



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



**Loxahatchee River Center
805 North U.S. Hwy. #1
Jupiter, FL 33477**

**July 22, 2010
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 Auditorium of the Loxahatchee River Center. Paul Whalen, Chair of the Loxahatchee River District (LRD), welcomed the group to the River Center. Paul indicated that the River District has been successful at achieving some operational changes that better manage water to the River. John Flanigan, former SFWMD Governing Board member and current WRTF member, gave some additional history as to the early efforts to improve the health of the river.

Members Present:

Jeff Koons (Chair), David Levy (Vice-Chair), Jay Foy, John Flanigan, Jim Alderman, Todd Wodraska, Dennis Lipp (Alt. for Betty Bingham), Dr. Albrey Arrington, Dave Stewart (Alt. for Steve Wilson)

Alternates Present:

John Whitworth, David Brown, Michael Dahlgren, Kevin Powers (substituting for Terrie Bates as a non-voting alternate representing SFWMD)

Members not Present:

Carmine Priore, Steve Bedner, Steve Wilson, Betty Bingham, Mike Erickson

Alternates not Present:

Shelley Vana, Susan Haynie, Dick Tomasello, Scott Maxwell, Michelle Damone, Terrie Bates, Ted Winsberg

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Pete Kwiatkowski, John Bonde

County Staff Present:

Tom Miller, Bevin Beaudet

Guests Present:

Laura Corry, Marie Ecton, Patrick Martin, David Scott, Alan Wertepny, Drew Martin, Paul Millar, O'Neal Bardin, Adrian Salee, Jayne Bergstrom, Karen Brandon, Terry Clark, Pat Painter, Paul Whalen, Kim Vitek, Beth Kacvinsky, Cara Capp, Craig Kruempel, Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Steve Lamb, Mark Nelson, Patrick Hayes, Doug Smith, Mike Grella

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Todd Wodraska and seconded by Jim Alderman to approve the 5-20-10 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Loxahatchee River Issues – Albrey Arrington, Loxahatchee River District

Dr. Albrey Arrington, LRD Executive Director, gave a short presentation to the WRTF on issues that affect the Loxahatchee River. He also included a discussion on the success stories that have occurred within the river over the last year. He discussed the lionfish problem that has occurred recently around the Jupiter Inlet and how through a partnership with both Martin and Palm Beach Counties they established new oyster bars within the river to help filter the water. Finally, he discussed how the LRD is continuing to eliminate septic systems throughout the Loxahatchee River watershed and the continued monitoring they do for flows and water quality parameters.

Albrey requested the WRTF consider sending two letters of support for two specific components of the NPBC Plan. First, a letter to the SFWMD Governing Board requesting that staff be assigned to develop and implement an interim protocol to attain 35cfs until the NPBC Plan has been constructed. Secondly, send a letter to the City of West Palm Beach requesting conceptual support for delivering up to 20 cfs (when available) through Grassy Waters to help achieve the minimum flow over the Lainhart Dam. After some discussion, Jay Foy moved to send the two letters and was seconded by Jim Alderman. The motion passed unanimously. Ken Todd will prepare the two letters for the Chair's signature and send to the WRTF members for comment and approval before mailing.

IV. North Palm Beach County CERP Issues – Beth Kacvinsky, SFWMD

Beth Kacvinsky, SFWMD Project Manager, gave a brief update of the results of the most recent CERP Project Development Team (PDT) meeting. At that meeting, the PDT agreed to a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the North Palm Beach County CERP, Part 1. This plan, known as Alternative #6, included Flow-ways 1, 2, and 3 that will deliver water from the L-8 Reservoir to the Loxahatchee River. Flow-way 1 will go through the City of West Palm Beach Catchment Area before connecting to the C-18E. Flow-way 2 will flow through Indian Trail Improvement District before connecting with C-18W. Flow-way 3 will connect water from western Martin County areas to the Loxahatchee River. The TSP will now be sent to ACOE offices in Jacksonville, Atlanta, and Washington for approval before the Project Implementation Report can be completed.

V. Martin County Issues, Paul Millar, Martin County

Paul Millar, Water Resources Manager for Martin County, gave a presentation on the Partnerships that Martin County has for the Restoration of the Wild & Scenic Loxahatchee River. Paul mentioned that the river was part of the most bio-diverse estuary in North America. Paul indicated that Martin County would like to see the 16 counties within the jurisdiction of the SFWMD get more involved with our elected officials and water resource managers to prioritize funding for these efforts to ensure they are successful.

VI. Working Group Report – Ken Todd, Working Group Chair

Ken stated that there were three items that he wished to include in his report. First, he presented a one page summary of the recommendations of the Working Group (WG) for support of portions of the SFWMD Strategic Plan. The WG recommended that the WRTF support the funding for three specific areas within the Strategic Plan. Additionally, the WG recommended to the WRTF that they support two other projects that, although not specifically mentioned in the SFWMD Strategic Plan, would have major benefits to the water resources of the county. These two projects were an operational evaluation and protocol to maximize water flows to the Loxahatchee River. It is noted that Albrey made a similar request in his presentation earlier. The second project was the continued evaluation of the merits of the C-51 Reservoir Project. It was agreed by consensus to accept the report provided the wording was revised in the one page summary to be specific that the endorsement of the C-51 project was only for further study. Ken Todd agreed to revise the wording (copy attached). Ken will write a letter to the SFWMD Governing Board for the Chair's signature that supports funding for the five projects as part of their upcoming budget.

Ken also reported that the three projects supported by the WRTF several months ago for inter-basin transfers are moving forward. The City of WPB has an application into the SFWMD for a permit to move water from the PBC Pond Cypress Natural Area to the City's natural areas within the Baywinds development. Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District and the Town of Jupiter are continuing to work with stakeholders on their respective projects. Additionally, Ken reported that due to the WRTF's support of the concept of inter-basin transfers, another such project is in the permitting process. This would move water from the C-51 canal into the Stub Canal as part of the Renaissance Expansion Project for use by the City of WPB instead of sending it to tide.

Lastly, Ken informed the members that the Broward County WRTF has requested another joint meeting with the PBC WRTF for January 2011 to discuss the C-51 Reservoir Project. Ken introduced Bevin Beaudet, PBC Utilities Director, to provide an update of the recent happenings for the project. Bevin indicated that the SFWMD is very interested in continuing the pursuit of the project because of possible environmental benefits that could be accomplished. Recent meetings between District and PBC staff have been very positive and Bevin believes that another meeting with Broward County would be beneficial. Ken then introduced Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Broward County Natural Resources Director. Dr. Jurado thanked Bevin for his summary and asked the WRTF to consider having a joint meeting as Broward WRTF would welcome the opportunity to further explore the partnering opportunities with SFWMD and the PBC WRTF. Ken Todd was asked to work out the details of the meeting with Dr. Jurado and bring back to the next WRTF meeting in September.

VII. Public Comment – Jeff Koons, PBC WRTF Chair

The following comments were made by members of the public:

1. Drew Martin stated that before the L-8 Reservoir existed the area was a swamp that was better at storing water than any man-created reservoir. He said that using rock mines for reservoirs was an expensive solution to storage and not the best solution. He would like to see the Task Force support more natural solutions such as storing water in natural areas. He does not support the proposed C-51 Reservoir project.

2. Pat Martin stated that the proposed C-51 Reservoir project could store water up to 40 feet deep as opposed to the maximum three foot depth that could be achieved by storing water on natural areas. He said the proposed reservoir has the ability to replenish water for the environment as well as for public water supply. He mentioned that the existing L-8 Reservoir is only for environmental purposes. Lastly, he said that because additional storage is needed for the environment and for water supply the proposed C-51 Reservoir project would be a win-win for all stakeholders.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

- Jeff Koons asked about the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program and what has the state been developing that would affect Palm Beach County. In response to the question, Alan Wertepny, PBC NPDES Consultant, gave a brief update on TMDLs. He indicated that the state has developed a list of impairments that includes bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and Nutrients (TP, TN). The state TMDL Task Force is currently developing the numeric limits of how much water bodies can assimilate and how much load needs to be reduced. Then, they will recommend steps on how the load can be reduced. A Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) will then be developed with county stakeholders to establish final strategies to achieve a reduction in impairment to the water bodies. Alan also mentioned that the NPDES group is working with County staff to develop a fertilizer ordinance as a BMP to meet state requirements.

The agenda for the next meeting will include an update on the NPDES permit, an update on the NENA program (recreational components), and a presentation of a draft agenda for the joint meeting with the Broward County WRTF.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Koons adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting

**September 16, 2010
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Lake Worth Drainage District
13081 Military Trail
Delray Beach, FL 33484
Phone 561-737-3835**