



CITY OF OKEECHOBEE
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Okeechobee City Council
Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr.
Wes Abney
Monica Clark
Bob Jarriel
Bobby Keefe

May 10, 2021

Col. Andrew Kelly
US Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville, FL

Dear Col. Kelly:

As a member of the Project Development Team (PDT) for the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM), I respectfully ask that more time is allowed to study the "Balanced" and "Flexible" plans that were just presented at the May 7, PDT meeting. We recognize the efforts of staff and your desire to get to the next step in the process as quick as possible. However, we have spent two years getting to this point, and now only have a matter of weeks to evaluate plans that we have just seen. We are coming up on a very important milestone in the process and as such we should be provided sufficient time for review, allowing interested parties to have adequate opportunity to make comments and provide feedback.

I also feel that due to COVID, the Zoom meetings have not been effective in providing the information and discussion needed to make the plans understandable and to make intelligent decisions. I strongly feel that any final selection needs to be done at an in-person meeting.

Additionally, as you are aware, Mr. Baker and Mr. MacVicar represent the Lake Communities on the PDT and have been a valuable asset in helping us understand much of the technical matters associated with the project. We also feel their experience and expertise lends to a more robust discussion with your staff when considering balanced alternatives. Just so you know we are in receipt of Mr. Mast's letter, addressed to you, questioning their participation on the PDT. Rest assured Mr. Baker and Mr. MacVicar are representing all the governmental agencies of the Lake Communities.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of this important project that directly effects our communities and citizens.

Sincerely,

Dowling R. Watford, Jr.
Mayor