

Joint Meeting between Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force (WRTF) and
Broward County Water Advisory Board.

May 16, 2024 1:30 PM

Vista Center, Room VC-1W-47 (1st Floor)

2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Meeting Minutes

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

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.

Timothy (Tim) Gysan, USACE Jacksonville, provided an update on the upcoming Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Study. Senator Steve Geller expressed continued concern on the required projects being implemented soon enough to compensate for sea level rise. Tim provided an update on the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 216) Study. Tim discussed that this study does not have the authority to perform water downstream of the salinity structures (a.k.a. Coastal Structures). Tim acknowledged that many of the Coastal Structures are several miles inland and the requirement that proposed solutions for the upstream basin not impact the basins downstream of the Coastal structures will be challenging. The Comprehensive Central and Southern Florida Study authorized by Division H Section 8214 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 has authority to make improvements downstream of the Coastal Structures.

Dr. Tabitha Elkington, USACE Jacksonville, provided an update on CERP Component in Broward and Palm Beach County. Dr. Elkington referred to the USACE Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). The following PBC CERP Components are identified as pending (inactive):

- Component X – C-17 Backup Pumping and Treatment
- Component Y – C-51 Backup Pumping
- Component LL C-51 ASR

The IDS identifies the large C-51 Reservoir Component (GGG) as being implemented by others

Dr. Elkington described that CERP envisioned about 300 ASR wells (200 associated with Lake Okeechobee and most of the remaining in PBC) but current plans are for considerably less.

The current and previous IDS can be at the following location.

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Ecosystem-Restoration/Integrated-Delivery-Schedule/>

Commissioner Weis asked when/how will the water supply to PBC be restored to the WSE (2000) level. Tim answered that LOSOM was not authorized/required to fully restore water supply. Tim communicated that this would be an issue for future projects. Tommy Strowd added information that due to the ordering and reduction of project scope (e.g. reduce number of ASR wells) that the ability to capture and supply water is not keeping up with the redistribution of water to the everglades.

Commissioner Weis asked how will future project (e.g. ASR) be operated to maintain the requirement of the saving clause that requires providing the 2000 year water supply reliability and reservation of water for the everglades. Dr. Elkington responded that each project is required to perform a saving clause evaluation to ensure that water supply is maintained but acknowledged that as Tommy had stated that the water supply components are lagging. Dr. Elkington stated that this would be an issue that needs to be addressed in the CERP Update. Mr. Linton acknowledged that the project required to restore the required water supply are substantial and will take time. The question is on the schedule for when and how the water supply will be restored. Commissioner Weis asked what impact the reduction from 200 to 80 ASR associated with Lake Okeechobee affect the everglades. Dr. Elkington said that this would also be an

issue for the CERP update. Mindy Parrot of SFWMD Saving clause is looked in multiple point, planning, construction, implement. In order for the SFWMD to sign agreement with the USACE have to show that the water is reserved. Legal ways to protect the water from other users. She also added that the Lake schedule will be updated.

Ernie Cox of Family Lands Remembered provided and update on 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. Mr. Cox presentation provided perspective on the size of the reservoir and how the 4.8 billion gallons compares to various regional uses (e.g. 0.4 inches on Lake Okeechobee). Current schedule has completion of the required pump station and conveyance improvement in 2027. Commissioner Weiss as if there was plans for a connection from the L-8 Canal to the West Leg of the C-18 Canal where it would be available to the NWFLR. Kevin Albrey communicated that as of this meeting we are on day 22 of a MFL violation for the NWFLR.

Dr. Maran Carolina provided update on the SFWMD resilience structure. SFWMD continues with its inspection program and retrofitting of the vulnerable structures to increase their resiliency. The SFWMD has completed the Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) for Broward County and expect to complete the FPLOS modeling for Palm Beach County in 2024. Ms. Parrot provided update on A-2 STA and the A-2 Reservoir, and the required canal improvements. Dr. Maran provide an update on the status of the Corbett Levee project. Commissioner Weis looked for assurance that there would be a telemetered water level in Corbett (subsequent to the meeting the SFWMD included this requirement in the MOU) and that the SFWMD would expedite the 0.6 mile segment. Dr. Maran responded that the 0.6 mile segment would be expedited to the extent that project details allow.

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Broward County CRO provide an update on the State of Resilience in Broward County.

Paul Linton, PBC Water Resources Manager provided an abbreviated on PBC Vulnerability Assessment (VA) and grants due to time limits.

During the discussion item Tommy Strowd communicated his concern that during the programmatic discussion and formulation that water supply commitment are maintained and not reduced through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.