



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



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

**April 25, 2013
1:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was announced and Vice-Chair Jay Foy called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Members Present:

Jay Foy (Vice-Chair), Dave Stewart, Ted Winsberg, Michael Dahlgren, Mike Mullaugh, Tanya Quickel, Jeff Hmara, Dick Tomasello (Alt. for John Flanigan), Rod Braun (Alt. for SFWMD)

Alternates Present:

Chip Block, John Callaghan

Members not Present:

Adrian Salee, John Flanigan, Matt Wilhite, Jim Alderman, David Brown, Mary Lou Berger

Alternates not Present:

Shelley Vana, Scott Maxwell, John Whitworth, Dawn Pardo, Kofi Boateng, Henry Shaw

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Pete Kwiatkowski, Pat Painter

County Staff Present:

Shannon LaRocque-Baas, Brian Shields

Guests Present:

Don Mathis, Drew Martin, Martha Musgrove, Steve Lamb, Richard Radcliffe, Terry Clark, Danna Ackerman-White, Alan Ballwig, Ernie Cox, Patrick Martin, David Swift, Karen Brandon, Alex Vazquez, Brent Whitfield, Dan Beatty, Phil Gildan, Donald Rosen

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mike Mullaugh and seconded by Dave Stewart to approve the minutes for the 9-20-12 meeting and the minutes for the 1-18-13 joint meeting with the Broward WRTF. The motion passed unanimously.

III. WRTF Officer Elections

Per the WRTF By-laws, the annual election was held for the 2013 officers. Nominations were accepted for Chair. Mike Mullaugh moved Jay Foy as the Chair and Dave Stewart seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Chair Foy then accepted nominations for Vice-Chair. Mike Dahlgren nominated Matt Wilhite for Vice-Chair and the motion was seconded by Dave Stewart. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Foy then accepted nominations for Chair Pro-Temp. Dave Stewart moved Mary Lou Berger as the Chair Pro-Temp. The motion was seconded by Mike Dahlgren and it passed unanimously.

IV. Working Group Report – Ken Todd, Chair

Ken Todd, WRTF Working Group Chair, made a presentation of a report the Working Group was asked to prepare by the WRTF at the June 2012 meeting of the WRTF concerning water supply and additional storage in Lake Okeechobee. A copy of the report was provided to each WRTF member. Ken mentioned that the Working Group met on September 26, 2012 and discussed the following items:

- 1) Increasing available storage throughout the SFWMD jurisdiction to meet water supply demands.
- 2) The minimum Lake Okeechobee stage should be at least 10.0' deep.
- 3) The Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS) schedule of 13.5'-15.5' NGVD is not practical and should be raised to 15'-17.5' NGVD.
- 4) Promote regional storage and conveyance projects to move water around to the created regional storage areas and reduce water lost to tide.

Ken stated that the Working Group identified several issues that needed to be accounted for in the development of a new Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule. First, the Working Group noted that it is a goal of the LORS 08 schedule to manage the lake in a more environmentally sensitive manner than the previous WSE schedule. In order to accomplish this, the duration of extreme water levels at high stages or low stages must be considered to minimize ecological damage.

Another issue that warranted consideration is the study completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) that shows the structural integrity of the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) is adversely impacted when high water levels occur. The study noted that a new Lake Okeechobee Regulation schedule cannot be developed until the dike has been rehabilitated sufficiently or the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Band 1 Projects are completed. The ACOE is not willing to revise the schedule, even upward three inches, until risk is reduced by lake rehabilitation projects or CERP project related additional operational flexibility is in place.

Given these issues, Ken presented recommendations by the Working Group for the Task Force's consideration concerning additional storage for water supply.

Recommendations:

The Working Group recommends that the WRTF consider support of the following concepts:

- 1) Support an expeditious process by the ACOE to revise the Lake Okeechobee Schedule at a future time when the risk of dike failure has been significantly reduced.
- 2) Support increasing storage within Lake Okeechobee as appropriate within the current LORS 08 regulation schedule without specifying specific elevations.
- 3) Support additional regional storage facilities and conveyance system improvements to be able to move water to those facilities when needed.
- 4) Support projects that reduce the volume of water that is sent to tide and instead send it to regional storage facilities.

Jay Foy indicated that the minimum depth of Lake Okeechobee was not an issue that he felt included in the original charge to the Working Group. He was more interested in having the Working Group discuss the minimum depth of all future water reservoirs and the technical merits for having a minimum depth requirement. After some discussion concerning the need for a better operational schedule of Lake Okeechobee, Mike Mullaugh moved to accept the recommendations of the Working Group while noting that it did not include any recommendation concerning a specific minimum depth for Lake Okeechobee. The motion was seconded by Jeff Hmara and it passed unanimously.

By consensus the WRTF agreed to have the Working Group look into a minimum depth for future water storage reservoirs. Ken told the WRTF that he would bring back a report at the next WRTF meeting if the Working Group were able to meet and develop a report in time for that meeting. Otherwise, he would bring the report back to the following meeting in September/October.

V. C-51 Reservoir Resolution – Ken Todd, Palm Beach County

Ken Todd presented the Resolution for a C-51 Reservoir work group that was developed to be presented to the PBC Commission. Ken explained that the development of this Resolution was agreed to by both Task Forces at the Broward/Palm Beach County WRTF joint meeting in January. Ken stated that this Resolution supports advancement of Phase I Implementation of the C-51 Reservoir project. It supports those members of the two Task Forces with more short term water supply or environmental needs to jointly cooperate in the development and structure for participation in the Phase I implementation. Ken explained that those members with an interest in participating in Phase I shall convene a meeting or meetings to discuss the available options and determine how best to proceed with Phase I of the C-51 Reservoir.

Ken then asked for a vote of support for the Resolution that has been scheduled to be on the PBC Commission agenda at their May 7th meeting. Jay Foy noted that although the whereas statements included background on flood benefits and costs, these were not included in the Resolution therefore. After a brief discussion Mike Mullaugh moved approval of support for the Resolution. Michael Dahlgren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comments

Drew Martin stated that he believes we need to promote water conservation before we spend large amounts of money on reservoirs for water storage.

Chip Block introduced himself as the WRTF alternate for Mike Mullaugh. Chip indicated he is a councilmember for Jupiter Inlet Colony.

Commissioner Donald Rosen of the City of Sunrise (Broward County WRTF) congratulated the group on a concise well written Resolution that captured the essence of what the two Task Forces agreed to at the joint meeting in January.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

Mike Mullaugh commented that he was pleased with the collaboration between the Task Force members. He said he felt there was a lot of good discussion on water resource issues. He said that the presentations and subsequent discussions allowed the Task Force to make informed decisions.

IX. Next Meeting Agenda – Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

The next meeting will be held at the Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center (if available) located at 559 N. Military Trail in West Palm Beach. The meeting date will be on a Thursday, and will be either June 20th, June 27th, or July 18th, depending on availability of Ernie Barnett (SFWMD) and the facility. The meeting will start at 1:30 p.m. It was further agreed to have Ken Todd looking into the possibility of having all future WRTF meetings held at the Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center as it was a convenient location. Ken Todd said he would discuss that possibility with Audrey Norman, Cooperative Extension Director.

By consensus the Task Force asked the Working Group to look into the feasibility of having storage reservoirs all having a minimum depth of 10'. If the report is ready for the next meeting, then it can be placed on the Agenda. Other agenda items include the update by Ernie Barnett on the Loxahatchee River Restoration Plan, an update on the NNC rule making by Kevin Carter, and a presentation on the 25 yr. storm event versus the 100 yr. storm event for floodplain study modeling. Dick Tomasello agreed to make the presentation on this last item.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Foy adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting</u> Location TBD Date TBD 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>
