

Meeting Minutes



Long-term Master Water Plan Telephone Town Hall

Sept. 14, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Michelle Stom, Tampa Bay Water
Warren Hogg, Tampa Bay Water
Danielle Keirse, Tampa Bay Water
Amanda Schwerman, Black & Veatch
Brandon Moore, Tampa Bay Water
Meghan Christopher, Tampa Bay Water
Michelle Robinson, Dialogue Public Relations
Robin Bizjack, Dialogue Public Relations
Tampa Bay area residents: an average of approximately 1,500 residents stayed on the call for 10 minutes; approximately 150 residents stayed on the call for the duration of the meeting.

Notification: Emails to 42 area HOAs/CDDs and Chambers of Commerce Sept. 8 & 11, 2023
Future Water web page updated Aug. 14, 2023
News release posted to Tampa Bay Water website Aug. 31, 2023
Facebook posts on Sept. 2 & 14, 2023
Twitter posts on Sept. 2, 13, & 14, 2023
LinkedIn posts on Sept. 14, 2023
Facebook and Instagram ads on Sept. 2, 2023
More than 17,000 outbound calls to residents in Tampa Bay Water's service area the evening of the meeting

1. Purpose of the Meeting

The telephone town hall provided residents with an overview of Tampa Bay Water, an update on the agency's 2023 Long-term Master Water Plan update and the shortlist projects that will be recommended to the board in November 2023 for feasibility studies to potentially meet the region's long-term drinking water supply needs in the 2033 timeframe.

2. Meeting Summary

Michelle Stom welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced speakers. She then gave a brief overview of Tampa Bay Water and how it has successfully supplied wholesale drinking water to its member governments for the last 25 years through a diverse, interconnected system. She touched on the population growth in the region and the need for more water as well as the agency's conservation

efforts to offset the need and cost for new supplies. She then handed the meeting over to Danielle Keirse.

Ms. Keirse provided an overview of Tampa Bay Water's water supply expansion process, which typically takes 10 years to complete. The process starts with the Long-term Master Water Plan, which provides a short list of projects recommended for further study. Approved projects go through a feasibility program, which results in feasible projects being recommended to the board for water supply selection. Projects that are selected then go into design and construction to become the region's next water supply facilities.

Ms. Keirse then shared the seven shortlisted project concepts and detailed the project concepts by water source: groundwater, river water and seawater, stopping between each water source to answer questions.

Three groundwater concepts were presented: an Eastern Pasco Wellfield (groundwater or brackish water), increasing the Consolidated Water Use Permit, and a new South Hillsborough Wellfield via Aquifer Recharge.

Three surface water concepts were presented: a North Pinellas Surface Water Treatment Plant & Reservoir, a Surface Water Treatment Facility near the existing C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir, and a new South Hillsborough Surface Water Treatment Plant & Reservoir.

Desalination concepts included expanding the existing Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant using either brackish groundwater or seawater.

The moderator then presented a poll question: Do you have any preferences among the proposed water sources? Answer options were fresh groundwater, brackish groundwater, surface water, or seawater.

Ms. Keirse explained the next steps for the shortlisted options, stating that feasibility studies provide more certainty regarding yield, water quality and costs, and determine if there are any roadblocks that may remove the project from consideration.

She then discussed the developmental alternatives that will be evaluated alongside the seven feasibility studies. These potential potable reuse projects propose to use reclaimed water in either a direct or indirect way. Developmental alternatives require longer feasibility studies, additional investigation or need time for regulations to be implemented. The developmental alternatives program will run concurrent with the feasibility program and will give Tampa Bay Water time to work with the member governments to define the availability of reclaimed water, assess the reclaimed water for water quality and other parameters, understand the permitting and regulatory framework, conduct pilot studies, and talk to the public extensively.

When or if developmental alternatives become clearly defined and are considered feasible options, they can become part of the water supply selection process. Ms. Keirse then took questions regarding developmental alternatives.

The moderator presented a second poll question: Would you drink reclaimed water that has been treated to drinking water standards? Answer options were yes; yes, but only if there were no other options; unsure, need more information; and no.

After the second poll, the moderator said the meeting time was nearly up and handed the meeting over to Michelle Stom.

Ms. Stom thanked everyone for attending, asking questions and providing feedback. She said the shortlist would be presented to the board for approval at the Nov. 13, 2023, meeting. The meeting is open to the public and can be accessed via TampaBayWater.org. Anyone wanting to speak must sign up in advance at TampaBayWater.org/Board-Meetings.

The meeting concluded at 7:08 p.m.

3. Questions and Input Received

Groundwater Questions:

Does this have anything to do with the World Economic Forum? Does Tampa Bay Water have any connections to this group or their recommendations?

Mr. Hogg responded that no, Tampa Bay Water and its long-term planning have nothing to do with the Economic Forum, nor does Tampa Bay Water have any connections to the group.

How will Tampa Bay Water ensure increasing the Consolidated Well Use Permit or a new wellfield won't hurt the environment?

Mr. Hogg responded that Tampa Bay Water has invested heavily in building alternative supplies to help the environment recover. We won't recommend any projects that threaten the environmental recovery we have achieved; however, there may be additional water available, and we'll perform studies and groundwater modeling to ensure there is no impact.

Is there any scenario where both the Consolidated Well Use Permit increase and new Eastern Pasco Wellfield would be implemented?

Mr. Hogg responded that yes, there could be a scenario where some water comes from each of those sources distribute withdrawals over a larger geographic area and protect the environment.

Surface Water Questions:

How much will this increase my water bill?

Ms. Stom said that Tampa Bay Water performs a rate analysis in feasibility studies to see what potential effects will be on water bills. Currently, we don't know the impact to the uniform water rate.

Will a new South Hillsborough reservoir serve the region or just Hillsborough County?

Ms. Keirse responded that the reservoir would be connected to the regional system to supply the region, not just Hillsborough.

Pinellas is very populated; where will you put a reservoir?

Ms. Schwerman responded that the exact location would be determined as part of feasibility study, but that there is some space in northeast Pinellas County that may be a good location.

Who's going to pay for all this, and will developers be taxed to help with the cost?

Mr. Hogg said that Tampa Bay Water is a non-profit wholesale water supplier serving six member governments. Each member government pays the same uniform rate and sets their own rates for water they distribute to their end users. Tampa Bay Water receives grant funding from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, in addition to state and federal funding, to bring costs down. Tampa Bay Water only supplies water; we cannot control growth and have no taxing authority. We simply meet the demands of our six member governments every day.

Will these projects affect personal wells?

Mr. Hogg said all our projects are evaluated for environmental and residential and agricultural well impact. The Southwest Florida Water Management District will not issue a permit if a project impacts existing legal domestic or agricultural wells. Tampa Bay Water has a domestic well mitigation policy that requires we investigate any water-level related complaint in the vicinity of our wellfields and mitigate if we caused the problem.

How do you ensure river withdrawals won't hurt the river or estuary?

Mr. Hogg responded that we follow the minimum river flow rates set by the District, so our withdrawals have no impact on the rivers.

Surface water availability depends on the weather; what do you do in times of drought?

Mr. Hogg said Tampa Bay Water is uniquely situated because we have three different water sources so we can shift production to sources that have more supply without taking too much from any one source.

The City of Tampa shows a pass-through charge. What is the wholesale rate?

Ms. Stom said the current uniform water rate is \$2.59 per 1,000 gallons, which is a little less than a penny per gallon. The City of Tampa mostly self-supplies and purchases water from us only when they need it. Right now, they are purchasing water from us, and that's why you're seeing the passthrough charge on your bill.

Desalination Questions:**Is the desalination plant working?**

Ms. Stom responded that the plant has been taken offline as usual during the summer. The plant is co-located with TECO, which has been making modifications to the power plant, so the desalination plant was taken offline a little earlier this year. We anticipate coming back online in November.

Why are you not considering more desalination plants, given sea level rise?

Ms. Keirsey said that desalination is very expensive because of high energy costs, so no new desalination plants are being considered at this time; however, we are considering expanding the existing desalination plant.

Have TECO's changes at the Big Bend Power Plant affected desalination operations?

Ms. Stom said that, yes, there has been some effect on the desalination plant. Tampa Bay Water depends on TECO to feed our plant, and their modification has reduced the amount of water we can use and produce.

Has the desalination plant affected salinity in the bay?

Mr. Hogg said there is no change in the salinity in the bay based on the desalination plant's use. The plant has been in production for 20 years, and we've studied the ecology in Tampa Bay, observing plants and wildlife, and there has been no change in the environment or water quality.

Developmental Alternatives Questions:**What is the difference between direct and indirect reuse?**

Ms. Schwerman said the major difference is an environmental buffer. Indirect reuse sends reclaimed water into the environment first, for instance, into surface waters, where it may later be skimmed for treatment. In direct potable reuse, reclaimed water is refined to drinking water standards and goes directly into the drinking water distribution system.

Why are you considering reclaimed as a potential source?

Ms. Schwerman responded that reclaimed water is a drought-proof supply. Member governments have plenty of it, and it can be treated to drinking water standards. The main reason is reclaimed water's availability compared to traditional sources.

Coastal wells could supply a better source than seawater; why don't you do more of those?

Mr. Hogg said we are considering desalination plant expansion using brackish water from the lower Floridan aquifer and inland in eastern Pasco County. Both of those concepts would use brackish wells. Dunedin and Tarpon Springs have their own brackish wells, so we don't want to place brackish wells in areas that could affect existing users.

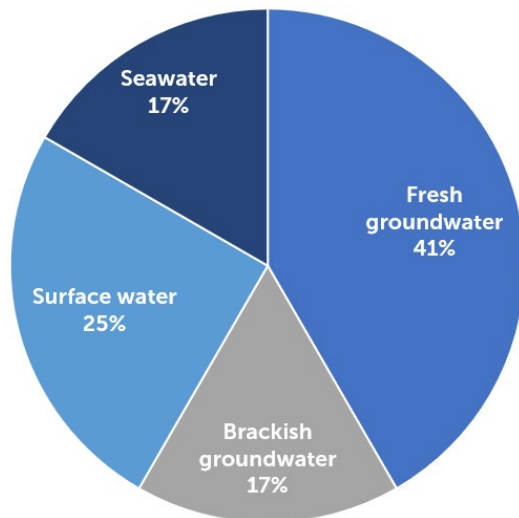
How successful is Tampa's direct and indirect water use? Do they reuse the Hooker's Point water or discharge their reclaimed water?

Mr. Hogg said Tampa uses some reclaimed water for outdoor irrigation. Their Howard F. Curren Plant delivers reclaimed water to homes and businesses to use on landscapes. Tampa is considering what to do with its remaining reclaimed water rather than discharging it to the bay, and they have asked us to see how the region could beneficially use their reclaimed water. We are evaluating reclaimed water use in our developmental alternative program.

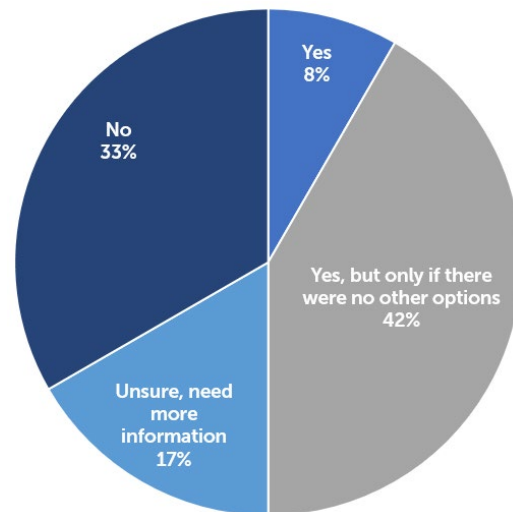
4. Poll Results

Twelve attendees responded to each of the two poll questions.

Do you have any preferences among the proposed water sources?



Would you drink reclaimed water that has been treated to drinking water standards?



5. Signage, Social Media and Ads

To help promote the meeting, Tampa Bay Water notified the general public by sending a news release to local media and posting the release to the utility's website Aug. 31, 2023. Additionally, information on the meeting and how to attend was listed on the utility's Future Water website (futurewater.org).

Tampa Bay Water also used social media to reach the general public. The utility posted organically to Facebook (3,800 followers), LinkedIn (3,847 followers) and Twitter (1,960 followers). These posts directed readers to the utility's Future Water webpage for more information and a link to register for the meeting. Tampa Bay Water ran digital ads on Facebook and Instagram from Sept. 2 to Sept. 14 to promote the virtual meeting. The ads received 318,352 impressions and 2,242 clicks.

Additionally, Tampa Bay Water enlisted the help of area chambers of commerce and homeowners' associations to promote the meeting.




For people who could not attend the meeting, the meeting slides and summary are being posted to the Future Water webpage.

News release posted Aug 31, 2023:

31

Aug

Residents Invited to Participate in Telephone Town Hall Meeting on Future Water Sources

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brandon Moore
bmoore@tampabaywater.org
(727) 791-2304 | (727) 470-0702

CLEARWATER, Fla. (Aug. 31, 2023) – Tampa Bay Water invites Tampa Bay area residents to join a telephone town hall meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 14, 2023, to discuss its Long-term Master Water Plan, the framework for meeting the region's future drinking water needs. Sign up to participate at futurewater.org.

The meeting will include a discussion on the region's growing water needs, current water sources and projects under consideration to meet the region's needs in the 2033 timeframe. The public will be able to ask questions live and participate in polls during the call. Residents can also participate online.

To sign up for the meeting, residents can follow these simple steps:

- Go to futurewater.org
- Click on the link to sign up for the meeting. Residents can choose to participate by telephone or online.

In November, Tampa Bay Water's board of directors will vote on projects to move forward for further study.

About Tampa Bay Water

Tampa Bay Water is the largest wholesale water supplier in Florida, providing high-quality drinking water to its members that, in turn, supply water to more than 2.5 million residents of the Tampa Bay area. Tampa Bay Water member governments include Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties and the cities of New Port Richey, St. Petersburg and Tampa. To learn more, visit tampabaywater.org.


Updated Future Water web page and meeting notification posted August 14, 2023:

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HOME AGENCY SUPPLY QUALITY CONSERVATION CAREERS BLOG NEWSROOM CONTACT

Planning for the Future

Register for the Virtual Telephone Townhall Meeting



Virtual Telephone Town Hall Meeting

September 14, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Tampa Bay area residents can participate in a virtual telephone townhall meeting Sept. 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and provide input on the shortlist of project concepts being considered for further study to meet projected water demands in the 2033 timeframe. Please click below to sign up.

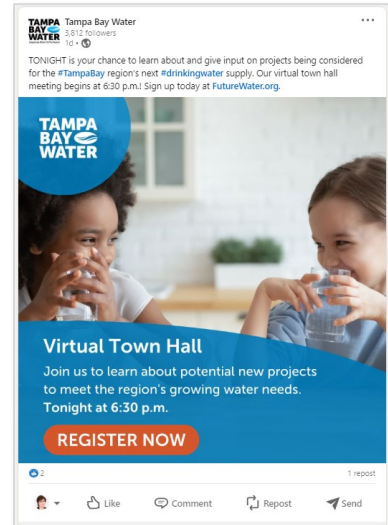
REGISTER

Water Sources +

Supply Management +

Projects +

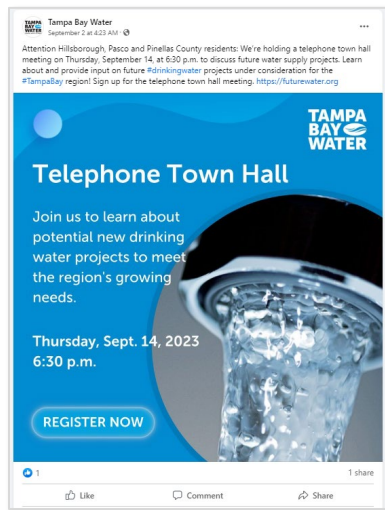
LinkedIn posts Sept. 8, 13, 14, 2023:



Twitter organic posts Sept. 2, 13 and 14, 2023:



Facebook organic posts Sept. 2 and 14, 2023:



Facebook and Instagram Targeted Ads Sept. 2 - 14:

Tampa Bay Water Sponsored · 🌐

We're holding a virtual town hall meeting on Thursday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss future water supply projects. Sign up at futurewater.org

Join Us for a Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Learn how we're planning to meet the region's future water needs.

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023
6:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW

futurewater.org
Join Us for a Virtual Town Hall on Water Supply Projects **Sign up**

👍❤️😬 26 3 comments 10 shares

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Tampa Bay Water Sponsored · 🌐

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Virtual Town Hall

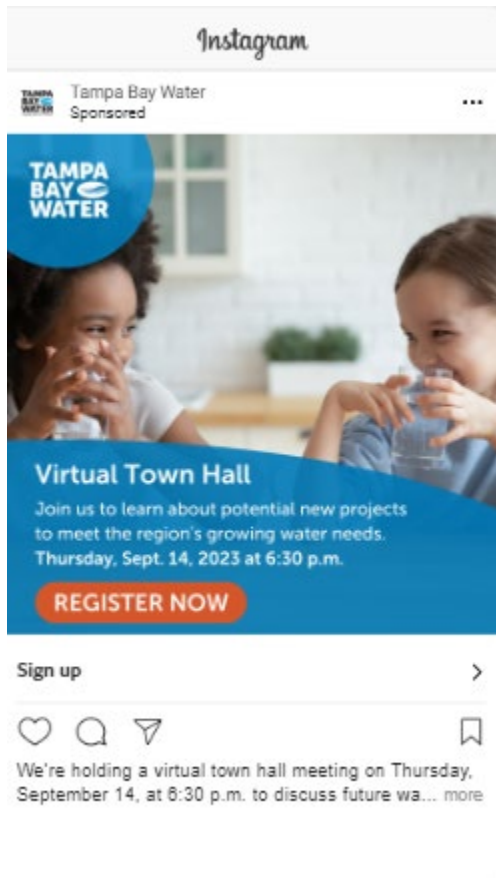
Join us to learn about potential new projects to meet the region's growing water needs. Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

REGISTER NOW

futurewater.org
Join Us for a Virtual Town Hall on Water Supply Projects **Sign up**

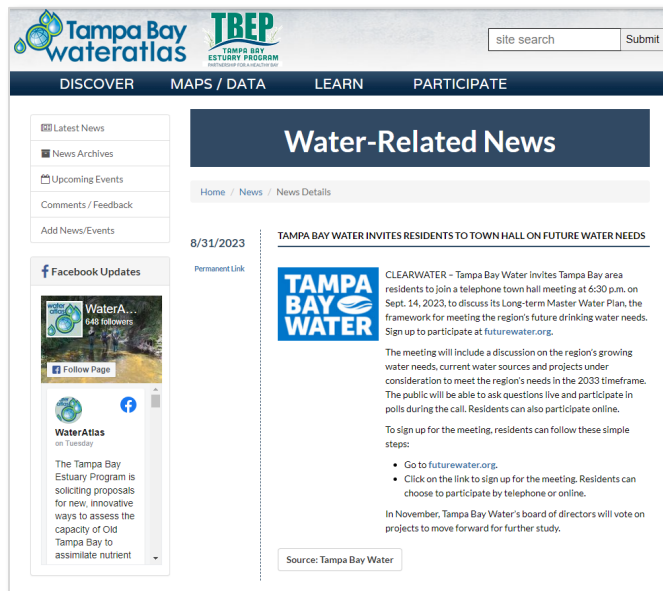
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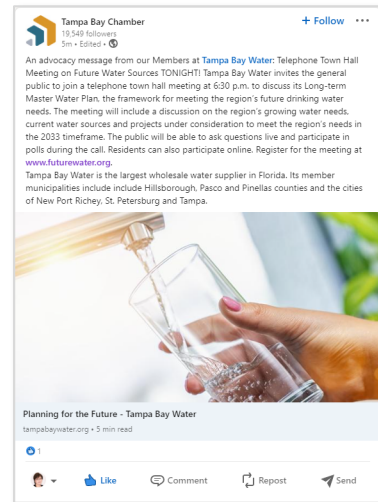


News coverage:

Tampa Bay Water Atlas online post Aug. 31, 2023:



Tampa Bay Chamber LinkedIn post Sept. 14, 2023:



Central Pinellas Chamber email to members Sept. 12, 2023:



6. Presentation

Building on 25 Years of Innovative Water Supply Solutions

Telephone Town Hall Meeting
September 14, 2023

The Region's Drinking Water Supplier

- 6 local governments
- 2.5 million and customers
- 11 water treatment plants
 - 1 wastewater treatment
 - 10 water
- 12 wellfields
- 14 power stations
- 15.5-billion-gallon reservoir
- Miles of large-diameter pipe

Demand by Member Government 2022 vs 2040

Tampa Bay Water Wise Savings

- Part of the Long-term Master Water Plan
- Incentive-based rebate program
- Save up to 4 million gallons per day by 2030
- Save water, save money!

Water Supply Expansion Process

Short-list Screening Evaluation Criteria

Environmental Stewardship	Cost	Reliability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sustainability Form of Technology Public Acceptance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Cycle Cost Expansion Potential Cost Risk Factors Implementation Schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yield Reliability Resiliency System Reliability Security

Short List Concepts

- Eastern Pasco Wellfield
- Consolidated WUP Increase
- North Pinellas Surface WTP & Reservoir
- Desalination Plant Expansion
- Surface WTP at C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir
- South Hillsborough Surface WTP & Reservoir
- South Hillsborough Wellfield via Aquifer Recharge

Groundwater Concepts

- Eastern Pasco Wellfield
- Increasing CWUP
- South Hillsborough Wellfield via Aquifer Recharge

Questions on groundwater concepts?

Surface Water Concepts

- North Pinellas Surface Water Treatment Plant & Reservoir
- Surface Water Treatment Plant at C.W. Bill Young Regional Reservoir
- South Hillsborough Surface Water Treatment Plant & Reservoir

Questions on surface water concepts?

Desalination Concepts

- Desalination Plant Expansion
- Brackish or seawater

Questions on desalination concepts?

Poll: Do you have any preferences among the proposed water source?

- Fresh groundwater
- Brackish groundwater
- Surface water
- Seawater

Feasibility Studies

Goals:

- Determine overall feasibility
- Refine yield
- Normal Conditions
- Sustainable
- Refine Costs
- Collaborate with residents

Tasks:

- Hydrologic, hydraulic and hydrogeologic modeling
- Test wells
- Water quality sampling
- Pilot testing
- Environmental assessments
- Public engagement

Master Water Plan Developmental Alternatives

- Direct Potable Reuse
- Indirect Potable Reuse

Questions on developmental alternatives?

Poll: Would you drink reclaimed water that has been treated to drinking water standards?

- Yes
- Yes, but only if there were no other options
- Unsure, need more information
- No

Next Steps

- Nov. 15: Board to consider approval of Long-term Master Water Plan update
- Watch live at TampaBayWater.org
- Sign up to speak before the board meeting at TampaBayWater.org/board-meetings

Visit FutureWater.org

Thank you for participating.