



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



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

**July 16, 2015
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 1:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Jay Foy (Chair), MaryLou Berger, John Flanigan, Dave Stewart, Jim Shallman, Matt Willhite, Ted Winsberg, Mike Mullaugh, Jeff Hmara, Adrian Salee, Jason Haselkorn

Alternates Present:

Dick Tomasello, Chip Block, Paula Ryan

Members not Present:

Jim Alderman, Scott Kelly

Alternates not Present:

Scott Maxwell, Dawn Pardo, John Whitworth, Jonathan Pearce, David Levy, Brandon Selle, and Rod Braun, Paulette Burdick

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Pete Kwiatkowski, Paul Schofield

County Staff Present:

Dana Ackerman-White, Jocelyn Colon, Hassan Hadjimiry, Natalie Schneider, Eric Anderson, Johnnie Easton, Chris Pettit

Guests Present:

Richard Radcliffe, Don Mathis, Alan Wertepny, Karen Brandon, Andrea Rinne, Michael Cox, Albert Carbon, Tim Smith, Sean O'Keefe, Nancy Schneider, Jayne Bergstrom, Jonathan Ricketts, Mike Delcharco, Ashley Kaipilla, Dan Beatty, Brian Shields

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 4-16-15 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Lake Worth Lagoon Living Shoreline

Eric Anderson, Palm Beach County ERM

Eric indicated that over 87% of Lake Worth Lagoon shorelines has been developed and hardened with seawalls for decades. This has caused a disruption to the food chain within the Lagoon. However, Eric said that we can add living shoreline components to make it look more natural and re-create some of the biological functions that used to be in place and at the same time creating a more resilience shoreline and help reduce maintenance and replacement cost of existing seawall infrastructure. Eric indicated that ERM wants to continue to work and develop restoration projects with stakeholders and municipalities to restore Palm Beach County's estuarine shorelines using the components of recently completed restoration projects like, Snook Islands, Grassy Flats, South Cove, Bryant Park projects, and Highland Beach Mangrove Breakwater, just a few examples. The living shoreline components would incorporate intertidal living plants, limestone rocks, and sand. The County is currently developing living shoreline projects with the City of West Palm Beach at Currie and Osprey Park, and at the same time seeking state and federal grants to fund the project.

V. WOTUS Update

Chris Pettit, PBC Utilities

Chris gave an overview of where they've been, how they got there, where they are now and where they are going in regard to the proposed Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. He indicated that Guidance letters concerning general nationwide permits and ditch maintenance will still be issued. So, what is the purpose of the proposed WOTUS rule making? Chris said it is EPA's intent to add clarity to the existing rule and make some regulatory changes while making sure ditches and canals were not tied together. The proposed rule contains a Significant NEXUS test that EPA and the Corps of Engineers will have to tie together within the Regulatory process. The proposed rule will also clarify the existing exemptions and reaffirm the delegated and authorized state programs dealing with water quality. It remains to be seen how the regulatory arms of these agencies will interpret the new rule.

VI. FEMA Coastal Study Update

Mike Delcharco, Taylor Engineering

Mike explained to all that FEMA is doing a coastal flood study along the county's coastline. The study will include the following components: Coastal storm surge evaluation from a hurricane including wave setup. The models FEMA is using will evaluate the effect of storms by using past storm information and history. Additionally, the study will do a lot of forensics after storms, looking at communities and buildings that were destroyed. Mike said the presentation on the living shorelines will benefit and help with the surges when completed. Mike also indicated that

conditions in the future, i.e. sea level rise, will be taken in consideration although it is not significant.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no Public comments.

IX. Task Force Member Comments

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

Jay asked Ken Todd to discuss the status of re-appointments for the WRTF. Ken mentioned to all League of Cities representatives that their three year term for this Task Force expires on September 30th. Therefore, if they wish to remain as members and alternates on the Task Force they will need to be approved by the BCC by October 1st. Ken told the League of Cities members that he had received some of the applications for reappointment, but most still needed to get the application forms to him for placement as an agenda item for September. Ken said he would contact those members that still needed to fill out the form.

Jay Foy said he appreciated the comments that were made during the presentations. Jay indicated that he didn't see anything that the Task Force needed to take an action or make a recommendation, as the presentations were mostly informational. Jay told the WRTF members that if anyone does think of anything that should be recommended to the county commissioners, that's what we are here for.

X. Next Meeting Agenda

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

October 15, 2015 is the next scheduled meeting date at the Lake Worth Drainage District.

XI. Adjournment

Jay Foy, PBC WRTF Chair

There being no further business, Chair Foy adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.