

Palm Beach County

Water Resources Task Force (WRTF)

February 15, 2024 1:30 PM

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

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Meeting Notes

**Water Resources Task Force Members**

<u>Seat ID</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	City elected official
2	Joaquin Almazan	City of Belle Glade	Vacant	City elected official
3	Reinaldo Diaz	City of Lake Worth Beach	Vacant	City elected official
4	DD Halpern	Town of Juno Beach	Vacant	City elected official
5	Karen Lythgoe	Town of Lantana	Vacant	City elected official
6	Greg Langowski	City of West Lake	Vacant	City elected official
7	Gregg Weiss (Chair)	Palm Beach County Mayor	Vacant	Palm Beach County Commissioner
8	Poonam Kalkat	City of Boynton Beach	Vacant	Water/Wastewater Provider Official
9	Tommy Strowd	Lake Worth Drainage District	Vacant	Lake Worth Drainage District
10	Vacant		Vacant	Drainage/Water Control District elected official
11	Jay Steinle	South Florida Water Management District	Mark Elsner	South Florida Water Management District
12	Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair)	Former Council Member City of PBG	Vacant	Environmental Representative
13	Robert Shorr	Town of Loxahatchee Groves	Vacant	Agricultural Representative
14	Michael Johnson	Indian Trail Improvement District	Greg Shafer	Indian Trail Improvement District

Roll call was taken.

Joaquin Almazan, Reinaldo Diaz, DD Halpern, Karen Lythgoe, Greg Langowski, Greg Weiss, Poonam Kalkat, Tommy Strowd, Jay Steinle, Rachelle Litt, Robert Shorr, and Michael Johnson.

With quorum, the WRTF unanimously approved the previous meeting minutes (October 19, 2024).

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.

Poonam Kalkat, City of Boynton Beach and Suzanne Mechler, CDM Smith provided a detailed presentation on the emerging issues with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl) substances. The presentation described the numerous sources of PFAS (e.g. clothing and water proofing treatments) and how it is widespread. Presentation described the considerable changes to the water treatment process required to removed PFAS and the resulting disposal challenges.

Paul Linton, PBC Water resource manager provided the following updates:

- With the completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike work and the USACE issuance of a Joint Approval of the Post Implementation Evaluation for Herbert Hoover the HHD's DSAC was increased to a value of 4. USACE issued letter to FEMA recommending accreditation for HHD under the NFIP. Palm Beach County has contacted FEMA and requested information on the process required to update the affect FIRM and FEMA staff is preparing a response. Subsequent to the meeting PBC received confirmation that FEMA accepted the accreditation.
- On January 11, 2024 PBC received notification from the SRP panel that the information submitted in the appeal was insufficient to mandate correction by FEMA. The rules and regulations promulgated by FEMA require that the applicant:
  1. Identify what caused the elevations proposed by FEMA to be scientifically or technically incorrect,
  2. Generate the corrected elevations, and
  3. Generation corrected Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for all parcels where there is a meaningful difference in the BFE
- Provided information of the storage capacity of the C-51 Reservoir Phase 2 Cell 12 (6,000 acre-feet) and Cell 13 (8,800 acre-feet) the total equating to 4.8 billion gallons.
- Informed the WRTF that while the FDEP is moving forward with a grant to improve the remaining three miles of levee along the north side of Indian Trail Improvement District's M-0 Canal that the 0.6 mile segment has been removed from the grant.
- Provided information on the status of Lake Okeechobee which was at about 16 feet NGVD at the time of the meeting. Expressed Palm Beach County's short-term and long-term water supply concerns and concerns with the Lake Okeechobee discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL) Estuary