

Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force (WRTF)

Monday December 2, 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 Minutes

| <b>Water Resources Task Force Members</b> |                            |   |                  |  |
|---|----------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| <u>Seat ID</u>                            | <u>Member</u>              | <u>Organization</u>                     | <u>Alternate</u> | <u>Organization</u>                              |
| 1   | Malise Sundstrom           | Town of Jupiter                         | 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                |

The following notes are a summary of the information provided at the discussions of the WRTF. This summary is not a transcript of the meeting.

Roll call was taken with sufficient attendance for quorum. During roll call there were ten of thirteen appointed seats with Poonam Kalkat arriving shortly after roll call. Renaldo Diaz (Seat 3) was absent. The members attending are listed below:

- Greg Shafer (alternate for Michael Johnson)
- Robert Shorr
- Rachelle Litt
- Mark Elsner (alternate for Jay Steinle)
- Tommy Strowd
- Poonam Kalkat
- Gregg Weiss
- Greg Langowski
- Karen Lythgoe
- DD Halpern
- Joaquin Almazan
- Malise Sundstrom

With quorum there was unanimous approval of the February 15, 2024 and May 16, 2024 meeting minutes.

Mark Elsner, SFWMD Water Supply Bureau Chief, provided a presentation on the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), who recently approved 2023-2024 Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update.

Lower East Coast (LEC) total water demand expected to increase from 1.9 to 2.1 billion gallons per day in the planning period. For Palm Beach County (PBC) the population is expected to increase from 1.50 to 1.75 million people. The total demand is expected to increase from 866 to 912 million gallons per day.

Mark described the ongoing development of a density dependent groundwater model for the Surficial Aquifer System (SAS) to be able to better assess the risk of salt water intrusion impacting well fields. The modeling will include sea level rise scenarios, in addition to the WSP looking at 50 year needs.

100 mgd of reuse in LEC. Still discharging about 500 mgd by DIW. PBC has 60 mgd of reclaimed water.

Question on addressing PFAS. This plan did address PFAS. Next five year update will need to address the required additional raw water with the advanced (e.g. RO) treatment required for PFAS removal.

Question on getting reuse water to where it is needed. Mark described the reuse line from Broward County to the existing development and golf course that can use it.

Question on use of reuse water for cooling at proposed data center. Response from Mark Elsner and Paul Linton was that it can be used but the cooling tower do generate a concentrate that has high mineral content and algaecide which make it unacceptable for treatment by PBC wastewater treatment plant. If reuse water is used the facility would need to either treat the concentrate to be acceptable to PBC or dispose of the concentrate by deep well injection or a combination of both.

Pete Kwiatkowski, SFWMD Section Administrator Resource Evaluation, provided a presentation on SFWMD Saltwater interface Mapping and Modeling.

Once salt water intrudes into a well field it takes many years to restore freshness and in most cases recovery takes unfeasibly long. Maps are updated every five years. Salt water interface is mapped using end of dry season readings of 250 mg/l which is the drinking water standard. Red stars are new wells for the 2024 map. New wells often move the intrusion line as they provide new information. This is the case for Jupiter area where the line moved west. This change is consistent with the presence of tidal canals. In the Lake Worth area, the line has moved east in response to reduced pumping of the more eastern wells. From the 1990's to the 2000's, chlorides increased from the year 2000 to present as a retreat in response to the re-distribution of withdrawals.

Some inland movement in Delray Beach but it has stabilized. PBC is fairly stable compared to Broward County. For example, salt water intrusion continues in Hallandale. Map will be publically available as PDF in about a month. Maps are also available in GIS.

Question on Impact of Tidal Canal. They are a source of salt water which is heavier than fresh water and will percolate downward into the production layers of the SAS.

Question on the schedule for the Density Dependent Groundwater Model. SFWMD expects to complete calibration in the first quarter of 2025, with water supply and sea level rise runs through the remainder of 2025.

Tom Twyford, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation; the charitable affiliate of the historic West Palm Beach Fishing Club provided a presentation on Oyster Shell Recycling. The goal of this effort is to recycle oyster shells to provide habitat for oysters. This is done by stringing the oysters on a stainless steel cable that supports the oyster in the desired water range. These stringers can be hung from the edge of docks or from under docks.