

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING

January 14, 2022

Minutes

A joint meeting of the Broward County Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held virtually on Zoom on January 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

(The WAB/TAC meeting minutes were summarized by Adrienne Aiken. Copies of the presentations and verbatim minutes are filed with the supplemental papers of the meeting.)

I. **Call to Order** (Vice Chair Welch began the meeting)

II. **Roll Call – Water Advisory Board (WAB)**

Roll call was taken by the Real Time Reporter. A quorum was present, and the record of attendance follows:

**WAB MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner Steve Geller, Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Chair  
Commissioner Sandra Welch, Vice Chair, City of Coconut Creek  
Commissioner Kevin Biederman, City of Hollywood  
Vice Mayor Susan Starkey, Town of Davie  
Vice Mayor Tom Good, City of Pembroke Pines  
Vice Mayor Anthony Caggiano  
Ron Bergeron, Governing Board, South Florida Water Management District  
Pete Kwiatkowski, Alternate  
Commissioner Doug Bell, CBWCD Board of Commissioners  
Mayor Greg Ross, South Florida Regional Planning Council, Vice Chair  
Gene Goldman  
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair  
Mark Peterson  
Mayor Michelle Gomez, Alternate, City of Tamarac

**WAB MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie, Alternate  
Commissioner Andrea McGee, Alternate, City of Coconut Creek  
Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City of Fort Lauderdale, Alternate  
Commissioner Nancy Metayer, Alternate  
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton, City of Fort Lauderdale  
Vice Mayor Aisha Gordon, Alternate, City of Pembroke Pines  
Commissioner Tim Ryan, Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Councilmember Jim Allbritton, Alternate, Town of Davie  
Vice Mayor Denise Grant, City of Tamarac

III. **Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee**

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kevin Hart, Chair

Randolph Brown, Vice Chair  
Albert Carbon  
Mike Bailey  
Steve Urich  
Heather Cunniff  
Steve Holmes  
Janeen Wietgreffe for Patrick Davis  
Harold Aiken  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado  
Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia  
Pete Kwiatkowski  
Lisa Milenkovic  
Renuka Mohammed  
Jose Lopez  
Alturo Burbano for Rafael Frias  
Stephanie Pearson  
Brett Butler  
David Walker  
Bridget Huston for Isabel Cosio Carballo  
Tim Welch  
Leny Huaman  
Adolfo Gonzalez for Mike Crowley

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Talal Abi-Karam

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Gregory J. Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Water Resources Manager  
Michael Owens, County Attorney's Office  
Hesham Ali  
Steven Weinsier, All State Resource Management  
Lenny Vialpando  
Frank Bernardino, Anfield Consulting  
Katie Lelis, Resilient Environment Department/Resilience Unit  
Adrienne Aiken, Resilient Environment Department/Resilience Unit  
Kevin Carter, Assistant to The Director, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services  
Chuck Drake  
Stephanie Molloy  
Miriam Brighton, Laws Reporting, Inc.

**IV. Public Comments** (Chair Geller arrived and took over)  
There were no public comments.

**V. WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**  
For the Minutes of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, on Motion of Vice Mayor Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Welch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2021.

## VI. Updates and Announcements

Chair Geller asked members to think of topics and issues for future presentation to the board and invited members to make suggestions to himself and Dr. Jurado for later discussion.

## VII. Presentations

### A. Legislative Update

*Frank Bernadino, Partner at Anfield Consulting*

It was announced that the 2022 legislative session was underway and would be particularly active for environmental policy and funding. Mr. Bernadino provided an overview of relevant bills that were being tracked. These include:

1. The Glitch Bill which would address the administration of states resilience grant programs and access to the funds
2. House Bill 513 and Senate Bill 1326 which would require the South Florida Water Management District to provide yearly executive reports to the Legislature on the regional infrastructure needs, identifying structures that will fail, the projected time frame of failure, and funding needs,
3. House bill 1019 and Senate Bill 1238 which would require the state to address the vulnerability of our drinking water supply as a result of saltwater intrusion,
4. A bill put forward by senate to house the statewide resilience officer in place of the office of the Governor, aiming to increase the importance of the role and work.
5. House bill 303 which would support incentives for the inspection and replacement of failing sanitary lateral
6. House bill 309 which incentivizes the private sector to inspect sewage treatment and disposal systems in order to ensure proper functioning.
7. Senate Bill 421 which incentivizes the state to invest in new technologies to support the cleanup of the state's waterbodies.
8. House Bill 695 which will revise the current water quality credit trading program that the state has in statute and incentivize the private sector to build stormwater treatment areas.
9. House Bill 463 which would preempt the ability of local governments to enact ordinances intended to address greenhouse emissions
10. Senate Bill 208 which would prevent fracking in the State of Florida
11. A net metering Bill which would reduce the money paid out to solar system owners from the retail rate to a lower rate.
12. House Bill 259 which would limit the ability of local governments to regulate the location of solar systems
13. House Bill 81 which would establish renewable energy goals for the State of Florida and prohibit gas and oil exploration.
14. House Bill 101 which would birth an incentive program to support the conversion to greener energy sources throughout the state of Florida.
15. A Bill which would provide sales tax exemption for certain Energy Star and Water Sense appliances during a specified timeframe.
16. House Bill 6025 which would repeal provisions related to tree pruning, trimming, and removal.

17. House Bill 1145 which would roll back the preemption on the use of single-use plastic products and would establish a pilot program in Monroe County.
18. House Bill 6063 (*Summary note: incorrectly recorded at HB 63*) which would roll back a preemption on the ability of local governments to regulate single use plastics.
19. A bill which would give nature an equal right as an individual or impacted party in regard to permits and use of the state's natural resources.
20. Bill 621 which would establish priorities from the state for the implementation of key water resources projects

The governor proposed a budget just under 100 billion dollars for the state. Some of the relevant budget items include:

- Over 4.5 billion dollars dedicated to natural resource areas
- \$660,000,000 to Everglades restoration and CERP projects
- \$195,000,000 towards water quality improvement including a septic-to-sewer grant program
- \$500,000,000 to resilience (all federal passthrough dollars)
- And \$50,000,000 to beach renourishment

Following Mr. Bernardino's presentation, Chair Geller inquired on the state's rationale behind the exclusion of Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade from the disbursement of septic-to-sewer funds in 2021. Mr. Bernadino advised that the state focused on projects in northern Florida due to their financial needs and constraints, and also favored projects with Basin Management Action Plans already in place. Chair Geller commented on the net metering bill and agreed with the view that the bill would repel potential customers from solar. Chair Geller provided an alternate perspective that people who can afford solar are subsidizing others. Randy Brown shared the concern from utilities on Senate Bill 7012, stating that if regulated levels of PFOS and PFAS are too low, biosolids applied on farm fields could be considered hazardous waste and would have to be incinerated. Mr. Bernardino agreed that it was a critical issue. Commissioner Bell inquired about Senate Bill 674 which would allow government bodies to hold a meeting without quorum. Chair Geller confirmed that the bill would not progress during this legislative session as it was not already filed. Kevin Carter responded to the earlier question on Senate Bill 7012, sharing that utility councils are very focused on whether D.C Congress and US EPA will list PFOS as a hazardous material under the Superfund Act. Mr. Owens provided a clarification on the House Bill 6025, and Senate Bill 316. Vice Mayor Caggiano urged that PFOS is very dangerous and have grave ramifications for our drinking water.

**B. Resilient Florida Grant Program and Planning Support**

*Dr. Jennifer Jurado, CRO and Deputy Director of the Resilient Environment Department, and Adrienne Aiken, Resilient Environment Department.*

Dr. Jurado provided an overview of the Resilient Florida Grant Program launched from Senate Bill 1954 and noted an initial round of investment amounting to \$100,000,000 in state funding to support the program. Counties, municipalities, and the South Florida Water Management District were identified as eligible for funding. Dr. Jurado shared that the program supported the compliance with the Peril of Flood Comprehensive Plan requirements and that Broward was well positioned but would need to make stated references in the Comp Plan. Dr. Jurado outlined how the funding could support local governments in carrying out eligible resilience projects and capital improvements that are based on vulnerability assessments per SB 1954 which would ultimately contribute to the statewide vulnerability assessment and resilience plan. Dr. Jurado recognized that neighborhood scale improvements may require more comprehensive vulnerability assessments to be eligible for funding and acknowledged that the County was taking a holistic approach to the assessment while satisfying the requirements. It was advised that the DEP outlined very specific guidelines for the vulnerability assessment, and that municipal vulnerability assessments done prior to the program's launch would have to satisfy these requirements to attract project funding. Dr. Jurado touched on the application process and timeline, ongoing data update requirements, project criteria, project ranking, and shared the expectation of program changes as it becomes more established.

It was announced that \$20,000,000 was provided towards planning and that many communities on the receiving end of the funding were in the contracting phase. It was reported that \$600,000,000 was assigned to grant funding with a fifty percent cost share required, and while \$100,000,000 was awarded in the first round of funding another \$500,000,000 was assigned to the Resilient Florida grant program in the first year. The Governor's budget request for another \$500,000,000 to be assigned to the program in 2022 was reported.

Dr. Jurado shared that regional entities like the Compact were eligible for funding. The results from the first round of funding were presented and recipients within Broward were highlighted. It was reported that \$24,000,000 was allocated to Broward amongst ten projects. It was noted that a significant portion of the funds awarded in the first round went to Miami-Dade, and most of the funds were allocated to projects within South Florida. Dr. Jurado turned the presentation over to Adrienne Aiken. Chair Geller congratulated Oakland Park on getting three proposals, and celebrated that Broward was able to get a few project requests in the top tier.

Adrienne Aiken provided an overview of the minimum requirements of the vulnerability assessment, and shared resources that could aid municipalities in conducting their own assessments. Ms. Aiken advised that the vulnerability assessment must encompass the entire County or municipality, must investigate flooding under the 2017 reported NOAA Intermediate High and Intermediate Low sea level rise scenarios for 2040 and 2070, must use the best available digital elevation model for the analysis, and shared that critical assets owned or maintained by the applicant should be included in the analysis.

Ms. Aiken shared that the vulnerability assessment of County critical assets utilized a high resolution 2018 LiDAR raster which was retrieved from the South Florida Water Management District and could be made available to municipalities upon request. Ms. Aiken shared how the sea level elevations for the required projections were identified and cited the Compact's 2019 Unified Sea Level Rise Projection Guidance Report as a great resource. An overview of the BATHTUB model approach used to generate the inundation surface layers was presented. Ms. Aiken presented how the vulnerability assessment component of the Resilient Florida Grant Program organizes critical assets into four categories including: (1) transportation assets, (2) critical infrastructure, (3) critical community and emergency facilities, and (4) natural cultural and historical resources. Ms. Aiken shared useful GIS data sources relevant to the vulnerability assessment and invited municipalities to make data requests to the County's Resilient Environment Department.

Following the presentation Chair Geller emphasized the urgency of the issue of sea level rise, commenting that drainage of our largely gravity fed canal system would become increasingly difficult as the sea level continues to rise. Dr. Jurado shared that a County Resilience Plan would investigate compound flooding and stated that she hoped to share the scope of the plan at the next meeting. Commissioner Welch asked whether the North Lauderdale Canal rehab project could be mimicked by other municipalities. Dr. Jurado replied that she would explore the details of that project.

**C. Broward County Citizen Science Flood Monitoring Program**

Katie Lelis and Adrienne Aiken, *Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department/Resilience Unit*.

Katie Lelis began the presentation by illustrating how flooding on January 11<sup>th</sup> disrupted her commute from work and alluded to the utility and necessity of the crowdsourcing tool as a flood capture application. Ms. Lelis demonstrated submission examples of flooding during king tide and tropical storm Eta. Katie also showcased how the real-world crowd source data could be paired with modeled projections and modeling tools to aid in analysis and resilience planning. The application viewer was explored, and some uploads were reviewed. Adrienne Aiken introduced the enhanced crowdsourcing tool 'Sea Flooding' and outlined the enhancements that were made to the earlier versions of the tool. Adrienne demonstrated how to navigate through the application viewer. Both Ms. Lelis and Ms. Aiken recognized that the level of engagement and use of the tool was not yet sufficient to accurately visualize all the flooding hotspots throughout the County. It was emphasized that with more submissions comes a greater capacity to perform enhanced data analytics. Ms. Aiken encouraged the members to use the crowdsourcing tool and thanked those who had already made submissions.

Following the presentation, Chair Geller asked where the tool could be accessed and how it was being promoted to the general public. Ms. Aiken shared that the application could be accessed via the QR code. Ms. Lelis shared that in

anticipation of a flood event, the tool would be sent out to different distribution lists, and that a link was on the Broward.org/ resilience page. The Document the Floods map present on the Resilient Dashboard. Dr. Jurado acknowledged that an improved resilience communications strategy was one of the priorities of the department and spoke of a new hire whose role would support this.

Dr. Jurado announced the upcoming retirement of Ms. Lelis and recognized her longtime contribution to the County. Ms. Lelis expressed her gratitude. Councilmember Starkey spoke on the usefulness of the tool and suggested that the application incorporate the capacity to identify flooding impacts to lift stations. Councilmember Starkey shared the complex flooding challenges of lift stations in Davie and turned to the County and the committee to explore resilient solutions. Chair Geller suggested that the C and SF restudy would investigate the issue, but shared that according to the Army Corps, it could be 20 years before the canal drainage issue is fixed. Dr. Jurado suggested that both the efforts of the C and SF restudy, and the Broward County resilience plan would address the issue and provide long term solutions. Dr. Jurado pointed out the potential difficulty the public would have in identifying lift stations when using the crowdsourcing tool. Randy Brown highlighted the security implications of making utility infrastructure public.

Ron Bergeron shared that drainage systems in South Florida were designed for hundred-year floods for house floor elevations and 25-year flood storms for infrastructure and right of way. Mr. Geller expressed that the capacities of the drainage canal system were being exceeded due to the combination of more rain and sea level rise. Both Mr. Bergeron and Chair Geller agreed that pumps would have to be integrated in the system.

**D. Broward County Reuse Water Update**

*Kevin Carter Assistant to the Director, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services*

Mr. Carter provided an update on the Water Reuse Program. The presentation focused on water reuse from wastewater effluent treated with high disinfection levels for irrigation use. An overview of the history of water reuse in Florida was provided. Mr. Carter highlighted the Ocean Outfall Law enacted in 2008, which mandated that outfall discharge be ceased by 2025, and now 60 percent of the discharge be turned into reuse production. Mr. Carter shared that Florida leads the nation in water reuse with 884,000,000 gallons per day. The number of residents, golf courses, parks, and schools that contribute to the total reuse were also reported.

It was noted that the initial estimate of complying with the Ocean Outfall Law was \$500,000,000. Mr. Carter shared that Broward County's Water and Wastewater Services (WWS) partnered with Palm Beach County and others to undertake this project where 10.5 million gallons per day will go to Palm Beach and 3.5 million gallons a day will go to North Springs Improvement District. Broward County will bear the construction costs for the Palm Beach segment of the project which was said to be \$50,000,000. Mr. Carter shared that \$90,000,000 of work had been completed in Broward and presented maps of the line connections to the Palm

Beach systems which were established. The North Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant off Copans Road was displayed, and an overview of the current and future system illustrated. It was noted that Palm Beach will have two connections to the Broward County Line, and Mr. Carter showed how the reuse water would be directed from Broward into western Boca Raton.

**VIII. New Business**

No new business announced.

**IX. Discussion**

The attendance of members who missed the roll call was taken. The date of the next meeting was shared. Chair Geller reiterated his appeal to board members to suggest topics for future presentation to the WAB. Chair Geller shared that the subject of deep well injection would be visited once the legal implications had abated. Chair Geller shared the desire to focus on septic-to-sewer conversion. Dr. Jurado advised members that Chair Geller could not be the recipient of WAB topic suggestions and invited members to email her instead.

Kevin Carter thanked the South Florida Water Management District for their \$3,000,000 contribution to the purple line north and for supporting the reuse project.

Lenny Vialpando shared that FEMA had updated their flood maps of Broward County, and that these were recently made available for public comment. It was noted that significant changes could be seen in about half of the County, and the draft maps once finalized, could take effect by 2023. Chair Geller requested an update on the new FEMA Maps at the next meeting, in addition to an update on the response to the seawall ordinance.

**X. LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER LEVELS: (ft-NGVD)**

This month 15.50; Last month 15.93; one year ago: **15.81** (ft-NGVD)

**XI. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.