



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



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

**June 16, 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 1:32 p.m.

**Members Present:**

David Levy (Chair), Jay Foy (Vice-Chair), Jim Alderman, Anthony Las Casas, Priscilla Taylor, Dave Stewart (Alt. for Steve Wilson), Ted Winsberg (Alt. for Steve Bedner), David Brown (Alt. for Albrey Arrington)

**Alternates Present:**

John Whitworth

**Members not Present:**

Steve Bedner, Steve Wilson, Adrian Salee, Michael Dahlgren, John Flanigan, Albrey Arrington

**Alternates not Present:**

Shelley Vana, Terrie Bates, Dick Tomasello, Scott Maxwell

**WRTF Working Group Present:**

Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Pete Kwiatkowski, Linda Brien

**County Staff Present:**

Tom Miller, Brian Shields

**Guests Present:**

Ronald Crone, Carol Connolly, Laura Corry, Don Mathis, Drew Martin, Martha Musgrove, Steve Lamb, Rosa Durando, Matt Boone, Raul Mercado, Ron Rice, Audrey Norman, Bill Schall, Ken Roundtree, Tom Paulson, Mike Mullaugh, Dave Ellis, Barbara Susco, Vanessa Aparicio, John Marshall, Shannon Duffy, Bob Hill, Judy Hartshorn, Larry Portnoy, David Diaz, Amy Eason, Jen Sorentrue, Alex Larson, Craig Kruempel

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Jay Foy and seconded by Ted Winsberg to approve the 3-17-11 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Palm Beach County Agricultural Extension Programs  
Bill Schall & Ron Rice, UF IFAS County Extension**

Ron Rice spoke first on the topic of water quality related projects in farm production that the Cooperative Extension Service helps the farming community address. He spoke of herbicide and pesticide application, sediment control from farm drainage waters, and how the Extension Service works with the farmers to minimize the impacts of these issues. He also addressed fertilizer applications relative to optimizing crop growth. Many questions followed.

Bill Schall presented an overview of the commercial horticulture industry within the county. He then discussed how the Extension Service helps residences and schools with the Florida Friendly concept by teaching of the Florida Friendly concepts through the Florida Yards & Neighborhood program. He said the Extension Service works with HOAs to minimize runoff of pollutants. Many questions followed.

**IV. 2011 Drought Update – Pete Kwiatkowski, SFWMD**

Pete Kwiatkowski presented an update of the drought that actually started last year. He mentioned the extreme rainfall deficit this area has experienced for the last ten months or so and how it has dramatically affected the groundwater table due to a lack of significant recharge. Pete did mention that the water levels within Lake Okeechobee have dropped so low that water deliveries via gravity can no longer be accomplished. This means that no water is being delivered at the present time to the coastal canals that recharge the wellfields. Although monitoring wells throughout the County show low groundwater elevations, no wells have become problematic at this time. The District and the Utilities will continue to monitor that situation.

Pete then briefly discussed the forecast for the coming months. Pete said that even if we get normal rains this coming rainy season we will still likely remain in the water shortage management band of the Lake Okeechobee Operation Schedule. That means we can anticipate another six months or so of drought conditions.

Pete touched a little on the water crisis facing the City of West Palm Beach due to lack of rainfall and no deliveries from Lake Okeechobee. This is problematic for the City that gets its water supply from a surface water body that is so low that the treatment plant intake will not be able to pump water in the near future. Pete said the City and the District are working with DEP to obtain an emergency order to provide water from the L-8 Reservoir to supplement their supply in Clear Lake.

After much discussion on how to help the City obtain water from the L-8 Reservoir, Jim Alderman made a suggestion that the WRTF write a letter of support to the SFWMD and FDEP for the use of the L-8 Reservoir next year for supplying water next year for both water supply and Loxahatchee River needs. Jim then made the motion to write such a letter signed by the Chair on behalf of the WRTF. The motion was seconded by Priscilla Taylor and after discussion of effectiveness it passed unanimously.

**VII. Public Comments**

Drew Martin stated that he believes the public has not taken the current drought seriously enough and that we need more conservation efforts and should not use as much turf grass as we do.

Alex Larson mentioned we should all consider what we are doing in the use of water during this drought.

Martha Musgrove stated that the Florida Wildlife Federation presented an award to the Loxahatchee Preservation Initiative for their Conservation efforts. She said it was a collaborative effort of many entities and is a real success story.

Rosa Durando stated she is concerned that too many variances to the current water restrictions are being given out.

John Marshall introduced this year's group of interns for the Marshall Foundation. He said this year's interns were given the task to look at the drought with fresh eyes and try to develop some solutions.

### VIII. Task Force Member Comments

- Jay Foy said that he would like to see a presentation from the District on the next agenda as to how Flow-Way #2 of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan is progressing. He said that the current plan being evaluated by the ACOE is a very focused wetland enhancement effort and not on a broader water resources program that includes flood control and water supply. He believes that in order for the Restoration Project to be considered a success as a water resource project it needs to be a multi-purpose project and not a single purposed project as it appears to be heading in the Corps process. He also expressed concern that based on recent meetings, the Corps may recommend only using Flow-way #1 through the City of West Palm Beach's Grassy Waters Preserve and not include Flow-Way #2 as part of the final plan. It was stated that Flow-way #1 is limited in its conveyance capability and that Flow-way #2 is needed in order to guarantee the Project's effectiveness. The only methodology on the table to justify the cost of Flow-way #2 is wetlands habitat lift. Therefore, Flow-way#2 must include a large wetland habitat unit uplift. Jay said he believes this can only be accomplished by conversion of new lands into wetlands habitat, such as the Mecca site, GL Homes property, or other lands in the area. He believes the governmental entities should encourage coalition of land owners to help bring about a plan that provides more flood protection for the Acreage and more water supply benefits for the area.

As this was not an agenda item for this meeting, it will be discussed at a future meeting. Jay gave Ken Todd a written possible motion following the meeting that suggested the WRTF consider (at a future meeting where this item is discussed as the WRTF is an advisory group to the PBC Board of County Commission (PBC BCC). The suggested wording of the motion is as follows:

**Motion:** Have staff prepare a resolution from the WRTF to the PBC BCC in support of encouraging, participating in, and/or taking the lead in promoting the acquisition and /or collaboration of obtaining large parcels of land that are strategically located in the connected area and adjacent to the area known as Flow-way#2.

- David Levy suggested having the County Utilities Department provide a presentation on what measures are being taken for water conservation.
- The Task Force would like to have a presentation on a possible county fertilizer ordinance.

- David Levy would like to have the new SFWMD Executive director, Melissa Meeker, address the Task Force on the new direction of the District.
- Ken Todd reported to the Task Force that the recent L-8 Reservoir Pilot Study to deliver water to the Loxahatchee River was a success. The River received its minimum flow for approximately six weeks while providing a source of water to enhance the water supply for the City of West Palm Beach. The pilot Study was discontinued when there was no more water available from Lake Okeechobee to blend with the water from the L-8 Reservoir. The SFWMD intends to hold a second Pilot Study once the rainy season has commenced and there is sufficient water to blend with the L-8 Reservoir water.

**IX. Next Meeting Agenda - David Levy, PBC WRTF Chair**

The next meeting location is at the Lake Worth Drainage District located at 13081 Military Trail in Delray Beach. The meeting date will be Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and will start at 1:30 p.m.

**X. Adjournment**

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

**Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting**

**September 15, 2011  
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Lake Worth Drainage District  
13081 Military Trail  
Delray Beach, FL 33484  
Phone No. 561-737-3835**