



Raynetta Marshall: Speech for House Subcommittee on Water Quality, Supply & Treatment

- **First Slide**

- Good afternoon Chair Stevenson...Ranking Democrat Member Hart...and honorable committee members.
- Thank you for allowing me to present today.
- My name is Raye Marshall...I'm the Chief Operating Officer for JEA and I'm delighted to be here talking about my favorite topic...JEA and how we serve Northeast Florida.
- On behalf of our CEO...Jay Stowe...and our over 2000 dedicated employees...I'd like to take a moment to thank:
- Speaker Renner...Representative Payne...and this committee for making it a priority to protect our most precious water resources for generations to come.

- **Next Slide - Agenda**

- I'm going to spend a few moments discussing a little bit about JEA...our Purified Water Program...how we plan our Capital Improvement Projects...and current challenges.

- **Next Slide-About JEA**

- JEA is Florida largest not-for-profit...community-owned water and electric utility.
- We provide electric...water and wastewater services to more than one million people in northeast Florida while being a good steward of our precious natural resources and the environment.
- Established by the City of Jacksonville in 1895 to provide electricity...JEA was tasked with taking over water and wastewater responsibilities from the City in 1997.

- **Next Slide-Board Members**

- Our seven-member Board are appointed; three by the mayor and four by the City Council...and consist of seven of the most respected and successful members of our community. From business owners to CEO's,

and a retired Army General...our volunteer board serves the community by attending over 20 meetings per year providing a robust governance structure.

- **Next Slide-Largest Community Owned**

- JEA's service territory is vast.
- It covers over 900 square miles...in four counties.
- For the water side of the business...that includes:
 - 38 water treatments plants
 - 11 reclamation facilities
 - 134 Floridan aquifer wells
 - And 1500 lift stations
- JEA owns...maintains...and repairs over 9000 linear miles of pipe.
- That's the equivalent of driving to the north pole and back.
- Let that sink in.
- Without question...our most valuable asset...is our dedicated employees who work around the clock, seven days a week.
- It's because our 710,000 water, wastewater, and reclaimed customers depend on us to provide safe...reliable...and affordable water each and every day.

- **Next Slide-Service Territory Maps**

- This next slide shows our water and reclaimed service area in northeast Florida and the location of our plants.
- I mentioned the environment is important to us.

- **Next Slide-Manatee**

- And while the Electric side has dramatically reduced carbon emissions through expansion of our carbon-free footprint through solar and nuclear power...our water side is doing its part as well.
- Our nitrogen discharges have seen a 60% reduction even during a time of rapid population growth.
- We achieved this through advanced treatment processes...replacing older technology...and building out a reclaimed water system.
- But we are doing more.

- **Next Slide-SB 64**

- Senate Bill 64 requires the elimination of nonbeneficial surface water discharges by 2032.
- We all know Florida's aquifer cannot continue to support the rapid growth as is.

- **Next Slide-Why Water Purification?**

- Through conservation efforts...JEA has seen a 25% reduction in residential potable water use from in the last 13 years.
- Those efforts equate to a savings of over 9 billion gallons per year.
- Although we're proud of our efforts...conservation and reclaimed water alone...are not enough.
- Rapid growth of the region requires sustainability in supply.
- When we looked at all our options...from conservation to desalination...the best option for JEA...our customers...and the environment...was Purified Water.
- Purification is cost competitive and allows us to meet future demands.

- **Next Slide-Pilot Program**

- JEA started in 2015 researching the best purified water practices available and landed with the membrane-based process.
- In 2021...JEA begun designing and permitting a 1 MGD demonstration facility that will be used to train new water-plant operators and house a visitor education center around the technology.
- We expect construction to be completed in 2025.

- **Next Slide-Planning Criteria**

- JEA utilizes these five lenses when evaluating capital improvement projects.
- Each will have it champions for varying reasons, but the reality is all are equally important.

- **Next Slide-Types of Capital Projects**

- JEA has a robust capital improvement program.
- For this fiscal year, JEA will spend \$400 Million and \$3.5 Billion over the next 5 years in water alone.
- Combined with Electric and our 5-year CIP is over \$5.4 Billion dollars.
- Those dollars are invested in resiliency projects and environmental stewardship.
- Regulatory compliance projects required by local, state, and federal regulations.
- Replacing and restoring the infrastructure that keeps everything going.

- **Next Slide-New Water Facility**

- Another is expanding overall system capacity to support growth in our region...one of three new plants currently under construction.
- This plant will support future growth in north St. Johns County by providing better system pressure and reliability.

- **Next Slide-Septic Tank Phase Out**

- JEA is proud to partner with the City of Jacksonville on a Septic Tank Phase Out Program.
- Jointly funded and managed by JEA...we have either constructed or in the process of constructing sewer and potable water connections to over 1600 homes in four neighborhoods.
- This includes the proper abandonment of the existing septic tanks.
- All neighborhoods are identified as point-source contributors for nutrients to the St. Johns River.

- **Next Slide-Current Challenges**

- If I made it seem easy...it's not.
- JEA is not immune to the challenges many other sectors are seeing.
- Shortages in skill and craft trades contribute to industry-wide shortfall.
- To help offset these labor issues...we've partnered with our local high school...college and vocational schools to offer pathways and training for those students looking to enter the field.
- Supply chain challenges are impacting all facets of our business.
- From transformers...wire and cable on the electric side.
- To pumps...control panels & switches...and everything in between for Water.
- Material lead times went from days & weeks...to months & years.
- This has required us to be creative in solving these issues by forecasting development needs...diversifying vendors and manufacturers...and coming up with creative ways to refurbish older parts.
- Here at JEA, we're doing our part to help solve the problems.
- With that Chair Stevenson...I conclude my presentation and I'm open for questions.
- Thank you.