



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



**Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415**

**January 18, 2018
1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was announced and Chair Jay Foy called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Members Present:

Jay Foy (Chair), Paulette Burdick, John Flanigan, Dave Stewart, Chip Block (Vice-Chair), Adrian Salee, Myra Koutzen, Jason Haselkorn, Paula Ryan, Greg Shafer

Alternates Present:

Rachelle Litt

Members not Present:

Melanie Peterson, Scott Kelly, Harry Raucher, Ted Winsberg

Alternates not Present:

Jim Alderman, Mary Lou Berger, Dick Tomasello, Terrence Davis

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Patrick Painter

County Staff Present:

Chris Pettit, Bonnie Finneran, Danna Ackerman-White

Guests Present:

Richard Radcliffe, Drew Martin, Adrien Rinne, Jeff Needle, Jeff Hiscock, Jeff Koons, Nicolas Pisurello, Sharon Trost, Martha Musgrove, Cassandra Thomas

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the 7-20-17 meeting minutes as presented by Dave Stewart and seconded by Chip Block. The motion passed unanimously.

III. 2018 WRTF Election of Officers

Jay Foy, Chair

Jay Foy opened up the election for the 2018 officers by first asking for nominations for Chair. Since no one volunteered to be Chair, Dave Stewart nominated Jay Foy to be Chair for another year. There were no other nominations so by acclamation the nominations were closed. Jay was voted unanimously as Chair for the 2018 calendar year. Jay then opened up nominations for Vice-Chair and Adrian Salee nominated Chip Block to be Vice-Chair for another year. There were no other nominations so by acclamation the nominations were closed. Chip was voted unanimously as Vice-Chair for the 2018 calendar year.

IV. Legislative Update

Chris Pettit, PBC Water Utilities

Chris Pettit made a presentation that provided insight to some of the upcoming legislative bills that may be filed in the Florida Legislature for this upcoming legislative session, specifically those bills that dealt with water issues.

V. Lake Worth Lagoon WQ

Cassandra Thomas, SFWMD

Cassandra Thomas of the SFWMD Coastal Ecosystem Section made a presentation on the inflow, water quality and flushing of the Lake Worth Lagoon (Lagoon). Cassandra explained the boundary of the 305,000-acre watershed and the attributes of the approximate 7400-acre estuary. She indicated that although there is flushing of freshwater into the estuary, the physical flushing is good if it exceeds the phytoplankton growth.

Cassandra gave a brief description of the water quality data collected by SFWMD and PBC from 2007-2015 in the northern, central and southern sections of the Lagoon.

She indicated that on average the flushing time for the entire Lagoon is five and a half days. When there is an increase in the inflow, as there was during the period of 2007-2015, there is a reduction in the time to flush the Lagoon. The potential for water quality problems is reduced with faster flushing as the potential for phytoplankton blooms are reduced.

She said that a much slower rate of flushing could cause eutrophication. Although the Lagoon estuary did have an increase in the inflow in recent years, it is in better shape from flushing than either the St. Lucie or the Caloosahatchee estuary.

V. Public Comments

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

Pat Painter addressed the Task Force about concerns the City of West Palm Beach is having about the construction of the S-10A Structure in the L-8 Canal near Lake Okeechobee. Apparently, the structure will be closed for approximately 18 months. In the meantime, the SFWMD is rerouting water from the EAA via the Ocean Canal through the S5A structure and then north through the L-8 Canal. From there the water is being sent through the M Canal to supply water to the Loxahatchee River. This water is high in chlorides and can cause problems for the City's WTP.

Drew Martin commented that the proposed bill on the lessening of regulations concerning the cutting down of trees. He believes the bill is bad for the environment and that the bill does not establish who will actually monitor the end results.

VI. Task Force Member Comments

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

Jay Foy would like to know the options that would be available if the local stakeholders must implement the components they asked for if the ACOE does not select the locally preferred option as the Tentatively Selected Plan for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan. After some discussion, the Task Force asked Ken Todd to call the Working Group together to address the options for the following items:

- (1) What items should be included to implemented in the locally preferred option
- (2) Who should be the lead to implement the items
- (3) How will the implementation of the locally preferred option components be paid/funded

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

The next meeting for the WRTF is scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 2018 and will be held at the Clayton Hutcheson Exhibit Hall.

IX. Adjournment

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

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