



TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

“A NEW EXPERIENCE”

... A few weeks ago, I heard about the 2008 Water Congress “Planning for Florida’s Water Future” put on by “Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida.” The St. Petersburg Times articles and rumors that this government appointed board was trying again to create a Florida “Water Czar.” Local control is so important to our waters’ future. When talk of water allocation and transfer came up, I knew I had to be there! When the terms water allocation and water transfer were added, I became even more concerned. Jan and I agreed to absorb much of the cost to make sure TOO FAR would be represented.

The congress was September 25th & 26th in Orlando at a Marriott as big as a city and I think the newspaper said over 400 attendees. The high registration charge plus gas and a room made it clear that they did not really want public input. Tax supported agencies like Water Management Districts, cities and state agencies seemed to be the biggest group. That shows you where the big money is – I counted about 20 attendees from just one water management district. Happily there were also some environmental groups represented and other representatives that were environmentally sensitive.

Citrus County Commissioner Gary Bartell, a veteran of water issues, was there as a voting delegate representing Citrus County and the other 66 counties of the Florida Association of Counties. Besides apparently knowing almost everyone, he seemed to be the go-to person for other delegates. He was a big help to me but more importantly he was a major help to our cause. His position of not just letting the “water czar” concept die but insisting on killing it, was a great success. Allocation and transfer also died.

Do not think we are safe. The developers, the over-developers and the water short areas will be after us again. We must stay vigilant and keep working.

Al Grubman
President
TOO FAR, Inc.