



Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force



**September 19, 2019
1:30pm**

**Vista Center (1W-47 Hearing Room Chamber)
2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411**

Meeting Minutes

Water Resources Task Force Attendees

Seat ID	Member Name	Status	Alternate Name	Status
1	Monica Mayotte	Present	Vacant	
2	Donald Magruder	Present	Vacant	
3	Chip Block (Chair)	Present	Vacant	
4	Jason Haselkorn	Absent	Vacant	
5	Myra Koutzen (Vice Chair)	Present	Rachelle Litt	Present
6	David Stewart	Present	Vacant	
7	Melissa McKinlay	Present	Gregg Weiss	Present
8	Vacant		Vacant	
9	Harry Raucher	Absent	James Alderman	Absent
10	Adrian Salee	Absent	Gregory Block	Absent
11	Jay Steinle	Present	Mark Elsner	Present
12	John Flanigan	Present	Richard Tomasello	Absent
13	Ted Winsberg	Present	Vacant	
14	Michael Johnson	Present	Greg Shafer	Absent

1. Call to Order and Introductions

A quorum was observed and Chip Block (Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony) called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The Water Resources Task Force (WRTF) members then introduced themselves to the meeting attendees. The attached sign-in sheet provides the full list of meeting attendees.

2. Consider Approval of July 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2019 WRTF meeting was made by Ted Winsberg (Agriculture Representative) and seconded by Dave Stewart (Town of Lantana). The July 25, 2019 meeting minutes were then approved by the WRTF.

3. Updated 2020 Meeting Dates

Chip Block directed WRTF members and alternates to review the proposed 2020 WRTF meeting dates that are provided on the meeting agenda and asked members to contact Jeremy McBryan

(Palm Beach County) if there are any issues with the proposed dates. Jeremy McBryan directed WRTF members to note the revised January 2020 meeting date of January 30, 2019.

4. Lake Okeechobee Operations

Jeremy McBryan stated that he reached out to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a representative to attend and present on Lake Okeechobee but they were not available due to an all-day Everglades Restoration meeting taking place at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) headquarters.

Jeremy McBryan summarized the two ongoing USACE efforts related to Lake Okeechobee operations: the first is a longer-term 2-3 year planning effort looking at revising Lake Okeechobee operations to account for projects expected to be complete by 2022 referred to as the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). The second is an expedited effort to deviate from existing Lake Okeechobee operational protocols as soon as possible to mitigate impacts due to harmful algal blooms.

Jeremy McBryan stated that the USACE released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Planned Deviation to the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS2008) on August 6, 2019. On August 27, 2019, Jeremy McBryan briefed the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and received direction to submit comments to the USACE on the proposed deviation. He explained that the BCC asked several questions related to the Corps' authority to implement a deviation without stakeholder engagement, operate the Lake with unpredictability and how the proposed deviation would affect regional water supply performance and consumptive use permit renewals. Jeremy McBryan stated that he did not have answers to many of the BCC's questions and planned to communicate these and other concerns as part of the County's comments to the USACE on the proposed deviation. In addition, Jeremy McBryan stated the County has retained Manson Bolves Donaldson Varn, a law firm with three former water management district general counsels, to assist in preparing comments on the proposed deviation. The County's comments on the proposed deviation to LORS2008 were summarized by Jeremy McBryan as follows:

- Lake Operations Significantly Affect Palm Beach County
- Lack of Transparency Suppresses Stakeholder Participation
- Comment Period is Inadequate for Meaningful Review
- Lake Operations Will be Unpredictable for the Foreseeable Future
- Federal Discretion Will Displace State Decision-Making
- Environmental Assessment Process is Inappropriate
- Environmental Impacts Analysis is Deficient
 - No Hydrologic or Ecosystem Modeling Performed
 - Impacts to the Lake Worth Lagoon Not Evaluated
 - Impacts to Water Supply Not Evaluated
 - Impacts of Saltwater Intrusion Not Evaluated
 - Impacts to Lake Okeechobee Levels Not Sufficiently Evaluated

- Impacts to Stormwater Treatment Areas Not Sufficiently Evaluated
- Impacts to Water Conservation Areas Not Sufficiently Evaluated
- Water Banking Introduces Additional Uncertainty
- Economic Impacts Not Evaluated
- Comprehensive Strategy Needed

Jeremy McBryan stated that at the July 25, 2019 WRTF meeting, he was asked to convene the Technical Professional Working Group and bring back recommendations, if appropriate, on the potential risks of the proposed changes to Lake Okeechobee operations and how the changes could affect Palm Beach County stakeholders. However, when the Draft EA for a Planned Deviation to LORS2008 was released in early August, the priority quickly shifted to that effort. Two teleconferences were held with the Working Group on August 29 and September 9. Many concerns raised by Working Group members on the proposed deviation were consistent with the County's concerns. Recommendations distilled from the Working Group meeting discussions was summarized by Jeremy McBryan as follows:

- Continue to track the USACE proposal to deviate from LORS2008
- Continue to coordinate with other entities to better understand risks and impacts of the proposed deviation
- Continue to evaluate options if and when the proposed deviation is implemented
- Continue to engage with USACE on the longer-term LOSOM effort

5. Loxahatchee River Restoration Local Initiative and Mecca Site Evaluation Update

Jeremy McBryan reminded attendees of BCC direction related to the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project, currently being planned by the USACE, and the County's Local Initiative effort which is being implemented due to County concerns with the USACE-proposed project and that is intended to provide technical information to enable continued collaboration with USACE and SFWMD to optimize the project. Jeremy McBryan reminded attendees about the potential concepts/features to be considered for further evaluation that were presented at the July 25, 2019 WRTF meeting. Per a suggestion at the July 25, 2019 WRTF meeting, Kimley-Horn held a technical workshop on August 16, 2019 to enable discussion with technical experts. A summary of the key discussion items at the technical workshop was summarized by Jeremy McBryan as follows:

- Relocating and raising the C-18 West Weir should be evaluated
- Integrating L-8 Shallow Storage and ITID impoundments should be explored
- If Mecca is not a reservoir, additional storage is needed to achieve River restoration
- ASR well utility is limited without co-located surface water storage
- If ASR is included, performance assumptions need to be supported by technical information
- Restoring the hydrology of FWC's Moss Property is not the focus of this effort

Jeremy McBryan then discussed three alternatives being proposed for further analysis based on work completed to date. All proposed alternatives include Mecca and Avenir as natural flow-

ways, relocating and raising the C-18 West Weir, structures G-160 and G-161, rehydration of the Grassy Waters Preserve Triangle, and no Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells. The main difference between the proposed alternatives is the above-ground storage component. Alternative PB-1 includes L-8 Shallow Storage (on the ~1,100-acre GL Flow-way land) integrated with existing (720 acres) and proposed (640 acres) Indian Trail Improvement District (ITID) impoundments; PB-2 includes the C-51 Reservoir only; PB-3 includes both the C-51 Reservoir and the L-8 Shallow Storage (integrated with both ITID impoundments).

Due to the challenge in obtaining information regarding how ASR wells were incorporated into the USACE/SFWMD modeling and the potential extensive level of effort needed to incorporate realistic ASR assumptions in the local initiative effort, it is being recommended that ASR not be included in the County's three alternatives. This approach would provide the largest surface water storage feature needed to achieve the desired benefits. He stated that the team will evaluate other options to assess incremental benefits that could be achieved by adding ASR wells.

Since structures G-160 and G-161 are already constructed, they will be included in all County alternatives. Due to broad support by stakeholders, rehydration of the Grassy Waters Preserve Triangle will be included in all County alternatives. Relocation and raising of the C-18 West Weir is also proposed to be included in all County alternatives.

Next steps include alternative simulation and evaluation, documentation, providing an update at the October 17, 2019 WRTF meeting, providing an update to the BCC and communicating relevant information to SFWMD and USACE.

Jay Steinle (SFWMD) requested that the County continue to collaborate with SFWMD and wanted to make sure the team was aware of the potential consequences and stakeholder concerns regarding a connection from Lake Okeechobee to the Loxahatchee River. Jeremy McBryan stated that one of the goals of Everglades restoration is to shift Lake Okeechobee releases west towards the central Everglades and therefore, flows from Lake Okeechobee to the L-8 Canal should decrease over time.

Rachelle Litt (City of Palm Beach Gardens) asked about the status of the C-51 Reservoir and if Avenir project will be impacted by the proposed relocation and raising of the C-18 West Weir. Jeremy McBryan answered that Phase 1 of the C-51 Reservoir project is in the final planning phase and several entities in Broward County have expressed interest in the project as an alternative water supply. Phase 2 of the C-51 Reservoir is still an active rock mine and remains in the planning phase for future regional water storage. Jeremy McBryan said the team will need to check into the question regarding Avenir and the proposed C-18 West Weir.

Scott Kelly (City of West Palm Beach) supports including the C-51 Reservoir in the County's evaluation and feels that operating the C-51 Reservoir to deliver water to the Loxahatchee River during dry times will have regional benefits, as it will likely increase water table conditions in the area.

6. Palm Beach County Consumptive Use Permit and Application Renewal Update

Jim Stiles (Palm Beach County) provided an overview of a consumptive use permits (CUP) issued by SFWMD, and detailed information on the County's CUP, including projected water use demands, maximum allocations, actual withdrawals, permit requirements and deliverables, and accomplishments. The County's CUP permit was issued in March 2003 and expires in March 2023. Annual allocation, average daily allocation, maximum daily allocation and alternative water supply requirements required by the CUP permit have all been achieved by the County.

Jim stated that the County has agreements to provide up to 20 million gallons per day (MGD) during emergency events to eight neighboring municipalities which are Boca Raton, Broward County, Delray Beach, Lake Worth Beach, North Springs Improvement District, Palm Springs, Parkland, and West Palm Beach. The County also currently provides approximately 2.4 MGD with a future commitment of over 12 MGD to six municipalities which are Atlantis, Boynton Beach, Lake Clarke Shores, North Springs Improvement District, Seacoast Utilities and Westlake.

Jim also explained the major factors implemented by the County to reduce water use (and improve water conservation) which have led to the County having the lowest per capita water use rates within the County which are as follows:

- Implemented state-of-the art treatment techniques/processes to nearly eliminate water flushing and improve water quality
- Tiered rate structure to encourage efficient use of water
- Indoor water conservation program/education
- Outdoor water use conservation by implementing an aggressive reclaimed water program
- Reduced distribution system water loss due to leaks and unaccounted water

Jim then provided a summary of the County's ongoing and future activities and related information and documentation that will be prepared and submitted as part of the CUP renewal process which includes information on water demands, water conservation and water resource evaluations. To assist in the CUP renewal process, the County plans to select and hire a consultant by July 2020, submit a draft CUP application to SFWMD by August 2021 and obtain the CUP by February 2023.

Monica Mayotte (City of Boca Raton) asked why there was an increase in the County's per capita water demand in 2016 and 2017. Jim replied that additional flushing was needed during those years to ensure acceptable water quality conditions. However, with the improvements at Water Treatment Plant 8 complete and Niagara Water bottling becoming operational, flushing needs have reduced and County per capita demand is at its lower level.

Ted Winsberg asked if the water used by Florida Power and Light (FPL) for cooling is available for agriculture. Typically, used cooling water is injected into deep disposal wells by FPL.

Melissa McKinlay (Palm Beach County) thanked Jim for the presentation and asked what the County's water use would be if all of the bulk water contracts that the County has with neighboring municipalities were delivered. Jim stated that the County would be very close to the maximum permit limit. Melissa McKinlay stated that many counties north of us seem to be dealing with the water quality ramifications of biosolids (aka wastewater residuals) and asked how biosolids are handled in Palm Beach County. Jim stated that just about all of the biosolids in the County are converted into fertilizer at the Solid Waste Authority's Biosolids Processing Facility, which began operations in 2009.

7. General Task Force Member Comments

Mark Elsner (SFWMDC) stated that SFWMDC used a robust technical process to calculate per capita water use for each municipality.

Jay Steinle asked if water utilities with relatively high per capita water use rates are required to implement conservation measures.

Mark Elsner explained that leak detection, conservation rate structures, and other requirements are required in CUPs. Mark also stated that additional information is useful when reviewing water use rates such as demographics, land uses, business types, etc.

8. General Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment

Chip Block adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.



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



Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Anne Cox	Family Lands Remembered	anne@familylandsremembered.biz	561-339-1549
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Alan Wertman	Mack Ross	alan.wertman@macross.com	561-722-9138



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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
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MONICA MAYOTTE	CITY OF BOCA RATON		
MELISSA MCKINLAY	PBC		
JAY STEINLE	SFWMD		
JOHN FLANIGAN	ENV. REP		
TED WINSBERG	AG. REP		



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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
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JEREMY MCBRYAN	PBC		