair White introduced himself and staff and asked participants to introduce themselves. He noted that public input is always welcome. He reviewed the summary of the January 11 meeting, which was accepted by consensus, and the proposed work program. He reminded the group what questions it asked related to today's subject, Water Quantity:

- a. How much? Where is it?
- b. What quantity is needed by people and systems? How much are they using? Are they using good quality water when reuse would do?

A helpful presentation on the Hydrogeology of North Florida was provided by P. Scott Laidlaw, P.G., of the St. Johns River Water Management District. His presentation is posted on the committee webpage.

Staff is noting ideas that come up, to be considered as the committee considers recommendations at the end of the process:

- Now that the water supply caution area requires updates to all comp plans in NE Florida, if we collaborate does this provide an opportunity for leverage/coordination/more effective planning?
- It is not just about utilities, land use is important too.
- Ban St. Augustine grass. 60% of JEA's water goes to grass.
- Agricultural changes- tiles system results in 25% savings in usage.
- Use graduated utility pricing.
- Consider Ocala. WaterSmart compares you to your neighbors.
- Water permit allocations are larger than what is being used.
- More reuse.
- GRU has a recharge well.
- Use Nocatee as a model. Uses no groundwater- stormwater harvesting and reclaimed water.
- JEA requires reclaimed water use in some areas. St. Johns is also considering.



- UF is studying the density of trees in silvaculture and whether there is an amount that maximizes recharge. Dense tree canopy in urban areas is a good thing.
- Projects to increase the amount of water in the St. Johns River.
- Utilities could charge more for surface water.
- Grant shorter permits.
- Require conservation.

Mr. Rhodes ran the meeting after the Chair was called away. He asked for public comment but there was none. The next meeting will be March 8 in a Georgia location, to be determined. The meeting ended at 4pm.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:** 3/8, 4/12, 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9 and 9/13