



MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 8

From: Staff

Date: October 18, 2019

Subject: Florida's Water Infrastructure Challenge Update – Presentation by Frank Bernardino, Partner, Anfield Consulting and Joint Resolution TCSF #19-03

Introduction

Failure to properly maintain and plan for critical infrastructure is a well-documented national problem. In their 2016 report titled “Buried No Longer,” the American Water Works Association documented that much of the nation’s infrastructure is “nearing the end of its useful life and approaching the age at which it needs to be replaced.” Their report estimated that replacement, not including the cost of new infrastructure that will be needed to meet the needs of our growing population, would exceed \$1 trillion over the next 25 years.

This presentation will provide an overview of Florida’s investment in water resources development, management, and protection infrastructure over the last 15 years and will include revenue and expenditure trends and needs. With that information as background, a summary of legislation filed to date for consideration during the 2020 Session of the Florida Legislature will be provided.

Background

Over the past 15 years in Florida, the average State investment as a percentage of the total State budget has been only 0.63% for water infrastructure (including urban, natural, and agricultural water supply; wastewater management; flood control; water quality protection; and natural system restoration). By comparison, the average State investment for transportation infrastructure over the same period has been 11% of the total budget.

Various groups are seeking to bring attention to the State’s water infrastructure need and this disparity in funding. The State’s historic spending pattern is inconsistent with the public’s values which, as documented in numerous surveys, place higher importance on water over any other issue impacting not only the health and safety of the citizens of Florida, but also the State’s economy and quality of life. Florida should accurately account for its needs, establish recurring

funding sources sufficient to address these needs, and develop predictable and transparent mechanisms and programs to administer them.

Recommendation

The South Florida and Treasure Coast regional planning councils should jointly adopt Resolution TCSF #19-03 and authorize its distribution to the Governor, Legislature, and local government associations.

Joint Council Action – October 25, 2019

Attachment

1. Resolution TCSF #19-03

Frank Bernardino



Frank Bernardino, is a member of Anfield Consulting, a boutique water resources and environmental consulting company, serving both public and private clients. Frank has over 30 years of experience working on water and natural resource management issues in Florida. He holds a Masters Degree in Biology and a B.S. degree in Environmental Studies, both from Florida International University. His policy experience includes wetlands planning and regulatory work at Miami-Dade County and water resources management lobbying for the South Florida Water Management District. Widely recognized as one of the most effective lobbyists, in December of 2004 he was presented with the Florida Senate’s prestigious “Medallion of Excellence” by President Ken Pruitt, “for his dedicated service in protecting Florida’s natural resources.” Frank is best known for his work in securing funding support for water management initiatives throughout the State to accelerate the implementation of key water supply, water quality and environmental restoration projects. He volunteers his experience and time to Florida Water Advocates a non-for-profit organization which tracks and reports on State investment in water resources infrastructure.



RESOLUTION TCSF #19-03

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MONROE, MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH, MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTIES, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING LEGISLATION THAT WILL QUANTIFY AND ADDRESS THE CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEFICIT IN FUNDING NEEDED FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TO ACCOMMODATE FLORIDA'S GROWING POPULATION AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's seven county geographical area is comprised of Broward, Indian River, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties and 122 municipalities, which contain over 6.7 million residents or nearly one-third of the State's population, responsible for generating over one-third of the State's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, the Councils are multi-purpose regional governmental entities with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, water is Florida's most important resource, responsible for the natural environments that define our state identity, sustain our quality of life, and support our economy; and

WHEREAS, the water infrastructure systems in the state are significant assets that protect public health and the state's water resources, and which are integral to the economic vitality and growth of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 444, visionary legislation which provided a dedicated revenue source for water protection and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, despite the significant funding called for in this landmark piece of legislation, funding for the program was largely eliminated due to the economic downturn in 2007 and 2008; and

WHEREAS, the economic recovery has led to the State budget increasing by over \$25.55 billion over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, over the same 15 year period the average state investment, as a percentage of the total state budget, has been only 0.63% for water infrastructure (including urban, natural and agricultural water supply, wastewater management, flood control, water quality protection, and natural system restoration); and

WHEREAS, by comparison, the average state investment for transportation infrastructure has been 11% of the State budget over the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented blue-green algae, red tide, and hurricane events of 2018 and 2019 led Governor DeSantis to take bold first steps towards addressing the state's water resource protection and development needs; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of our aquifers, coral reefs, lagoons, springs, and other natural water bodies is a shared priority of federal, state, and local governments and regional bodies; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county utilities face anticipated expenditures to repair and replace aging infrastructure, comply with new Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, as well as facing new responsibilities and costs relating to water security, source water protection, and additional needs for re-use of treated effluent; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county resources dedicated to water and wastewater infrastructure are being increasingly consumed by compliance with complex new mandates such as numeric nutrient criteria and testing requirements and are, therefore, unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs without substantial increases in local water and wastewater fees; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a new water and wastewater infrastructure funding program would not only help to protect and restore our aquifer, coral reefs, lagoons, springs, and other natural water bodies but also provide much-needed assistance to local governments and promote good paying jobs in the construction and maintenance of this infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS THAT:

The Councils request the Florida Legislature to enact legislation which requires:

1. The assessment of, and reports on the State of Florida's water resources infrastructure; and
2. The determination of the funding necessary to protect and enhance Florida's water resources, address water resource and water supply development, provide adequate flood protection, address wastewater management, and provide water quality protection and

development which includes the repair of impaired waters and the restoration of natural water bodies; and

3. The identification and evaluation of funding alternatives currently available to the State as well as other funding mechanisms and models being used by other states and by authorities outside the United States to address short-term and long-term water infrastructure needs.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils this 25th day of October, 2019.

Greg Ross
Chair, SFRPC

Susan Adams
Chair, TCRPC