



Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force



January 28, 2021
1:30pm

**Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Services Center (Exhibit Hall A)
559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Florida 33415**

Meeting Minutes

Water Resources Task Force Attendees

Seat ID	Member Name	Status	Alternate Name	Status
1	Monica Mayotte	Present	Vacant	
2	Vacant		Vacant	
3	Chip Block (Chair)	Present (remote)	Vacant	
4	Jason Haselkorn	Present	Vacant	
5	Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair)	Present (remote)	Vacant	
6	David Stewart	Present	Vacant	
7	Gregg Weiss	Present	Melissa McKinlay	Absent
8	Vacant		Vacant	
9	Tommy Strowd	Absent	Vacant	
10	Vacant		Vacant	
11	Jay Steinle	Present	Mark Elsner	Present (remote)
12	Vacant		Vacant	
13	Vacant		Vacant	
14	Michael Johnson	Present (remote)	Greg Shafer	Absent

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chip Block (Jupiter Inlet Colony) called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30pm and passed the gavel to Commissioner Gregg Weiss (Palm Beach County) to preside over the meeting. A quorum was observed and the Palm Beach County (County) Water Resources Task Force (WRTF) members then introduced themselves. The attached attendee list provides both in-person and remote meeting attendees.

2. VOTING ITEM: Consider Approval of July 23, 2020 and October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 23, 2020 and October 15, 2020 WRTF Meeting Minutes which was seconded. The minutes were then approved unanimously by the WRTF.

3. VOTING ITEM: Consider Approval of a Resolution on Landscape Irrigation

Commissioner Weiss asked if there was a presentation or any comments on the agenda item. Jeremy McBryan stated that he does not have a formal presentation and the resolution emailed to the WRTF several weeks ago was the result of additional discussion with South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff and consultation with the County Attorney's office. In addition, Mr. McBryan stated that he briefed the Executive Director of the Palm Beach County League of Cities on the proposed WRTF resolution. Mr. McBryan summarized that the resolution under consideration encourages the County and all cities within the County to adopt ordinances related to landscape irrigation.

A motion was made by David Stewart (Lantana) to approve the resolution which was seconded by Jay Steinle (SFWMD). Mr. Block thanked Mr. McBryan and the SFWMD for doing a wonderful job. The resolution was then approved unanimously by the WRTF.

Mr. Steinle stated that we embarked on this after a historic wet season but as we know this is important because landscape irrigation is roughly half of residential water use. Mr. Steinle then thanked Jeremy McBryan at the County and Mark Elsner and Laura Corry at SFWMD and also thanked Mr. Block for communicating this to the League of Cities. Mr. Steinle then asked Jeremy what the next steps are. Jeremy stated that the County has drafted two new ordinances (a water shortage ordinance and a landscape irrigation ordinance) which are currently under review by the County Attorney's office. A parallel effort to update the County's Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) which focuses, not on irrigation operations, but on the installation of physical features associated with landscape irrigation (pipes, sprinklers/sprayers, timers, etc.). Mr. McBryan stated that the target date for adoption of the two ordinances and ULDC update is July/August 2021, which will allow all appropriate public hearings and notices to occur.

Mr. Steinle stated that the SFWMD is happy to help to broaden the communication as the objective is to have consistent County and city ordinances. Mr. McBryan suggested that notice of the passage of the WRTF resolution be communicated to the League of Cities. Mr. McBryan then stated that ultimately, the official action at the County would be adoption of the landscape irrigation ordinance by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Additional coordination with the League of Cities is anticipated and the SFWMD Year-Round Mandatory Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures Rule requests that SFWMD be provided a 30-day review of draft ordinances.

4. County Water Resources Manager Update

Regarding FEMA's Preliminary Coastal Flood Maps, Mr. McBryan stated that based on the County's initial review and evaluation of the flood maps in 2020 and after some coordination with FEMA, the County is proposing to do some additional technical work and modeling to assist in preparing for an appeal, if directed by the BCC. As such, there is an item on the February 9, 2021 BCC meeting agenda recommending approval of a work order with a consultant to do additional technical work to support an appeal.

Mr. McBryan then mentioned that the State of Florida is conducting statewide stormwater rulemaking which the County is tracking. The primary focus is on nutrient reduction, as many of the stormwater management approaches that were approved by the State and have been implemented over the past several decades have not achieved desired nutrient reduction targets.

Regarding Lake Okeechobee, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has evaluated about 120,000 operational plans and filtered them down to 13 plans. Eight of the 13 plans are very much conceptualized; but five of the 13 still need some work, as two were mandated by recent federal legislation and three were recently proposed by stakeholders. The County's focus is on protecting the Lake Worth Lagoon Estuary from impacts due to Lake Okeechobee releases and ensuring regional water supply performance is improved.

Unfortunately, of the eight plans that have been conceptualized, four plans send more Lake Okeechobee water to the Lake Worth Lagoon Estuary than under the current Lake Okeechobee operational plan - which is very concerning to the County and Lake Worth Lagoon Estuary stakeholders. However, a lot of modeling work and plan evaluation remains to be done and hopefully we can get to a plan that does better for the Lake Worth Lagoon Estuary.

Mr. McBryan then stated that there are several vacancies on the WRTF, including the Environmental Representative, the Agricultural Representative, the generic drainage district representative and a water/wastewater provider representative. Mr. McBryan will work on getting these vacancies filled in 2021.

5. General Task Force Member Comments

Mr. Block thanked Commissioner Weiss for presiding over the meeting. Ms. Mayotte and Mr. Stewart stated they were happy to see everyone. Commissioner Weiss stated that now is the time to keep an eye on water conditions and hopefully if the weather cooperates, there will be enough water to avoid overly dry conditions this winters.

6. General Public Comments

Deb Drum (Palm Beach County) said staff from the County's Environmental Resources Management Department is wrapping up an update to the Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan and it will be available for agency and public review starting in March. She offered to present an overview of the updated plan at a future WRTF meeting or meeting of any other group that is interested.

There were no other public comments; all attendees were encouraged to submit comments in writing to Mr. McBryan.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Weiss reminded attendees that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25 and adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:50pm.

**Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force
January 28, 2021 Meeting Attendee List**

Brian Accardo (Manson Bolves Donaldson Varn)
Danna Ackerman White (Palm Beach County)
Ed Chase (Palm Beach County)
Laura Corry (South Florida Water Management District)
Anne Cox (ecolo-G, Inc.)
Deb Drum (Palm Beach County)
Natalie Fausel (Anfield Consulting)
Nicole Gumbs (Palm Beach County)
Jeriise Hansen (Palm Beach County League of Cities)
Lisa Interlandi (Everglades Law Center)
Poonam Kalkat (City of West Palm Beach)
Jake Leech (Palm Beach County)
Debbie Madden (Gunster)
Jeremy McBryan (Palm Beach County)
Suzanne Mechler (CDM Smith, Inc.)
Stephanie Nevadunsky (Collective Water Resources, LLC)
Julie Parham (City of Lake Worth Beach)
Rosemary Rayman (Lake Worth Drainage District)
Laura Scala-Olympio (South Florida Water Management District)
Adrian Salee (Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District)
Brian Shields (City of Lake Worth Beach)
Brent Whitfield (Chen Moore and Associates)
Sheryl Wood (Manson Bolves Donaldson Varn)