



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



**Town of Jupiter Community Center
200 Military Trail
Jupiter, FL 33418**

**March 17, 2011
1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was announced and Chair David Levy called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the Town of Jupiter Community Center.

Members Present:

David Levy (Chair), Jay Foy (Vice-Chair), Albrey Arrington, John Flanigan, Adrian Salee, Michael Dahlgren, Jim Alderman, Dave Stewart (Alt. for Steve Wilson), Terrie Bates (Alt. for SFWMD)

Alternates Present:

David Brown, Dick Tomasello

Members not Present:

Carmine Priore, Steve Bedner, Steve Wilson, Priscilla Taylor, Anthony LasCasas

Alternates not Present:

Shelley Vana, Susan Haynie, Scott Maxwell, John Whitworth, Ted Winsberg

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Pete Kwiatkowski, Clete Saunier

County Staff Present:

Tom Miller, Brian Shields, Rob Robbins

Guests Present:

Ronald Crone, Laura Corry, Pam Mac'Kie, Don Medellin, Don Mathis, Alan Wertepny, Albert Basulto, David Boyer, Drew Martin, Martha Musgrove, Lisa Wilson-Davis, David DeMaio, David Swift, Karen Brandon, Terry Clark, Steve Lamb, Neil Johnson, Stacey Hetherington, Brian Einkauf, Amber Barritt, Paul Millar, Raphael Frias, Joan Lawrence

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by John Flanigan and seconded by Jay Foy to approve the 11-18-10 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Michael Dahlgren and seconded by David Stewart to approve the 1-28-11 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Todd informed the Task Force of the recent passing of Task Force alternate Gale English. Ken mentioned that the Funeral Service would be on Saturday at the Royal Palms Funeral Home. There was a moment of silence in honor of Gale.

III. C-51 Reservoir Resolution – Ken Todd, Palm Beach County

Ken Todd stated that at the joint meeting in January with the Broward Task Force the two groups agreed to pass resolutions supporting further study of the project. A copy of a draft resolution by the Broward County Task Force was included the packets to use a starting point in the development of a resolution by this Task Force. Ken emphasized that the resolution was not a resolution to endorse construction of the project, but to conduct further studies of the feasibility of the project. Given that, Ken said there were two issues that the Task Force needed to decide in regard to the resolution. First, does the Task Force want to pass a supporting resolution themselves or send a recommendation to the BCC to do so. Secondly, does the Task Force want to use the draft language provided by the Broward Task Force or develop their own language. Some of the items that are within the Broward language that this Task Force may to consider including or deleting are the mentioning of the District's Governing Board, the role of SFWMD for coordination, the stakeholder process, all of which are inherent in review process. There is also a reference to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all the potential partners.

In the discussion that followed, someone asked whether the Task Force has authority to adopt a resolution? Ken responded that the Task Force has done resolutions in the past. Terrie Bates indicated that the Palm Beach County BCC will have the MOU before them to act upon in April. April 5th is the target date to bring this MOU before the BCC according to Brian Shields

Jim Alderman indicated that the Task Force needs to relate support or not and allow BCC to render final decision. He asked whether the draft MOU had gone out yet. The answer was no. Ron Crone of LWDD related that the MOU was not a contract and that SFWMD, LWDD, Broward and PBC are all considered partners. He indicated Dean Powell of SFWMD has the document. Ron also mentioned that LWDD had signed off on the MOU as a participant.

Albrey Arrington said he believed that sections 2, 3, and 4 of the draft resolution should be stricken while keeping section No. 1. He also felt the Task Force should recommend that the Palm Beach County BCC execute the MOU. Jay Foy said he wants the Task Force to do this, as he is in support of further study. Brian Shields mentioned that the Task Force has already endorsed the project. Ken Todd suggested that if the Task Force wanted to keep it simple then the resolution should only include Section 1.

Albrey wrote out a short resolution for consideration by the full Task Force. It was agreed by the Task Force to use Albrey's version. The main gist of the language was that the PBCWRWF supports continued analysis of the C-51 regional surface water reservoir project to help meet environmental goals and regional water supply needs. Furthermore, the PBC WRWF Task Force encourages the Palm Beach County BCC to execute the C-51 Reservoir Partnership Study MOU. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption, Adopted thisday of.....2011. Albrey moved this language as the language for the resolution and also that the resolution be signed by the Chair. It was seconded by Jim Alderman. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Irrigation Mobile Lab – David Demaio, PBC Water Soil Conservation

David Demaio gave a presentation on Irrigation Audits. David stated that between 2005 and 2008, the PBC Water & Soil Conservation Service has evaluated 450 properties and that there was a reported savings of 263 MGY through the first nine months of 2008. David also stated that the average system efficiency of an irrigation system in PBC is 50%. He also discussed the multiple benefits of a comprehensive conservation program.

David informed the Task Force that the Audit Program is not being funded this year. He stated that audits are relatively inexpensive, but right now the only Audits being done are with Agriculture. PBC Soil & Water Conservation is looking for funding for this program. Dave Levy asked David to get with Ken Todd to see how the Task Force might help. There was consensus on this directive by the Task Force.

V. TMDL Update, Alan Wertepny, PBC NPDES Coordinator

Alan indicated that the PBC MS4 had recently received their third term Permit. The MS4 has been working with DEP on this permit for over a year. As part of the permit requirements, DEP is asking for written SOP's. Also, the permit requires ordinances be enacted by March 2013 for landscaping and fertilizer application. He indicated that the municipalities will be informed of these requirements through the posting of the permit on NPDES website, plus all the municipalities have representation on the NPDES Committee.

Alan also discussed the TMDL Schedule. For the C-51 East Watershed, fecal coliform is one of the major impairments for this specific Water Body Identification (WBID). He then described the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) process and that a BMAP must be developed by stakeholders for each watershed. There is concern about the multi-jurisdiction nature of watersheds. Prevention and investment into source controls is an inexpensive solution. Jay Foy raised the concern that for water quality improvement, Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is impossible to meet and that we need changes in water quality standards for this parameter. There was discussion and consensus that we need to push for better source controls.

VI. Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project-Operational Testing David Swift, SFWMD

Dave Swift gave an update related to the Loxahatchee Watershed Restoration Project. Dave said there were 6-options presented to SFWMD Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC), but the focus for this presentation would be only focus on options 1A and 1B. His report to the WRAC followed up on a PBC WRTF requesting that SFWMD staff be assigned to develop operational protocols to deliver up to 20 cfs from the L-8 Reservoir to meet the Loxahatchee River minimum flow criteria. Dave went on to explain that as a result of a meeting with several stakeholders the idea of a pilot test to deliver L-8 Reservoir water to NW Fork of Loxahatchee River was brought forth. That meeting established a technical team that is chaired by the PBC Water Resource Manager, Ken Todd. The SFWMD Governing Board directed District staff to work with technical team to develop an operational protocol to make such deliveries to the River.

The Pilot study will move water from the L-8 Reservoir and route it through the City of WPB's 'M' Canal within the Grassy Waters Preserve to the C-18 Canal. Then it will move through

several SFWMD structures on its way to the Loxahatchee River. This will be a 30-day pilot test, using existing infrastructure. He showed the Task Force a slide that outlined the flow path on a map. Dave indicated that this Pilot Study was actually beneficial to all parties as it allowed the District the opportunity to exercise the L-8 Reservoir to help lower chloride levels, provide additional water supply for the City of West Palm Beach, and route additional environment flows to the Loxahatchee River.

Dave indicated that the study will provide valuable technical information as the District does not currently have seepage information along the M-canal. It is estimated that 18% (30 cfs) of the flow along this canal is lost due to seepage. Dave said that next year the intent is to expand the pilot study with larger pumps and a longer term pumping duration.

There was a question about the Chloride content and was it a problem for Grassy Waters? Dave responded that it was a little higher than background, but that the internal marsh sites within Grassy Waters have not seen a significant increase. Monitoring will be done throughout the duration of the Test. Dave indicated that the Drinking water standard of 250 mg/l is the actual Chloride level being used. Currently the highest chloride level coming out of the L-8 Reservoir is 391 mg/l, but by the time water reaches the City's Control 4 structure (just south of 45th St. along Haverhill Rd. and miles from the City's intake), it has a Chloride concentration of less than 220 mg/l.

VI. Lake Worth Lagoon South County Project – Rob Robbins, PBC ERM

Rob said the South Cove project is located within the Lake Worth Lagoon in downtown West Palm Beach right opposite Trump Towers. In one of the slides of his presentation he showed the Task Force an artist's rendering of what the final project will look like. He indicated the project was born out of an idea to improve the fisheries and water quality by building islands similar to those accomplished previously in the Riviera Beach and Lake Worth portions of the Lagoon. He said that much of the mangroves along the shoreline were eradicated and replaced with bulkheads & several deep holes were dredged within the waterway when development was occurring many years ago. This project will enhance the Lagoon's productivity and will also entomb the nasty sediments in the muck hole near the site. He said the purpose of the project is to soften the shoreline, fill the deep hole and to create islands. Additionally, the project will recruit sea grasses behind the protective barriers within the islands and boardwalk. Rob stated that spoil disposal requires critical care at project start until the poor sediments are capped.

The current project status is that the large deep hole has now mostly been filled and capping of the sediment is now beginning with large grain material. Finished grades are expected to be completed by the end of the summer. ERM is looking for mangrove planting volunteers. The finished project benefits will be 1.5 acres of planted mangrove, 2 acres of seagrass, and an oyster habitat. Rob indicated that the City will not allow fishing on the boardwalk for safety reasons.

VII. Public Comments

There was only one comment made by members of the public:

Drew Martin stressed the need for conservation of water to the Task Force as he said that over 60% of all potable water use goes toward irrigation.

VIII. Task Force Member Comments

- Jay Foy said that he would like to see a presentation from the District on how Flow-Way 2 of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Plan is progressing. He would specifically like to address the need for the flow-way concept and how the GL Homes Property would fit into the plan. Terrie Bates will help Ken Todd coordinate the presentation.
- Terrie Bates introduced Pam Mac’Kie of the SFWMD who was recently named as the new WPB Service Center Director for the SFWMD.
- Adrian Salee would like a future presentation on the Floridan Aquifer. Pete Kwiatkowski of SFWMD suggested that the presentation wait until after the LECWSP was further along. It was agreed that the presentation would wait. Adrian also asked for an update of the drought and a discussion on water restrictions, especially since Terrie Bates mentioned to the Task Force that due to the loss of water in both Lake Okeechobee and the Water Conservation Areas widespread water restrictions are coming.
- Terrie Bates introduced Pam Mac’Kie, the new WPB Service Center Director.
- David Levy suggested having the County Ag Extension Office provide a presentation on what services they provide and any water related issues they address

IX. Next Meeting Agenda - David Levy, PBC WRTF Chair

The next meeting location is at the Clayton Hutcheson Agriculture Center located at 559 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach. The meeting date will be Thursday, June 16th and will start at 1:30 p.m.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting

**June 16, 2011
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Clayton Hutcheson Agricultural Center
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415
Phone No. 561-233-1217**