



Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force



**October 18, 2018
1:30pm**

**Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Services Center
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415**

Meeting Minutes

Water Resources Task Force Attendees

Seat ID	Member Name	Status	Alternate Name	Status
1	Terence Davis	Present	Vacant	
2	Paula Ryan	Present	Vacant	
3	Chip Block (Chair)	Present	Vacant	
4	Jason Haselkorn	Present	Vacant	
5	Myra Koutzen (Vice Chair)	Present	Rachelle Litt	Present
6	David Stewart	Present	Donald Magruder	Present
7	Paulette Burdick	Present	Mary Lou Berger	Absent
8	Vacant		Vacant	
9	Harry Raucher	Present	James Alderman	Absent
10	Adrian Salee	Present	Gregory Block	Absent
11	Melanie Peterson	Absent	Vacant	
12	John Flanigan	Present	Richard Tomasello	Present
13	Ted Winsberg	Present	Vacant	
14	Vacant		Greg Shafer	Present

1. Call to Order and Introductions

A quorum was observed and Chair Chip Block called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 p.m. (the attached sign-in sheet provides the full list of meeting attendees). Chip recognized and thanked Palm Beach County (County) Commissioner Paulette Burdick for her years of service to the County and the Water Resources Task Force. Chip also noted that Ken Todd, former County Water Resources Manager, and Jay Foy, former Chair of the Water Resources Task Force, were in attendance.

2. Consider Approval of July 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the July 2018 Water Resources Task Force Meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Review of Sunshine Law

Mike Jones, Assistant County Attorney, provided an overview of Florida's "Sunshine Law". Mike stated that Water Resources Task Force meetings need to be reasonably noticed, open to the public and minutes must be taken. The law defines a meeting as any gathering, whether formal or casual, of two or more members of the task force. Mike stated that outside of a noticed formal task force meeting, members must not talk to, text, email, or otherwise communicate with any other member of the task force, personally or through any third party, about action that the task force may take or matters which will foreseeably come before it for action. Communications between members and their alternates is allowed, since they are viewed as one "seat". Side conversations and small talk amongst members at public meetings should also be avoided. Violations of the Sunshine Law can result in removal from office, and criminal penalties as severe as 2nd degree misdemeanor charges (up to 60 days in jail and up to \$500 fine). Additionally, failure to comply with the Sunshine Law can void actions of the task force.

A question was asked regarding an elected official and staff from the same municipality serving on the Water Resources Task Force and potential discussions needed to conduct both of their jobs. Mike stated that discussion of water-related issues that could come before the task force are not allowed outside of noticed meetings. Chip stated that the task force should vote on issues from time to time and asked if voting is allowed. Mike Jones was not aware of any legal reason that the task force could not vote.

If members or alternates of the Water Resources Task Force have any questions, they can contact Mike Jones directly at mjones@pbcgov.org or 561-355-3630 or they can coordinate with Jeremy McBryan, Palm Beach County's Water Resources Manager at jmcbryan@pbcgov.org or 561-355-4600.

Red Tide Update

Prior to agenda item #4, Chip Block asked Deb Drum to provide a brief update on red tide conditions. Deb reported that the County has been working closely with the state of Florida and local municipalities in monitoring red tide conditions. She reported that the majority of locations being monitored by Palm Beach County are at very low levels and monitoring by the County may soon be reduced from twice per week to once per week. Many activities to ensure the safety of the public and County employees (e.g. lifeguards) have been implemented.

Chip Block stated that red tide has occurred for hundreds of years but he has heard statements regarding man made pollution being the cause of or exacerbating red tide. Deb Drum responded that she is not aware of a direct connection between man-made pollution and red tide, however, reducing nutrient pollution into water bodies improves water quality. In response to a question on health issues, Deb stated that some people have little to no health symptoms when exposed to red tide while others have breathing issues and skin irritations. Some additional discussion occurred regarding the details of the marine dinoflagellate that is responsible for red tide, called *Karenia Brevis*. Deb suggested attendees research *Karenia Brevis* to learn more. Deb Drum can be reached at ddrum@pbcgov.org or 561-233-2400.

4. Palm Beach County Office of Resilience

Megan Houston, from Palm Beach County's Office of Resilience, introduced her staff (Jake Leech and Katelyn Cucinotta) and provided an overview of the office's mission, challenges and ongoing and planned activities, including mitigation and adaptation efforts. Megan stated that ongoing activities include developing a Palm Beach County Climate Action Plan, looking at additional ways to include resilience guidelines in the County's comprehensive plan, developing performance metrics, and developing "hard" targets to enable future evaluations of resilience implementation activities.

A question was asked regarding the types of things that will be measured to ensure compliance and when resilience targets will be developed. Megan stated that the details are not yet available but the metrics would be developed in collaboration with County staff from various departments and would likely include a variety of approaches and options. The goal is to have draft metrics in 6-12 months. Chip Block stated that a concrete strategic plan with measurable metrics, incentives and penalties for non-compliance is needed. A suggestion was made to communicate potential climate change-related impacts and actions that can be taken by individuals to avoid or minimize potential impacts.

Drew Martin stated that tree canopy and wetland conservation should be prioritized, bioswales need to be promoted and buildings need to be built with solar power infrastructure. Drew also mentioned that he has been told at meetings that only the Office of Resilience is empowered to discuss resilience and sustainability. Megan clarified that she and her two staff rely on many County staff in numerous departments to communicate and implement the County's resilience-related programs and activities. Megan Houston can be reached at mshouston@pbcgov.org or 561-681-3812.

5. Loxahatchee River Local Initiative – Summary of Working Group Findings

Chip Block asked Jeremy McBryan to provide a summary of the working group's findings related to the Loxahatchee River Local Initiative. Jeremy stated that he summarized and updated the presentation given by Ken Todd at the May 2018 Water Resources Task Force meeting into a 2-page handout available on the [Water Resources Task Force website](#).

Jeremy stated that the original Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project related to the Loxahatchee River that was documented in the 1999 Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy or Yellowbook) has been reduced in scope over the years. Jeremy stated that while the likely tentatively selected plan for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project achieves river restoration flow targets more than 90 percent of the time during both the wet and dry seasons, the project is not anticipated to improve flood control, provide benefits to water supply availability, or reduce undesirable discharges of L-8 Basin stormwater to the Lake Worth Lagoon. Project planning is scheduled to be complete by January 2020 with the preparation of a Chief's Report.

Jeremy said that there are other non-CERP projects (repairs to Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East and Loxahatchee River replacement storage) that are mandated to be completed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) by December 2022 that should help to reduce undesirable stormwater discharges from the L-8 Basin to the Lake Worth Lagoon. Jeremy reminded attendees of the working group's previous findings that a local initiative could help to "fill the gaps" of the Loxahatchee River CERP project and this effort could be led by SFWMD or a local government. Jeremy then provided an overview of the funding options presented previously by Ken Todd in May 2018. Jeremy McBryan can be reached at jmcbryan@pbcgov.org or 561-355-4600.

Chip Block stated his desire to work with SFWMD, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and local water resources experts to find a path forward that achieves the original goals of the Loxahatchee River CERP project. Chip asked if Laura Corry or anyone else from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) would like to make any comments. Matthew Morrison (SFWMD) stated that while not all of the benefits are anticipated to be provided with the current Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration plan, there are some flood protection and water supply benefits and some reductions of discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon. Matt then asked that the task force write a letter of support for the project. Regarding moving forward with a local initiative, some concerns were raised regarding potential County financial obligations of a County-led local initiative. Jeremy clarified that the working group's findings recommended that the Water Resources Task Force consider asking for guidance from the Board of County Commissioner (BCC) regarding how to proceed with a local initiative, not to ask that the County lead the local initiative effort.

Jay Foy reminded attendees that the Water Resources Task Force had previously decided not to vote on the Loxahatchee plan and therefore recommended reversing that decision prior to voting on the Loxahatchee River local initiative item. Ken Todd stated that he supports the local initiative approach but stated that input and guidance from the BCC needs to be obtained.

A motion was made and seconded to re-enable to task force to vote. David Stewart stated that he would be more comfortable if the agenda of the meeting contained the item that the task force was taking action on and since reversing the previous voting decision was not on the agenda, he would be voting no. Chip asked Mike Jones if there was a legal requirement for the meeting agenda to contain this item and Mike stated he was not aware of any. Chip called for a vote and the motion passed, with only David Stewart voting no.

Chip stated that he feels that the role of the Water Resources Task Force is to obtain the best advice from technical water resources experts and in-turn provide advice to the BCC consistent with the resolution establishing the task force. A motion was made and seconded to communicate the working group's findings to the BCC. The motion passed.

6. Task Force Member Comments

Chip stated that he would like Jeremy McBryan to re-formulate the working group. Chip also asked that the task force members consider having meetings more than four (4) times per year due to the ever-increasing importance of water issues.

7. Public Comments

Jay Foy supported the motion of communicating the working group's finding the BCC and stated that SFWMD has chosen a path that requires collaboratively planning a project with the USACE, however, that path leave out a lot of benefits for Palm Beach County. Jay stated that SFWMD has jurisdiction to lead a local initiative effort and should do it.

Drew Martin stated that recently some wetlands in Miramar were not able to be protected due to land development pressures. He expressed hope that the County can protect remaining wetlands despite development pressure.

8. Adjournment

Jeremy reminded attendees that the 2019 meeting dates for the Water Resources Task Force were provided on the meeting agenda and Chip adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.



Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force
Meeting Sign-in Sheet
October 18, 2018
1:30 pm



Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Ted Winberg	WRTF (Farmers)		
DON MAGRODER	OCEAN RIDGE	DMAGOR09@gmail.com	561-307-1955
Elvadianne Culbertson	South Palm Beach	eldeculbertson@ eculbertson@southpalmbeach.com	561 383 2860
ADRIAN SALEE	INPB CIB	amsalee@501.com	561-307-5915
James Painter	City of WPB/PUD	jpainter@wpb.org	(561) 310-1893
JEREMY MCBRYAN	PBC	jmcbryan@pbcgov.org	561-355-4600
CHIP BLOCK	JIC/FLC		
JASON HASELKORN	Mayor Juno Beach	JASON3072661@gmail.com	561 307 2661
JAN FOY	ITID	jfoystan@juno.com	561-242-0028
Danna Ackerman White	BCC Comm. Kerner	dawhite@pbcgov.org	561-355-2203
LAURA CORRY	SFNUD	LCORRY@SFNUD.GOV	561-682-6012
Jake Leach	PBC Resilience	pleach@pbcgov.org	561 233 2441
Megan Houston	"	MShouston@pbcgov.org	
Katelyn Cucinotta	PBC "	KCucinotta@pbcgov.org	561-233-2474



Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force
Meeting Sign-in Sheet
October 18, 2018
1:30 pm



Name	Organization	Email	Phone
HARRY RAUCHER	retired	hboayb1015@gmail.com	561 865 9031
Tommy Stroud	LWDD	tstroud@lwdd.net	561-722-4551
Suzanne Mehl	COM Smith	mechlerse@cdmsmith.com	501-339-3933
DAW BEATTY	NPBCID	DAW@NPBCID.ORG	561 624-7830
Toss Barron	Palm Beach Co.	tbarron@pbcgov.org	
Richard Radel	PBC League of Cities	RRadel@pbcgov.org	561-355-4488
Rachelle Litt	CITY OF P.B. GOVS	RLITT@PB6FL.GOV	561-635-9159
Michael Jones	PBC County Atty. Off.	mjones@pbcgov.org	561-355-3630
Paulitt Burdick	PBC		707-2318
Karen Brandon	AECOM	Karen.brandone@aecom.com	561-684-3375
STEVE LAMB	GRANDUSKY, LAMB & ASSOC.		
MATTHEW MORRISON	STWMD		



Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force
Meeting Sign-in Sheet
October 18, 2018
1:30 pm



Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Mike Albert	Chen Moore	mallbert@chenmoore.com	561-283-9740
Dick Tomasello	TCE	dixietom@aol.com	561-575-3920
Myra Koutzen	P.B. Shores/LDC		
Greg Shafer	ITID	gshafer@indiantrail.com	
KEN TODD	-	KUFGRAD@gmail.com	561-324-8306
Brent Whitfield	Chen Moore	bwhitfield@chenmoore.com	561-329-1797
Niels Heimrichs	WPTV/CHANNEL 5	NIELS.HEIMERIKS@WPTV.COM	561.370.5471
DAVID STEWART	TOCENO OF LAURENSIA	LEAGUE OF CITIES	(561) 540-5004
BILL LYNCH	JONES EDMUNDS	blyuch@jonesedmunds.com	561.267.8535
TERENCE DAVIS	RIVIERA BEACH	tdavis@rivierabch.com	
DEBORAH DRUM	PBC ERM	ddrum@pbcgov.org	561-233-2400
ERNIE COX	FLR	ernie@familylandsremembered.biz	561-762-2282
DREW MARTIN	SIERRA CLUB	dmandch@aol.com	561-533-6814