

MINUTES

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

WAB MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Steve Geller, Chair
Vice Mayor Sandra Welch, Vice Chair
Commissioner Doug Bell
Commissioner Kevin Biederman
Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton
Commissioner Tom Good
Councilmember Jim Allbritton
Councilmember Susan Starkey
Jaylin Martir for Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson
Mayor Anthony Caggiano

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Andrea McGee
Commissioner Denise Grant
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie
Commissioner Tim Ryan
Gene Goldman
Mayor Greg Ross
Mayor Michelle Gomez
Mayor Aisha Gordon

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Hart, Chair
Randolph Brown, Vice Chair
Albert Carbon
Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia
Commissioner Doug Bell
Dawn Teetsal
Heather Cunniff
Hailey Lazzaroni for Isabel Cosio Carballo
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Jose Lopez
Janeen Wietgreffe for Patrick Davis
Jalin Martir for Pete Kwiatkowski
Isabel Butero for Rafael Firas
Renuka Mohammed
Tim Welch

TAC MEMBERS Brett Butler
ABSENT: David Walker
Giovanni Batista
Lisa Milenkovic
Stephanie Pearson
Steve Holmes
Suzanne Mechler
Talal Ai-Karam

OTHERS Gregory Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Assistant Chief Res. Officer
PRESENT: Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A joint meeting of the Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held on Friday, November 3, 2023, at 10:05 a.m., in Room 430 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I. Call to Order

Senator Geller called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell. Chair Geller indicated that he has spoken with the Broward County League of Cities regarding the lack of attendance to the WAB/TAC meetings by the appointed members from the Broward County League of Cities. He is requesting that those members be removed and replaced with interested individuals.

Ms. Starkey stated that a letter would be sent to city officials to see if they have interest and qualifications to participate on this committee. Dr. Jurado noted that the list of attendance has been submitted. She stated that any removal or appointment of members and all communication would be managed by the Broward County League of Cities.

Chair Geller clarified that the removal and appointment of members by Broward County Commissioners has a different process.

III. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell.

IV. Public Comments

(None.)

V. **WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from 9/8/2023

Commissioner Caggiano made a motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2023. TAC Chair Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Updates and Announcements

Chair Geller stated that the Broward County Commission adopted the WAB/TAC's recommendation of the Septic Disclosure which obligates the seller of a residential property to disclose information of the presence of a septic system to a potential home buyer.

Dr. Jurado indicated that there has been interest and support for reconstitution of the Surface Water Coordination Committee. She noted that with the help of TAC Chair Hart and Susan Bodmann they will work on getting the committee reestablished. Dr. Jurado discussed the purpose and role of the committee which will be a subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Chair Geller acknowledged that there are two action items on the agenda which if passed will go to the Broward County Commission. He requested that the presentations maintain brief to have time to vote.

VII. Presentations:

a. Continuation of Future Conditions Groundwater Elevation Map Update

Chair Geller commented that he has been contacted by several developers and has been referring them to Dr. Jurado. Dr. Jurado noted that there was a law firm in representation of a developer, from the previous meeting, who ultimately decided not to make comment. She stated that she has had conversations with senior administration from the City of Fort Lauderdale and all questions have been answered.

Dr. Jurado reviewed the planning for resilience throughout Broward County. She highlighted the importance of addressing drainage and surface water management systems resilience with the update of the groundwater table map. Dr. Jurado spoke on the steps and process for reassessing the data to update the projections and include them into the infrastructure planning and requirements.

Dr. Jurado presented the Future Conditions Groundwater Table Map that has been in place supporting projects since 2017. She explained that the update will integrate the change in the groundwater table that comes with the modified sea level rise modeling and its impact on the groundwater table with 3.3 feet through the year 2070 or longer. Dr. Jurado expressed confidence that this update will support Broward County for a long period of time.

Dr. Jurado stated that the Future Conditions Groundwater Elevation Map Update is in response to the sea level projection update. She spoke on provisions that need to be included in the planning process to meet requirements of new infrastructure and development to meet the drainage needs.

Dr. Jurado indicated that the recommendations are based on competent substantial scientific evidence. She stated that the sea level rise projection comes from a body of experts and is used jointly across the region. Dr. Jurado discussed working with the United States Geological Survey on the modeling noting that they provided the first map and this update. She stated that there hasn't been a site that could not be developed and spoke on the issues of land use.

Chair Geller acknowledged that the water table is rising, and this adopted map recognizes the changes. TAC Chair Hart commented on the expertise and proactive initiatives by Broward County and the Office of Resiliency in addressing future impacts of climate change. He recognized the staff, Dr. Jurado, Dr. Mount, and Dr. Sishodia. Starkey agreed and showed support of staff. She spoke on concerns with surrounding land uses that have not changed their elevation and spoke on the responsibilities and insurance of these developments. Dr. Jurado answered several questions regarding water management challenges and flood insurance.

Commissioner Biederman showed much support and announced a new position opening in Hollywood similar to Dr. Jurado's position. Mayor Caggiano also showed support and stating the need to pass this item for the community and for insurance reasons.

Commissioner Bell spoke on the impacts of high tides and flooding which include the difficulty of driving in areas that receive so much water. Chair Geller indicated hope that new water control barriers will help noting that some roads will continue to be impassable at times.

Commissioner Metayer Bowen inquired about vulnerable individuals and communities. Chair Geller stated that the modeling has been included in the update.

Councilmember Starkey recommended that once this map is adopted the WAB/TAC needs to look at and improve road elevations. Dr. Jurado responded to several questions that were presented. She did note a change to the implementation date which will be June 2024. Dr. Jurado also stated that this map will not set a road elevation but will address the drainage associated with road elevation.

TAC Chair Hart made a motion to recommend the update to Plate WM2.1 Future Conditions to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Good seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) Grants

Dr. Mount stated that the Technical Advisory Committee had advanced this item for consideration by the WAB/TAC. He explained that the Integrated Water Resources Plan is a 10-year plan which is updated every five years. Dr. Mount stated that IWRP is used to coordinate local water management efforts and future urban water supply needs. He listed the areas of focus: water conservation, water management and water resources. Dr. Mount explained that in order to support these efforts grants are awarded at up to a 50% cost share.

Dr. Mount announced that to date \$2.9 million has been contributed to projects across Broward County through two different types of grants. The first is Feasibility, Analysis and Design which is funded to a maximum of \$125,000 and the second is Reclaimed Water Construction which has a \$200,000 maximum.

Dr. Mount indicated that five applications have been received for the 2023 Tax Cycle. One application was for Feasibility, Analysis and Design and four were for Reclaimed Water Construction. Dr. Mount spoke on the influx of construction and provided a brief overview of each of the projects that applied for the Reclaimed Water Construction grants.

Dr. Mount detailed the staff evaluation for the IWRP grants which is set through a set of criteria and point system. The project with the highest number of points is expected to have the greatest return on investment and will be selected. Dr. Mount stated that staff recommended projects to the TAC which were accepted to fund the Broward County Water and Wastewater Services project at the 50% cost share which is \$92,692. He listed the four staff recommendations for construction: \$175,000 to Coconut Creek, Pompano Beach, and Oakland Park and \$120,000 to Sunrise. He explained that all projects submitted are being recommended for funding, however, the amount of funding has been decreased in order to reach all of the projects noting the timeline to begin these projects in April 2024.

Dr. Mount and Mr. Carbon, Public Works Director for the City of Oakland Park, answered questions from the WAB/TAC members regarding project designs.

Councilmember Starkey gave her support and made a motion to approve the recommendations for Integrated Water Resources Plan Grants to the Broward County Commission. Commissioner Good seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Resilience Update

Dr. Jurado provided a comprehensive overview of resilience initiatives in Broward County with emphasis on the countywide Resilience Plan. She presented brief updates on the CSF Study, Resilient Floor to Funding Grants,

and other grant activities. Dr. Jurado reminded members of the Compact Summit being held in two weeks.

Referring to the countywide Resilience Plan, Dr. Jurado stated that Broward County has been successful with design standard for infrastructure but that there is existing infrastructure with no immediate plans for redevelopment. She spoke on infrastructure improvements and potential revisions to address evolving flood conditions with assistance from Hazen and Sawyer. Dr. Jurado explained that significant work is underway and will continue through July 2024.

Dr. Jurado detailed several steps of the plan which include: a countywide risk assessment, census modeling, economic modeling, an adaptation plan with water management, and an online platform. She indicated that previous presentations can be found at Broward.org/resilienceplan. Dr. Jurado addressed the next steps of the planning process including organization, adaptation, advertising, and implementation.

Dr. Jurado announced a community meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2023, with the Urban League. She spoke on the April 12, 2023, flood event in Broward County noting a student listening session will be scheduled with the Eco-explorers, who are part of the Museum of Discovery and Science to acquire the youth perspective. She noted outreach to Hispanic Unity, the Seminole Tribe, HOA's and other environmental groups regarding the Resilience Plan.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the components that this plan is evaluating, such as future conditions of the groundwater table, supersaturation of the groundwater, rainfall, storms, 100-year rainfall events, 50-year rainfall events, storm surge events, while looking at the intensification to forecast for the future. She provided several examples of flood risks from 2-feet of sea level rise to the worst-case scenarios. Referring to April 12, 2023, Dr. Jurado spoke on the flooding event that occurred in Broward County and how quickly the change in conditions materialized.

Dr. Jurado reviewed the key takeaways which are: strong alignment with model results of stronger storms, a strong degree of consistency between model and observations, and acceptance of the baseline model to move forward to the next phase of adaptation planning.

Dr. Jurado detailed the advancement of the adaptation planning approach with Hazen and Sawyer which will examine the landscape and develop the first assessment of the adaptation strategies. She noted that the subsequent levels of assessment would address additional green infrastructure and potential storage opportunities in specific areas conducive to the landscape and depth of the groundwater table. She explained the next step would be ranking

resilience factors for infrastructure and compiling the vulnerability assessment to weigh assets for priority investment. Dr. Jurado spoke on the additional mapping of heat and green infrastructure and the effects they have on this assessment.

Dr. Jurado shared that the analysis of the resilience plan was conducted by McKinsey Global noting that slides of the full evaluation are available online at Broward.org/resilienceplan. She stated that the analysis examined implications for flood insurance policies with rising flood risks and the affordability as they are both increasing. She spoke on the potential devaluation of personal residential property and a reduction in property values.

Referencing her presentation, Dr. Jurado explained the SVI (Social Vulnerability Index) which calculates income, age, and ethnicity of residents within the high-risk flood areas to gain awareness of communities that may have more difficulties of recovery if there is a substantial impact. She announced that a web-based platform will be going live by the spring of 2024 so people can explore storm scenario solutions. Dr. Jurado provided a timeline of the project through June of 2024 and detailed funding requirements.

Dr. Jurado announced that the Compact Summit will be held on November 16-17, 2023. She stated that Michael Connor, the Assistant Secretary of the Army would be the keynote speaker on Thursday.

Dr. Jurado answered several questions from the WAB/TAC members. Chair Geller requested more listening sessions to provide this presentation to homeowners' associations and elected officials.

d. Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) Year in Review

This presentation was deferred to the next meeting.

VIII. New Business

Commissioner Biederman announced that 250 septic-to-sewer conversions would be taking place in Hollywood and Pembroke Pines.

IX. Discussion

(None.)

X. Lake Okeechobee Water Levels: (ft-NGVD 1929) This month: 16.16; Last month: 15.36; One year ago: 15.87

Next scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting – January 12, 2024. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430

Next Scheduled TAC Meeting – December 15, 2023. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430

XI. Adjourn

Without objection, Chair Geller adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.