

## **Water Security. We Got This.**

### *Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Celebrates Silver Anniversary and Launches Website to Tell the Story*

The Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority has something to brag about—something few other communities can claim. Together, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Desoto Counties have secured high quality drinking water for the region—for decades to come. People can learn how it happened at [www.OurCommunityWater.com](http://www.OurCommunityWater.com).

“The greatest challenge is to make sure that everybody gets a fair shake, that the four counties can come together, that they’re getting something in return and to make sure that the water supply is there for them. They all have different challenges back home, but they all have the common goal of making sure they have water supply for their residents and for economic growth,” said Patrick Lehman, PE, Executive Director, Peace River Manasota Water Supply Authority.

“It’s not always easy. As I like to say, we cuss and discuss the issues and we figure out what’s best for our region and we move forward with it,” said Manatee County Commissioner John Chappie.

“People don’t realize the great shape we’re actually in. There are six billion gallons in the reservoir. There’s another six billion in the aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells. The four counties only use about 70 percent of the available supply. We’re not using everything we have and the storage facilities and the reservoir are filled. People read about the droughts and shortages out west and the terrible problem in Flint Michigan. We have none of that. It’s been taken care of methodically over all these years,” said Alan Maio, Sarasota County Commissioner.

“We’re still working, we’re still going. There’s nothing that I look back on and think we made a mistake, observed Desoto County Commissioner Elton Langford. “I think we’re right where we should be. And it’s happened like it’s supposed to happen.”

Authority Chairman and Charlotte County Commissioner Christopher Constance summed it up this way, “I think we’ve come from a place where it was a lot more adversarial and now I think we’re understanding that being regional and being congenial and working together in a collaborative way is the most important thing...nothing happens with just one vote that everybody has to get together and make decisions that make sense and for the most part, for 25 years, at the end of the day, we’re in a good place.”

Since 1991, Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and Desoto Counties have been cussing and discussing, working together and working through issues. The result is water security. There is water to ensure that hospitals and schools, homes and businesses have the water they need. Award-winning water quality available today, tomorrow and well into the future. It wasn’t always easy, but it was worth it. To learn about the journey visit [www.OurCommunityWater.com](http://www.OurCommunityWater.com).