



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Welcomes Dutch Officials

Dutch Delta Commissioner visited SFWMD on national tour to discuss water resources



(From left to right): U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Col. Michael Kinard, Delta Commissioner Wim Kuijken and South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Vice Chairman Kevin Powers meet at SFWMD headquarters in West Palm Beach.

West Palm Beach, FL — As a recognized leader in managing water resources, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) welcomed a recent visit from the newly appointed top water official from the Netherlands.

“I am honored to have met Delta Commissioner Wim Kuijken and exchanged information about our water management practices,” said SFWMD Governing Board Vice Chairman Kevin Powers. “Florida and the Netherlands share similar challenges, so I am confident we both benefitted from this international exchange.”

Kuijken, the Government Commissioner for the Dutch Delta program, arrived in West Palm Beach on Sept. 12, his first stop on a national tour that included Washington, D.C. and New York City. His visit is part of a collaboration with the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami.

Kuijken arrived at SFWMD headquarters to meet with Powers and SFWMD staff as well as representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Topics of discussion included the Central and Southern Florida water management system, Dutch Delta Program, Everglades restoration and water supply.

South Florida and the Netherlands both have flat, low-lying landscapes and face challenges in managing water resources, from the presence of muck sediment to the risk of flooding. The dominant flood control systems in both regions were built in response to major flood events in the 1940s and 1950s. Since then, water management in both regions has evolved to address the many factors that impact flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.

During the visit, the Delta Commissioner indicated that the Netherlands would welcome the opportunity to continue the exchange of multidisciplinary expertise.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.