

Palm Beach County

Water Resources Task Force (WRTF)

April 6, 2023

1:30 PM

Vista Center, Room VC-1W-47 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Meeting Minutes

**Water Resources Task Force Members**

<u>Seat ID</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1	Monica Mayotte	City of Boca Raton	Vacant	City elected official
2	Robert Shorr	Town of Loxahatchee Groves	Vacant	City elected official
3	Chip Block (Chair)	Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony	Vacant	City elected official
4	DD Halpern	Town of Juno Beach	Vacant	City elected official
5	Karen Lythgoe	Town of Lantana	Vacant	City elected official
6	Robert Hagerty	Town of Lantana	Vacant	City elected official
7	Gregg Weiss	Palm Beach County Mayor	Vacant	Palm Beach County Commissioner
8	Poonam Kalkat	Water/Wastewater Provider Official	Julie Parham	Water/Wastewater Provider Official
9	Tommy Strowd	Lake Worth Drainage District	Vacant	Lake Worth Drainage District
10	Vacant	Drainage/Water Control District elected official	Vacant	Drainage/Water Control District elected official
11	Jay Steinle	South Florida Water Management District	Mark Elsner	South Florida Water Management District
12	Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair)	Environmental Representative	Vacant	Environmental Representative
13	Vacant	Agricultural Representative	Vacant	Agricultural Representative
14	Michael Johnson	Indian Trail Improvement District	Greg Shafer	Indian Trail Improvement District

Roll call was taken. With quorum, the WRTF unanimously approved the previous meeting minutes.

The following notes are a summary of the information provide at the discussions of the WRTF. This summary is not a transcript of the meeting.

Presentation by Palm Beach County's Office of Resilience (OOR) Director Megan S. Houston. Ms. Houston's presentation provide an overview of the twelve climate risk and how the OOR seeks to lessen the impact of these climate risks under the four pillars of Equity, Adaption, Mitigation, and Sustainable.

- High Winds
- Rainfall-Induced Flooding
- Harmful Algae Blooms
- Pest and Disease Outbreaks
- Extreme Heat
- Drought and Water Shortages
- Wildfire
- Shoreline Recession
- Tidal Flooding
- Storm Surge
- Groundwater Inundation
- Saltwater Intrusion.

In Palm Beach County, we use the IPCC Median, the NOAA Intermediate High, and the NOAA High curves. Depending on which curve we use, in 2040 we are looking at 10 to 17 inches of sea level rise. By 2070, we should be planning for 21 to 54 inches of SLR.

Every County Capital Construction project in PBC includes resiliency and sustainability in the planning process. OOR worked with County Depts. to develop a checklist that helps define the scope and identify metrics on how we are investing in R&S.

Palm Beach County is performing a Vulnerability Assessment (VA) and Resilience Action Plan (RAP) to provide more actionable information.

A copy of the presentation is available on PBC WRTP web page.

Presentation by Tommy Strowd, Executive Director, Lake Worth Drainage District on the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) Issues in Southeast Palm Beach County.

Mr. Strowd started the presentation by acknowledging the complexity of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project, the crucial role that Lake Okeechobee serves in the C&SF Project, and that with the limited storage in Lake Okeechobee that it is impossible to satisfy all competing needs. And that USACE should be commended for their efforts to develop a new comprehensive regulation schedule for the Lake upon completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike refurbishment.

The purpose of this presentation is to communicate some water supply concerns specific to southeastern Palm Beach County associated with drought conditions.

LOSOM replaces the emergency permit [Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule 2008 (LORS2008)] which lowered the Lake Okeechobee schedule by over a foot to reduce the risk to the Herbert Hoover Dike while the USACE replaced vulnerable structures and improved the resilience of the dike.

The Lake Triggered Water Shortages (40 year Period of Simulation) - Number of years in water shortage reduced from 18 drought years (LORS08) down to 13 years (LOSOM) but were not restored to the previous Water Supply and Environ regulation schedule's

A copy of the presentation is available on PBC WRTP web page.