



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



**Palm Beach County Utilities  
O & M Training Center  
8100 Forest Hill Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411**

**March 3, 2016  
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), Mary Lou Berger, John Flanigan, Dave Stewart, Jim Shallman, Matt Willhite, Ted Winsberg, Mike Mullaugh, Jeff Hmara, Scott Kelly, Rod Braun (SFWMD Alt.), Adrian Salee

**Alternates Present:**

Chip Block

**Members not Present:**

Jason Haselkorn

**Alternates not Present:**

John Whitworth, Jonathan Pearce, David Levy, Brandon Selle, Dick Tomasello, Paula Ryan, and Paulette Burdick, Myra Koutzen

**WRTF Working Group Present:**

Ken Todd (Chair), Pete Kwiatkowski, Paul Schofield

**County Staff Present:**

Dana Ackerman-White, Johnnie Easton, Shelley Vana, Jim Stiles, Shannon LaRocque, Jocelyn Colon, Chris Pettit, Peyton MacArthur, Jon Van Arnam

**Guests Present:**

Alan Wertepny, Brian Shields, Drew Martin, Jeff Koons, Andrea Rinne, Laura Corry, Tim Smith, Ernie Cox, Jeff Hiscock, Karen Brandon, Martha Musgrove, Joe Kusnir, David Cox, Richard Radcliffe, Albrey Arrington, Lisa Interlandi, Michelle Diffenderfer, Bob Diffenderfer, Jennifer Leeds, Beth Kacvinsky, Darren Hollifield, Michael Davis, Patrick Martin, Bill Lynch, Richard Walesky, Patrick Iler, Sharon Trost, Harry Raucher, Dan Beatty, Ed Weinberg

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dave Stewart and seconded by Mike Mullaugh to approve the 1-21-16 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **III. NPDES Update                  Alan Wertepny, PBC NPDES Coordinator (Mock, Roos & Assoc.)**

Alan Wertepny with Mock, Roos & Associates gave an NPDES Update where he provided a PowerPoint presentation on Impaired Water within Lake Worth Lagoon – Palm Beach Coast Basin.

### **IV. Lox River PDT Timeline                                  Dave Brown, Jupiter Utilities**

David Brown with Jupiter Utilities gave brief a presentation on the Loxahatchee River Restoration Timeline. He discussed the early timeline, the 2000 CERP Components for North County Plan, the 2010 CERP Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Components, the 5-year delay of the Project Development Team (PDT) process, etc. Dave noted that the Local stakeholders continued to implement plan during the 5 year delay of the PDT. The Corps reinitiating the PDT process in 2015, but with different goals than was used for the 2010 PDT.

### **V. Local Initiative Goals & Alternative                          Ken Todd, PBC Water Resource Manager**

Ken Todd with Palm Beach County gave two brief presentations: one of the local goals for the Loxahatchee River Watershed, and the other on the Local PDT Alternative for the Loxahatchee River Watershed.

Ken said the 2015 Local Regional Goals include:

- Restoration flows to the Loxahatchee River
- Enhancement of the Loxahatchee River
- Reduce freshwater flows to Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL)
- Enhance water supply for various utilities
- Better flood protection for western communities

Ken said that when the PDT was reinitiated in 2015 the Corps' new Goals only included:

- Restoration flows to the Loxahatchee River
- Enhancement of the Loxahatchee Slough

Ken went on to say that the local stakeholders had concerns with new Corps goals. Those concerns are as follows:

- Insufficient funding to complete both flow-ways 1 & 2
- Possible impacts to Utilities using ASR as the deep water storage for the Mecca Impoundment

Ken said that the Local Alternative Plan included the following Study Components:

- Use C-51 Reservoir as deep water storage
- Utilize control 2 pump station
- Use flow-way 1 for conveyance
- New pump station and force main along east GWP Border if necessary
- Eliminate flows from Lake Okeechobee through L-8 Canal to the LWL
- Conveyance south from flow-way 1 to C-51 canal via LWDD E-1 to LWDD system

In summary, Ken said the local stakeholders had the following conclusions:

- Local Alternative should be a locally preferred option with SFWMD as the lead Agency
- Local stakeholders believe that the Local Alternative components are critical to meeting the Loxahatchee River Minimum Flows & Level (MFL) & Restoration Flows
- Local stakeholders believe that both Flow-ways 1& 2 will be beneficial to water supply, Lake Worth Lagoon water quality and flood protection for the western communities
- If this alternative does not become the TSP for the Corps' Lox River Watershed PDT, then the local and state governments should pursue funding through grants, cooperative funding and partnerships to accomplish the goals spelled out in this alternative.

## **VII. Local Initiative Funding**

**Chris Pettit, PBC Legislative Affairs**

Christopher Pettit with PBC Water Utilities gave a brief update regarding the local funding options. They are as follows:

- Cooperative federal funding
- SFWMD
  - If designated as a pilot project under SB 552-Water Policy Bill
  - Cooperative funding \$9 million available
- Local government sources
  - Ad valorem taxes
  - Utility revenue (C-51 component subject to allocation agreements and CUP modifications)
- State government sources
  - \$3 million for C-51 in current budget for this year
  - Projects to benefit Lake Worth Lagoon recognized in the Report of the Select Committee for Indian River Lagoon
  - LATF (Amendment 1 funding)
  - Water Projects
  - Section 319 Grants for select components

## **VIII. Public Comments**

**Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair**

Rich Walesky said that the County over the years has purchased a lot of property in the north county in an effort to get the wetlands reconnected. The final TSP needs to have a component that adds a flow-way to allow the connection of the Corbett Wildlife Area, the Hungryland Slough, the old Vavrus Ranch (now a proposed development known as Avenir), and the Loxahatchee Slough.

Drew Martin said he does not support the ASR component nor does he support the C-51 Reservoir component. He prefers to utilize a natural flow-way system connecting the wetland areas.

Mike Davis indicated he would like to see this presentation made to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) of which he is Chair. He said he believed the TCRPC could help support the local alternative.

Jeff Koons said we need to take advantage of the property the County has purchased over the years to include in the final plan. He also indicated the final plan should include all the following components into a final plan: the C-51 Reservoir for deep water storage which could store water for water supply and environmental purposes, connective flow-ways for the wetland areas in the Lox River watershed, Flow-

ways 1 & 2 for conveyance, and storage addition storage within the L-8 Basin to reduce the amount runoff sent to tide.

Michelle Diffenderfer said that the local alternative needs to separate those components from what the current Corps goals are and what the local want so the local needs are not ignored because of the Corps process that is currently in place.

Alan Wertepny said that as part of DEP's efforts on classifying Impaired Waters within the Lake Worth Lagoon, there will be grant money available for projects that will help improve LWL water quality. He said this local alternative would most likely meet the criteria to obtain a state grant.

**IX. Task Force Member Comments**

**Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair**

Jay Foy reminded the audience that the WRTF Board is an advisory committee to the County Commission and have voted previously not to bring this item up for vote because of several potential conflicts of interest. Jay commented that Flow-ways 1 & 2 include other components that are more than just restoration to the Lox River. Jay went on to say that as part of a surface water management plan for this area requires an L-8 plan because the surface water runoff from the L-8 Basin doesn't get account for in the current Corps PDT plan. Therefore, if the TSP Alternative does not address this, then there will need to be a future L-8 plan to do so.

Scott Kelly indicated that water through Grassy waters will need to be studied from a water quality perspective to ensure that there will not be impacts to Grassy Water Preserve.

**X. Next Meeting Agenda**

**Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair**

July 21, 2016 is the next scheduled meeting date at the Clayton Hutcheson Exhibit Hall.

**XI. Adjournment**

**Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair**

There being no further business, Chair Foy adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.