



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



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

**July 17, 2014
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 1:34 p.m. Ken Todd asked that the Agenda be revised to add a brief introduction to WOTUS. The Chair asked if there were any objections and there were none. The introduction would be done after Mr. Todd's FEMA Mapping Update presentation.

Members Present:

Jay Foy (Chair), Ted Winsberg, MaryLou Berger, Rod Braun, John Flanigan, Dave Stewart, Adrian Salee, Jeff Hmara, Jim Shallman, Scott Kelly, Matt Willhite

Alternates Present:

Chip Block, Shelley Vana, David Levy

Members not Present:

Michael Dahlgren, Michael Mullaugh, Jim Alderman

Alternates not Present:

Scott Maxwell, Dawn Pardo, John Whitworth, Dick Tomasello, Brandon Selle, Jonathan Pearce

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Pete Kwiatkowski, Darrel Graziani

County Staff Present:

Bevin Beaudet, Brian Shields, Robert Nelton, Dana Ackerman-White, Valerie Cintron, Doug Wise

Guests Present:

Steve Lamb, Albert Carbon, Richard Radcliffe, Anne Kuhl, Alex Larson, Jim Noth, Jayne Bergstrom, Joel Van Arman, Liz Perez, Debbie Manzo, David Swift, David Boyer, Raul Mercado, Don Mathis, Alan Ballweg, Steve Yohe, Lyle Munce, Barb Powell, Jason Haselkorn, Nina Corning, Becky Hachenburg, Harold Aiken, Subu Subramanya

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by David Stewart and seconded by Adrian Salee to approve the 4-17-14 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. C-51 Reservoir Update

Bevin Beaudet, PBC Utilities

Mr. Beaudet gave a presentation that updated the governance activities of the Finance and Governance Work Group (Work Group). Bevin reminded the WRTF that he was one of their representatives on the Work Group. He gave a brief Project summary and a brief history of what has been done to develop the project. He went on to say that the Work Group hired their own consultant (MWH) to have an independent cost estimate prepared of the project costs. Palm Beach Aggregates (PBA) had originally done their own cost estimate about eighteen months ago. MWH had recently completed their analysis with a report dated June 2014 which was presented to the Work Group on June 18, 2014.

Bevin reported that there had been a change in the configuration of the Reservoir due to SFWMD agreeing to combine the C-51 Reservoir with the L-8 Reservoir. Bevin said this configuration revision would provide more flexibility in the operation of the facility. He also indicated that the MWH cost analysis had two major differences from the earlier cost estimate done by PBA. First, since most of the Phase I excavation had already been completed they did not include the land costs for Phase I. The second difference was that a 15% return on investment was included instead of a lump sum profit originally used by PBA. A table was provided to show the differences in the two projections. The bottom line was that the MWH cost estimate was slightly less than the PBA cost estimate. The capital cost per gallon for the two cost estimates were very similar with the cost per gallon of storage being right at \$4.00 per gallon. The MWH report went to say that the Phase I Reservoir dry season annual cost would be \$2.55 per thousand gallons and ultimately and when Phase II is added the cost would be about \$2.11 per thousand gallons. Bevin indicated that Operation and maintenance costs were minimal. He also stated that given the similar result of the two analyses the cost estimates could be relied upon with confidence.

Bevin said the next steps were as follows. The Negotiation Group will meet with PBA to discuss Project costs and determine final cost figures. PBA will apply for a Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) from SFWMD. There will be a finalization of entities interested in allocations from Phase I. There will be an establishment of the Governance Mechanism for the project. The participating entities will then reserve allocations through modifications of their respective CUPs.

Questions:

Matt Willhite asked what benefit this project had for Palm Beach County (PBC). Bevin responded that PBC would benefit by having the well fields nearby recharge as the water was sent south through the Lake Worth Drainage District system.

Mary Lou Berger asked about a concept the City of West Palm Beach had put forth of constructing locks within the C-51 Canal and how that would impact this project. Bevin said he was unaware of such a proposal, but thought it could have an impact to the project. Ken Todd mentioned that the proposal for the locks was not related to the C-51 Reservoir project, but was instead intended to provide boat access from the eastern C-51 Basin into the Intracoastal Waterway. The lock would be located just east of US1 and is conceptually very small in size. It may have some impact on the water demand within the basin, albeit somewhat minor. That demand would obviously be looked at during the permitting process should the project move forward.

IV. FEMA Mapping Update

Ken Todd, Palm Beach County

Ken Todd, PBC Water Resource Manager, gave an update of efforts of FEMA to modernize the flood maps within PBC. This map modernization effort by FEMA was for the riverine portion of PBC (inland areas covered by the canal network) and did not include the coastal areas of PBC. FEMA said they would be doing a new Coastal study later in 2014. Ken first provided everyone with a brief history of the development of the maps that started in 1999 and what transpired over the past 14 years. He then briefly gave a more recent history of the map development. He said the communities objected to the maps provided in mid 2013 and were able to obtain an extension from FEMA to provide additional information that could be used by FEMA to make the maps more accurate. Unfortunately, the extension only worked out to be approximately four months. The communities provided a lot of data in those four months, but it was not in an electronic format that FEMA could use for remapping. Since they didn't have the funds to convert the provided data into electronic format most of what was submitted was not used by FEMA.

Ken also indicated the SFWMD had recently finished a modeling effort of the C-51 Basin, although their effort was not done for mapping purposes. Because they didn't have the money to do it, FEMA allowed PBC to take the SFWMD modeling results and utilize them to "smooth out" the inconsistencies in the data that FEMA had used in their mapping process. Ken indicated PBC had hired Liz Perez, P.E. to do that work. She utilized more up to date topography data and utilized that data to massage the less accurate topo data FEMA had from the SFWMD modeling effort to create more accurate maps. Her efforts allowed many communities to be removed from more severe Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) to more appropriate SFHAs because of increased accuracy in mapping. It was pointed out that although Liz did the technical work, community representatives (both unincorporated and municipal) provided the more up to date data as well as anecdotal information that provided insight as to what has really happened during severe flooding events. So, the suggested revisions were provided to FEMA were truly a community effort. Ken provided a couple of slides of areas that demonstrated a significant improvement in the SFHAs for those areas.

Questions:

Jay Foy asked how the smoothing of the C-51 Restudy results within the FEMA maps was done and how it helped those communities within the C-51 Basin. Liz Perez explained how that process worked and stated that FEMA has accepted many of the revisions suggested by the Communities. These revisions will place many of the communities into more appropriate SFHAs. Liz also reminded everyone that there were areas in which the allotted time did not permit the communities ample time to adequately address all inaccuracies within the maps and that should be an effort for the near future.

Jeff Hmara asked if PBC could help the municipalities understand how to reduce flood insurance premium costs, such as being a part of the Community Rating System (CRS). Ken thanked Jeff for his help throughout this process and then explained the CRS program. This program allows communities to provide documentation of efforts that ensure flood plains are not encroached upon; as well as providing a number of other community efforts that protect homes from flooding. Depending on those efforts, each community can advance in class designation with each class providing an additional 5% discount of flood insurance premiums. Ken said all communities should be encouraged to participate as it provides savings to the individual homeowners.

Alex Larsen asked why all of PBC wasn't "smoothed out" and would the Acreage be affected by the new maps. Ken Todd responded that given the short time frame the communities were given by FEMA and the lack of funds available to collect and process data, there wasn't time to address all areas.

However, he mentioned again a new program that will be discussed with the local communities in the near future that when developed will correct those areas that need better mapping.

Darrel Graziani asked whether or not there was any liability to PBC if the maps were not accurate. Ken responded that although that is a legal issue we need to be cognizant of the fact that the mapping effort was being done by FEMA as part of the NFIP and not by the Communities.

David Boyer stated that the appeal period is not the last opportunity to have the maps corrected. Ken Todd thanked David for mentioning that because there are opportunities for individual homeowners to do LOMARS after the appeal process has been exhausted.

MaryLou Berger mentioned that when she was at the National Association of Counties meeting recently it was discussed what a good job Palm Beach County had done in working with FEMA to resolve the inaccuracies of the maps in such a short time period when many other communities were unable to resolve their concerns with the maps.

David Swift said he had been involved in the process and felt the staff of both PBC and the Municipalities had done an excellent job in working through the issues to ensure as accurate maps as they could (given the FEMA process) were provided by FEMA to PBC residents when the maps are finally released.

V. WOTUS

Ken Todd, Palm Beach County

Ken Todd provided an introduction to EPA's latest rule effort. EPA is revising the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). Ken told the WRTF members that a more in depth presentation will be on the Agenda for the October 2014 WRTF meeting. Briefly, Ken explained that the definition of WOTUS currently covers several water bodies: (1) Navigable Waters, (2) Interstate Waters, (3) Impoundments, and (4) Territorial Waters and Seas. It is being proposed that the definition be revised to add tributaries to that list of water bodies. This has the potential impact of affecting a number of canals and ditches within PBC by having them now be required to meet Federal standards which could potentially have a major fiscal impact to the budgets of local governments.

VI. Public Comments

Barb Powell stated that when evaluating the C-51 Reservoir Project everyone should consider the water supply benefits as well as the environmental benefits to the C-51 Reservoir Project and she believes it benefits all. Alex Larson said she does not believe the C-51 Reservoir is beneficial to the public. Ann Kuhl said she believes governments have more pressing needs to spend their money on than a Reservoir project.

VII. Task Force Member Comments

There were no Task Force member comments.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda - Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

October 16, 2014 will be the next meeting date. It was pointed out by Ken Todd that the October meeting will be held in the same general location but at the Mounts Building on Military Trail instead of the Clayton Hutcheson Exhibit Hall. A couple of topics were suggested by the WRTF members. Another update of the FEMA Mapping was suggested given PBC communities will have seen the proposed maps by then and FEMA will have had public meetings concerning the maps. The other topic suggested was an update on the WOTUS.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Foy adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting

October 16, 2014

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mounts Building

531 North Military Trail

West Palm Beach, FL 33415