

Palm Beach County Water (PBC) Resources Task Force (WRTF)

Thursday December 18, 2026, 9:00 AM

Vista Center, Room VC-1W-47 (1st Floor)

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Meeting Minutes

The following notes are a summary of the information provided at the discussions of the WRTF. This summary is not a transcript of the meeting.

Water Resources Task Force Members

<u>Seat ID</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1	Malise Sundstrom	Town of Jupiter	Vacant	City elected official
2	Joaquin Almazan	City of Belle Glade	Vacant	City elected official
3	Lisa Interlandi	Village of North Palm Beach	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	Greg Langowski	City of West Lake	Vacant	City elected official
7	Gregg Weiss (Chair)	Palm Beach County Mayor	Vacant	Palm Beach County Commissioner
8	Poonam Kalkat	City of Boynton Beach	Vacant	Water/Wastewater Provider Official
9	Tommy Strowd	Lake Worth Drainage District	Vacant	Lake Worth Drainage District
10	Vacant		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)	Former Council Member City of PBG	Vacant	Environmental Representative
13	Robert Shorr	Town of Loxahatchee Groves	Vacant	Agricultural Representative
14	Michael Johnson	Indian Trail Improvement District	Greg Shafer	Indian Trail Improvement District

The following meeting minutes are not transcripts of the meeting, rather they are a summary to capture the key information of the presentations and the discussion that arose from the presentations. The underlined information is supplemental to the meeting.

Roll call was taken with sufficient attendance for quorum. During roll call there were ten of thirteen appointed seats present. The members attending are listed below:

- Joaquin Almazan – Seat 2
- Lisa Interlandi – Seat 3
- Karen Lythgoe – Seat 5
- Greg Langowski--Seat 6
- Gregg Weiss (Chair) – Seat 7
- Tommy Strowd – Seat 9
- Jay Steinle Seat 11
- Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair) – Seat 12
- Robert Shorr – Seat 13
- Michael Johnson – Seat 14

The following three members were absent.

- Malise Sundstrom - Seat 1 (Just before this meeting PBC received confirmation from Ms. Sundstrom that she resigned after the November meeting and has notified the League of Cities)
- DD Halpern – Seat 4
- Poonam Kalkat – Seat 8

With a quorum, there was unanimous approval of the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes.

Paul Linton, Palm Beach County's Water Resources Manager, provided a presentation on the status of Water Availability in the Hillsboro Basin and the potential for storage at Site 1:

- Basin area of about 52,800 acres (82.5 square miles) with about 60% in Palm Beach County (PBC) and 40% in Broward County (BC)
- From the 21-year Period-of-Record (POR) of daily flows, the 2011 Year had the smallest runoff (49,772 acre-feet equating to about 0.92 feet) and 1995 Year had the largest runoff (179,433 acre-feet equating to about 3.4 feet (median of about 95,392 acre-feet equating to about 1.8 feet)).
- Communicated that practical capture rates were less than the daily values as discharge capacity of G56 (Tidal Structure) would be considerably larger than that of the inflow pumps for the reservoir.
- Communicated that captures volumes for the year with the least runoff (2011) of about 17,533 (35%) and 34,504 acre-feet (69%) could be achieved with 100 and 300 cfs pump if they were allowed to begin pumping before G56 begins releasing water.
- Provided a description of the status of the Site 1 Reservoir with the important detail that the north levee was already constructed. [During the preparation of these meeting minutes an error in the length of the existing levee length was recognized. The existing levee is about actually 2.7 miles long leaving 4.3 miles of levee required. This resulted in increased cost for the embankments. The affected slides were corrected and the corrected presentation uploaded.]

- The difference between a low hazard and high hazard dam was presented. Two examples were provided, the first of maximized low hazard dam with a four feet storage depth and 12 feet tall embankments providing 6,000 acre-feet of storage volume and the second a high hazard reservoir with a storage depth of 8 feet, 40 feet deep seepage barrier, and 20 feet tall embankments with Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) revetment providing 12,000 acre-feet of storage volume. Cost of outflow structures was assumed to range from \$10 M to \$20 M.
- Communicated the need to be able to receive and hold well above (e.g. 12 inches) the design storm without exceeding the basin discharge limit to prevent stress on the system during recovery from large rainfall events was discussed.
- Cost examples for reservoirs with 150 cfs and 300 cfs were presented. The corrected cost for the low hazard dam ranged from \$53 M to \$83 M equating to about \$9,000 to \$14,000 per acre-feet. The updated cost for the high hazard dam ranged from \$130 M to \$160 M equating to about \$11,000 to \$13,500 per acre-feet.

The Water Resources Task Force (Task Force) discussion was initiated by member Tommy Strowd (LWDD). He described that unlike the large reservoirs (e.g. A-2 storing 240,000 acre-feet) identified by the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) the Site 1 reservoir (and its associated 35 ASR Wells able to store about 10,000 acre-feet in a 100-day wet season) were developed to replace a portion of eastern PBC water demands. Additional benefits include slowing the recession of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge [the Refuge a.k.a. Water Conservation Area 1 (WCA-1)] and reducing the need to treat water through Storm Water Treatment Area 1 (STA-1). Specifically, when the refuge is too low all water supply from it must be preceded by an equal or larger volume of water treated through STA-1.

There was discussion about the distance from the adjacent residential area and whether these residents were aware of the potential for the construction of a high hazard dam. To PBC knowledge no notification (beyond the CERP process) has occurred.

Member Lisa Interlandi acknowledged that it would be good to reduce the water demands from the Refuge and the load on STA-1. Vice Chair Rachelle Litt brought up the need to understand how this reservoir would be either advanced through CERP or separately and the associated funding needs.

At the request of the public the WRTF agreed to hear public comments after each presentation.

Public comments by Mr. Jeff Koons and Mr. Chip Block communicated that PBC is not receiving the CERP projects identified to make PBC less dependent on Lake Okeechobee.

Paul Linton, Palm Beach County's Water Resources Manager, provided a follow-up presentation on the drainage needs of Indian Trail Improvement District (ITID) and a potential connection from the L-8 Canal to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River (NWFLR) via ITID canals, the C-101W Canal of the CERP Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP), and PBC drainage system.

- Presentation communicated that this was a follow up presentation to previous presentations (October 14, 2022, August 15, 2024, and December 18, 2025) and that the conclusion of previous work was that there was no existing cost feasible route through ITID and that any delivery of water would need to be through the CERP LRWRP C-101W canal.

- ITID's permitted discharge to the L-8 Canal is 274 cfs. This combined with the 200 cfs of on-peak capacity to the C-51 Canal provides a drainage rate of only 0.43 inches per day.
- ITID has considerable (e.g. ~ 700 cfs) of Off-Peak capacity which requires capacity in the east reach of the C-51 Canal
- ITID has land, with transition requirements, for construction of an additional 640-acre impoundment. This impoundment would allow ITID to pump at their full capacity for about two more days which would increase the drainage rate from 0.43 to 1.2 inches per day for those days. This improvement has the least complicated permitting and operations.
- With considerable permitting and structural changes, it could be possible for ITID to increase its On-Peak discharge rate if sufficient storage volume is dedicated in the C-51 Reservoir Phase 2.
- With the construction of the funded ITID step down structure at the connection between ITID discharge and the L-8 Canal it is possible to move water through ITID M-0 Canal to the LRWRP C-101W canal and subsequently to the NWLR through the canals of the C-18 Basin. This would require a pump station to lift water from the L-8 Canal into the ITID, improvements of the south embankment (raising), and a new culvert and gates to release water from either ITID's existing or proposed 640-acre expansion.
- Communicated that LRWRP C-18 West Reservoir and C-101W canal delayed a year due to extensive (good) evolution in the design. Construction of the canal connecting ITID to PBC lands (C-101W/L-101W) could begin in 2028 pending District leadership approval to fast track this feature. Construction of the C-18 West Reservoir will likely begin in mid-2029 (estimated construction period of five years).
- Presentation provided a description of a potential route through PBC land that could deliver water from the C-101W canal to the West Leg of the C-18 Canal and be available before (the C-18W Reservoir of the LRWRP is operational (in 2034)).
- Presented Order-of-Magnitude costs for the features required on PBC land ranging from above \$3.0 M to \$5.0 M for 10 to 40 cfs of capacity, a new embankment, and culvert & gate PBC has already identified funding for this work which must be completed before construct of the C-18 West Reservoir is started).
- Presented Order-of-magnitude construction costs for the 50 cfs pump station, culvert, and embankment improvements (\$19 M) which are the minimum features required to move water from the L-8 Canal into the ITID M-0 Canal. An additional cost of \$10 M to replace the old and flow limiting culverts that connect ITID discharge canal to the L-8 Canal.
- While not presented in the power point, a place holder cost of \$20 M was communicated for the embankments and two culverts and gates required to construct the 640-acre impoundment.

There were supporting discussions by the WRTF members on the desire to be able to deliver water to the NWFLR. Chair Gregg Weiss discussed that PBC had set aside funds for work in the L-8 Basin and for the Meca Farms parcel. Mr. Linton confirmed that was the case and that \$8 M was identified for L-8 Basin improvement and \$8 M for the Meca Farms parcel. The \$8 M for the Meca Farm parcel is currently identified to fund the required drainage features (pump station, embankment, and canal modifications) required to separate the PBC drainage from the remainder of the property.

Member Lisa Interlandi asked about the risk that this route would be used to lower Lake Okeechobee with the associated concern about water quality impacts to the NWFLR. Mr. Linton responded that this is currently possible through the existing route (CWPB Control 2, G-161 a.k.a. Flow Way 1 of the LRWRP)

but use of this route should be prevented by operational rules. The expectation being that Lake Okeechobee flows with high turbidity would be sent to the C-51 Reservoir Phase 2 where there would be opportunity for the suspended solids by removed by settling.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to recommend to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) that they support the development of a strategy and subsequent grant application to the State of Florida for a project in the L-8 Basin. The project would include components to facilitate the delivery of water to the NWFLR and improved drainage for ITID (M-1 Basin).

Public comments by Mr. Jeff Koons, Mr. Jay Foy, and Ms. Mary McNicholas supported the development of a joint project which would be eligible for a State of Florida grant.