



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



**North Palm Beach County Improvement District
357 Hiatt Drive
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418**

**May 20, 2010
1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was announced and Chair Jeff Koons called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in the NPBCID Auditorium.

Members Present:

Jeff Koons (Chair), David Levy (Vice-Chair), Jay Foy, John Flanigan, Jim Alderman, Betty Bingham, Todd Wodraska, Ted Winsberg (Alt. for Steve Bedner), Albrey Arrington, Dave Stewart (Alt. for Steve Wilson), Terrie Bates (Alt. for Patrick Rooney), Mike Erickson

Alternates Present:

Dick Tomasello, Dennis Lipp, John Whitworth, David Brown

Members not Present:

Carmine Priore, Steve Bedner, Steve Wilson

Alternates not Present:

Shelley Vana, Susan Haynie, Cara Jennings, Scott Maxwell, Michael Dahlgren

WRTF Working Group Present:

Ken Todd (Chair), Mike Baker, Pete Kwiatkowski

County Staff Present:

Tom Miller, Brian Shields

Guests Present:

Ronald Crone, Rosa Durando, Laura Corry, Alex Larson, Sharon Waite, Marie Ecton, Patrick Martin, Don Mathis, Alan Wertepny, Albert Basulto, David Scott, Drew Martin, John Wodraska, Martha Musgrove, Vince Amy, Paul Millar, Larry Portnoy, Kevin Ratterree, Sharon Niemczyk, Alex Vazquez, Deena Reppen, Dean Powell, Tom Olliff, Amy Eason, Terry Clark, Ernie Cox, O'Neal Bardin

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Jay Foy and seconded by Albrey Arrington to approve the 3-18-10 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Strategic Plan – Tom Olliff, SFWMD

Tom Olliff told the WRTF that the SFWMD is in the process of developing a strategic management plan. One of the main concepts within the plan was to see where SFWMD wants to be 10-years from now. Based on that decision, the next step would be to develop an annual work plan based on the developed 10-year plan. The SFWMD began this task in February, 2010. This effort has the SFWMD trying to look at major issues and events (such as sea level rise and a smaller ad valorem budget) and how to plan for them. The presentation was based on the handout given to the WRTF members and entitled, “*Strategic Plan 2010~2020*”.

In the discussion that followed, Chair Koons mentioned that possibly a Basin Fee would help bring in money for the District. He also said he would like to have the Working Group help SFWMD staff in their planning effort. Ken Todd, Working Group Chair, was asked to convene the Working Group to work with the SFWMD staff to discuss what water resource issues should be included within the Strategic Plan. Jay Foy mentioned the North County CERP plan has been in the planning stage for the last 15 years. He said he hoped the Strategic Plan would actually complete projects and answer the question, what are we actually going to accomplish? Strategic planning is nice, but we need to accomplish something soon? Tom Olliff agreed. Tom mentioned that there is money in the District budget next year to complete the PIR for the L-8 Pump Station. He said the District continues to believe the L-8 Reservoir is a very viable project. However, he said the budget session this year is going to be difficult since their budget was down \$250 Million and two Federal Court Orders will require additional improvements in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Dean Powell was introduced as acting director for water supply.

IV. Numeric Nutrient Criteria Impacts to PBC Existing Reuse System - Brian Shields, PBC Utilities

Brian Shields presented to the group the potential impacts the proposed EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) could have to utilities. Brian mentioned that since the rule has not been finalized the end result is unknown. However, he wanted to give an overview of the PBC Utility position through this presentation. PBC sent a letter of concern to EPA that outlined PBC Utilities’ concerns and will continue to monitor the proposed rule. He mentioned one of the biggest potential issues is whether or not the County’s Reuse program will be impacted. The County has spent about \$250 million to develop a reuse system that will allow the County to be at 100% utilization of its WWTP effluent. In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that all utilities are developing reuse. Albrey Arrington mentioned that Florida is now the number one purveyor of reuse water in the country having recently passed California. So, depending on how the rule is implemented this could be a major financial problem for utilities around the state. If reuse water must meet the proposed criteria before it can be discharged to a water body, then from a cost perspective, it would be cheaper to place the effluent down a deep well than to treat wastewater to the proposed EPA standards. As an example of impact, it was stated the Loxahatchee River District rates would likely increase by 100% to treat the wastewater to meet the proposed numeric nutrient criteria. Brian indicated that FPL would need to more than double the size of their energy plants to supply the power needed because of what will be required in the way of process treatment to meet the proposed criteria. Deep well injection is not the most beneficial use of reclaimed water, but will certainly be cheaper than treating the effluent to the proposed criteria. Chair Koons said that from a consumptive use standpoint, PBCWUD is at less than 100 gallons per capita per day (GPD) while the District average is 170 GPD. PBC is about as low as it can go without drastically altering lifestyles. Implementation of these rules will have major repercussions that will make it difficult to meet long range water supply plan goals.

V. Report on Letter Concerning EPA’s Proposed NNC – Ken Todd, Working Group Chair

Ken mentioned that at the last WRTF meeting, it was requested by one of the members that the WRTF should endorse the letter sent to the EPA by Palm Beach County (PBC) since it addressed many of the concerns that the other government entities will face in complying with EPA’s proposed NNC. Ken then suggested that since not everyone on the Task Force had seen the letter it would be more appropriate to send all the WRTF members a copy of the letter and then take a poll concerning endorsement of the letter. That was agreed to by the WRTF. Ken then presented the results of that poll. Twelve of the 13 members endorsed the PBC letter. The one member who did not endorse the letter actually took a neutral stand. Terrie Bates mentioned that the SFWMD was the non-endorsing member. She indicated the SFWMD was making their own comments and didn’t want any ambiguity in the two positions as each Agency had their own concerns. She also mentioned that though SFWMD did not feel it appropriate to endorse the letter, the SFWMD did agree with many of the points brought out in the PBC letter.

VI. Public Comment – Jeff Koons, PBC WRTF Chair

The following comments were made by members of the public:

1. Rosa Durando expressed a concern on what to do about heavy metals, iron, and mercury in water bodies. She also said that in her opinion deep wells will have their own problems. She stated that we can’t keep sending water to the ocean without developing solutions on how to store more water.
2. Drew Martin stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District had a mobile irrigation lab that measured soil moisture and helped people to conserve water. He believes that program would be very beneficial in water conservation. He also stated he supported water reuse. Lastly, he stated the Sierra Club believes the state should do a better job of regulating the application of fertilizer.
3. Alex Larson stated she is not happy with giving water away to golf courses. She believes we need to reconsider what to do with golf course irrigation.

VII. Task Force Member Comments

- Jim Alderman asked about the status of the C-51 Reservoir Project. Jeff Koons stated the BCC recently approved the zoning for an expansion of PB Aggregates for a separate mine. The owners of the land would like to sit down and discuss with the stakeholders what the next steps should be. Could the reservoir serve as an AWS project? Could there be regional restoration strategies that have multiple benefits? Ken Todd was asked what the status was of the project. Ken mentioned that the SFWMD is looking at the project more closely to develop a work scope that will address the previously mentioned questions in a way that benefits all. When that scope is complete they will talk to utilities and the other stakeholders. Jeff Koons mentioned that he spoke to Carol Wehle and she mentioned they have a short time frame to deal with water quality issues to the Everglades. SFWMD believes that having a second reservoir in the area could be valuable from a water quality/environmental purpose. The County will continue to monitor this as having another storage reservoir is a strategic advantage for our region.

- Jay Foy mentioned that a bill for water savings credits passed, and is on the Governor's desk for his signature. If signed into law, the SFWMD should address this immediately in order to stop water seepage losses.
- Mike Erickson mentioned that the Sun Sentinel newspaper ran an editorial on the GL Homes Land Swap proposal a week ago. He was disappointed that such a negative opinion was expressed in the editorial when we haven't yet even evaluated the proposal. He introduced a graphic that showed the 4-5,000 acres proposed land swap with the County. Mike said he believed the land swap has a huge potential related to the North County CERP Plan and therefore deserves the opportunity to be evaluated objectively. This property has the potential to address nutrients via flow-ways, filter marshes, and storage that would be beneficial to the North County Plan. He would like the Task Force to consider this in a more constructive manner than has so far been presented.
- Jeff Koons stated that PBC is working aggressively with representatives of ITID and the Corbett Area to develop a plan that will recharge the Hungryland Slough.
- Jay Foy said the GL Homes Land Swap project definitely had merit if we could get habitat lift with this project from the ACOE. However, he would not want to do anything that would cause a lengthy delay to getting the North County Plan approved by the ACOE.
- Jeff Koons told the WRTF members that the Colonel from the ACOE Jacksonville District made a presentation to the BCC earlier this week on the HHD rehabilitation. Copies of the presentation were given to WRTF Members.
- Jeff Koons asked that when the WRTF Working Group met with SFWMD staff to discuss the strategic planning document, they also address how we can include reclaimed water issues in the SFWMD strategic planning document.

X. More Public Comment

- Martha Musgrove stated that the Marshall Foundation would like to be involved in the process of the C-51 Reservoir planning effort and the GL Homes Land Swap effort.
- Drew Martin indicated the Sierra Club would strongly object to taking land out of the Ag Reserve. He believes land in the Ag Reserve should not be for swapping.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Koons adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Next Scheduled PBC WRTF Meeting

**July 22, 2010
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Loxahatchee River Center
805 N. U.S. Hwy. #1
(inside Burt Reynolds Park)
Jupiter, FL 33477
Phone 561-743-7123**