

Unfashionable Ideas

Thinking Outside the Pipe

Tom Swihart DEP Water Resource Management







Ideas Go In and Out of Fashion

Are pipelines fashionable?

There are currently ongoing investigations into the feasibility of long-distance transport of water from the St. Johns, Oklawaha, and Kissimmee River Basins.

Some view long-distance transport as a fashionable solution to regional water shortages.

Or Are They Unfashionable?

The legislature has passed laws that allow, but regulate, transfers of ground and surface water.

Some local governments have gone on record opposing long-distance transfers.

Some citizens and environmental groups have opposed transfers.

Who Decides Where the Water Goes?

Is this even the right question?

Why are we thinking about long-distance transfers when we haven't fully considered unfashionable ideas that could reduce or eliminate the need for transfers?



Price Signals?



Should every public water supplier be required to meet minimum standards for effective water conservation and drought rates?

Price signals are fashionable for managing other resources – such as electricity – are we doing enough for water?

User Fees?

Would a water use fee promote economic efficiency and water conservation?

Have we found the "user pays" concept unfashionable when applied to water?



Equitable Taxation?

Should the sale of water continue to be exempt from state sales tax?

Would a tax result in more efficient water use?

Permit Fees?

Should water use permit fees cover at least half the cost of processing the permit?

Would shifting some of the cost burden to permit applicants result in more attention on water use efficiency?

Mandatory Efficiency Upgrades?



Should homes be sold without first ensuring that they meet contemporary standards for water use efficiency?

High Efficiency Toilet





Enforcing Existing Laws?



Section 373.62, F.S. requires that rain sensors be installed on all automatic irrigation systems installed after May 1, 1991. UF research shows that proper installation and operation of sensors can reduce use dramatically.

Why not enforce the law? Why exempt systems older than 1991?

Matching Landscape Design to Water Availability?

Should homeowners be strongly encouraged not to landscape with water thirsty plants?



Getting a Little Exercise?

Do so many Florida homes really need inground irrigation systems?

Most new homes now have them. It wasn't always so. Fashionable?



Measure It All?



Should all water use, including agricultural, be accurately metered or measured? And reported?

Get with the Technology?

New technology for automated meter reading allows real time measurement of use.

Leaks and abnormally high use can all be detected by the supplier, in real time, and reported to the customer.

Why shouldn't it be our new standard?

Should We Think About Where the Water Goes?

Is large-scale biofuel production a good use of water?

Can we do more to improve agricultural water use efficiency (approximately twofifths of fresh water withdrawals)?

Is it good policy to apply a half-billion gallons of water a day on golf courses?

We Have Choices

Or should we look at other choices, such as pricing, incentives, taxation, regulation, user fees, allocation priorities, landscape choices, building codes, technology, education?

Is the long-distance transport of water in fashion today?



Middle School Cigarette Use



Who Uses the Water?



Water Source Trends

Statewide - Total Fresh Water - USGS



Total Fresh Water by WMD - USGS



Fresh Groundwater by WMD - USGS



Fresh Surface Water by WMD - USGS



Public Supply - USGS



Price Signals?

Block Rate		
Base	0-3,000	\$12.00 minimum
Tier 1	3,000-6,000	\$3.40 per 1,000 gallons
Tier 2	6,000-12,000	\$4.53 per 1,000 gallons
Tier 3	12,000-24,000	\$5.66 per 1,000 gallons



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Who Uses the Water?



