



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



**North Palm Beach County Improvement District
357 Hiatt Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418**

**November 18, 2010
1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was announced and Vice-Chair David Levy called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the NPBCID Auditorium.

Members Present:

David Levy (Vice-Chair), Albrey Arrington, John Flanigan, Betty Bingham, Adrian Salee, Michael Dahlgren, Priscilla Taylor, Jay Foy, Ted Winsberg (Alt. for Steve Bedner), Dave Stewart (Alt. for Steve Wilson), Terrie Bates (Alt. for SFWMD) Anthony LasCasas (left due to an emergency at 2:30 p.m.)

Alternates Present:

Gale English

Members not Present:

Carmine Priore, Steve Bedner, Steve Wilson, Jim Alderman

Alternates not Present:

Shelley Vana, Susan Haynie, Scott Maxwell, Dick Tomasello, Dennis Lipp, John Whitworth, David Brown

WRTF Working Group Present:

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

County Staff Present:

Tom Miller, Brian Shields

Guests Present:

Ronald Crone, Laura Corry, Marie Ecton, Patrick Martin, Don Mathis, Alan Wertepny, Albert Basulto, Drew Martin, Martha Musgrove, Dean Powell, Amy Eason, Terry Clark, Ernie Cox, Dan Beatty, Michael Zygnerski, Becky Hachenberg, Steve Lamb, Cal Neidrauer, Lt. Col. Michael Kinard, Brent Whitfield, Bob Higgins, Stacey Hetherington, Bob Hennes, Lyle Munce, George Lindemann

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by John Flanigan and seconded by Adrian Salee to approve the 9-16-10 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Lake Okeechobee Operating Schedule - Cal Neidrauer, SFWMD

Cal made a short presentation on the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule. Cal briefly explained how the system functions and indicated that the water flow is generally constrained from moving south. However, when flow capacity and STA treatment capacity are available, the District moves water through the EAA into the WCAs via the STAs. Cal mentioned that discharges from the Lake through the C-43 Canal or the C-44 Canal are sometimes constrained because of potential environmental impacts to the Caloosahatchee estuary on the west coast and the St. Lucie estuary on the east coast.

Cal then discussed some of the tools water managers use such as; regulation schedules, the water shortage management plan, Operating Management Protocols, etc. He reviewed the current Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (2008 LORS), mentioning the various operating bands that require specific release decisions when lake levels fall within a specific band. He specifically mentioned the Base Flow and Water Shortage Management Bands as being important for water supply. He concluded his presentation by discussing the weekly communication meetings with the various agencies that leads to the USACE release decision from the Lake.

Jay Foy asked if the regulation schedule will be changed back after repairs have been made to the Herbert Hoover Dike. Lt. Col. Kinard responded that the Corps of Engineers will look at it, but it will not go back to being a reservoir to just stack water. It is an ecosystem in and of itself, although minor adjustments could be made when dike is rehabilitated.

Ron Crone asked about the anticipated water shortage this coming spring. He asked if the District and Corps will address the fact that releasing water from the Lake, as they are currently doing, may help exacerbate the shortage next March. Cal responded that they do factor in releases in the schedule. He went on to explain that Lake Okeechobee stage forecast shows for the La Nina years like the previous 11, 10 would lead to water restrictions in the Lake Okeechobee Service Area. Therefore, past history tells us that water restrictions may be imminent. Because of that, Cal said that it is likely that the current releases into the C-43 Canal will diminish shortly per the Lake Okeechobee Adaptive Protocol.

Adrian Salee asked if the District has access to overall surface water flow models. Cal said he suspects they do. Adrian then asked if local drainage districts could use them to make their own assessments. Cal said perhaps if tools are suitable. Adrian then asked where the released water goes and does it have any negative downstream effect. Terrie Bates responded that there is stronger coordination among 298 Districts regarding these issues than there has been in the past. This coordination helps local districts release or move water around when needed with little adverse impacts.

Another question asked was will the purchase of U.S. Sugar land have an effect on Lake Okeechobee? Cal responded, yes, particularly to improve water quality treatment.

Cal then held an exercise with the WRTF members whereby Cal presented them with certain weather scenarios and the members had to decide what releases to make out of the Lake. Based on their decisions, they were given a score depending on the environmental impacts to the Lake or estuaries. The WRTF members scored a 38, which was a very good score. Pat Martin related what a good exercise this was and encouraged District staff to do more of these presentations.

IV. C-51 Reservoir Project Update – Dean Powell, SFWMD

Dean Powell provided a short update on the Regional Environmental/Water supply partnership project known to most as the C-51 Reservoir Project. Dean said the District was looking into the project to see if it could fit into their plans for creating a sustainable & reliable water supply for south Florida. SFWMD Governing Board directed staff to take the lead. The project concept is to capture water discharged to LW Lagoon to meet environmental & public water supply purposes. Dean explained that initially the project studies (Phases I & II) were commenced by the utility coalition and that the District will build upon their studies. The District is still looking at it as a 3-phase project, concluding in a go/no go decision and partnering agreement (MOU). Dean said the District is now developing the MOU with the utilities and LWDD. He anticipates Phase III will be concluded in September 2011. Overall, this is a 2-year schedule to complete the final phase. What makes this project attractive to the District is that this is the last large chunk of water in the Lower East Coast Region wasted to tide that can be used for beneficial purposes.

Clete Saunier asked if there was any thought of tying in Loxahatchee Groves Drainage District flows into this project during transition and not sent to tide. Dean responded that the District was aware of this request that could help for fire protection purposes and yes they would work with LGDD.

Albrey Arrington asked about the purchase price of existing L-8 rock pit. He was told it was roughly \$220 M and was purchased around 2002. Albrey then asked why would we want do this if we haven't used the first swimming pool. We own the first pit, yet we can't earnestly demonstrate using it. Dean stated that we need to investigate it anyway, not that we will build it, but at least we need to determine if there are benefits to doing a second pit. Albrey said he struggles with the fact we are not using the first pit and are now talking about building a second one.

Pat Martin asked what the time line is for decisions concerning construction of the L-8 Reservoir pumps. Pete Kwiatkowski responded that Beth Kacvinsky made a presentation to the WRTF earlier this year on the CERP North Palm Beach County Plan, which includes the L-8 Reservoir. He said it is scheduled to have a complete the PIR in March 2012. It was noted that the dates have slid a bit. David Levy asked that we place L-8 Reservoir Project on a future agenda to show that it's working. Jay Foy asked if this is a District project and not a CERP project. Dean responded that it is not a CERP project.

Drew Martin said he believed the water will not be clean and won't fit into Everglades clean-up process. Dean responded that the STAs will function better if we can attenuate flows into them better. That is the environmental interest in this project.

Ken Todd asked if the District was only studying the C-51 Reservoir concept at this time and not moving forward with construction. Dean confirmed that the District is only studying the merits of the project at this time. Ken indicated that this proposal is no different than what was brought to WRTF last year and the WRTF endorsed the concept. Ken said that in his opinion it is irresponsible not to study a possible solution since there are very few alternatives.

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

Ken mentioned that the Working Group recently received a resignation from one of its members and he would like to put forth Clete Saunier of Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District as the replacement for the Public at Large seat. John Flanigan moved the nomination and it was seconded by Jay Foy. It passed unanimously.

VI. Election of Officers – David Levy, Vice-Chair

Ron Crone told the Board that Mr. Alderman was unable to attend the meeting today, but expressed that he would like to rescind his nomination in favor of Mr. Levy. There was a motion and second to close the nominations with David Levy being the only nomination for Chair. It passed unanimously. The Chair then opened up nominations for Vice-Chair. Jay Foy was nominated. There was a motion and second to close the nominations. It was unanimous. David Levy passed the gavel to Jay and nominated Albrey Arrington for Chair Pro-Temp. Albrey respectfully declined the nomination. Jim Alderman was then nominated. Since he was not in attendance the Chair asked Ron Crone if he thought Jim would accept the nomination. Ron indicated he believed he would. Jim's name being the only name placed in nomination, there was a motion and second to accept Jim as the only nomination and approve him as Chair Pro-Temp. It passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comment – David Levy, PBC WRTF Chair

The following comments were made by members of the public:

Drew Martin wants to see more than options than the C-51 Reservoir for additional storage as he believes it is not a particularly good solution due to evaporation. He stated that in his opinion the project may be good for utilities, but not for environment. He believes the Task Force should look at other possibilities to proposed reservoir. David Levy commented that the Task Force has looked at other options with one being inter-basin transfer that is being worked on currently.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

- Jay Foy – He said that in order for the Task Force to be effective it needs to have good communications with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He said he doesn't want this Task Force to be self gratifying and we need to better communicate. He believes a major issue for the group is to decide if it needs to go back to BCC with results from discussions and actions on important water issues. Can we take something back to BCC? As an example, he would like to push the water credit idea. If someone paid to accomplish something that saved water through seepage, that individual or company should get credit for that amount of water that was saved in the Consumptive Use Permit. We need to be more effective in how we do business in conserving water. David Levy said the group could make a motion and entertain the idea.

- Ken Todd asked how the Task Force would like to resolve the Communication issue with the BCC. He asked that if the Task Force were to pass a resolution or adopted some position, would they like for Commissioner Taylor to carry the message back to the BCC. He asked what Jay was looking for specifically. Jay said he didn't know exactly. David suggested a letter to BCC from the Task Force to consider whether or not they can make decisions independently of the BCC. Ken was asked to agenda this at a later date, including the original Task Force purpose. Commissioner Taylor noted that items coming to BCC from the Task Force should come through Staff. She also explained that if the Task Force wished they could send a representative who can sit at a BCC meeting and raise an issue during public comment. Otherwise, any item of discussion from the Task Force would need to need to come through staff.
- Terrie Bates introduced Pete Kwiatkowski of the SFWMD who would be the District point person for the planning involved with any upcoming water shortages.

IX. Next Meeting Agenda and Date

David Levy, PBC WRTF Chair

The next meeting location is in Broward County at the Coconut Creek Community Center. Ken Todd will poll the PBC WRTF members about their availability for a January 28, 2011 meeting, although it may still be set for January 21, 2011.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting

**January 2011
Exact Date and Time TBD
Coconut Creek Community Center
Coconut Creek, FL 33477**