

Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force (WRTF)

Tuesday July 15, 2025 1:30 PM

Vista Center, Room VC-1W-47 (1st Floor)

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Meeting Minutes

The following notes are a summary of the information provide at the discussions of the WRTF. This summary is not a transcript of the meeting.

Water Resources Task Force Members

| <u>Seat ID</u> | <u>Member</u> | <u>Organization</u> | <u>Alternate</u> | <u>Organization</u> |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 1 | Vacant | Vacant | Vacant | City elected official |
| 2 | Joaquin Almazan | City of Belle Glade | Vacant | City elected official |
| <u>3</u> | Lisa Interlandi | Village of North Palm Beach | Vacant | City elected official |
| 4 | DD Halpern | Town of Juno Beach | Vacant | City elected official |
| 5 | Karen Lythgoe | Town of Lantana | Vacant | City elected official |
| 6 | Greg Langowski | City of West Lake | Vacant | City elected official |
| 7 | Gregg Weiss (Chair) | Palm Beach County Mayor | Vacant | Palm Beach County Commissioner |
| 8 | Poonam Kalkat | City of Boynton Beach | Vacant | Water/Wastewater Provider Official |
| 9 | Tommy Strowd | Lake Worth Drainage District | Vacant | Lake Worth Drainage District |
| 10 | Vacant | | Vacant | Drainage/Water Control District elected official |
| 11 | Jay Steinle | South Florida Water Management District | Mark Elsner | South Florida Water Management District |
| 12 | Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair) | Former Council Member City of PBG | Vacant | Environmental Representative |
| 13 | Robert Shorr | Town of Loxahatchee Groves | Vacant | Agricultural Representative |
| 14 | Michael Johnson | Indian Trail Improvement District | Greg Shafer | Indian Trail Improvement District |

Roll call was taken with sufficient attendance for quorum. During roll call there were nine of twelve appointed seats. Seat 2 was vacated by Reinaldo Diaz as he lost his reelection and Seat 10 remains unfilled. The members attending are listed below:

- Malise Sundstrom - Seat 1
- Joaquin Almazan – Seat 2
- Lisa Interlandi – Seat 3
- DD Halpern – Seat 4
- Karen Lythgoe – Seat 5
- Marci Woodard as the Alternate for Gregg Weiss – Seat 7
- Poonam Kalkat – Seat 8
- Tommy Strowd – Seat 9
- Rachelle Litt – Seat 12
- Robert Shorr – Seat 13
- Michael Johnson – Seat 14

The following three members were absent.

- Greg Langowski Seat 6
- Jay Steinle – Seat 11

With quorum there was unanimous approval of the April 15, 2025 and May 9, 2025 meeting minutes.

Paul Linton, Palm Beach County's Water Resources Manager provided a presentation on the USACE lowering of Lake Okeechobee (Recovery Operations) to improve the submerged aquatic vegetation in the lake's littoral zone:

- Communicated that the two vegetation recovery metrics have been met.
 - Below 12 feet NGVD for 90 days
 - Below 11.5 feet NGVD for 60 days
- Lake Okeechobee's stage was 11.49 feet NGVD on July 11, 2025 which is 1.98 feet lower than a year ago and 3.39 feet lower than two years ago..
- The stage, at the time of the meeting, was near the lower decile for the 1931 through 2020 historical period.
- Lake O stage is typically between 12.8 and 14.8 feet NGVD on May 1st (just before the wet season)
- over a 25 percent likelihood of Lake O entering the Water Shortage Management Zone (WSMZ)

Paul Linton, Palm Beach County's Water Resources Manager provided a presentation on the status of the C-51 Reservoir Phase 2 and the seven CERP components intended to reduce eastern PBC dependency on Lake Okeechobee

- Status of the C-51 Reservoir Phase 2

- Cell 12 and Cell 13 of C-51 Reservoir Phase 2 will be substantially complete by August of this year (2025) but they will remain lowered to facilitate the construction of the inflow structure and pump station
- Construction of the inflow structure, pump station, and conveyance improvement is expected to start this year and complete by the end of 2028
- Once operational these two cells will provide about 4.5 billion gallons (14,000 acre-feet) of usable storage
- Status of the CERP Components
 - M6 - Site 1 Impoundment and ASR - 14,760 acre-feet with thirty 5 mgd ASR Wells – Project Inactive but not cancelled
 - X6 - C17 Backpumping - 550 acre STA to supply water to City of West Palm Beach (CWPB) – Project is no longer possible as land is now a residential development.
 - Y6 - C51 Backpumping - 600 acre STA to supply water to CWPB - Project is no longer possible as land is now a residential development.
 - LL6 - C-51 ASR – 34 five mgd ASR Wells with associated surficial aquifer wells – Inactive due to high cost of the current requirement to treat the injected water to all of the drinking water standard.
 - VV6 - PBC Agriculture Reservoir – 19,920 acre-feet reservoir with fifteen 5 mgd ASR wells – Inactive - While land is available the proximity of residential developments would limit the storage depth.
 - GGG6 and K6 – L-8 Reservoir and L-8 Project – 48,000 acre-feet (LRWRP provides 9,500 acre-feet) and ten 5 mgd ASR Wells – Identified storage area was repurposed as the L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB). C-51 Reservoir Phase 1 and Phase 2 provide some of the benefits.