



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES
TASK FORCE JOINT MEETING
WITH BROWARD COUNTY
Coconut Creek Community Center**



**June 5, 2009
11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Coconut Creek Vice-Mayor Lisa Aronson welcomed the two Task Forces to the City for this meeting. Broward County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs welcomed all to Broward County. Broward County WRTF Chair Shannon Estenoz thanked all for attending to address this important issue. Palm Beach County WRTF Chair Jeff Koons expressed his pleasure in having the two Task Forces meet to discuss regional water issues. A quorum was announced for both Task Forces and Shannon called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Palm Beach County WRTF Members Present:

Betty Bingham, David Levy, James Alderman, Jay Foy, John Flanigan, Steve Bedner, Patrick Rooney, Todd Wodraska, Jeff Koons, Dan Beatty (Alt. for O'Neal Bardin), Dave Stewart (Alt. for Steve Wilson)

PBC WRTF Alternates Present:

Susan Haynie, Dennis Lipp, John Whitworth, Chip Merriam, Shelley Vana, Ted Winsberg,

PBC WRTF Members not Present:

Carmine Priore, O'Neal Bardin, Donald Noel, Steve Wilson

PBC WRTF Alternates not Present:

Dick Tomasello, Lynne Hubbard, Albrey Arrington

Broward County WRTF Members and Alternates Present:

Lisa Aronson, Douglas Bell, Richard Blattner, Peter Bober, Joy Cooper, Shannon Estenoz, Lamar Fisher, Beth Flansbaum-Talabisco, Thomas Good, Kristin Jacobs, Richard Kaplan, Jack McCluskey, Charlotte Rodstrom, Donald Rosen, Allegra Webb-Murphy

Guests Present:

PBC WRTF Working Group: Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Peter Kwiatkowski, Linda Brien, Juan Guevarez, Rebecca Elliott

Broward WRTF Tech Team: Steve Bassett, William Brant, Hank Breitenkam, Randy Brown, Neil Buckeridge, Hector Castro, Heather Cunniff, Ray Gagnon, Todd Hiteshew, Jennifer Jurado, Dylan Larson, Albert Perez, Raj Verma, David Womacks

Other Guests: Ronald Crone, John Mulliken, Rosa Durando, Martha Musgrove, Laura Corry, Jim Fandrey, Alex Larson, Sharon Waite, Carol Connolly, Brian Shields, Dana Ackerman- White, Anta Allen, Terrie Bates, Mike Belvedere, Frank Bernardino, Karen Brandon, Albert Carbon, Ben Chen, Christy Coghlan, John Crouse, Grazia Damasceno, Nick Damasceno, Pat Davis, Rosa Durando, Toni Edwards, Freddy Fisikelli, Thaddeus Hamilton, Barry Heimlich, Fran Henderson, Steve Joseph, Chad Kennedy, Steve Lamb, Tom Miller, Joan Lawrence, Beth Lewis, Keith London, Jose Lopez, Stew Magenheimer, Drew Martin, Pat Martin, Kristin Meltin, Marcia Monserrat, Bob Moresi, Carole Morris, Patrick Mullen, Martha Musgrove, Eric Myers, Bill Louda, Tom Oliff, Mike Owens, Sylvia Pelizza, Deena Reppen, Rudy Rudolph, Randy Smith, Charlotte St, John, Tommy Strowd, Susan Sylvester, Resha Thummadi, Elbert Waters, Patti Webster, Jacque Weisblum, John Wodraska, Mike Zygnerski

**II. WRTF UPDATES – Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Broward County
Ken Todd, P.E., Palm Beach County**

Dr. Jennifer Jurado gave a short presentation on what the Broward County WRTF has been working on since its inception to address water supply concerns. Members have heard presentations that gave them familiarity with the existing Broward systems. Dr. Jurado explained to the audience that the WRTF has had several discussions concerning programs and policies that are needed to provide improvement to water systems within Broward County.

Ken Todd gave a short presentation on what the Palm Beach County WRTF has been working on since their first meeting in February 2009. Mr. Todd indicated that the PBC WRTF has spent most of its time since February addressing the C-51 Reservoir Project as this project has both environmental and water supply benefits. One other issue that the group has discussed deals with being able to store water within a drainage district system differently from the way it has been done in the past. By managing control elevations differently during the wet and dry seasons, it was felt that we might be able to provide more storage for use during the drier times of the year. Additionally the WRTF was briefed on some the operational concerns associated with different systems within the County.

**III. STATUS UPDATE OF C-51 RESERVOIR PHASE 2A SCOPE OF WORK
Albert Carbon, P.E., City of Ft. Lauderdale
Brian Shields, P.E., Palm Beach County Utilities**

Albert and Brian gave a presentation that outlined the Scope of Work for the Phase 2A study of the C-51 Reservoir project as an alternative water supply project. Albert made the following keys points in the presentation of what the preliminary study accomplished to date has concluded:

- 1) Project would meet some environmental restoration objectives
- 2) Project would meet the need for additional potable water supplies for portions of southeast Florida
- 3) Project needs to be developed in a framework for Regional Water Supply
- 4) Preliminary total project costs are \$363 Million or \$2.70/gallon

Brian discussed what the next steps should be for the study. There are certain key issues that need to be examined in Phase 2A before the more extensive and costly Phase 2 study is completed. Brian indicated that these issues are the “deal killers” that can be examined without extensive cost. The key issues that are being planned in the Phase 2A Scope are as follows:

- 1) Update the raw water demand projections based on recently revised population projections
- 2) Water conveyance/Water quality issues
- 3) Geologic/Hydrologic Data Compilation
- 4) Cost effectiveness Sensitivity Analysis

Brian explained that the Utility Coalition still had money in its budget to complete the anticipated cost of the Phase 2A study. Should the results from this phase of the study indicate the project is still feasible, then Phase 2 can be discussed. Brian and Albert recommended to the WRTF that the Phase 2A Study move forward and that the Consultants continue to work with District staff throughout the study.

IV. SFWMD PRESENTATION on the C-51 RESERVOIR

SFWMD staff gave a presentation on the issues they felt needed to be included within the Phase 2A study. Tom Oliff (Assist. Executive Director) said that because staff felt this project had possible regional impact several departments (O & M, CERP, Administration, Water Supply) have been reviewing the information provided by the Utility Coalition. Tom indicated that the population demands need to be revisited in light of the economic downturn that could reflect in smaller population increases than earlier projected. He also said that traditional water sources are no longer available as result of the Regional Water Availability Rule and so alternative water supplies do need to be explored. He went on to say that water supplies should be looked at more on a regional basis and less on a utility by utility basis.

Tommy Strowd (SFWMD CERP Assist. Deputy Director) discussed the District’s views on the issues associated with the C-51 Reservoir project. Tommy said the final study needed to include considerations for: (1) how to construct the facility, (2) conveyance of the water, (3) consistency of the project with the Regional Water Availability Rule, and (4) compatibility with Everglades Restoration (including River of Grass planning).

V. TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

There was discussion amongst the Joint Task Force membership about several issues that had been raised such as population projections and planning for additional reservoirs that would store water instead of wasting it to tide. It was also mentioned by one member that CERP would probably not capture all the water necessary to rehydrate the Everglades. Therefore, some of the “excess” water currently being wasted to tide may not be available for other purposes as it may be captured in the future for the environment.

Shannon Estenoz, Broward WRTF Chair, responded that she felt the Phase 2A study should be moved forward provided that the District comments were included within the study Scope. District staff reiterated that they are not opposed to the project and believe that the next level of study (Phase 2A) is the appropriate progression before any decision is made as to the feasibility of the project.

The public was given an opportunity to provide comment to what was presented. As a part of the comments made two agencies expressed concerns with the project. The U.S. Dept. of Interior expressed concern over possible impacts of water flowing through WCA. Also, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service expressed concerns over possible impacts to the Refuge due to water quality and conveyance issues of untreated storm water within the L-40 Canal.

After the discussion and public comment the Broward WRTF voted unanimously to support the Utility Coalition’s effort for the Phase 2A Study provided District comments are incorporated into the study. The Utility Coalition representatives indicated that they would work with the DOI and Refuge during the Study. The Coalition will bring back the revised Phase 2A Scope of Work to the two Task Forces with District comments included at a future Task Force meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:25 p.m.