

# Broward County Climate Change Task Force

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## Draft Minutes

### Intergovernmental Affairs and Communication Subcommittee (IAC) Organizational Meeting February 10, 2009

The meeting was held at the South Florida Regional Planning Council's offices located at 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, in Hollywood and commenced at 10:16 a.m.

**Attendees:** Barbara Blake Boy, Donald Burgess, Bob Cambric, Jill Cohen, Isabel Cosio Carballo, Carolyn A. Dekle (Chair), Susan Dilaura, Nancy Gassman, Michael Houseman, David Kout, Commissioner Keith London, Carole Morris, Marcie Oppenheimer Nolan, Henry Sniezek

Carolyn Dekle, subcommittee chair and South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. The subcommittee members introduced themselves and spoke a little about the agencies they represent.

Carolyn Dekle gave an overview of the work of the Council particularly as it relates to the Council's roles in the areas of land use planning, natural resource protection, climate change, and the challenge of achieving a sustainable balance between the environment, economy, and the human system -- our communities. The climate change discussion brings together all of these issues, not only in terms of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in terms of climate change and what are our personal and organizational responsibilities in responding to the changes we anticipate. The Intergovernmental Affairs issues are important to us because of our regional responsibilities. We are also fortunate to work with partners at the state and federal levels.

Isabel Cosio Carballo, a member of Council staff, provides support to the Miami Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs which is chaired by Carolyn. Isabel is the Council's assigned staff member to the Broward County Climate Change Task Force Intergovernmental Affairs and Communication Subcommittee.

Carole Morris is the Intergovernmental Representative for the South Florida Water Management District, Broward Service Center.

Henry Sniezek is the Executive Director of the Broward County Planning Council, a countywide planning agency. The Council is very much involved in intergovernmental coordination and serves as a bridge between public and private stakeholders in the county. The county land use plan has recently amended to include "greening policies."

Barbara Blake Boy is the Assistant Director of the Broward County Planning Council.

Susan Dilaura of the City of Plantation shared with the group that the City of Plantation recently launched a Green Task Force that is mirrored after the Broward County Task Force in order to create a continuum of effort from the municipal level upward through the county and beyond.

Michael Houseman is a citizen who is here because he would like to help out and be involved.

Nancy Gassman, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Division, has been recently assigned responsibilities related to the Broward County Climate Change Task Force. She manages four of the seven Task Force subcommittees.

Donald Burgess is also a member of the Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Division actively involved in the work of the Task Force.

David Kout, an attorney and long time democratic activist, is a Chair of the City of Hollywood's Green Team and a member of Broward 2030, which is part of the US Green Building Council.

Jill Cohen, of Miller Legg, is a landscape architect and planner and Chair of Broward 2030.

Keith London, is a City Commissioner with the City of Hallandale Beach. He is happy to be part of a holistic approach to dealing with these issues.

Bob Cambric is a member of Council staff and will be working with on the Miami Dade Climate Change Resiliency Study (DCA).

Council staff reviewed the meeting package materials.

Carolyn updated the subcommittee on the work of the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee in Miami-Dade. One of their biggest successes has been coming to terms to what might be their unique contribution to the Task Force's work given the high level of overlap between the committees. Carolyn mentioned that Council staff had prepared an information matrix that would be brought to the subcommittee in the future for their review and input. The matrix needs to be updated as it was prepared about a year and a half ago.

Recognizing that everyone works and has responsibilities outside of the Committee, we are going to try to use everyone's time wisely. It also means that everyone will be asked to contribute to completing tasks associated with the work of the subcommittee.

One of the things that we found out working with the Miami-Dade CCATF is that there is not a common level of understanding among the municipalities and other groups as to what everyone is doing and what decision criteria is being used when deciding whether to engage with different groups involved in climate change related issues. The CCATF IGA committee decided to create a simple survey that will help get a sense of what the Miami Dade municipalities are doing and what groups they are working with. Jill Cohen mentioned that the Broward League of Cities has also conducted a study to get a sense of what the Broward County municipalities are doing.

The discussion at the IGA committee in Miami focused on the idea that as municipalities and the county are joining different groups, they are agreeing to different emission rates, standards, etc. At the end of the day it is important to have a good understanding of what everyone is agreeing to particularly as it relates to translating action at the local level to resources at the federal level where resources are tied to specific standards and outcomes.

There was discussion of the "Greenway to Green" event that is being sponsored by the City of Miami on April 7-8, 2009 at Jungle Island. This was identified as an opportunity by the CCATF / IGA Committee to engage Broward County municipal officials in a discussion with their Miami-Dade County counterparts on these issues. The CCATF IGA is organizing a special presentation by Dr. Hal Wanless of the University of Miami and Chair of the

CCATF Science Committee. He will be addressing the “Greenway to Green” participants on the anticipated impacts of climate change and sea level rise on South Florida at this event. At this conference, the IGA Committee will also be presenting the results of the municipal survey at the event. Municipalities are moving ahead, in many cases individually, on these issues. We will have greater success if we can help everyone move in the same direction.

Isabel Cosio Carballo mentioned that one of the things that is very helpful to the work of the Miami-Dade IGA Committee is that Commissioner Deede Weithorn is the Miami-Dade League of Cities’ official representative on the IGA Committee. This has helped facilitate opportunities to bring forward climate change related information to the League and generate discussion on the topic.

Jill Cohen asked if there was interest in these issues in Palm Beach. Isabel Cosio Carballo mentioned that there is a nascent effort that is being spearheaded by the County and Business Development Board in Palm Beach. The ultimate goal would be to have the three groups working together. More so than ever, we need to be working toward the development of a joint regional agenda if we wish to successfully compete for resources, especially at the federal level. Isabel will follow up.

Carolyn mentioned that we all need to be thinking of what intergovernmental initiatives and opportunities that we are aware of, related to this topic, that are being advanced. At a future meeting, we should have a discussion of these opportunities.

Carolyn mentioned that the Council will work on creating a Council website that can be used to disseminate useful information and provide useful links. Isabel mentioned that Broward 2030 has done a very good job of compiling information, resolutions, ordinances etc., once vetted this information could be very helpful to others.

Carolyn mentioned that at a future meeting of the Task Force, we can raise the importance of having a central point of information at the County and at the regional level where we can bring in information from information from our national associations that we are affiliated with. It will take a little bit of funding to develop the architecture of the website and to maintain it. It should not be terribly expensive. One opportunity may be through Jim Murley, Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. He may have some thoughts about potential funding sources for a unified web information source for this area and this topic. There should also be federal resources through energy programs that could be used to support this effort.

A discussion began on the mission of the IAC subcommittee and where the subcommittee could best add value to the work of the Task Force. Donald Burgess mentioned that subcommittee report to the Task Force will be at the March meeting. Henry Sniezek offered the following suggestions which were largely agreed to by the subcommittee.

#### *General View of “Mission” of Intergovernmental Affairs Sub-Committee*

- 1. Collect information and share with Sub-Committee (e.g. local, county and state government policies, plans, surveys, projects, etc. known to sub-committee members and other examples found through follow-up research). This process would allow the sub-committee to gauge what is out there, compile for full Task Force, and also possibly identify what is still needed.*
- 2. Develop recommendations on how to educate people on climate change, and climate change mitigation. Website discussion was used as one example – there could be a recommendation that a government/public agency serve as dearing house to disseminate information on public*

*events and general information. A private based organization could serve as a clearing house to provide information on “green” companies, products, etc.*

- 3. Develop recommendations intended to establish or promote a mechanism(s) to coordinate policy development, adoption and implementation amongst the various levels of government (state, regional, county, municipal). This type of effort could result in coordinated (or at least information sharing) updates to comp plans, local programs, funding requests, etc.*

Carolyn stated that if we accomplish these three activities as a subcommittee, we will be very successful. The third point is particularly relevant to our individual organizations as we work to integrate the recommendations into policy documents such as the Council’s Strategic Regional Policy Plan. This will help create a common platform that we can all work from. The big “end game” is how we coordinate policy action and what indicators can be used to measure success.

There was brief discussion about what initiatives we currently have in Broward County that complement the work of Broward County Climate Change Task Force. The State Road 7 / US 441 Collaborative, Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition, redevelopment / revitalization of the Florida East Coast railway, as well as potential funding conflicts with the CSX / Tri-Rail, were discussed. From the federal perspective, we need to be talking about programs in terms of job preservation and expansion and environmental enhancement.

Dr. Gassman stated that she will be giving an overview of some of the tools that are available to support our discussion of climate change related issues at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the full Task Force. She advised the subcommittee members to think about subject areas where we might need additional information so that we can receive assistance in identifying the appropriate person to assist the subcommittee.

Carolyn asked whether we should begin with the appointment of a vice chair. Dr. Gassman said that they would like the subcommittees to appoint a vice-chair. Once potential nominees are identified, the recommendations will be elevated to Commissioner Jacobs for review and approval.

The subcommittee members were reminded that all information should be routed through Donald Burgess to ensure compliance with public notice and sunshine laws.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.