

SUMMARY MINUTES

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 13, 2023

Water Advisory Committee Roll Call

Name	Present	Virtual	Absent	Alternate	M/A
Senator Steve Geller – Chair	X				M
Vice Mayor Sandra Welch - Vice Chair	X				M
Commissioner Andrea McGee				X	A
Commissioner Doug Bell	X			Jack McCluskey	M
Commissioner Denise Grant				X	M
Commissioner Kevin Biederman	X				M
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie			X		A
Commissioner Nancy Metayer			X		A
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton		X			M
Commissioner Tim Ryan			X	Eugen Bold	M
Commissioner Tom Good	X				M
Councilmember Jim Allbritton	X				A
Councilwoman Susan Starkey	X				M
Gene Goldman		X			M
Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron		ALT		Pete Kwiatkowski	M
Kevin Hart – TAC Chair			X		M
Mark Peterson	X				M
Mayor Greg Ross		X			M
Mayor Michelle Gomez			X		A
Mayor Anthony Caggiano	X				M
Mayor Aisha Gordon		X			A
Vacant					A

Technical Advisory Committee Roll Call

Name	In Person	Virtual	Absent	Alternate Name
Kevin Hart (Chair)			X	
Randolph Brown Vice- Chair		X		
Albert Carbon	X			Chris Cappiello
Alan Garcia		ALT		Susan Bodmann
Brett Butler			X	
Commissioner Doug Bell	X			Jack McCluskey
David Walker		X		
Giovanni Batista		X		
Heather Cunniff	X			
Isabel Cosio Carballo			X	
Jace Selby		X		
Dr. Jennifer Jurado	X			
Jose Lopez	X			
Dawn Teetsal			X	
Lisa Milenkovic		X		Cindy Griffen

Mike Bailey			X	Paul Thompson
Patrick Davis	ALT			Janeen Wietgreffe
Pete Kwiatkowski		X		Lorraine Mayers
Rafael Frias			X	Melissa Velez
Renuka Mohammed		X		Kiersy Pena Bratton
Stephanie Pearson		ALT		Julie Long
Steve Holmes	X			
Jeff Jiang	X			
Suzanne Mechler		X		Jon Goldman
Talal Abi-Karam	X			
Tim Welch		X		Carrie Kashar

A meeting of the Joint Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Broward County Government Center, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, FL, on Friday, January 13, 2023, commencing at 10:06 a.m.

I. **Call to Order**

Chair Senator Geller called the meeting to order.

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

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Recorder Miriam Brighton.

III. **Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Recorder Miriam Brighton.

IV. **Public Comments**

None.

V. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Tom Good motioned to approve the minutes from November 18, 2022. Vice-Chair Sandra Welch seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

VI. **Updates and Announcements**

Vice Mayor Sandra Welch recognized Dr. Mount for his presentation for the Climate Study and adaptability to the Coconut Creek community. She noted the work he has done with the new ambassador program. Dr. Jurado commended Dr. Mount on his involvement in the community and program turnout. Chair Geller showed appreciation to Dr. Mount and staff.

Mike Owens, former Board Attorney, thanked the Joint WAB/TAC members. He announced that Jennifer Brown will be the staff attorney to the Water Advisory Board moving forward. Mr. Owens noted that he had been the attorney for the WAB for approximately 20 years. Chair Geller thanked Mr. Owens for all the work he has done. Jennifer Brown introduced herself and provided a brief background.

VII. Presentations:

a. **Resilience Updates**

Dr. Jurado noted changes that have been made to the Resilience Update. She provided several highlights of the Summit. Dr. Jurado acknowledged the support of the community and the WAB members, which assisted in a very successful Summit. She spoke on the number of attendees, public participation, and sponsorships. Dr. Jurado noted that two-thirds of the Summit budget was covered by sponsorships and registration.

Dr. Jurado discussed the benefits of the Resilience Pitch Night and named important partnerships that attended. She detailed several events that occurred such as, a ground tour displaying sea-level rise adaptation, the Inside the Circle event, and special breakout sessions, a regional collaborative, and a book signing. Dr. Jurado thanked the City of Fort Lauderdale and Dr. Nancy Gassman for the organization of these events. She also acknowledged Commissioner Furr and Mr. Dan Lindblade, of the Fort Lauderdale Chamber for their resilience efforts.

Dr. Jurado reiterated the value, rewarding, and well attended Summit. She spoke on the keynote speaker, Alice Hill, national policy advisor. She discussed the impacts of climate change and reasons for climate adaptation that addresses emissions. Dr. Jurado listed others that were present for the presentations.

Dr. Jurado explained the importance of the authorization for the 216 comprehensive study. She mentioned the significance of the release of the third regional climate action plan. Four Commissioners and Mayors signed the pledge to commit to bring the Climate Action Plan to their leadership. She further discussed highlights of the Resilience Planning efforts. Dr. Jurado answered several questions from the Board.

b. **Legislative Update**

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Marty Cassini, noted the State and Federal programs to follow policies that are of interest to the Board. He listed several Broward County priority issues, such as funding for the Sadowski Trust Fund, the jail diversion/reentry program, small business development, apprenticeships, treatment options for substance abuse, and environmental policy.

Mr. Cassini noted changes to the committee structure of the House as it relates to water quality, infrastructure, and resiliency. Referencing the presentation, he pointed out the consolidation into a new Infrastructure Strategies Committee,

which includes three subcommittees. Mr. Cassini named the Broward members of the new committees, noting that Broward County is well represented.

Mr. Cassini stated that the relevant committees in the Senate remained unchanged. He noted that a select Resiliency Committee has been formed that will be overseeing issues such as conservation of the wildlife corridor, hardening after the hurricanes, and water quality. Other topics discussed were infrastructure, adaptation, and planning grants. Mr. Cassini highlighted specific water quality items that will be addressed.

Mr. Cassini explained that the Governor released an executive order, which directed the Department of Environmental Protection to secure funding for everglades restoration and expand funding for other projects. He spoke on the expansion of the wastewater grant to include storm water and agricultural runoff. He discussed other funding sources and grants for programs. Mr. Cassini answered questions from the Board.

Councilwoman Starkey asked Mr. Cassini to update the Committee on legislation that is pertinent to the priorities of WAB. She spoke on specific ideas and tools to address grant funding sources. Mr. Cassini agreed to report on these issues moving forward.

c. Septic and Sewer Discussion Continued from 11/18/2022

i. Review of Previous Meetings and Staff Responses

ii. Discussion

Dr. Jurado provided a brief timeline of the septic and sewer project, which began in 2018. She stated that the WAB/TAC developed strategies to determine and implement best practices. Dr. Jurado stated that this discussion continued into 2022 with a progress review. She noted the connections that had been made between 2018-2022.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the challenges and needs of the Septic to Sewer project. She reminded the members of several tools, incentives, and enforcement strategies that already exist. Dr. Jurado referenced the State statute noting “Owner of a properly functioning onsite sewage treatment and disposal system, must connect that system and that plumbing to publicly available systems within 360 days of notice by the service provider.” She explained that the County Ordinance reinforces this by stating “You shall connect to the sanitary within 180 days.”

Dr. Jurado reiterated that it is illegal not to connect if the plumbing system is available. She discussed the challenges of enforcement and cost consideration. Dr. Jurado stated that utility funded programs and the ability to offer rebates are limited to the jurisdictional areas due to

provisions of financing. She discussed several potential funding sources and detailed sources that cannot be used to support these projects.

An evaluation should be done to find whether a program could be established that would have the structure and guidelines that comply with State Statute, the State Constitution, and the County Charter. Dr. Jurado spoke on legalities on obligations to connect and disclosures that the real estate community is responsible for.

Chair Geller discussed several questions that have been presented over the course of this discussion. He spoke on potential funding streams for the septic to sewer project. Mr. Owens answered questions regarding loan options. Dr. Jurado answered several questions from the Board. Much discussion ensued regarding disclosure and inspections as related to the septic to sewer conversion.

VIII. **Discussion**

None.

IX. **Lake Okeechobee Water Levels**

Next scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting–March 10, 2023, Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430

Next scheduled TAC Meeting–February 17, 2023, Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430

X. **ADJORN**

Commissioner Good motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chair Welch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.