

ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY STUDY

FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

to the JCCI Board of Directors

July 9, 1993

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Introduction

JCCI implementation makes a difference. Because of this implementation effort, citizens and decision makers are more aware of important water-conservation issues in Northeast Florida. In addition, tangible progress is being made toward ensuring the region's potable water supply.

The issues which led JCCI to do a water study are not so easily and quickly resolved, however. Much work remains to be done. Partly because of the JCCI study and implementation effort, intentions to deal with these issues are now more consciously articulated, and vehicles for constructive action are more receptive and better informed about what actions are needed.

Implementation Task Force

A small but active group of 12 people volunteered to work on the Implementation Task Force for JCCI's 1991 study on ensuring an **Adequate Water Supply** for Northeast Florida. Initially, cochairmen **Mike Hersey** and **Vic Harrold** led the Task Force. When Mike moved away from Jacksonville, Vic continued as chairman. Because the Task Force was small, it did not divide into subgroups. **David Swain** provided professional staff support for the Task Force. The study was completed in the summer of 1991. The Task Force met 17 times--almost monthly--between November 1991 and June 1993 to review implementation, coordinate efforts, and develop new strategies.

Implementation strategies

The Task Force used a variety of strategies in its work:

Initial media attention

Immediately following the luncheon during which the Water Study was presented to the community, the media gave the study and potable-water issues some visibility. Media attention was short-lived, however, reflecting the fact that water is not a highly "sexy" issue. This reality shaped much of the remainder of the implementation strategy, reflecting the study's stress on the need to educate both decision makers and the public on the need to conserve water.

Written communication with decision makers

The Task Force sent letters to state- and local-government decision makers throughout Northeast Florida introducing the study and seeking written responses concerning implementation of the specific recommendations directed toward them. Letters went to mayors, city and county managers, and appropriate state-agency administrators. Return letters were in general responsive, indicating a fair amount of awareness and some action toward conserving potable water. Written responses were received from the following entities:

St. Johns River Water Management District
Florida Department of Environmental Regulation
Florida Public Service Commission
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
Jacksonville Planning Department
City of Green Cove Springs

Written communication was not necessary to facilitate implementation through two other important local agencies because members of their staff were directly involved in the Task Force's activities. These agencies include:

Water Division, Jacksonville Department of Public Utilities
Water Quality Division, Jacksonville Department of Regulatory and Environmental Services

Meetings with and presentations before decision makers

The Task Force turned to a strategy of personal meetings and presentations, both to reach entities which had not responded in writing and to follow up with those which did. As spokesman for the implementation effort, Vic Harrold devoted a great deal of time and many driving miles to these meetings and presentations. Other Task Force members also participated in a number of these. Task Force members met with and/or made presentations before the following entities:

St. Johns River Water Management District (both board and staff)
Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
Jacksonville City Council, Public Utilities Committee
Baker County Board of County Commissioners
Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County Executive and Board of County Commissioners
St. Augustine Director of Public Works
Northeast Florida League of Cities

These meetings and presentations elicited a range of responses. Administrators were pretty much aware and concerned about water issues. During the discussion, some provided useful feedback. For instance, St. Augustine's public works director explained why that city feels inhibited from moving toward a conservation water-rate structure, because outstanding bond issues do not allow differing rates among users. At the other extreme, commissioners in the counties surrounding Duval listened courteously but mostly seemed to have other priorities on their minds. One reason for this attitude is that these counties have little in the way of public water utilities.

As the implementation process went on, Task-Force members continued meeting with these and other decision makers, seeking action in relation to particular study recommendations. The major contacts are listed here; the substance of the contacts is described under the appropriate recommendations below:

St. Johns River Water Management District (metering of wells; water management plan;
objections to certain consumptive-use permit renewals)
Jacksonville City Council Finance Committee (budget; revised water rates)
Duval Delegation to the Florida Legislature (well-construction permitting)
Florida Public Service Commission (conservation water-rate structures)

Participation in Technical Advisory Committee

The City of Jacksonville's Water Quality Division took the initiative, before the JCCI study was done, to expand the membership of its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on groundwater resource management. The TAC acts as a coordinating body for administrators and technicians in state and local government agencies, private utility companies, and other interested entities in Duval County. Mike Hersey (before he left town) and Vic Harrold have both been regular and active participants at

monthly TAC meetings, and the JCCI Implementation Task Force has been given de facto recognition as an ex-officio member of the TAC.

Participation in TAC meetings proved to be an important implementation strategy, for two reasons. It provided a valuable forum for JCCI to bring its implementation concerns to the technical people who do the real work in water management and conservation in Duval County. It also served as a valuable source of information about plans and actions relevant to implementation of the study's recommendations.

Educating the public on water conservation

The study recommends that state and local governmental agencies and private utilities expand their efforts to educate the public about the need for water conservation. However, the Task Force decided that water education is so important that it should make its own contribution. Therefore, it added an implementation strategy to develop its own water-conservation presentation and take it out to interested civic, neighborhood, and religious groups throughout the community.

The effort began with development of a presentation script. Once it was fine tuned to the Task Force's satisfaction, accompanying slides were prepared. Then, Task Force members Vic Harrold and Diane Peterson shared reading the script onto tape, after which the slide changes were dubbed onto the tape. The result is an "automated" slide presentation similar to the one familiar to JCCI members which describes JCCI. At community meetings, Task Force members introduce the presentation and answer questions afterwards.

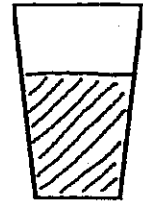
The slide show was completed in March 1993; since then, several successful presentations have been made. This implementation activity will continue on, after official implementation is concluded, as a part of JCCI's Speakers' Bureau.

Implementation results

The members of the Task Force would be quick to agree that the recommendations in this study do not lend themselves to quick and definitive implementation. However, the efforts of the Task Force have produced progress. More important, they have increased awareness and drawn attention (especially among government agencies) to the fact that ordinary citizens are concerned about water issues and are willing to devote time and energy to them. From this point of view, JCCI's implementation effort has been a major success. Progress on specific recommendations is outlined below.

Next to the text for each recommendation is a water glass. The fullness of the glass indicates the Task Force's judgment about the degree to which the recommendation has been successfully implemented or is clearly on track toward implementation.

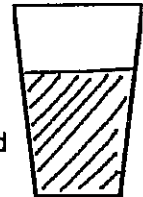
1. *The St. Johns River Water Management District should evaluate all education programs on water conservation being offered in Northeast Florida and should develop an effective, coordinated education program for the region. Wherever possible, it should encourage the implementation of education programs through local agencies and utilities.*



In recent years, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has expanded its water-conservation efforts. Most visibly, the SJRWMD has begun publishing a periodical newsletter called *StreamLines*, which contains valuable information about water resources and about the activities of the Water Management District. These results are positive, but they do not go as far as this recommendation suggests.

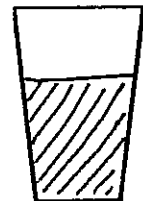
To date, the SJRWMD has not taken on a coordinating or facilitating role among other water-conservation efforts in Northeast Florida, except to encourage or require conservation-education efforts in certain consumptive-use permits. The many efforts now underway are conducted by local governments, public and private utilities, and even corporations (not to mention JCCI's own home-grown effort). The Task Force pursued this recommendation through written communication, presentations before the SJRWMD board, and meetings with individual board members and staff.

2. *The Jacksonville City Council should designate a single agency to coordinate education programs for water conservation in Duval County.*



City Council has not taken formal action on this recommendation. As implementation proceeded, and as Task Force members became more involved with City agencies, the need for a single, formally-identified coordinating agency became less clear. Through the TAC and other informal communications mechanisms among City agencies, a fair degree of coordination appeared to be taking place. Therefore, the Task Force did not vigorously pursue this recommendation.

3. *The Florida Legislature should require all new water wells not now requiring a well-construction permit to obtain such a permit before drilling begins. The Legislature should designate a single, local agency in each county, such as the Water Quality Division in Jacksonville, to issue these permits.*



The Task Force made a presentation concerning this recommendation to the Duval Delegation and met with Rep. Jim King, then chairman of the delegation and a member of the House Natural Resources Committee. Rep. King was favorably disposed and had a bill drawn up early in the 1993 legislative session. However, events conspired against it.

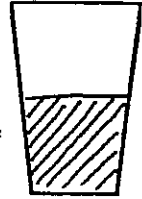
The bill was not well crafted, from a JCCI perspective. It was received by JCCI for review only hours before the deadline for bill filing. JCCI could have allowed it to be filed and then work to revise it to read more favorably, but the Task Force did not feel it could retain control of the bill if it were introduced.

Meanwhile, SJRWMD staff had begun discussing at TAC meetings the possibility of the SJRWMD expanding its requirements for well-construction permitting to smaller wells. Since this offered the possibility of administrative implementation of the recommendation, the Task Force decided to support it and asked Rep. King to withdraw his draft bill, which he did. The matter remains under discussion and may not be resolved for some time.

From a JCCI perspective, the positive result is that the recommendation is receiving attention and support. It may be only a matter of time for state officials to decide how best to implement it.

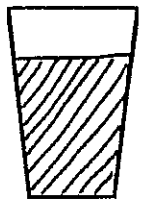
4. *All well-construction permits should require construction designs which effectively prevent groundwater contamination.*

Responses from the SJRWMD and the City of Jacksonville (which issues permits for smaller wells in Duval County) indicate that existing permit standards are generally adequate. One of the problems with the bill drafted by Rep. King was that it contained no standards.



The SJRWMD is currently trying to develop specific standards for wells located around certain contaminated sites. Some of the implementation of these standards, which will be costly, may be delegated to local governments. Uncertainties now exist concerning full, effective implementation of these standards, given available resources.

5. *The St. Johns River Water Management District should immediately take the steps necessary to determine the amount of water being withdrawn from both shallow and Floridan Aquifers in Northeast Florida.*



Conserving water is like balancing a checking account. You need to know how much is in the account and how much is being withdrawn. When JCCI's implementation process began, the SJRWMD had recently approved a water-conservation rule containing a metering provision. This would have begun a two-year process, which would have resulted, by July 1994, in the installation by consumptive-use permit holders of a meter or other acceptable measuring device on each permitted well. It also would have required regular monitoring of the water flow in each well and periodic reporting of the results to the SJRWMD. Although this rule would not have fully met the recommendation, because the SJRWMD requires permits for only wells 6 inches in diameter or greater, it would have been a major step in the right direction. The Task Force supported it.

Unfortunately, a group of affected interests, led by the large agribusinesses in the southern counties of the district, successfully pushed through a series of amendments which substantially reduced the number of wells required to have meters and the date by which metering is required. The amendments also shifted some of the cost for installing meters to the SJRWMD—that is, the taxpayers—which seemed to Task Force members very unfair. JCCI took no position on the equity issue. However, it did oppose public financing of meters on the basis that it would further delay implementation of metering. This would be the case because the SJRWMD could afford to pay for meters only if the costs were spread over several years.

The Task Force sought to gain votes on the SJRWMD Board to retain the original rule but failed because of an obvious bias among SJRWMD Board members toward the rural, agricultural interests. The City of Jacksonville was an active ally with JCCI in this effort, including passage of a City-Council resolution. The large private utility companies in Duval County were supportive as well but did little tangible to help. Over the objections of JCCI and its allies, the SJRWMD approved the amendments by a 7 to 2 vote, and they became effective in January 1993.

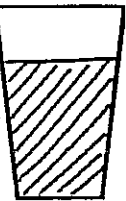
Much to Task Force's surprise, the issue was shortly thereafter reopened—by the same agribusiness interests which had just succeeded in "watering down" the metering rule to their advantage. Apparently they felt powerful enough to seek another round of weakening amendments. Once again, the Task Force communicated with SJRWMD Board members, seeking their support for a stronger, not weaker, metering rule. The issue came to a head at the May Board meeting. Again, the City of Jacksonville

and JCCI spoke strongly against the approval of amendments. And again, the agribusiness interests, including their attorneys from Tallahassee, spoke strongly in favor of further amendments.

This time, however, the situation was significantly different, because of the recent replacement of four Board members with new appointees. The Task Force had communicated with each of the new appointees about the study and about this issue in particular and had met in person with Denise Prescod, the new Board member from Jacksonville. At the May Board meeting, it quickly became apparent that the new members had shifted the bias of the Board away from rural/agricultural interests. As a result, the Board voted 5-4 against considering additional amendments.

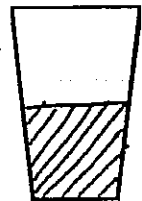
The Task Force members (most of whom had attended the Board meeting in Palatka) savored this victory. At the same time, they realized that the agribusiness interests would be back again and again, seeking economic benefits for themselves, and Board members would find it difficult to withstand their continuing pressure. Several of the Board members and staff made a point of letting the Task Force know how much sustained "citizen input" had meant on this issue. But keeping up the kind of political pressure which organized interests like agribusiness can bring to bear is difficult for citizens' groups, which are without the benefit of expensive Tallahassee lawyers.

6. *State and local regulatory agencies in Northeast Florida should expand their network of Floridan-Aquifer monitoring wells, in order to assess instances and patterns of salt-water intrusion.*



The most serious potential for salt-water intrusion appears to exist along the Atlantic coast and the St. Johns River in Duval County. The City of Jacksonville is actively monitoring wells in key areas and has been trying to add new monitoring wells for the past 13 years, with limited success. Funding for additional monitoring wells is contained in the River City Renaissance plan. If this funding becomes available and if expected assistance from the SJRWMD is received, implementation of this recommendation will be heading in the right direction.

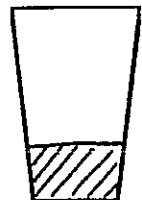
7. *Regional and local planning agencies in Northeast Florida should design and implement land-use regulations which will protect and enhance recharge areas of the Floridan Aquifer.*



Written responses from Jacksonville and regional planning agencies indicate that existing plans and regulations seek to protect recharge areas. Whether these plans and regulations are properly adhered to in actual developments is less clear. The Task Force felt it had gone as far as it could in relation to this recommendation, while remaining unsure that recharge areas in Northeast Florida are really being adequately protected. Task Force members suggested that the entire issue of developmental v. environmental considerations in land-use planning might be a worthy topic for a future JCCI study.

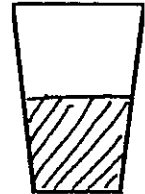
8. *The St. Johns River Water Management District should more aggressively and rapidly pursue its program to identify and plug free-flowing wells in Northeast Florida.*

State and local officials recognize the need to cap free-flowing wells. One reason for slow progress is that property owners have the first responsibility for capping wells on their land. Government intervenes and spends tax dollars to cap wells only if owners fail to act.



A second problem arises in securing the public funding necessary to find and plug abandoned, free-flowing wells. For several years, the SJRWMD has offered small payments to well owners or to local governments as cost sharing for the capping of abandoned wells. Budget constraints have severely limited the amount of SJRWMD funding for this purpose, so, progress has been very slow. The issue remains on the policy agenda of the SJRWMD and of local governments (at least Jacksonville's government), but resources are inadequate to make rapid progress toward implementation. The Task Force has communicated with state and local officials but has had little success in changing the status quo.

9. *The St. Johns River Water Management District should provide incentives which encourage the use of shallow-aquifer water, surface water, and reclaimed water for nonpotable purposes. They should publicly recognize and commend users who reduce consumption and/or increase reuse.*

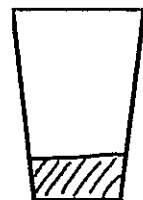


The SJRWMD is now placing conditions in consumptive-use permits requiring reuse of wastewater wherever it is economically feasible. However, few wastewater utilities have the capability to make reused water available, and few areas have the piping necessary to deliver reclaimed water for uses such as irrigation. Because SJRWMD rules stress criteria of economic feasibility as well as those of water conservation, few permits actually require reuse or other means of limiting Floridan-Aquifer use to potable purposes.

This situation has led the Task Force to file formal objections to several applications for renewal of consumptive-use permits where the planned use for Floridan-Aquifer water was clearly nonpotable (aesthetic or irrigation). The SJRWMD has taken notice of JCCI's objections but has not disapproved or altered any permits as a result.

Meanwhile, the SJRWMD has officially designated its entire 19-county area a Water Conservation Area. This action has triggered a state requirement that the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation use its permitting authority over wastewater-treatment plans to expand the availability of treated effluent for reuse. It will take some time before this action will have much effect on the actual availability of water for reuse.

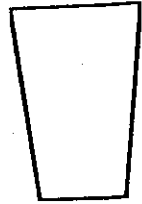
10. *Regional and local planning agencies in Northeast Florida should encourage, as a part of the plan review process, the installation in new developments of a parallel pipe system for the reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes.*



In parts of Florida where water shortages appear more imminent, parallel piping for wastewater reuse is now being laid in some new developments, and new wastewater treatment plants are being designed to provide treated effluent for reuse. No requirements for such piping or treatment plants exist in Northeast Florida, although planning agencies may encourage it where it appears to be economically feasible. Where reuse has been tried in Northeast Florida, the effluent generally comes from treatment plants in new developments and is used to irrigate golf courses or other major landscaped areas nearby the plant.

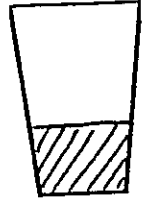
Because of overriding economic-feasibility issues, the Task Force made little short-term progress on this recommendation. On the other hand, as water concerns increase, especially in urban areas like Jacksonville, reuse will probably begin to look more economically feasible and will probably become more common in new developments.

11. *The Florida Department of Environmental Regulation should amend its regulations to allow the reuse of appropriately treated wastewater in potable water systems, where such use is feasible and cost-effective.*



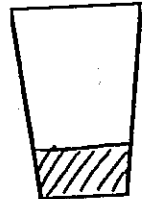
This is a pie-in-the-sky recommendation, as recognized by study-committee members when they included it in the study. Although wastewater treated at a secondary level meets the scientific definition of potable, convincing ordinary people to drink it is another matter. DER has no plans to move toward implementing this recommendation, and the Task Force did not press the issue. As with other kinds of reuse, if and when water becomes much more scarce and expensive, reuse for potable purposes may appear more palatable.

12. *The St. Johns River Water Management District should complete and publish as soon as possible a detailed study of sources and needs and/or a detailed aquifer model which simulates the movement of water in the Floridan Aquifer.*



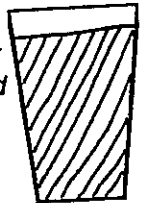
Consistent with the checking-account analogy suggested under Recommendation #5, the SJRWMD needs to report how much is in the water account, as well as how much is being withdrawn. SJRWMD staff have been working on a Needs and Sources Study for several years. Portions of it have been published, but much information is still not available. The final version is expected to be available in October 1994. The Task Force has reiterated the need for this information to be available for water-planning purposes as soon as possible. These efforts have had no perceptible effect on the timetable. In fact, evidence suggests that complexities and difficulties have delayed the study process.

13. *Using the sources and needs study and/or aquifer model as a guide, the St. Johns River Water Management District should base approval of consumptive-use permits on consideration of the full regional impact of each new water use, not solely on the proposed permitted use itself.*



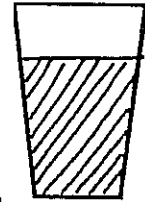
SJRWMD staff are trying to do more cumulative (regional) assessments of consumptive-use permit applications. However they still lack the data to do so adequately. As a result, most applications are evaluated primarily on the basis of information about the permit site itself. The Task Force has pointed this out and has encouraged more regional reviews. The SJRWMD agrees with the recommendation but remains limited by a lack of data.

14. *Water utilities in Duval County should disperse withdrawal of water from the Floridan Aquifer, to prevent salt-water intrusion. To accomplish this, they should develop new wellfields in western Duval County, with the necessary piping to populated areas, and reduce pumping from wells concentrated along the St. Johns River and Atlantic coast.*



For all practical purposes, this recommendation is aimed at the City of Jacksonville water utility. The City Water Division has plans for development of new wellfields in western Duval County and for construction of the necessary piping to bring the water to Jacksonville's more populated areas. Financing for these projects was included in the calculations used to determine the needed water-rate increase recently approved by the Jacksonville City Council. The Task Force actively and vocally supported the rate increase.

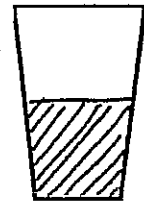
- 15.** *Building codes in Northeast-Florida communities should require the installation of low-flow appliances and fixtures in all new construction and major renovations, as a means of conserving potable water.*



Most local governments in Northeast Florida have taken no action specifically directed toward requiring low-flow appliances and fixtures. However, most conform their local building codes to provisions in the Southern Building Code. In 1988, this Code was updated to include some low-flow provisions. In the Jacksonville City Council, an ordinance was passed in November 1992 which does specifically mandate low-flow appliances and fixtures. It goes into effect on July 1, 1993.

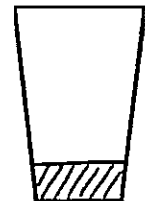
The Task Force mentioned the importance of building-code reform in all of its presentations to local governments but found this not to be a high priority with them. As with other water issues, decision makers tend to avoid action until their awareness of the need to conserve is heightened, or until a crisis arises.

- 16.** *State and local regulatory agencies in Northeast Florida should intensify efforts to identify and require cleanup of groundwater-contamination sources such as malfunctioning septic tanks, leaking storage tanks, and old dumps.*



The Jacksonville Environmental Engineering Division of the local Public Health Unit (really a part of Florida's Department of HRS) has initial responsibility for inspecting wells for groundwater contamination in Duval County. During the time of study implementation, this agency has suffered from a combination of inadequate funding and internal management problems, so it has not functioned at full effectiveness. Nor was it responsive to the Task Force's communications. Because of the large number of shallow wells in Northeast Florida, many of which are used for potable purposes, significant but unknown contamination problems may exist. Where specific sources of groundwater contamination have been identified, regulatory agencies such as DER appear to be taking steps toward mitigation. The Task Force did not take further action on this recommendation, feeling it had done what it could.

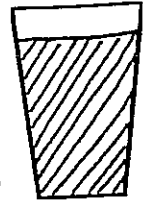
- 17.** *Publicly and privately owned water utilities should establish rate structures which provide an incentive to conserve water. The Florida Public Service Commission should adopt and enforce a policy requiring the use of conservation water rates.*



The Task Force began by writing to and meeting with private utility-company managers. Their response was that their rates are determined by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). The Task Force then wrote to the PSC and met with PSC officials at a local rate hearing. The PSC made clear that under current law, economic factors alone are considered in determining rates. However, the PSC does instruct utility companies to comply with all provisions in consumptive-use permits from water management districts, some of which call for conservation rates.

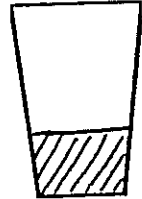
During the summer and fall of 1992, PSC staff participated in a state interagency working group which developed proposed legislation to include conservation criteria in the PSC's consideration of rates. However, strong opposition quickly emerged, especially from the Florida League of Cities. As a result, the proposal never even got introduced in the Legislature. Little hope exists the PSC will revisit this issue soon.

18. *The Jacksonville City Council, and other local governments in Northeast Florida which govern publicly owned water utilities, should review water rates at least every three years to ensure that they continue to meet full costs and encourage conservation.*



When Jacksonville finally approved rate increases in the spring of 1993, it had been 11 years since the last increase. JCCI's 1987 Infrastructure Study had recommended that utility rates be reviewed and revised at least every four years to keep up with full costs. The Task Force made presentations, before the full City Council and at two public hearings, in support of the 1993 increase, based on recommendations from both the Infrastructure and Water Studies. The Task Force also supported the water-conservation incentives built into the 1993 rate change.

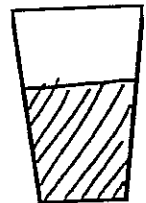
19. *The Florida Legislature and local governments in Northeast Florida should clarify the responsibilities of state and local water-regulatory agencies to establish clear and distinct assignments of the various functions of water-use regulation and water-quality protection.*



Governor Lawton Chiles proposed several versions of a reorganization of state agencies to bring more rationality to environmental protection and regulation by the State of Florida. In 1993, the Florida Legislature adopted a law combining the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Department of Natural Resources into a new Department of Environmental Protection. Although this may provide better coordination of some environmental policies, it will not do much to clarify responsibilities in potable-water protection, because the Water Management Districts and the HRS Environmental Health function remain outside of the new department.

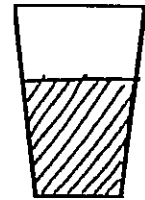
In lieu of legislative action in relation to potable-water protection, administrators in the various state agencies and related local agencies continue to work at sorting out responsibilities and jurisdictions. The discussion about the SJRWMD's possibly expanding its regulation of well construction (see Recommendation #3) is one example of this sorting out process, which remains very much incomplete. The Task Force communicated with all relevant agencies about this recommendation but took no further specific action.

20. *Local and state agencies which regulate water in Northeast Florida should extend informal cooperation already occurring in Duval County by establishing a regional water-resources council. The council should meet openly and encourage the participation of water users, including utilities, industries, agricultural operators, and the public.*



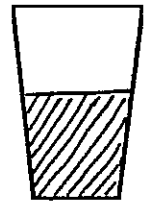
This recommendation, in effect, suggests broadening the Technical Advisory Committee in Duval County to cover a wider geographic area. Although informal cooperation continues, no action has been taken toward creating a regional water-resources council. The SJRWMD feels that doing so would add an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy. The Task Force communicated with relevant agencies about this recommendation but received no definitive response, except from the SJRWMD. Since, as the SJRWMD is quick to point out, it has statutory authority for water management in Northeast Florida, creation of a multicounty water-resources council without SJRWMD leadership, or at least its willing cooperation, seems unlikely.

1. *The St. Johns River Water Management District should improve and expand its capabilities to collect, analyze, and report data, so that needed information will be available on a more timely basis for water-planning purposes.*



The study's main concern in terms of data related to the Needs and Sources Study (see Recommendation #12). The SJRWMD publishes much additional data, and the study committee heard from several sources that the usefulness of data was at times diminished because the numbers were old before they became available. A prime example is the Annual Water Use Survey, which continues to appear in print over 18 months after the end of the reporting year. The Task Force communicated with the SJRWMD about this matter, but little seems to have changed.

22. *Water utilities and planning agencies in Northeast Florida should include studies in their long-range planning process of the feasibility, costs, and benefits of using possible alternative sources of potable water.*



The largest utility in Northeast Florida, the Jacksonville Water Division, has done some long-range planning and analysis on alternative sources—enough to determine that these are expensive and that maintaining use of the Floridan Aquifer is preferable, even if it means developing new wellfields far from populated areas (see Recommendation #14). The Task Force communicated with other utility companies about this recommendation but received little feedback from them. It chose not to follow up further, believing that it had done what was possible on implementation.

Implementation recognition

Not often does a JCCI implementation Task Force receive an award from one of the entities toward which its implementation efforts have been directed. In this case, the working relationship between the Task Force and the City's Water Quality Division was so mutually beneficial that the result was receipt by JCCI of an award at the Mayor's Environmental Awards Luncheon, held in April 1993. The award recognizes the commitment and tenacity of the small group of implementers for this study. More broadly, it recognizes the high value to the community of JCCI's study and implementation process.

Closeout of JCCI's implementation process: Recommendation to the JCCI Board

The water issues of Northeast Florida are far from being resolved; yet, the JCCI Implementation Task Force has increased awareness about them, and some progress has been made toward greater conservation of water and enhanced protection of Northeast Florida's potable-water resources. The Task Force believes that it has accomplished as much as can be expected, or that trends are moving toward accomplishing study recommendations, so that the time is right to conclude JCCI's formal implementation effort. Therefore, the Task Force recommends that the JCCI Board officially close out implementation of the Adequate Water Supply Study, effective immediately.

Ongoing implementation in the community

Although formal JCCI implementation is coming to a close, most of the Task-Force members plan to continue their active involvement in water issues. Most tangibly, Vic will continue his participation in the Technical Advisory Committee, and several Task-Force members will continue to help make presentations through JCCI's Speakers' Bureau. All members will also continue to advocate for water conservation in their contacts with other people and organizations.

