

FLOW Strategic Plan

Florida Leaders Organized for Water (FLOW)

FLOW is a member organization composed of elected officials representing counties and municipalities throughout North Florida organized under an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between county and municipal governments in the Suwannee River Water Management District and the St. John's River Water Management District. The mission of FLOW is to identify and implement measures necessary to permanently secure fresh water supply so adequate levels and flows are assured for the people, agriculture, business, tourism and environment of North Florida.

Board of Directors' role is:

To act on behalf of the full FLOW membership;

To develop and maintain a FLOW Strategic Plan that facilitates the attainment of FLOW'S mission and goals;

To develop and maintain an organizational committee structure that implements FLOW'S Strategic Plan; and

To establish and maintain budgets and other resources needed by each committee to undertake and complete their objectives and actions as part of the FLOW Strategic Plan.

Executive Committee's role is:

To coordinate the plans and actions of the Legal, Legislative, Science, and Public Information & Education committees in their implementation of FLOW's Strategic Plan; and

To act on behalf of the full FLOW Board during the period between FLOW Board of Directors' Meetings regarding matters that must be addressed in a timely manner.

Legal Committee's objectives are:

To identify previously issued Consumptive Use Permits and other Water Management District actions that have negatively impacted water quality and/or quantity available throughout the FLOW Member districts and to develop a plan, including legal measures, to reverse these impacts and restore these waters to a pre-1980 status;

To identify, track, review, and undertake actions to ensure that current and future Consumptive Use Permit applications and other Water Management District activities do not and will not

adversely impact the water quality and/or quantity available throughout the FLOW Member districts; and

To identify and maintain the resources necessary to undertake and fully implement the objectives of the Legal Committee.

Legislative Committee's objectives are:

To identify, track, review, and comment on existing and new State and/or Federal legislative initiatives that impact water quality and/or quantity in Florida, particularly throughout the FLOW Member districts;

To develop, write and support legislation that restores and sustains the quality and quantity of water in the Floridan Aquifer System, particularly throughout the FLOW Member districts; and

To identify and maintain the resources necessary to undertake and fully implement the objectives of the Legislative Committee.

Science Committee objectives are:

To identify and consolidate engineering and scientific data and information in support of and essential to the Legal Committee regarding previously issued, current and future Consumptive Use Permit and other Water Management District actions;

To identify and consolidate engineering and scientific data and information in support of and essential to the Legislative Committee regarding the impact of existing and new State and Federal legislative initiatives as they impact the quality and quantity of water in the Floridan Aquifer System, particularly in the Flow Member districts;

To identify and provide engineering and scientific data and information in support of and essential to the Public Information & Education Committee; and

To identify and maintain the resources necessary to undertake and fully implement the objectives of the Science Committee.

Public Information & Education Committee objectives are:

To identify, develop and produce informational and educational materials to support actions undertaken by the Legal Committee regarding existing and future Consumptive Use Permitting and other Water Management District activities;

To identify, develop and produce informational and educational materials to support actions undertaken by the Legislative Committee regarding existing, future, and proposed legislative initiatives whether from FLOW, the State of Florida or the Federal Government; and

To identify, develop and produce sets of informational and educational materials relating to the status of water quality and quantity, its application by residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural users, its need by recreational and ecological systems, and its conservation suitable for and understandable by elementary, high school and college/university teachers and students, by household members, by business employees and owners, by City, County and State Officials and staff, and by local and state print and broadcast media.

**FLOW Strategic Plan
Executive Committee**

Executive Committee's role is:

To coordinate the plans and actions of the Legal, Legislative, Science, and Public Information & Education committees in their implementation of FLOW'S Strategic Plan;

Task 1: To schedule and host periodic meetings with the chairpersons of the Legal, Legislative, Science, and Public information & Education Committees;

Task 2: To ensure the Legal, Legislative, Science, and Public Information & Education Committees develop Action Plans designed to support the mission of FLOW;

Task 3: To coordinate the Action Plans, associated budgets and schedules of the Legal, Legislative, Science, and Public Information & Education Committees; and

To act on behalf of the full FLOW Board during the period between FLOW Board of Directors' Meetings regarding all matters that must be addressed in a timely manner.

FLOW Strategic Plan
Legal Committee Objectives

Legal Committee's objectives are:

To identify previously issued Consumptive Use Permits and other Water Management District actions that have negatively impacted water quality and/or quantity available throughout the FLOW Member districts and to develop a best efforts plan, including legal measures, to reverse these impacts and restore these waters to a pre-1980 status (see Attachment A-1);

Task 1: To obtain copies of all Consumptive Use Permits of one million gallons per day, or greater, issued in the Suwannee River and St. Johns River Water Management Districts within the preceding five (5) years;

Task 2: To obtain copies of all non-Consumptive Use Permit actions of the Suwannee River and St. Johns River Water Management Districts undertaken with the preceding five (5) years that have the potential to negatively impact water quality and/or quantity in either District;

Task 3: Direct the FLOW Science Committee to review the existing Consumptive Use Permits and other Water Management Districts' actions identified above, determine the consequences of each activity, and report back to the Legal Committee;

Task 4: Based upon the Science Committee report and other input, develop an Action Plan to ensure the negative impacts of any existing Consumptive Use Permits and other Water Management Districts' actions to the quality and quantity of water available in the Floridan Aquifer System are restored, on a best efforts basis, to pre-1980 levels; and

Task 5: Implement the Action Plan developed in the preceding Task, including meetings, public information releases, media events, and legal actions as appropriate.

To identify, track, review, and undertake actions to ensure that current and future Consumptive Use Permit applications and other Water Management District activities do not and will not adversely impact the water quality and/or quantity available throughout the FLOW Member districts (see Attachment A-2);

Task 1: To obtain copies of all Consumptive Use Permits Applications and/or changes to existing Permits of one million gallons per day, or greater, issued in the Suwannee River and St. Johns River Water Management Districts and attend all scheduled hearings;

Task 2: To obtain copies of all proposed non-Consumptive Use Permit actions of the Suwannee River and St. Johns River Water Management Districts that have the potential to negatively impact water quality and/or quantity in either District and attend all scheduled hearings;

Task 3: Direct the FLOW Science Committee to review the Consumptive Use Permit Applications and other proposed Water Management Districts' actions identified above, determine the consequences of each activity, and report back to the Legal Committee;

Task 4: Based upon the Science Committee report and other input, develop an Action Plan to ensure the impacts of any Consumptive Use Permits or other Water Management Districts actions do not negatively impact the quality and quantity of water available in the Floridan Aquifer System; and

Task 5: Implement the Action Plan developed in the preceding Task, including meetings, public information releases, media events, and legal actions as appropriate.

To identify and maintain the resources necessary to undertake and fully implement the objectives of the Legal Committee (see Attachment A-3);

Task 1: To develop schedules and budgets necessary to undertake the tasks outlined above regarding past, present and future Consumptive Use Permits and other Water Management Actions;

Task 2: To identify, evaluate and select individuals and organizations with skill sets, expertise and relationships to support the technical, legal and other needs of the Legal Committee; and

Task 3: To establish retainers and contracts, as needed, to accomplish the actions identified in the Legal Committee objectives *and* strategic plan.

FLOW Strategic Plan Legislative Committee Objectives

Legislative Committee's objectives are:

To identify, track, review, and comment on existing and new State and/or Federal legislative initiatives that impact water quality and/or quantity in Florida, particularly throughout the FLOW Member districts (see Attachment B-1 for specifics);

Task 1: Appoint Member to monitor the Florida State legislature and identify new bills that effect water quality and quantity;

Task 2: Direct the FLOW Science Committee to review the legislation and determine the scientific implications and report back to the Legislative Committee;

Task 3: Based upon Science Committee and other input, develop an Action Plan to ensure the impacts of any enacted legislation is beneficial to the quality and quantity of water available in the Floridan Aquifer System; and

Task 4: Implement the Action Plan developed in the preceding Task, including meetings, public information releases, media events, and lobbying as appropriate.

To develop, write and support legislation that restores and sustains the quality and quantity of water in the Floridan Aquifer System, particularly throughout the FLOW Member districts (see Attachment B-2); and

Task 1: Identify criteria and actions which will lead to improving, restoring, and sustaining the quality and/or quantity of water in the Florida Aquifer System;

Task 2: Draft legislation incorporating the criteria and/or actions identified in the preceding Task (See Attachment B for specifics);

Task 3: Vet the proposed draft legislation with the FLOW Membership, Water Management Districts, U.S. Geologic Survey and other government entities, hydro-geology, engineering, biology and other private sector experts, and advocacy groups regionally and Statewide, Members of the Florida Legislature, and media;

Task 4: Incorporate comments and suggestions received during vetting and undertake additional modifications as appropriate;

Task 5: Retain professional expertise to assist and support activities to introduce and promote the proposed legislation into law;

Task 6: Direct the FLOW Public Information & Education Committee to develop information and materials for use in hearings related to the legislation, to inform and educate Members of the Florida Legislature, municipal and county officials across the State, advocacy groups, the public, and the print and broadcast media;

Task 7: Develop and implement a program to have FLOW Members engage Members of the Florida Legislature in support of the proposed legislation;

Task 8: Develop and implement a program to encourage municipal and county officials across the State to engage their local Members of the Florida Legislature in support of the proposed legislation;

Task 9: Develop and implement a program to encourage advocacy groups to engage key Members of the Florida Legislature in support of the proposed legislation; and

Task 10: Develop and implement a program to work closely with the print and broadcast media throughout the State to provide a continuous stream of news regarding the status of water issue in Florida, particularly the FLOW Member region and the related benefits of the proposed legislation.

To identify and maintain the resources necessary to undertake and fully implement the objectives of the Legislative Committee (see Attachment B-3).

Task 1: To develop schedules and budgets necessary to undertake the tasks outlined above concerning existing and proposed legislation concerning water quality and quantity throughout the Floridan Aquifer System;

Task 2: To identify, evaluate, and select technical and professional organizations and institutions with the expertise and resources to facilitate and support the preparation, introduction, and enactment of FLOW proposed legislation; and

Task 3: To establish agreements, collaborative relationships, retainers, and/or contracts, as needed, that best matches the schedules, objectives and intentions of the FLOW Membership and Legislative Committee.