



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



**Wellington Community Center  
12165 West Forest Hill Blvd.  
Wellington, Fla.**

**July 16, 2009  
1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was announced and Chair Jeff Koons called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. in the Grand Cypress Room of the Wellington Community Center.

**Members Present:**

Jeff Koons, David Levy, Jay Foy, John Flanigan, Todd Wodraska,, Ted Winsberg (Alt. for Steve Bedner), Dan Beatty (Alt. for O'Neal Bardin), Terrie Bates (Alt. for Patrick Rooney), John Whitworth (Alt. for James Alderman), Dennis Lipp (Alt. for Betty Bingham)

**Alternates Present:**

None

**Members not Present:**

Dr. Carmine Priore, Betty Bingham, Donald Noel, Steve Bedner, Jim Alderman, Patrick Rooney, Steve Wilson

**Alternates not Present:**

Commissioner Shelley Vana, Dick Tomasello, David Stewart, Lynne Hubbard, Susan Haynie, Cara Jennings, Albrey Arrington, Michael Dahlgren

**County Staff Present:**

Tom Miller

**Guests Present:**

**WRTF Working Group:** Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Peter Kwiatkowski, Joey Quinn, Kyle Grandusky, Chris Helfrich, Rich Walesky, Paul Schofield

**Other Guests:** Ronald Crone, Rosa Durando, Martha Musgrove, Laura Corry, John W. Bonde, Alex Larson, Carol Connolly, Fred Rapach, John Koch, Ed Tedtmann, Bob Lawson, Terry Clark, Harold Aiken, Bob Moresi, Marie Ecton, Pat Martin, Christy Coghlan, Drew Martin, Bill Lynch, Steve Lamb, David Yates, Kathleen O'Neil, Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes, Ed de la Parte, Don Mathis

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Jay Foy and seconded by David Levy to approve the 4-16-09 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. Emerging Issues

Chairman Koons asked members of the Task Force for issues of concern that could be considered for future meetings. Mr. Foy noted that the Task Force might consider two issues: (1) **Water utility rate schedules**: Presently rates are set based on consumptive demand and are not resource based rates. He questioned how rates might look if the focus were different. (2) **Well fields**: Historically, well fields were located on the coast. He questioned how might well fields be located now if we were able to do it over again with the present knowledge. Hearing no further comments from the Task Force, Mr. Koons asked the audience for their suggestions. The following suggestions for future agenda items were provided by the public:

- Overall “re-plumbing” of the drainage network within Palm Beach County
- Address salt water intrusion in Palm Beach County, before any water is reallocated south
- EPA Numeric nutrient criteria and its impact to the County.

### IV. Ocean Outfalls Update – Chris Helfrich, City of Boca Raton Utilities Director

Chris Helfrich made a short presentation on the current status of efforts to eliminate ocean wastewater outfalls in Southeast Florida, two of which are located in Palm Beach County. He related a history of the ocean outfall concerns that led to enactment of Senate Bill 1302, which was signed by the Governor on June 30, 2008 to require the elimination of all ocean outfalls by December 31, 2025, except for functioning reuse system backup. Specific strategies for the elimination of ocean outfalls for Boca Raton and the Cities of Boynton and Delray Beach were also addressed and included expansion of reuse, additional piping, and deep well injection at a cost of approximately \$50 Million. Mr. Helfrich concluded with several issues that he believed the Task Force needs to follow closely that include: (1) NPDES Permitting; (2) Open Ocean Water Quality Monitoring; and (3) the Numeric Nutrient Criteria Rulemaking now being developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These could affect storm water discharges to surface water ponds for reuse and further require costly system retrofit to Advanced Wastewater Standards in Palm Beach County. Mr. Helfrich addressed questions related to why local dive clubs were so concerned about the impacts to reef systems by municipal outfalls, how to prevent seepage to surface water canals from shallow groundwater aquifers, and why it has taken such a long time to address the high levels of staphylococcus bacteria in coastal marine waters and along our beaches.

### V. Working Group Report Update – Ken Todd, Working Group Chair

Ken Todd recognized Mr. Jay Foy, P.E. for bringing this project idea forward and thanked the Technical-Professional Workgroup for their effort, which he presented entitled “*Feasibility of Adjusting Water Control Elevations During the Dry Season*”. Mr. Todd reported that the result of the Working Group’s review of the concept offered by Mr. Foy was that moving water from saturated areas to drier areas to maximize system storage and minimize discharges to tide had merit. Furthermore, the Working Group recommended that a pilot study be done, which would address the following issues:

- *The political will to implement such an approach*
- *Possible need for consumptive use permit revisions*
- *Additional staff to accomplish the concept*
- *Mechanism for Inter-Agency coordination*
- *Impacts to surrounding properties*
- *Possible problems for septic tank drain fields*
- *Environmental damage or water quality concerns*
- *An H&H analysis*

After much discussion among board members regarding how a pilot study would be funded, the public was given an opportunity to also comment. Comments were received regarding:

- *Project needs to address a policy on drawing down water that otherwise could go south to the Hillsborough Canal*
- *The need for better data to determine the percentage of water moved around versus that which otherwise is not let out to tide*
- *Revisit this issue from the perspective not as a drainage district but as a recharge district*
- *Each 298 District should consider their pain threshold to discharging quickly due to pending hurricane announcement that would affect their operations*

Concluding discussion, a motion was made by David Levy and seconded by Ms. Terrie Bates, alternate for Mr. Patrick Rooney, to have the Working Group define an area where a pilot study would be recommended and determine what the cost would be to conduct such a study.

#### **VI. WEAP Model Presentation – David Yates, Nat'l Center for Atmospheric Research Kathleen O'Neil, Geotrans, Inc.**

Tom Miller provided an introductory presentation entitled “*A Dynamic Decision Support System (D2S2) Helping Water Managers Plan for the Future in Times of Uncertainty*”. Mr. Miller’s presentation introduced the topic, describing it as a regional planning tool to help guide water supply planning decisions that would optimize and provide cost-effective water supply solutions. These decisions would hopefully contribute to regional economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and an appropriate management of growth while maintaining a high degree of flexibility and certainty. After describing some of the model’s benefits, he then turned the presentation over to Mr. David Yates who made a brief presentation of the WEAP Model’s use as a planning tool for future facilities and how through a D2S2 development team comprised of local stakeholders the model was developed. Mr. Yates then guided the Task Force (through a model run with specific scenarios) in understanding the flexibility and power of this regional planning tool in its ability to guide policy decisions as related to water supply management. Mr. Koons thanked the D2S2 development team for the interesting and exciting project tool that has been developed for Palm Beach County.

#### **VII. C-51 Reservoir Scope of Work Update – Tom Miller, Palm Beach County Utilities**

Tom Miller presented a status update on the C-51 Reservoir Project, Work Scope 2A as it has been revised since the last Palm Beach County Water Resource Task Force meeting. Tom provided a brief summary of Palm Beach County Water Resource Task Force approval to support this project to date and what that approval included. He then reminded the Task Force of what has been subsequently approved at the recent joint meeting of the Palm Beach Water Resources Task Force and the Broward County Water Resources Task Force. He then clarified that what was approved at the joint task force meeting is different than what was approved by Palm Beach County’s Task Force in April. He stated that he was bringing back those differences to clarify for the Task Force what staff’s next steps would be. He related the primary difference was in the requirement to obtain South Florida Water Management District input into a revised Work Scope 2A that would specifically include revisions to population projections, water conveyance, and consistency with the Regional Water Availability Rule. All of this would be addressed in the revise work scope, within the outstanding project balance of \$72,413. The remaining needs of the District (i.e. reservoir constructability and Everglades Restoration/River of Grass Compatibility) that were presented at the joint meeting would need to be addressed in another project phase, termed Work Scope 2B. To date, that direction and budget have not been approved by the Palm Beach County Commission. Tom related the next steps to the Task Force, noting that the Palm Beach County Commission has asked

for a status update on this project at their September 22nd meeting, at which time County staff would seek project direction for continuation of the project.

As no action from the Task Force was needed, Mr. Koons' thanked staff for their efforts on this project and by consensus, agreed to hold another Task Force meeting on September 17, 2009 to discuss further the environmental impacts of the project and to review staff's recommendation for project direction to the Commission.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

Ed Tedtmann, Drew Martin, John Koch, and Alex Larson all expressed concerns over the project. Some of the concerns were based on costs of the project and some on the possible impacts to CERP projects in the EAA. Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes encouraged the Task Force to continue supporting further exploration of the benefits/impacts associated with creating a reservoir for additional storage.

Rosa Durando spoke on the following four issues:

1. There is a need for more regional storage.
2. There is no existing conveyance south to Broward County.
3. The Everglades has a federally protected allocation of water.
4. There are conveyance issues with the LWDD E-1 Canal for moving water south.

### **VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next PBC WRTF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the offices of the Lake Worth Drainage District in Delray Beach, Fla.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Koons adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

**Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting**

**September 17, 2009  
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Lake Worth Drainage District  
13081 Military Trail  
Delray Beach, Fla.**