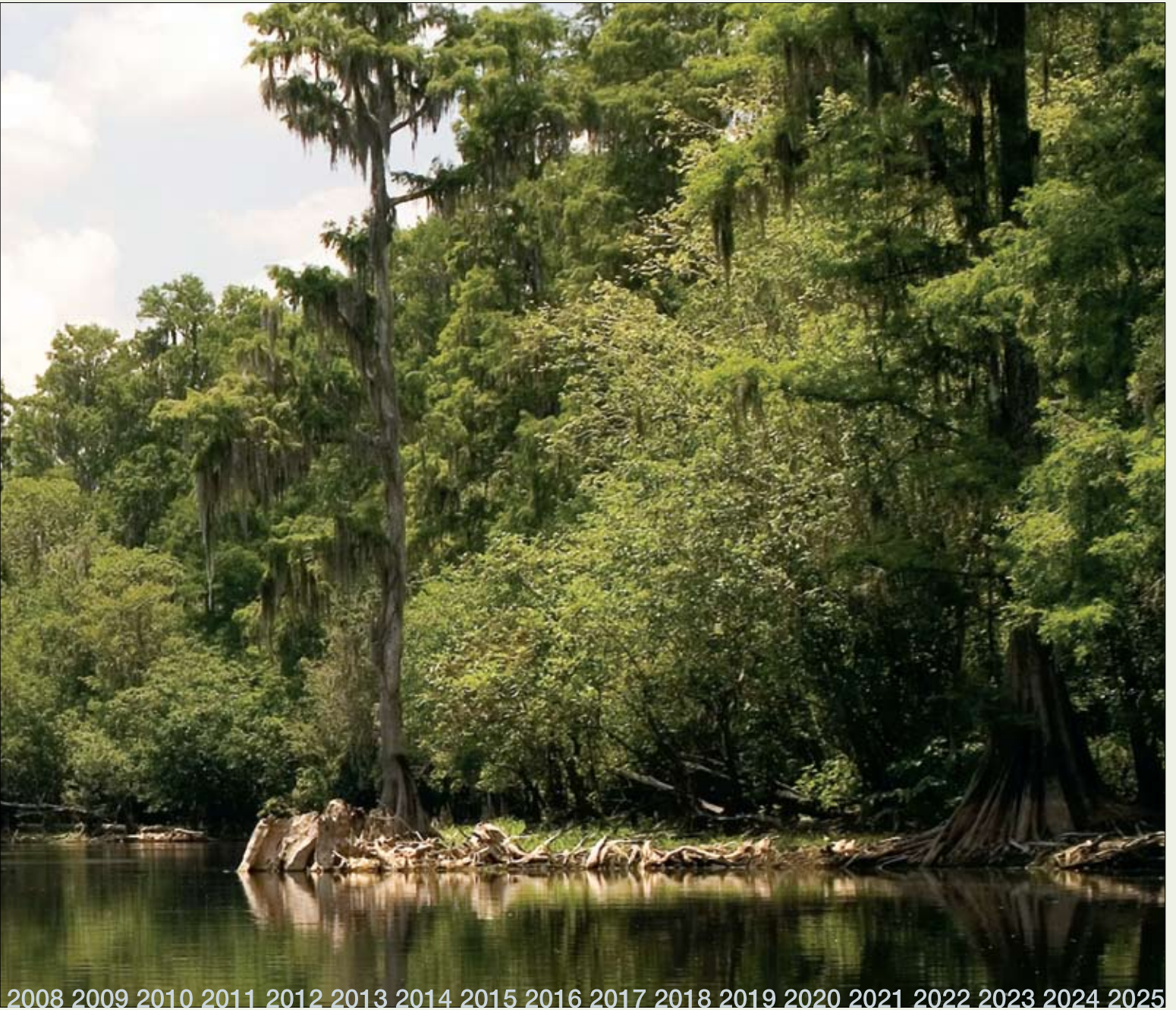


Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

Strategic Plan for 2025



2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

Board Approved | July 30, 2008

Vision

COOPERATION

Unlike other areas of the state where conflict over water supplies has been intense and protracted, the four-county region of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties has avoided “water wars” by maintaining a strong spirit of cooperation and addressing regional water supply needs through the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. The region’s most recent success in regional water supply management was achieved in October 2005, when each of the Authority’s member counties, plus the City of North Port, signed a contract with the Authority to share costs for building and operating new or expanded water facilities. To meet the region’s projected demand through 2014 and beyond, the Authority is developing new water supplies by (among other things) expanding the Peace River Water Facility, constructing a large reservoir, and connecting transmission lines between the facilities of the Authority, the member counties, and other governments.

REGIONALIZATION

Over the next two decades, the Authority will continue to expand this regional water supply system by undertaking projects that yield mutual benefits for its member counties and customers. The long-term aim is to forge a system that is environmentally sensitive and sustainable, highly interconnected, diversified, and affordable. In striving to achieve this vision, the Authority will develop benchmarks and feedback loops for monitoring performance and measuring progress.

DIVERSIFICATION

The Authority will work with its member counties, customers, and other water providers in the region to further diversify its water resources, increase water conservation and wastewater reuse, interconnect facilities across the four-county region, and integrate additional water supplies into the Authority’s regional system to protect or enhance water-dependant natural resources. ¹ The Authority shall use supply diversification,

conservation, interconnection, and integration to do the following:

- » Provide the operational flexibility required to protect the environment and increase water supply capacity and reliability.
- » Allow greater reliance on surface water supplies in the Southern Water Use Caution Area (as mandated by the Southwest Florida Water Management District) while also taking advantage of groundwater supplies where appropriate.
- » Spread costs across a larger number of people, achieve economies of scale, reduce borrowing costs, and keep costs as low as possible.
- » Allow water supply resources to be rotated and rested so supplies can be replenished and the environment can be protected.
- » Reduce water supply vulnerabilities by diversifying sources and intake facilities.
- » Provide for reserve capacity for emergency transfers.
- » Allow for a better match between supply and demand on a regional basis.

COLLABORATION

The Water Planning Alliance is potentially a valuable resource for communicating and collaborating with all water providers in the region. The Authority will seek to develop a significant, constructive role for the Alliance in regional water supply planning and management. Possible responsibilities for the Alliance include the following:

- » Evaluating project proposals and making recommendations to the Authority Board.
- » Providing technical input on Authority research projects.
- » Advising the Board on the Authority’s policies and procedures.

¹The Authority’s regional system is comprised of all facilities owned or controlled by the Authority.



Goals

The Authority will use a variety of methods to promote conservation, acquire additional supplies, and manage supplies to provide regional and local benefits.

Although the exact form of the Authority's regional system cannot be spelled out in advance, the system must have the following characteristics to support regional water supply management:

Conservation and diversification. The Authority's regional system must encourage water conservation and must draw from a variety of sources, including surface water, fresh groundwater, and brackish groundwater.

Extensive connectivity. All of the significant water supply facilities of the Authority, its member counties, and the City of North Port must be interconnected.

Integration for new supplies. Most or all of the new supplies developed by the Authority's member governments and customers must be integrated into the Authority's regional system when physically and financially feasible.

More extensive coverage. More of the region's existing water supplies must be integrated into the Authority's regional system.

Complete management of the water resource. Water supplies in the Authority's regional system must be managed to achieve

regional benefits for the Authority's member governments and customers, and environmental benefits of conjunctive operation of the services.

Water quality. The Authority must deliver a high-quality product that meets or exceeds all federal, state, regional, and contractual standards, and any water-quality or supply problems that do arise must be addressed quickly and effectively.

Source water protection. Available water supplies must be protected from pollution.

Low rates. The Authority must seek to keep its rates as low as possible while balancing costs with environmental and source-water protection.

Environmental systems protection/restoration. New water sources or expansion of existing water sources integrated into the Authority system must be developed in a manner that protects or enhances natural systems.

Although all of these characteristics of the envisioned Authority system would yield significant benefits for the region as a whole, some have differential implications across the four counties. As a practical matter, these interests will have to be accommodated incrementally as the Authority system is developed.

Objectives and Policies

CONSERVATION AND DIVERSIFICATION

Meeting the region’s water supply demands, protecting the environment, and keeping costs low will require an integrated mix of water resources and management strategies, including surface water withdrawals, storage, fresh groundwater withdrawals, desalination of brackish water, reuse of treated wastewater, and water conservation. The Authority must encourage water conservation and wastewater reuse, and must diversify its water resources:

- » In evaluating facilities for construction, purchase, or expansion, the Authority will seek to increase the diversity of its water resources and to reduce its reliance on any single source or facility.
- » All Authority customers will be required to have an adopted water conservation plan which includes policies for wastewater reuse.
- » The Authority will continue to develop more water conservation requirements and controls. The Authority’s water conservation requirements and controls will do the following:
 - Be consistent with (but possibly more demanding than) policies of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).
 - Be based on best management practices and standards.
 - Include per capita residential consumption targets and a standard methodology for calculating the per capita consumption of different jurisdictions.

- » The Authority will document the quantity of water being conserved regionally in 5-, 10-, and 20-year increments and will estimate the financial savings associated with these conserved resources.

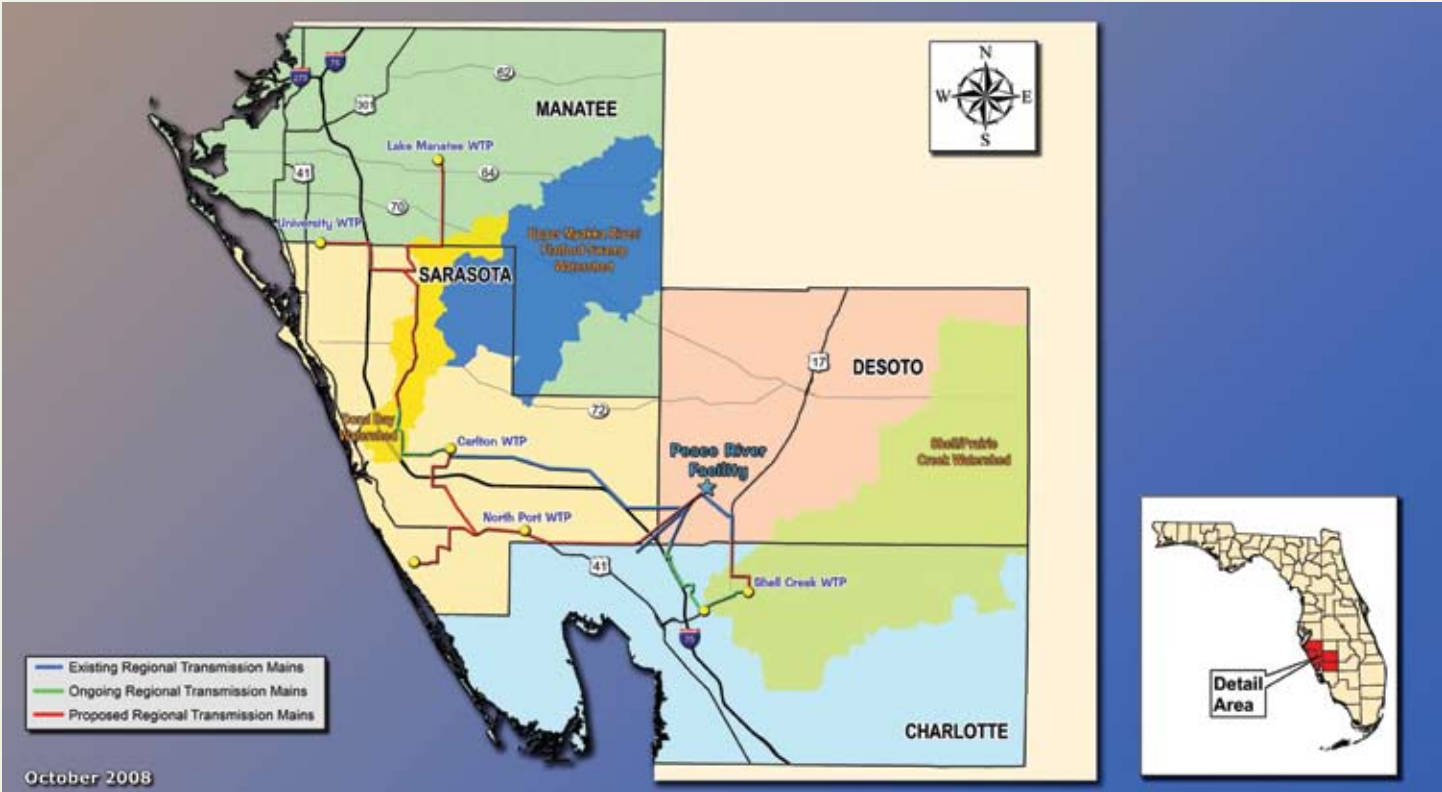
CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity is essential for managing water supplies on a regional scale, protecting the environment, and making supplies more reliable during droughts and hurricanes. By 2020, where this is financially feasible, all of the significant water supply facilities of the Authority, its member counties, and the City of North Port should be interconnected. By 2025, all other large water supply facilities in the region will be encouraged to have some relationship with the Authority’s regional system. To help meet these objectives, the Authority will do the following:

- » Support SWFWMD funding for any proposed interconnection to the Authority’s regional system, so long as the project includes a prearranged interlocal agreement with the Authority to specify how the interconnection will be managed.
- » Continue to foster a spirit of cooperation and mutual support to meet demand, protect the environment, and manage supplies during droughts, natural disasters, and other emergencies.
- » Work with the Water Planning Alliance to encourage interconnections with the facilities of providers who are not Authority members or customers.
- » Establish minimum standards of reliability for the Authority’s regional system, along with benchmarks for assessing performance.



- » Assure that any new Authority project protects or enhances natural systems in the region.



20-Year Vision

REGIONAL PLANNING

Most or all new water supplies developed by the Authority’s customers must be integrated into the Authority’s regional system when physically and financially feasible. To encourage its customers to rely on the Authority for new supplies, the Authority will adhere to the following policies:

- » The Authority will maintain a master water supply plan based on at least a 20-year planning horizon. The plan will do the following:
 - Quantify water supply needs;
 - Identify water resources, supply development projects that the Authority will implement, and time frames for implementing these projects that will keep supplies above the system’s allocated capacity.
 - Include a business and financial component with projected costs for capital investments and for operating and maintaining the Authority’s regional system.

- Be coordinated with the SWFWMD regional water supply planning.
- Address how new projects will protect or enhance natural systems of the region.
- » For its member governments and customers, the Authority will support SWFWMD funding for developing new water supplies if the new supplies are to be integrated into the Authority’s regional system. However, the Authority may support SWFWMD funding for developing new water supplies if the new supplies are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Authority.
- » The Authority will work with state and regional planning agencies to assure that the water concurrency requirement in local government comprehensive plans is met in total for all of the Authority’s exclusive provider customers. The water concurrency requirement for all other customers shall be assured for their respective contracted water allocations.

COVERAGE

Integrating more of the region's existing water supplies and facilities into the Authority's regional system will require innovative partnerships and contracts that are attractive to the owners of existing facilities:

- » To add supplies to its regional system, the Authority will work with local providers to expand the environmentally sustainable production capacity, permitted capacity, and/or operational levels of existing facilities.
- » The Authority will rigorously assess the value of potential projects for expanding the capacity or operational outputs of existing facilities. Factors considered in this valuation will include the following:
 - The owner's prior investments.
 - Income generated by the facilities over and above expenses and debt service.
 - The potential benefits of the facility for the Authority's regional system.
 - Natural system protection and enhancement
- » While assessing the value of locally owned facilities and projects to the Authority and its member governments and customers, the Authority will explore contractual arrangements that are beneficial to both the local entity and the Authority.
- » Consideration of the community value of the facilities to the respective entities needs to be assessed to determine benefit to the residents.

COMMUNALITY

The Authority must integrate conservation policies and wastewater reuse into water supply management. It must also price and distribute water as a regional commodity, without regard to its point of origin:

- » The Authority will seek conjunctive use permitting of multiple water sources.
- » As new supplies are developed, costs for new supplies will be distributed through a common rate.
- » The Authority will explore options for future water charges.



QUALITY

The water delivered by the Authority must meet or exceed all federal, state, regional, and contractual standards.

- » The Authority will develop a program for dealing with any failure to meet contractual obligations for water quality and supply. The program will include specific standards that trigger mandatory reviews to determine the following:
 - Why the problem occurred in the first place.
 - What actions are needed to correct the problem.
 - A plan and schedule for correcting the problem.
 - New procedures to prevent the problem from reoccurring.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Available water supplies must be protected from pollution:

- » The Authority will collaborate with local governments and permitting agencies to identify and address threats to the region's sources of potable water:
 - Policies and actions for protecting supplies against documented threats will be identified, and their costs will be estimated.
 - Protective actions will be prioritized in terms of the quantity of water at risk, the likelihood of degradation, and the cost of protective actions.
- » The Authority will also take an active role in watershed protection.



Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

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1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

The mission of the Authority is to provide the region with a sufficient, high-quality, safe drinking water supply that is reliable, sustainable and protective of our natural resources now and into the future.