



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



**PBC Utilities Training Room
8100 Forest Hill Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33413**

**December 15, 2011
1:30 P.M. to 4:00 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, Michael Dahlgren, Dave Stewart, Mike Mullaugh, Ted Winsberg (Alternate for Steve Bedner), Dick Tomasello (Alternate for John Flanigan)

Alternates Present:

None

Members not Present:

Steve Bedner, Tony Las Casas, Priscilla Taylor, Matt Willhite, Jim Alderman, John Flanigan

Alternates not Present:

Shelley Vana, Marlene Ross, J.P. Sasser, John Whitworth, David Brown, Terrie Bates, Dawn Pardo, Scott Maxwell

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Pete Kwiatkowski, Juan Guevarez, John Bonde, Richard Hasko, Clete Saunier

County Staff Present:

Tom Miller, Brian Shields, Nancy Gallinaro, David Gillings

Guests Present:

Ronald Crone, Drew Martin, Martha Musgrove, Steve Lamb, Larry Portnoy, Kevin Ratterree, Dave Collins, Karen Brandon, Patrick Martin, Rosemary Rayman, Kevin Cunniff, Neil Johnson, Albert Basulto, Kirk Martin, Georgia Vince, Bob Hennes, David Boyer, Bruce King, David Clark, Carl Creedon, Sean O'Keefe, Don Mathis, Raul Mercado, Nat Roberts, Ernie Cox

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Adrian Salee and seconded by Michael Dahlgren to approve the 9-15-11 meeting minutes with minor corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

David made a brief presentation on the Caloosa water management system. The Caloosa community is located on the Bee Line Highway (SR 710) near Pratt & Whitney, and has 350 home sites. The Caloosa Property Owners Association, Inc. (POA) maintains the canals within the system and also replaces and maintains the infrastructure of pipes, culverts, and water control structures. The purpose of this presentation was to ask support of the Task Force for the POA's request to the SFWMD regarding the operation of a small drainage structure in the system. Specifically, the POA has requested to be allowed to resume operation of an internal flashboard riser structure that will slow water releases from their system into the main weir that drains into C-18 Canal. The POA would like to keep water levels higher because the water management system is the community's main source of fire protection. The POA began operating the structure in the early 1990's, when Caloosa took over operation from the NPBCID, and there were no flooding or other problems associated with the POA's operation of the structure. Several years later the SFWMD directed the POA to cease operating the structure. David said insurance costs continue to rise and the POA needs to be able to point to its water management system as its water supply source for fire protection in order to keep insurance levels more affordable. The SFWMD initially required that the POA complete a professional engineering study as a condition to resuming operation of the structure. David indicated the POA has complied with that request and that the consultant's report indicated no impact on POA flood protection for a 100 year 5-day storm event. SFWMD now wants the POA to install telemetry equipment, which is very costly, and the POA cannot justify the expense in view of the limited funds available to it. Their concern is fire protection and David said the POA would like the Task Force to support the POA's efforts to operate the riser structure as they did in previous years without installation of expensive telemetry equipment.

Discussion:

A question was asked why the SFWMD asked the HOA to stop operating the structure. David indicated that one resident didn't want it because of a concern about flooding. David indicated that the permitted control elevation is 16' NGVD and the permitted outfall weir crest elevation is 18' NGVD. David said typically the structure was operated with placing 2 additional boards in, taking the elevation from 16' NGVD to 18' NGVD. He reiterated the consultant's report indicating no impact on the HOA flood protection. During periods of drought, with the additional 2 boards in, the HOA can save an additional 30-45 days of water in the system for fire protection. Currently, no one is managing the structure.

Chair Levy said the WRTF has in the past encouraged water conservation and asked the pleasure of the Task Force. In discussion that followed, the WRTF believes the SFWMD should determine the most appropriate operation of the Caloosa system that encourages greater water storage, especially with the residents' safety and property in mind. It was also discussed that since it appears there have been no problems to date with operation of Caloosa's water system and the HOA has demonstrated a history of successful drainage system operation, then adjusting the control elevation by the Caloosa HOA would be appropriate. A motion was made by Mike Mullaugh and seconded by Jay Foy to send a letter urging SFWMD to work with Caloosa to determine a way to retain more water in Caloosa by raising the control elevation in the dry season and lowering it in the wet season. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. L-8 Basin Land Purchases for Storage

David Gillings, ERM

David made a brief presentation on the hydrologic restoration of PBC natural areas within the north county. David discussed 5-sites: Hungryland Slough, Loxahatchee Slough, Cypress Creek, Pine Glades Natural Area, and Winding Waters Natural Area. David reviewed the benefits of all restoration efforts and how these projects have increased water storage (conservatively estimated at 28,150 acre-feet) within all the watersheds in the north county, including the L-8 Basin.

Discussion:

A question was asked concerning problems associated with leachate movement from the existing adjacent Dyer landfill into the Winding Waters system? David responded that they have not observed any movement to date. The system has monitoring wells in place and creates a hydraulic barrier. A question was asked about getting water from other properties? David said the system is mostly rainfall, but Winding Waters is getting some flow from Iron Horse.

V. C-51 Canal Conveyance to L-8 Reservoir

Ken Todd, Working Group Chair

Ken made a brief presentation on the recent Working Group charge by the Task Force to address water delivery routes from C-51 East Basin into the L-8 Reservoir. Ken related the Working Group's key concerns and pointed out the infrastructure requirements of double pumping (S-155A and at the L-8 structure) in order to move water from one basin to another. Ken stated that the Working Group's conclusion was that there was only one viable route to send water from the C-51 East Basin to the L-8 Reservoir and that was by using the existing C-51 Canal.

Discussion:

Jay Foy pointed out that this has been done before. The idea does work. Jay then asked if water quality was reviewed. Ken answered that the Working Group did not, since that was not their charge. A question was asked concerning the use of water from Lake Okeechobee? Ken responded that the SFWMD did, in fact, use water from Lake Okeechobee last year in the Pilot Study. Ken discussed drinking water standards and the benefits of blending with Lake Okeechobee to reduce Chlorides because Lake Okeechobee is very low in Chlorides. The L-8 Reservoir is not totally impervious (although extremely tight) and therefore needs to be exercised continually to keep the water low in chloride concentration. It has been demonstrated several times that when the L-8 Reservoir is used consistently the chloride concentration within the L-8 Reservoir meets drinking water standards. When it is not exercised for long periods of time the chloride concentration starts to increase due to seepage. Another question arose as to whether or not water could be moved west from the M Canal? The answer is yes, if the system was plumbed in such a manner, but the City of WPB would need to be consulted. The Water Catchment Area (now called Grassy Waters Preserve) was originally set up in the late 1890's to bring water from Lake Okeechobee into the City's Water Catchment Area to augment water supply, when needed. It is not likely the City would want to send any of their water supply into the L-8 Reservoir. Another question was asked as to whether the water from the L-8 Reservoir could be used as an alternative for water into STA 1E & 1W? Yes, but there would be certain caveats to that as well.

VI. C-51 Reservoir Update

Patrick Martin, LWDD

Patrick made a brief presentation to update the current status of the C-51 Reservoir concept. He said LWDD plans to attend PBC Days in Tallahassee to lobby the delegation for money to help pay for this project. Patrick invited the Task Force members to take a tour of the land areas and the existing L-8 Reservoir (which is constructed similarly to what the C-51 Reservoir would be).

Discussion:

A question arose as to the location of the proposed C-51 Reservoir. Patrick mentioned that the C-51 Reservoir would be located just west of the L-8 Reservoir to take advantage of the similarly tight rock formation that exists in the L-8 Reservoir. A question arose as to how many potential partners are there for this project. Patrick responded that there is interest from several Palm Beach County utilities, Broward County Utilities, and even some interest from Miami Dade County. Patrick said that right now the only obstacle to bringing water into Miami-Dade County is the I-595 interchange. A question arose as to how the water would be moved south from the proposed C-51 reservoir. Patrick responded that currently the plan is to use the LWDD E-1 Canal primarily. Water could be moved south to Broward, through the LWDD E2-W Canal, the E-1 Canal and the E1-W Canal. Broward County would need to lift water from Hillsborough Canal into their canals. A question arose as to what the demand is for the entire effort. Pat indicated that right now the demand is currently projected to be 185 MGD (approximately 285 cfs). Pat said FP&L is looking at an alternative backup source and repowering options in Broward County using this water, too. Moving 185 MGD to recharge well fields would be a cheaper alternative than the treatment costs associated with tapping into the brackish Floridan Aquifer. Pat said that Hazen & Sawyer did a report, finding it to be 2-3 times less expensive than RO if this project moved forward. A question was asked as to how this concept compares to costs associated with water conservation. Patrick responded that a substantial conservation effort is being actively pursued throughout southeast Florida. Consumption has dropped dramatically due to this conservation effort, but may not get much lower as consumption is approaching the minimum domestic demand for most utilities. The demand side management is more challenging because there are no “hammers” except for a tiered rate structure.

VII. Public Comments

- **Drew Martin-Sierra Club.** He liked the idea and the presentation of bringing C-51 water into the L-8 Reservoir, but is concerned about water quality. Drew also said he believes we need to look more at distributed storage; for example, the Mecca Farms property near the Corbett Area.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

There were no comments from Task Force members.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting

April 19, 2012

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

South Florida Water Management District

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