



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA
324 EAST PINE STREET
2ND FLOOR MEDIA ROOM**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
AT 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

1. Approval of August 2024 minutes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

1. EcoFest Recap
2. Water Update: PFAS Issues
3. Communications Plan synopsis
4. Committee Membership

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA

STAFF COMMENTS

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting is open to the public. Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The City of Tarpon Springs is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for access for the disabled. Anyone needing assistance regarding this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (727) 938-3711, fax a written request to (727) 942-5619, or email a written request to cityclerk@ctsfl.us at least two days prior to the meeting. For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (727) 937-0017 or TarponCode@tspd.us

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
August 15, 2024

THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MET IN THE CITY HALL MEDIA ROOM, 324 E. PINE STREET, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THURSDAY, August 15, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M., WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

DENISE MANNINO	CHAIRPERSON
DR. CAROL MICKETT	MEMBER
ROBIN SAENGER	MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	THOMAS KIGER	DIRECTOR -PUBLIC SERVICES
	HOLLY LANGSTON	SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Denise Mannino called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Holly Langston called roll.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2024 MINUTES:

MOTION:	DR. CAROL MICKETT
SECOND:	ROBIN SAENGER

To approve the minutes of July 2024 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairperson Mannino stated that the committee welcomes the public and would love to have more public input.

DISCUSSION

1. STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PRESENTATION – TONY MANNELLO

Tony provided a detailed presentation encompassing information on types of pipes used in stormwater, types of repairs completed by the Stormwater Department, and the day to day demands and limitations that they face out in the field. Challenges to stormwater management include the unpredictability of knowing exactly the timing of projects that arise unexpectedly. However, the technology that the stormwater department employs, including a CCTV robotic tool and a vacuum truck for maintenance and investigation, assist in managing day to day

Sustainability Advisory Committee

operations. There is one street sweeper running daily, and the department is involved in public education through school presentations and poster contests.

2. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – HOLLY LANGSTON

Holly presented the status of the Sustainability Actions that have an implementation timeline beginning in 2024. There are six Actions, most of which have a short-term implementation timeline of three years, while one has a longer implementation timeline of six years. Each Action has a lead department that will continue to work on moving each item forward. There have been some wins and progress even though it is early in the process. It was noted that some Actions are not a single task or project, but have multiple Actions rolled into one. For those multi-part Actions, it is recommended for future updates to pull the individual components out and give an update on each, even if it is the status of associated research, waiting on another department, etc.

3. ECOFEST UPDATE – HOLLY LANGSTON

Holly shared a brief overview of what to expect at EcoFest based on current information. The goal is to engage attendees and have some eco-friendly giveaway items at the Sustainability table/tent.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Include an update on how EcoFest went regarding community outreach
- Communications- solid ideas for community engagement/actions
- Membership
- PFAS presentation

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff agreed to provide an update on EcoFest, as well as some concrete communications actions at the next meeting. The issue of Committee Membership also needs to be discussed. Public Services can provide a presentation on PFAS but will need much more time before potentially revisiting water conveyance materials due to the pressing Lead & Copper inventory project.

MOTION TO EXTEND MEETING:

MOTION: ROBIN SAENGER
SECOND: DR. CAROL MICKETT

To extend the meeting until 8:05 PM.

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Robin Saenger brought up the importance of considering buying property when feasible for the purpose of wildlife corridor connections. There is currently a push to save West Klosterman Preserve, which is surrounded by City of Tarpon Springs on three sides. Chairperson Mannino discussed the idea of researching energy independence as The City of Clearwater is currently researching this and possibly St. Pete is as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: ROBIN SAENGER
SECOND: DENISE MANNINO

To adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Vote on motion: Upon viva voce vote, the motion carried unanimously.

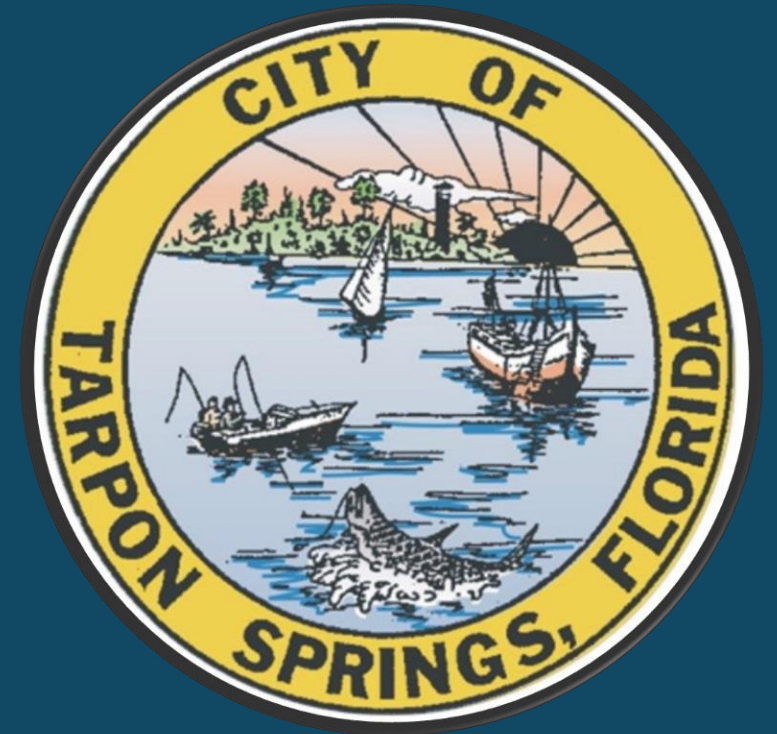
DENISE MANNINO
CHAIRPERSON

THOMAS KIGER
DIRECTOR –
PUBLIC SERVICES

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's office for the required retention period.

WATER UTILITY UPDATE: PFAS REGULATIONS

Prepared by the Public Services Department





Strengths

Alternative Water Supply (RO Plant)

High level of Water Treatment

80% Reclaimed Water

Advanced Wastewater Treatment in Place

Emergency Response Plans (Generators, Plans, Mutual Aid Agreements)



Challenges

Funding for Aging Infrastructure

Staffing in a competitive hiring environment

Emerging Regulations

- Lead and Copper Rule (EPA)
- PFAS Standards (EPA)
- Outfall elimination (SB64)
- Wastewater maintenance and reporting requirements
- Cybersecurity

WATER AND SEWER CURRENT ISSUES



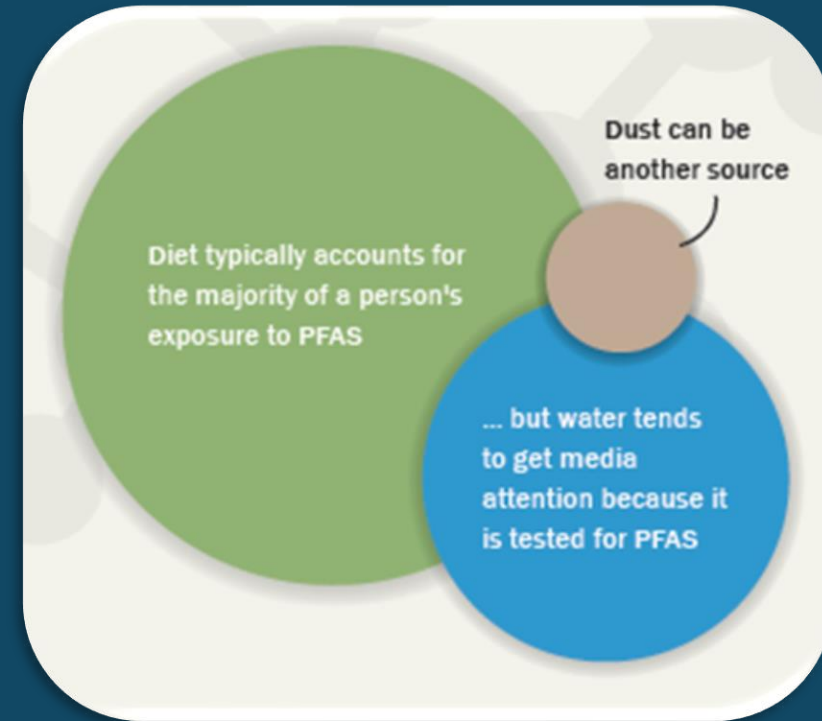
EMERGING REGULATION: WHAT IS PFAS?

- ▶ PFAS are the “per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances” group of chemicals
- ▶ Used to make coatings and products that resist: heat, oil, stains, grease, and water.
- ▶ PFAS chemicals are very persistent in the environment
- ▶ Commonly termed “forever chemicals”
- ▶ Previously UNREGULATED by the USEPA, but regulations are being adopted



WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS ABOUT PFAS?

- Research is ongoing on health effects of PFAS
- EPA is taking action to reduce PFAS in the environment and protect water supplies
- Most Americans have had some contact with PFAS through various products and the environment
- Production of PFOS and PFOA stopped in 2000
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) found that PFOA and PFOS blood levels have dropped more than 60% and 80% respectively between 1999 and 2014



Cancer Effects

Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.



Weight Effects

Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.



Immune Effects

Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections.



Developmental Effects

Low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.



Reproductive Effects

Decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.

PFAS AND DRINKING WATER – TWO CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

EPA RULES

- US EPA is currently developing new drinking water standards for PFAS chemicals to protect public health
- Draft Drinking Water Standards were published in March 2023
- Drinking Water Utilities will be required to provide treatment to meet the new PFAS standards
- Some utilities may require new treatment technologies (**Reverse Osmosis**, Ion Exchange, Activated Carbon)
- Some utilities may require new water sources

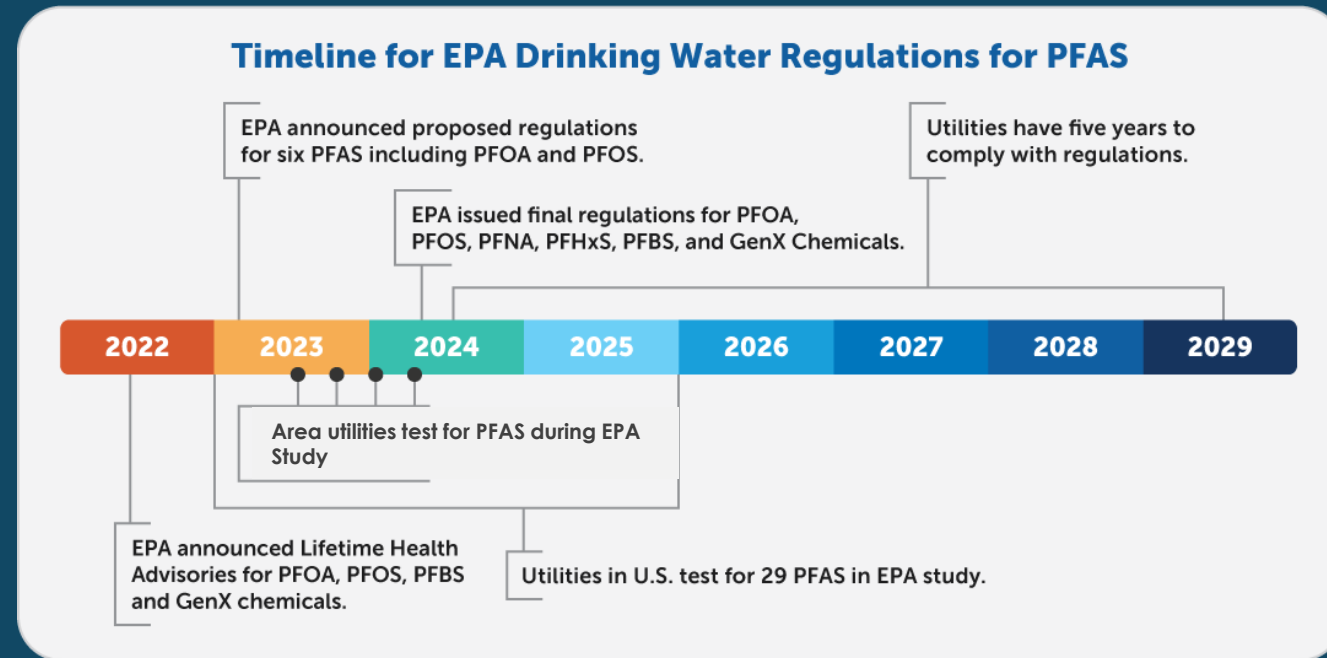
Litigation

- A class action lawsuit was brought by public water utilities against 3M and Dupont for their role in PFAS manufacturing
- Litigation resulted in two settlements totaling over \$11B for water utilities
- First two settlements finalized in Spring 2024

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TARPON SPRINGS?

NEW EPA RULES UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

- RO Plant provides PFAS treatment (we have no PFAS in distributed water from RO)
- Preliminary 2023 sampling showed PFAS at very low levels (parts per trillion) in two of the City's legacy freshwater wells
- The City may need to implement projects to address PFAS in the older wells (treatment or replacement)
- Staff and Engineering consultants are working on an updated Water Supply Plan to address our water supply needs including PFAS compliance



EPA Rule Adoption Schedule

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TARPON SPRINGS?

LITIGATION:

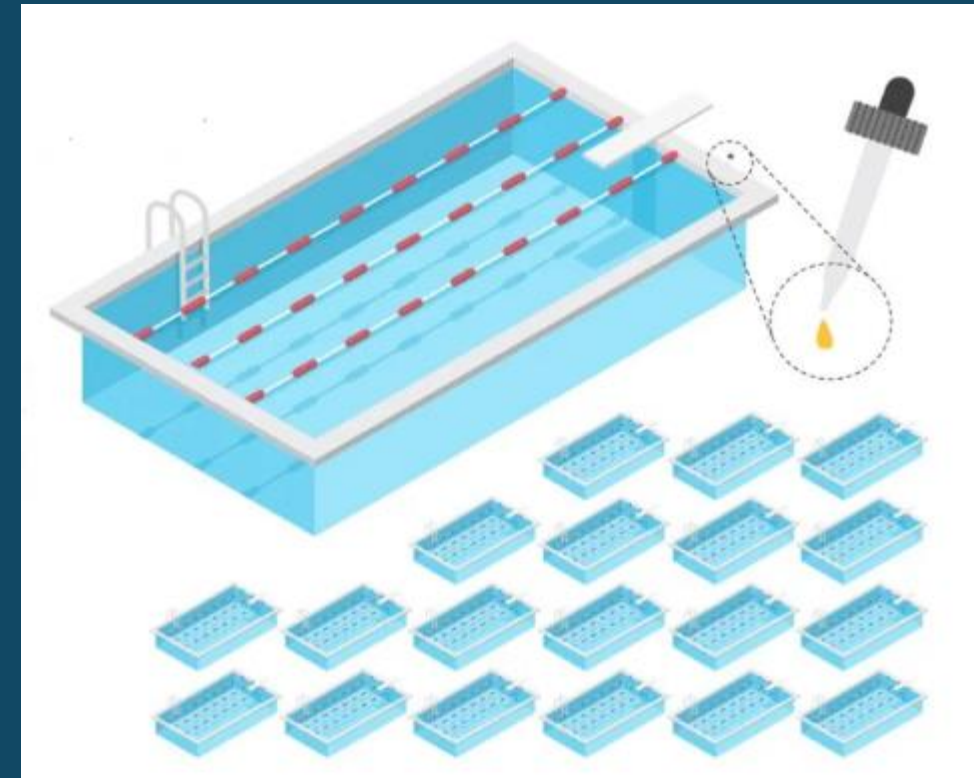
- Tarpon Springs is listed as a member of the current PFAS settlements with 3M and Dupont
- Staff retained specialized legal counsel through the Florida Rural Water Association legal assistance program
- Goal: Maximize the City's financial award from 3M and DuPont Settlements
- The City has submitted claims for the national PFAS settlements. Review by class counsel is pending.
- City award likely to be at least several hundred thousand dollars, and should cover additional capital costs incurred by the City



WHAT IS A PART PER TRILLION?

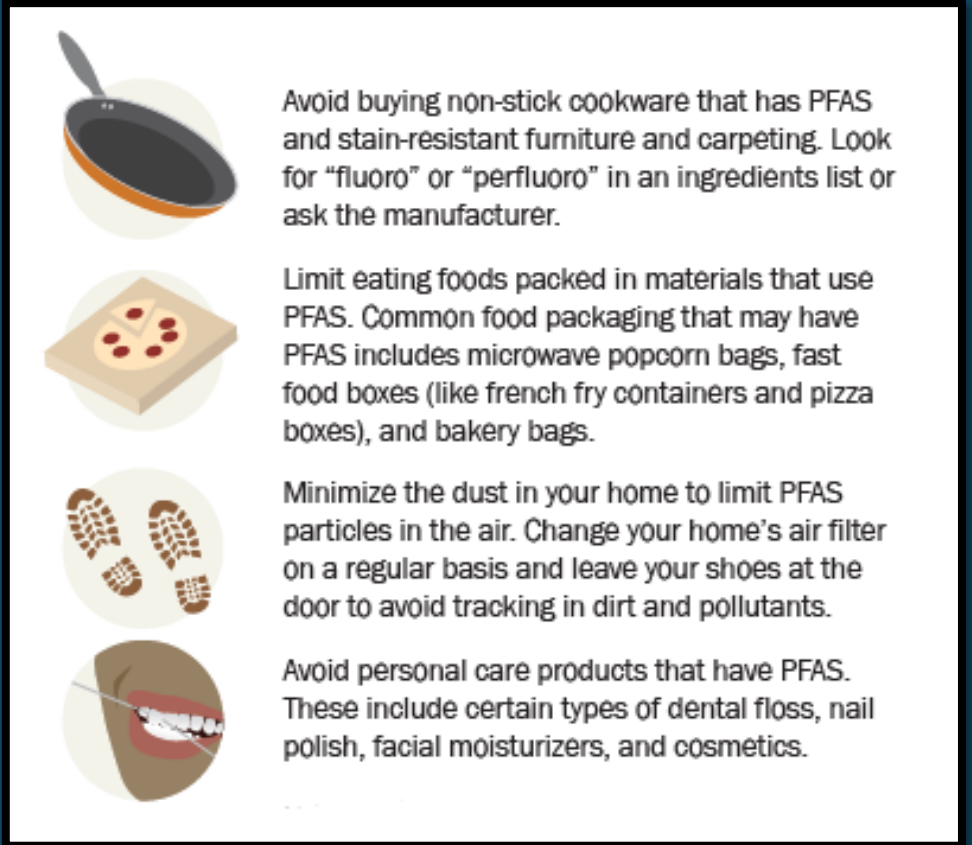
NEW EPA RULES:

- One Part per Trillion is:
 - One drop of water in 20 Olympic swimming pools
 - One single penny in \$10,000,000,000.00
 - A 5500 square foot building on the entire surface of the Earth
- **PFOA – 4 ppt (ng/L)**
 - RO Finished water – **Undetectable**
 - Groundwater wells in the area: 1-10 ppt
 - Compare to military installation:
 - Air Force Base groundwater – 17,200 ppt
 - Difference between 10 cigarettes daily for 50 years, and 10 cigarettes in your whole life



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LIMIT PFAS EXPOSURE?

- City of Tarpon Springs drinking water from the Reverse Osmosis Plant has been tested, and no PFAS compounds were detected
- Pinellas County not detect PFAS compounds in any of the drinking water samples collected during recent EPA testing
- If you get drinking water from a private well, consider an-home treatment option
- PFASCentral.org maintains a list of PFAS-free products and manufacturers
- NSF International maintains a list of in-home water treatment options for home PFAS removal for area residents with domestic wells
- You can identify PFAS in products by looking for “fluoro” or “perfluoro” in an ingredients list.
- Stay informed: Reliable Sources include the US EPA and CDC



Avoid buying non-stick cookware that has PFAS and stain-resistant furniture and carpeting. Look for “fluoro” or “perfluoro” in an ingredients list or ask the manufacturer.

Limit eating foods packed in materials that use PFAS. Common food packaging that may have PFAS includes microwave popcorn bags, fast food boxes (like french fry containers and pizza boxes), and bakery bags.

Minimize the dust in your home to limit PFAS particles in the air. Change your home’s air filter on a regular basis and leave your shoes at the door to avoid tracking in dirt and pollutants.

Avoid personal care products that have PFAS. These include certain types of dental floss, nail polish, facial moisturizers, and cosmetics.



PFAS- free Products



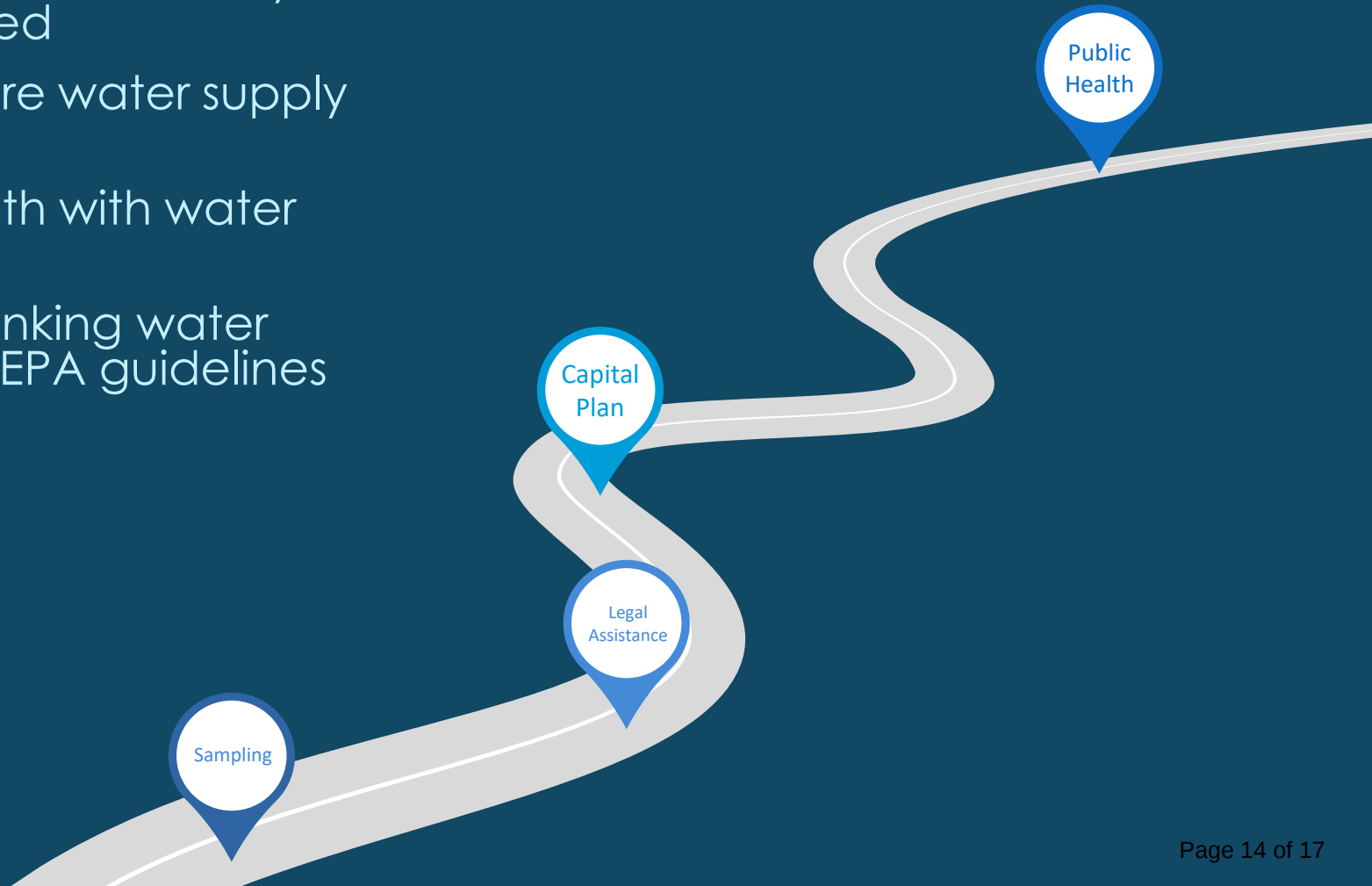
NSF : In Home Treatment



Pinellas County
Page 13 of 17

PATH FORWARD

1. Participate in 3M and DuPont PFAS settlements (ongoing)
2. Work with Dooley Gembala to maximize City award as settlements are finalized
3. Complete new CIP plan for future water supply projects
4. Continue to protect public health with water treatment to remove PFAS
5. Continue monitoring finished drinking water and water sources for PFAS per EPA guidelines and standards



The Most Important Question:

Is our Water Safe?

- Tarpon Springs water is safe and gets safer every year!
- Our Water is highly regulated by FDEP to meet over 90 contaminants regulated by the US EPA
- Tarpon Springs drinking water meets or exceeds all EPA Primary Drinking Water Standards!
- The City publishes an annual consumer confidence report, available on the City Website.
- *US Drinking Water Standards are established to protect public health and are calculated so that little or no adverse health risk would be expected based on a lifetime average consumption rate of two liters of water, per day, for 70 years*
- *EPA continues to develop regulations for new "Contaminants of Emerging Concern," to continue to improve the safety of drinking water as scientific knowledge grows*



Communications Plan highlights

Information & Outreach

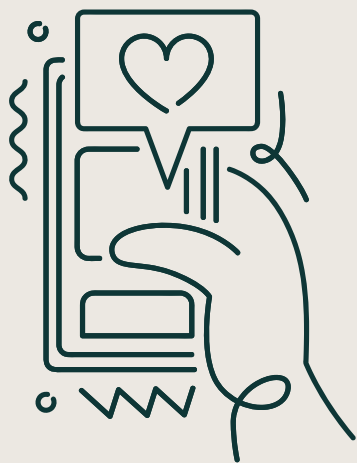
EFFECTIVE

CONSISTENT



Channels - public

- Social Media
- Email List/Connect Tarpon
- Newsletter 2-3 times/yr
- Coordinate with other city-wide email blasts such as Library; other events such as Recreation
- Website - substantial update coming Fall 2024
- Events: EcoFest, Earth Day
- workshops - 1-2 special topics/year



Internal

- Training- for staff and Committee on effective communication on climate issues (NNOCCI)
- Workgroups/ Sustainability Staff Team activation

Responsible parties

- Sustainability Coordinator
- Sustainability Intern
- Web/media approval and assistance from appropriate departments



Communications Timeline

- How and when will info go out?
- seasonal vs. annual
- month by month