

Palm Beach County

Water Resources Task Force (WRTF)

January 26, 2023

1:30 PM

Vista Center, Room VC-1W-47 (1st 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.

Milton (Chip) Block, Mark Elsner, Michael Johnson, Tommy Strowd , Poonam Kalkat, and Monica Mayotte.

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.

Utility Overview and Consumptive Use Permits Update by Ali Bayat, P.E. PMP

- Third largest full-service utility in Florida
- Service more than 600,000 residents
- The+600 employees owns and operates 9 water, wastewater, and reclaimed water plants.
- Over 4,000 miles of pipes with +1,000 lift stations.
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 5501 certification
- Per capita rate has declined from 176 in 2000 to 138 in 2016.
- Eastern Consumptive Use Permit – Issued March 31, 2022 with a 20 year Surficial Aquifer withdrawal and 30 year withdrawal for Upper Floridan Aquifer duration. Annual Allocation of 104.4 MGD
- Western Consumptive Use Permit (EAA Municipalities) – Issued October 12, 2005. Expires October 12, 2025. Upper Floridan Aquifer. Annual Allocation 9.4 MGD
- Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Ordinance
- Reclaimed Water – Current Capacity of 55 mgd.
- Green Cay Pilot Study successfully completed in August 2022.

Of the six percent loss the losses can be small leaks, illegal/unmetered connections, with flushing for chlorination accounting for about half of the six percent. Small leaks are hard to find.

Are the water treatment plant regions interconnect? All of the eastern water treatment plant regions are interconnected; allowing plants to be shut down for maintenance.

Getting close to an average demand of 60 mgd for eastern water demand with peak daily demand of about 75 mgd.

Request for a presentation on more details the current and future plans for reclaimed water.

Converted two ASR wells (total capacity of 7 mgd) to upper Floridan Wells. These ASR well were not cycle tested due to a lack of treatment capacity and cost of treating water twice.

PBC has a current reclaimed water treatment capacity of about 55 mgd. Used in wetlands, golf courses, Home Owners Associations, and Florida Power and Light (FPL). 25 mgd used by FPL, 12 mgd for HOA and PBC facilities.

What is causing the higher chlorides in the western wells. Not the classic salt water intrusion from Ocean water. Migration from deeper more saline lower Floridan aquifer most likely the cause.

Use of 10 mgd of reclaimed water from Broward County (2027).

Currently, demand for reclaimed water exceeds supply.

Task Force Comments

Michael Johnson requested a communication to BPC BCC supporting the Corbett Levee Upgrade. Chip Block summarized the motion that “the WRTF recommends to the PBC BCC that the Corbett Levee completion be the top water infrastructure project in the county” Motion by Michael Johnson seconded by Poonam Kaikat. Mr. Todd Bonlarron informed the WRTF that PBC already has the Corbett Levee completion as a high priority and will be meeting with the legislators to support funding for this project including PBC providing ARPA funding (\$2,000,000). The detail of prioritization is complicated as the completion of the Corbett Levee is a SFWMD project and the existing prioritization of project by the SFWMD and PBC. Based on this input the motion was changed to “the WRTF recommends to the PBC BCC the continued support of Corbett Levee completion as a high priority water infrastructure project “. The revised motion was moved by Michael Johnson seconded by Poonam Kaikat.

Paul Linton stated that there was not update on the grant application as of this week.

Subsequent, to the meeting PBC received notification on March 1, 2023 that PBC was awarded the Resilient Florida Grant (22FRP133) with FDEP providing \$7,705,000.

Paul Linton communicated that PBC has request an independent scientific panel review (SPR) for the PRB FIRMs. FEMA rejected PBC request for additional model investigation and correction. The SPR is the last mechanism to address the anomalous water level results.