



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES
TASK FORCE MEETING**



**Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415**

**January 21, 2016
1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was announced and Chair Jay Foy called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Members Present:

Jay Foy (Chair), Mary Lou Berger, John Flanigan, Dave Stewart, Jim Shallman, Matt Willhite, Ted Winsberg, Mike Mullaugh, Jeff Hmara, Adrian Salee, Jason Haselkorn, Scott Kelly, Rod Braun (SFWMD Alt.)

Alternates Present:

Chip Block, Myra Koutzen

Members not Present:

None

Alternates not Present:

John Whitworth, Jonathan Pearce, David Levy, Brandon Selle, Dick Tomasello, Paula Ryan, and Paulette Burdick

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Pete Kwiatkowski

County Staff Present:

Dana Ackerman-White

Guests Present:

Alan Shirkey, Don Mathis, Alan Wertepny, Brian Shields, Drew Martin, Jeff Koons, Andrea Rinne, David Boyer, Vicki Lehr, Laura Corry, Tim Smith, Ernie Cox, Jeff Hiscock

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dave Stewart and seconded by Mike Mullaugh to approve the 10-15-15 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. East Coast Protective Levee FEMA Certification

Alan Shirkey, SFWMD

Alan Shirkey gave a presentation on the efforts accomplished by the SFWMD in order to certify the East Coast Protective (L-40) Levee to FEMA. Alan explained that the L-40 Levee is located adjacent to Conservation Area 1 running roughly from Southern Blvd. to the Hillsboro Canal. Alan indicated that this needed to be done by SFWMD in order to have FEMA analyze their Flood Maps with the protective levee in place. Alan said that FEMA would assume in their analysis that the Levee would fail if not certified by the SFWMD. Given the number of residential units adjacent to the L-40 levee from Wellington to Boca Raton it can be safely said that the homeowners saved millions of dollars annually in reduced flood insurance policies from FEMA due to the flood stages not being as high as they would be if the levee was assumed to fail releasing large volumes of water to the east. Some of the elements that SFWMD accomplished as part of the rehabilitation of the levee to bring it up to standards were: removed structures that were unnecessary, replaced old structures whose lifespan had been exceeded with new structures, heighten and regrade approximately 10 miles of the levee to provide adequate freeboard and compact the levee to ensure that seepage and settlement was not an issue.

V. Florida Legislative Update

Ken Todd, PBC Water Resource Manager

Ken Todd made a presentation on some of the water bills that are currently being discussed in the Florida Legislature. Ken explained the content, status and impact to Palm Beach County of about half dozen bills. Ken asked the members to contact Chris Petitt or local members of the legislature if they have any concerns over the proposed bills.

VI. 2016 WRTF Election of Officers

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

Jay Foy indicated he would be willing to serve as Chair for another year and asked if there were any additional names to be nominated for the position. There were none and Jay was deemed Chair again for 2016 by acclamation. Jay then asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Dave Stewart nominated Mary Lou Berger for Vice-Chair and she agreed to accept the position. There were no other nominations and Mary Lou was named Vice-Chair for the coming year by acclamation. Jay then asked for nominations for Chair Pro-Tem. Matt Willhite suggested that the position was really not needed and asked that the position be dropped. He made the suggestion in a motion and it was seconded by Mike Mullaugh. It passed unanimously. Chair Foy asked Ken Todd to revise the WRTF procedures to eliminate the Chair Pro-Tem as one of the officers for the group.

VIII. Public Comments

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

Drew Martin commented that he is against locking up CUP rates for long periods of time.

Chip Block said he was working with Karen Marcus and Rich Walesky to have the City of Palm Beach Gardens get proposed flow-ways within the Avenir project given to Palm Beach County ERM.

Jeff Koons stated that he too, is in favor of a flow-way through the Avenir project as it will provide connectivity of the Corbett wetlands through Hungryland Slough into Avenir and

connect to the C-18 Canal. This would provide more water for the utilities, the natural areas and the Lox River. He said he would also like to see the C-51 Reservoir included in the overall plan as that would provide the water to send to the River.

IX. Task Force Member Comments

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

Jay Foy said that although he agreed with much of what Jeff said he felt having the WRTF vote to in favor or against the project would be problematic from a Sunshine Law perspective for many members as they were involved in the planning aspects of the PDT. It was noted that Dave Stewart and Matt Willhite had expressed the same concerns at an earlier WRTF meeting. It was agreed by the WRTF that there be no vote concerning this project.

Scott Kelly suggested that a presentation be made to the WRTF at its next meeting of a proposed local initiative that could be a part of the Tentatively Selected Plan of the Lox River Watershed Restoration Plan the Army Corps is currently studying. Scott felt that the members could at least be educated on what was being studied. All agreed and Ken Todd was asked to make the arrangements for such a presentation.

Matt Willhite informed the group that this was his last meeting as he was term limited as a Council member for the Village of Wellington. Therefore, he would be resigning from the WRTF shortly. Matt said he enjoyed his time on the WRTF and thanked everyone for their contributions to the group. Many members expressed their thanks to Matt for his work as a member of the Task Force.

X. Next Meeting Agenda

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

April 21, 2016 is the next scheduled meeting date at a location to be determined.

XI. Adjournment

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

There being no further business, Chair Foy adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.