

Palm Beach County

Water Resources Task Force (WRTF)

August 18, 2022

1:30 PM

Vista Center, Room VC-1W-47 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Meeting Minutes

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Monica Mayotte	City of Boca Raton	Vacant	
Milton (Chip) Block (Chair)	Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony	Vacant	
Jason Haselkorn	Town of Juno Beach	Vacant	
Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair)	City of Palm Beach Gardens	Vacant	
Robert Hagerty	Town of Lantana	Vacant	
Gregg Weiss	Palm Beach County	Melissa McKinlay	Palm Beach County
Poonam Kalkat, Ph.D.	City of Boynton Beach	Julie Parham, P.E.	City of Lake Worth Beach
Tommy Strowd	Lake Worth Drainage District	Vacant	Lake Worth Drainage District
Vacant	Drainage/Water Control District elected official	Vacant	Drainage/Water Control District elected official
Jay Steinle	South Florida Water Management District	Mark Elsner	South Florida Water Management District
Vacant	Environmental Interests	Vacant	Environmental Interests
Vacant	Agricultural Representative	Vacant	Agricultural Representative
Michael Johnson	Indian Trail Improvement District	Greg Shafer	Indian Trail Improvement District

Roll call was taken

Michael Johnson, Milton (Chip) Block, Mark Elsner, Poonam Kalkat, Rachele Litt, Greg Weiss attending in person and Jay Steinle attending by phone.

The following notes are a summary of the information provide at the discussions of the WRTF. This summary is not a transcript of the meeting. Some additional information is provided in parentheses or indented paragraphs as a follow up to the questions.

### Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP) Project Update

Jennifer Leeds, Bureau Chief Ecosystem Restoration Planning of the SFWMD, provided a power point presentation titled Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP) Project Update dated August 18, 2022.

#### Project Attributes

- LRWRP study area of approximately 480,000 acres (750 square miles)
- Land use ranging from high urbanized to natural areas.
- Urbanized areas no longer provide storage
- Man made changes block historical flows.
- Will provide recreational opportunities.

#### Planning identified benefits of improvement in three areas (flow ways)

- Flow Way 1: Path from L-8 Basin to NWFLR through CWPB M-Canal, CWPB GWP, G-161, and G-160.
- Flow Way 2: Construction of Impoundment and four ASR wells at the west end of the C-18 Canal. The impoundment will store approximately 9,500 acre-feet.
- Flow Way 3: Reconnecting of Historical Wetlands that supplied water to NWFLR (Kitching Creek, Moonshine Creek, Gulfstream East, Cypress Creek Canal, Gulfstream West, and Palmar East).

#### Milestones

- Pre-Partnership Credit Agreement (PPCA) executed in June 2022.
- Expect to execute Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) in June 2023.
- SFWMD will be contracting with consulting firm to perform design.

#### Questions and Responses

Ms. Leeds responded that currently the storage depth averages 4.0 to 4.5 feet with a maximum depth of 7 feet. Milton (Chip) Block Chairman of the WRTF asked what was the assumed recover rate for the ASR. Ms. Leeds responded that the standard 70% recovery rate and 5 mgd capacity is expected for the wells in the upper portion of the Floridan Aquifer. The use of deeper (e.g., Avon Park Permeable Zone) high capacity ASR wells with lower recovery efficiencies will be evaluated. The project will be designed to facilitate the future installation of ASR and sequenced with the impoundment constructed first. Mr. Block also asked about whether mercury is expected to be an issue. Ms. Leeds responded that the ASR program will be installing test wells (higher levels than background, of mercury and arsenic, have been

seen in the initial cycles but not in later cycles). Mr Block asked what would be the levee height. Ms. Leeds responded that the Levee height is currently about 15 feet but that may change during design.

Vice Chair Ms. Rachelle Litt asked what would be the storage volume. Ms. Leeds responded about 9,500 acre-feet.

Dr. Poonam Kalkat asked what would be the source of the ASR water, would it use surface water from the impoundment or seepage from the impoundment. Ms. Leeds responded that this would be determined during the design process. Dr. Kalkat added that the source of the water (e.g. using seepage) may reduce treatment costs. Dr. Kalkat will reservoir provided the required water. Ms. Leeds most of the water will come from the impoundment (Flow Way 2). Flow Way 1 and 3 will provide water that will help achieve the salinity intrusion control but will not help meet the MFL as their flow enter the river downstream of Lainhart Dam.

Mr. Block ask if there were any plans to use the storage that will be available for the C-51 Reservoir (Phase 2 Cells 12 and 13 as Phase 1 is dedicated to water supply). Ms. Leeds responded that it would be separate from what the CERP project identified but could be used.

Vice Major Greg Weiss asked would the flows through the CWPB GWP (Flow Way 1) continue/change. Ms. Leeds responded that flow would still occur through Flow Way 1 but would be contingent on water conditions. Mr. Weiss asked if the modeling should more or less flow through GWP. Ms. Leeds said she did not know and would provide that information. Mr. Weiss asked how long the volume in the C-18 Impoundment could supply the NWFLR Minimum Flow and Level (MFL). Ms. Leeds responded that project eliminates all of the MFL violations, meets 91% of the dry season and 98% of the wet season flow restoration needs. Vice Mayor Weiss clarified that he wants an estimate of how long the impoundment, by itself, could supply the MFL. Mr. Linton responded that the volume would equate to about 140 days of the 35 cfs but that it was important to understand that the river rarely requires the entire 35 cfs. In addition, the impoundment will need to provide flows for restoration that are larger than the minimum flow. Mr. Weiss asked what happens when the reservoir is full and is there a limit on the desirable flow to the river. Ms. Leeds responded that the reservoir can hold up to 7 feet for long periods. Mr. Linton add that inflows would stop before the maximum depth and only rain would cause additional water level rise. Above the maximum depth, water would be discharged to the C-18 Canal.

#### Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP) Rulemaking Presentation

Sean Sculley, PE Chief Engineer in the Applied Science Bureau of the Water Resources Division of the SFWMD provide a power point presentation titled Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP) Rulemaking Overview dated August 18, 2022.

#### LRWRP Performance Expectations from Planning Study

- Provides 91% of the dry season restoration goals
- Provides 98% of the wet season restoration goals
- Improves wetland hydrology to 27,000 acres

Surplus water captured and stored in Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) wells need to be protected consumption by other users.

Restricted Allocation Area (RAA) was selected as the method for protection.

RAA will ensure that other users of the Floridan Aquifer System maintain enough distance to prevent impact to the water stored by the ASR wells.

Rulemaking was required to modify the SFWMD Applicant's Handbook.

The Rule became effective June 13, 2022 allowing the USACE to sign a project Partnership Agreement.

Mr. Block asked how many of PBC Rule Making recommendations were addressed. Mr. Sculley and Mr. Drew Bartlett (SFWMD Executive Director) responded that all of the issues communicated in the four letters from PBC were addressed.

Ms. Litt asked what types of infringements would trigger this protection. Mr. Sculley responded that withdrawal from the (Floridan) aquifer that cause a cone of influence that impacts the CERP ASR would be prevented in the application process.

### **Public Comment**

Drew Martin. Supports the LRWRP but not the ASR wells in the project. Asked about the Triangle (land north of CWPB GWP between North Lake BLVD and SR 710) and can it be used (this land is lower and can receive release from CWP Gates in the GWP and then flow under Northlake BLVD). Can water be stored in the Hungry Land Slough (based on ERM's assessment the rainfall driven water levels in the Hungry Land Slough are sufficient). Can the flow in Flow Way 1 be reversed? Ms. Leeds answered that the water can only go north (as GWP is high than the Triangular Area). Where does GWP (Flow Way 1) get its water. Ms. Leeds and others, currently from CWPB Control 2 (which lifts water from the L-8 Canal). Dr. Kalkat added that Control 2 get water from the L-8 Basin and at times from Lake Okeechobee.

Mr. Jay Foy. Welcome Paul Linton. Described how that Mr. Linton work on the North Palm Beach County Plan in 1997, which identified the need for storage. Storage has been the answer for 30 years. Only comment, do not forget the piece of land along the west side of Mecca. ITID is interested in the extension of Seminole Pratt & Whitney Road to State Road 710 (parcel start at PBC WTP and ends at the C-18 Canal)

Mary McNicholas (Geoffrey B. Sluggett & Associates, Inc.). Working with ITID on completing the Corbett Levee upgrade. Ms. McNicholas thanked the SFWMD for their effort on preparing a resiliency grant as "half a levee is no levee at all". Requesting SFWMD and PBC continued support. Mr. Block said that ITID has WRTF support on this project as documented by the previous resolution.

Linda Smith (Jupiter). Please increase wildlife corridors. Pal Mar land needs protection from inappropriate uses. Jupiter changing water supply source. Concerned about Water Treatment Plant reject water being discharged into the Loxahatchee River. Mr. Block responded that PBC is aware of the inappropriate use in Pal Mar.



**Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force**  
**Meeting Sign-in Sheet**  
**August 18, 2022**  
**1:30 pm**



Name	Organization	Email	Phone
CHIP BLOCK	FHC-JIC	CBLOCK45@YAHOO.COM	917-923-0056
Sean Sculley	SFWMD	ssculley@sfwmd.gov	561 682 6109
Sheryl Wood	MBDV	Swood@mansonbolves.com	
Linda Smith	Sierra Club Ex.	destinationloop@gmail.com	561 676-0217
ERIN COX	FLR	ERINCOX@FAMILYLANDSCAPES.COM	561-762-2287
LEN LINDAHL	MAEVIAR	LEN@MAEVIARCONSULTING.COM	561-719-4307
CHRIS BARLOW	BLACK & VEATCH	barlowc@bv.com	561.236.2858
MARK ELSNER	SFWMD	meelsner@sfwmd.gov	561-682-6156
Poonam Kalkat	City of Boynton Beach	kalkatp@bbfl.us	561-317-6085
Michael Johnson	ITID	mjohnson@industrial.com	561-490-3485
Tracy Melitich	Sluggert & Assoc / ITED	mem@sluggert.com	561-662-1805
Karen Brandon	AECOM	Karen.brandon@aecom.com	561-684-3375
DREW MARTIN	SIKORA LCUB	DMartinLCUB@aol.com	561-533-6814



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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
JAY FOY	ETID	jfoystormj@gmail.com	561-242-0028
Richard Radcliffe	PBC League of Cities	rradcliffe@PBCGOV.ORG	561-355-3484
JENNIFER LEEDS	SFWMD	jleeds@sawmd.gov	561-652-6088
STEVEN MEMBERG	GMAwater	steven@gmawater.com	561-318-9532
Rachelle LITT	City of PBC <sup>VICE CHAIR</sup>	rlitt@pbgfl.com	561-635-9159
Sherry McClure	SWFMD	Smclure@SWFMD.GOV	772-323-4429
Jake Leech	PBC COOK	pleech@pbcgov.org	561-233-2441
Karen Liang	Jones Edmunds	kliang@jonesedmunds.com	561-236-7943
Danna Ackerman White	PBC Commissioner Kerner	dawhite@pbcgov.org	561-355-2203
Bonnie Finneran	ERM	bfinnera@pbcgov.org	(561) 233-2525
Anne Cox	Family Lands Research	anne@familylandsresearch.biz	561-339-1519
Edgar B. Fornals	Arfield Consulting	Ef@ArfieldFlorida.com	(866) 255-5755
Natalie Frenberg	PBC Resilience	NFrenberg@pbcgov.org	
Brent Whitfield	CMAA	bwhitfield@chenmoore.com	561-329-1797



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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
SAMUEL CINTRON	SIERRA CLUB	cintron sam@hotmail.com	201/622-8934
Heidi Mehaffey	Sierra Club Atty	Heidi@Hussell-law.com	
DAVID WILCOX	PBC PLANNING	dwilcox@pbcgov.org	561-233-5593
BRANDY DAVIS	PBC PLANNING	BMDavis@PBCgov.org	561- <del>233</del> 233-5308
Jillie Parham	LAKE WORTH BEACH	jparham@lakeworthbeachfl.gov	561-586-1798