



# Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force



January 24, 2019  
1:30pm

**Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Services Center  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415**

## Meeting Minutes

### Water Resources Task Force Attendees

Seat ID	Member Name	Status	Alternate Name	Status
1	Terence Davis	Absent	Vacant	
2	Paula Ryan	Present	Elvadianne Culbertson	Present
3	Chip Block (Chair)	Present	Vacant	
4	Jason Haselkorn	Present	Vacant	
5	Myra Koutzen (Vice Chair)	Present	Rachelle Litt	Present
6	David Stewart	Present	Donald Magruder	Present
7	Melissa McKinlay	Present	Gregg Weiss	Present
8	Vacant		Vacant	
9	Harry Raucher	Absent	James Alderman	Absent
10	Adrian Salee	Absent	Gregory Block	Absent
11	Vacant		Vacant	
12	John Flanigan	Present	Richard Tomasello	Present
13	Ted Winsberg	Present	Vacant	
14	Michael Johnson	Present	Greg Shafer	Absent

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

A quorum was observed and Chip Block called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 p.m. (the attached sign-in sheet provides the full list of meeting attendees).

### 2. Consider Approval of October 2018 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 18, 2018 Water Resources Task Force (WRTF) Meeting was made by John Flanigan and seconded by David Stewart. The October 18, 2018 meeting minutes were then approved by the WRTF.

### 3. Preview of January 29, 2019 Board of County Commissioners Workshop on Water and Resilience

Jeremy McBryan provided a brief overview of the topics and information to be presented at the January 29, 2019 Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Workshop. The topics to be discussed include an overview of the roles and responsibilities of County staff engaged in water and resilience efforts and ongoing and future resilience initiatives, environmental resources

management activities, and water resources management projects that affect County stakeholders. Staff will also outline ongoing and future regional and sub-regional activities and projects related to flood protection and mitigation, water quality improvement, and water supply development. Detailed information on the status of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project and the related Loxahatchee River local initiative will also be presented, as requested by the WRTF at the October 18, 2018 WRTF meeting. Critical challenges identified by County staff as well as opportunities for engagement by County leadership will also be communicated.

#### **4. Water Supply Conditions and Outlook and Loxahatchee River Conditions**

Scott Kelly, Assistant City Administrator for the City of West Palm Beach, provided an update on the City's water supply system, including projects evaluated and implemented in response to drought conditions experienced by the City in 2011, short- and long-term challenges, including hydrologic variability, water quality, algae blooms, and Lake Okeechobee water levels. Scott also expressed his desire to re-start a collaborative working group to continue technical discussions on the concepts included as part of the local initiative. If there are any additional questions for Scott Kelly, he can be reached at [sdkelly@wpb.org](mailto:sdkelly@wpb.org) or 561-822-1400.

Mark Elsner, Water Supply Bureau Chief for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), provided an overview of current rainfall, surface water and groundwater conditions, climate and weather predictions and precipitation outlooks, as well as historical information on minimum flow and level status for the Loxahatchee River, and useful weblinks to real-time water, climate and weather conditions. If there are any additional questions for Mark Elsner, he can be reached at [melsner@sfwmd.gov](mailto:melsner@sfwmd.gov) or 561-682-6156.

#### **5. Consider Increasing Task Force Meeting Frequency from 4 to 6 times per year**

Chip Block stated that due to the myriad important water resources issues that affect large numbers of residents within the County, he feels it would be prudent to increase the number of WRTF meetings from 4 to 6 per year. Some discussion ensued regarding previous accomplishments and effectiveness of the WRTF but ultimately a motion was made by Paula Ryan and seconded by John Flanigan to increase to 6 meetings per year. Additional discussion ensued which resulted in a request that WRTF meetings be cancelled if conflicts with other water-related meetings arise or if WRTF meeting topics are similar to other water resources meeting topics that WRTF members/alternates participate in. It was agreed that Chip and Jeremy would work together to determine if WRTF meetings could be cancelled.

#### **6. Task Force Member Comments**

Chip Block requested that Jeremy re-initiate Technical Professional Working Group meetings to continue technical discussions on the concepts from the local initiative and asked Scott Kelly if this approach addressed the suggestion he made during his presentation. Scott Kelly agreed that this group or a similar group of stakeholders could build upon prior work and discuss and develop strategies and concepts for future consideration by the WRTF and/or the BCC.

It was also expressed that there may be opportunities to take advantage of the new administration in Tallahassee and the new leadership at the South Florida Water Management District and the WRTF should engage as much as possible.

During the discussion, the WRTF decided that Chip Block should attend any Technical Professional Working Group meetings on behalf of the WRTF. Jeremy McBryan stated that he will work with WRTF members and alternates to schedule 2 additional WRTF meetings during 2018.

## **7. Public Comments**

Drew Martin stated that the Technical Professional Working Group is a good idea and that the loss of wetlands is a major problem in the state of Florida. He also stated that mitigation area are being stolen, Florida has lost the most wetlands of any state and defunct golf courses should be purchased with Amendment 1 funds and not allowed to be developed.

Rich Walesky stated that there has been a lot of turnover on the WRTF and that the Working Group used to be technically strong. Rich supports presenting the merits and details of the local initiative to the BCC and stated that a lot of the concepts do not cost of lot of money.

Jeff Koons stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Reynolds is not familiar with the local initiative, the Loxahatchee River is not getting any water, water that is currently being sent to the Lake Worth Lagoon needs to be sent to the Loxahatchee River, Palm Beach County has great water and great land, the Corps is not leading us well, \$1 Billion has already been spent in the County on projects that can assist in improving water resources, and water levels need to be raised on County-owned lands.

Laura Corry (SFWMD) stated that SFWMD is open to discussing forward paths once the Local Initiative is further developed.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chip Block adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.



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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Tricia Hallison-Mischler	_____	tmischler@bellsouth.net	(561) 847-6898
DAVID COWAN	M.R	DAVID.COWAN@MOCKROOS.COM	561 255 7494
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JASON HASELWEN	Mayor Town of Juno Beach	JASON3072661@gmail.com	561-307-2661
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Michael Delcharo	Taylor Engineering	Mdelcharo@taylorengineering.com	904 472-0082 561-393-2860
Elvadianne CULBERTSON	South Palm Beach	eculbertson@southpalmbeach.com	561-793-0433
Richard Walecky	Sustainable PBC	rwalecky@gmail.com	561-793-0433
Myra Koutzen	P.B. SITES/ LEAGUE OF CITIES	Mkoutzen@phstownhall.org	
DAVID STEWART	League of Cities	DStewart@LeagueofCities.org	
MARK ELSNER	SFLIND	melsner@sflind.gov	561-682-6156
Stephen Blair	CDM Smith	blairsh@cdmsmith.com	561 255 8297



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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
Richard Radeloff	PB Co League of Cities	RRADE@pb.gov	355-4488
Walter (Strick) Winter	WPBPU	wwinter@wpb.org	(561) 310-1893
Scott KELLY	CITY OF WPB	SKELLY@wpb.org	561 822-1400
MICHAEL STAHL	PBC EIRM	mstahl@pbcgov.org	561-233-2433
Karen Liang	Jones Edmunds	kliang@jonesedmunds.com	
Laura Corry	SFWMD	LCORRY@SFWMD.GOV	561-682-6012
Nias Henriks	PBC Commissioner	NHENRIKS@PBCGOV.ORG	561.371.6009
Brian Shields	Lake worth	bshields@lakeworth.org	561-580-1675
Brianna Nowakowski	Family Lands remembered	brinonakowski@gmail.com	561-758-0124
Anne Cox	"	anne@familylandsremembered.com	561 339 1549
Dana Adelman-White	PBC Commissioner Dave Kerne	dwhite@pbcgov.org	561-355-2202
Ron Rice	PBC EXTENSION	RRICE@pbcgov.org	561 233 1712
Gregg Weiss	PBC	gweiss@pbcgov.org	561-355-2202
JEREMY MCBRYAN	PBC	jmcbryan@pbcgov.org	561-355-4600





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Name	Organization	Email	Phone
ERNIS COX	FR/PBA	ERNIS@FAMILYLANDS REMEMBER.BIZ	561-762-2282
Jeff Kow	ADVOCATE	JFKOW@GMAIL.COM	561-512-8879
Michael Johnson	Indian Trails FD	mjohnson@indiantrails.com	512-490-3458
SHARON TROST	ANFIELD	sharon@unheldflorida.com	561-722-9264
RACHELLE LITT	CITY OF Palm Bch COUNCILmember GDNS	rlitt@pbctf.com	561-635-9159
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Wingsberg	WRTF		
JOHN FLANIGAN	WRTF		
DAVID STEWART	TOWN OF LANTANA		
MELISSA MCKINLAY	PBC BCC		
CHIP BLOCK	JUPITER INLET COLONY		
PAULA RYAN	WEST PALM BEACH		