



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



**Village of Wellington Town Hall  
12300 Forest Hill Blvd.  
Wellington, FL 33414**

**June 21, 2012  
1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was announced and Chair David Levy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**Members Present:**

David Levy (Chair), Jay Foy (Vice-Chair), Adrian Salee, Mike Mullaugh, Ted Winsberg, John Flanigan, Terrie Bates, Matt Willhite

**Alternates Present:**

J.P. Sasser, John Callaghan, Kofi Boateng

**Members not Present:**

Jim Alderman, Dave Stewart, Tanya Quickel, Michael Dahlgren, David Brown, Priscilla Taylor

**Alternates not Present:**

Shelley Vana, Marlene Ross, John Whitworth, Dawn Pardo, Henry Shaw, Scott Maxwell, Dick Tomasello

**WRTF Working Group Present:**

Ken Todd (Chair), Paul Schofield, Ray Liggins, Mike Baker, Pete Kwiatkowski

**County Staff Present:**

Tom Miller, Brian Shields

**Guests Present:**

Drew Martin, Karen Brandon, Alex Larson, Kyle Grandusky, Terrence Bailey, Don Mathis, Steve Lamb, Rosa Durando, John Bonde, Laura Corry, Ron Crone, Dave Boyer, Sean O'Keefe, Neil Johnson, Dana Ackerman-White, Martha Musgrove, Willie Miller

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Adrian Salee and seconded by Matt Willhite to approve the 12-15-11 and the 4-19-12 meeting minutes with no revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. Hydrologic Cycle

### Jay Foy, StormwaterJ

Jay made a brief presentation on useful storage and the Hydrologic Cycle. Jay emphasized that this presentation was more about water quantity than quality or the environment. He stated a reservoir should probably be at least 10' in depth to be effective. He also expressed concerns about the Lake Okeechobee (LO) stage trend line over the last 100 year period. Jay said he believed the changed regulation schedule appeared to be the reason. Jay showed a graph that indicates when the lake has been drawn down; it takes about 4 years on average to recover. He said he realized that dike safety and environmental purposes are complicating issues within the lake. Jay then showed a graph that presented the LO storage (stage vs. volume). Jay said that he believes more storage is needed to address the water supply issues of south Florida as was recommended and implemented following the 1978 Water Use Plan by the South Florida Water Management District. He then illustrated that conveyance facilities to regional systems are needed to make storage effective. He concluded his presentation with four recommendations that would help water supply: increase available storage, have a minimum 10' depth in all storage facilities, push for a higher LO regulation (up to 15.5'-17.5'), and promote transmission to regional storage, wherever possible.

#### **Discussion:**

Drew Martin commented that from an environmental standpoint, higher lake stages would devastate the ecological value of Lake Okeechobee. He said Lake O was cleaner historically and you could see to the bottom. Because of this he said vegetation would receive light, even in deeper depths. It was not opaque like it is now. Drew went on to comment that when the dike was constructed, it cut off wetlands when the lake flooded. There was a loss of fish a result. He suggested that the dike be moved to allow expansion of new wetland areas.

Jay responded that even if former environmental evaluation was correct, we're not getting what was expected for water supply. We're getting less water now and the lake schedule should be re-evaluated since the Corps is strengthening the dike. Even a half foot additional storage would make a tremendous difference for water supply.

There was a question about how this relates to the L-8 Reservoir discussion. Jay said the L-8 Reservoir will likely be used as a surge tank for the STAs and not storage for the North County Area. David Levy said he sees an opportunity to achieve greater regional storage by raising the LO stages. Jay advocated having the Corps of Engineers look at the LO regulation schedule again to see if current Lake elevation strategies could be improved to insure we are getting what we expected. Terrie Bates cautioned that there are numerous dike integrity, operational and environmental issues associated with the LO regulation schedule and it is not likely that the Corps of Engineers will consider changing the schedule in the near future. She explained that an Environmental Impact Statement had been completed as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and public review process associated with the LO regulation schedule change. She stated that the impacts of the LO regulation schedule change on water supply had been well documented, but were outweighed by the public health, safety and welfare considerations.

J.P. Sasser said that concerning the shores of LO, the City of Pahokee spent \$12M to build a marina that no boat can get into due to low lake stages. He said dealing with ACOE is not easy. They tout public safety. Pahokee has plan and funding to build islands, wetlands, etc. J.P. said that boat traffic crossing LO is non-existent because lake stages are so low.

#### **IV. Wellington Created Wetlands**

#### **John Bonde, Village of Wellington**

John made a brief presentation on the water quality history of the Village of Wellington. He said it all started with the Everglades Forever Act because Wellington is adjacent to the Everglades. Wellington is divided into two basins, Basins A and B. Basin A is mostly residential and was pumped into the C-51 Canal while Basin B is mostly agricultural and was pumped directly into the conservation areas. John said they sample 30 locations every 2-weeks and have for more than 2-decades so they have good data on the water quality within the Village. He then discussed the Peaceful Waters Sanctuary and Section 24 Preserve (Wellington Environmental Preserve) projects done in partnership with SFWMD to improve the water quality exiting Wellington. The plan removed the discharge pumps that pumped directly into the Conservation area from Basin B and send the water into C-51. The water flows through the Section 24 preserve, along with water from Basin A, where it is then pumped into the C-51 Canal. John then showed a slide that Wellington is now achieving better than the 50 ppb goal for these projects, even though the goal for the Everglades was 10 ppb. Water from the western C-51 Canal will be further treated in STA 1E. John also said that in addition to better water quality, the Village also experiences better flood protection because of the additional storage created with these projects and the projects have also provided a very good habitat for animals that did not exist before.

#### **Discussion:**

Terrie Bates congratulated Wellington on a job well done with the projects. She mentioned that Wellington was the only community in Palm Beach County that had historically pumped water to the Everglades. Jay Foy also congratulated the Village and expressed concerns about getting to 50 ppb. Rosa asked if read report from SFWMD about equine residuals and that the local Audubon Society was instrumental in stopping this. She said that last week, the Village Council approved new BMP practices in Wellington for horse manure. She said she believes there needs to be real composting and it was approved. The manure must go to an approved site.

#### **V. Election of Officers:**

The Chair entertained a motion for the 2012-2013 Task Force officers. Jay Foy nominated David Levy for the office of Chair. Michael Mullaugh made a motion to close the nominations for office of Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Matt Willhite nominated Jay Foy for the office of Vice-Chair. There was a motion to close the nominations for Vice-Chair and it passed unanimously. Jay Foy nominated Matt Willhite for Vice Chair pro-tem. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair Pro-Tem. The motion was unanimously approved.

**VI. Public Comments:**

- **Drew Martin** – Drew expressed a concern about how changing lake levels will harm fish.
- **Alex Larson** – Alex stated that with respect to Lake Okeechobee, she believes no one has ever looked for a natural filtering area south of the Lake. She believes we should think about an STA and storage south of Lake.
- **Rosa Durando** – Rosa said that at a recent Regional Planning Council meeting, a FDOT representative proposed dredging Taylor Creek in Okeechobee County deeper and wider.

**VII. Task Force Member Comments**

Jay Foy requested that the Working Group take a cursory review of the feasibility of the four items he mentioned in his recommendations of the hydrologic cycle presentation. Those recommendations are: 1) increase available storage, 2) design to a minimum 10' depth in storage facilities, 3) push for a higher Lake Okeechobee water regulation schedule (up to 15.5'-17.5'), and 4) promote conveyance to regional storage wherever possible. Terrie Bates reiterated her earlier comments that a significant amount of work had been done in evaluating the LO regulation schedule through the NEPA process and did not think it was advisable to spend staff resources trying to re-evaluate the LO regulation schedule. She further questioned the role of the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force in taking on this issue as it was her opinion that the Task Force, was not in a position to influence the Army Corps of Engineers. Ken Todd clarified that the Working Group was not being asked to do an in-depth analysis of the LO regulation schedule, but rather a cursory review of the evaluation previously completed by the Corps of Engineers. The motion was made by Jay Foy and seconded by Mike Mullaugh. It passed unanimously.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

The Task Force requested a presentation on the following three issues: 1) Newly unveiled L-8 Reservoir Plan by the SFWMD, 2) Hungryland Slough and the Unit 11 Restoration, 3) Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan update with emphasis on PBC.

The next meeting location was discussed and it was agreed to meet in the City of Pahokee as the WRTF had never met in the Glades area. Ken Todd was asked to work out the arrangements with J.P. Sasser.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

**Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting**

**September 20, 2012  
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
City of Pahokee**