

MINUTES

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2023

WAB MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Steve Geller, Chair
Sandra Welch, Vice Chair
Commissioner Doug Bell
Commissioner Kevin Biederman
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton
Commissioner Tom Good
Councilmember Jim Allbritton
Councilmember Susan Starkey
Gene Goldman
Pete Kwiatkowski for Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson
Mayor Anthony Caggiano
Mayor Aisha Gordon

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Andrea McGee
Commissioner Denise Grant
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie
Commissioner Nancy Metayer
Commissioner Tim Ryan
Mayor Greg Ross
Mayor Michelle Gomez

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Hart, Chair
Albert Carbon
Kevin Carter for Alan Garcia
Commissioner Doug Bell
David Walker
Dawn Teetsal
Giovanni Batista
Heather Cunniff
Isabel Cosio Carballo
Jeff Jiang
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Jose Lopez
Patrick Davis
Pete Kwiatkowski
Isabel Botero for Rafael Frias

Renuka Mohammed
Steve Holmes
Suzanne Mechler
Talal Abi-Karam
Tim Welch

TAC MEMBERS
ABSENT: Randolph Brown, Vice Chair
Brett Butler
Jace Selby
Lisa Milenkovic
Mike Bailey
Stephanie Pearson

OTHERS
PRESENT: Mike Owens, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Gregory Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Assistant Chief Res. Officer
Karen Hames, Real Time Reporter

A joint meeting of the Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held at Broward County Government Center, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Friday, March 10, 2023, at 10:06 a.m.

- I. Call to Order**
Senator Geller called the meeting to order.
- II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board (WAB)**
A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Hames.
- III. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**
A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Hames.
- IV. Public Comments**
(None.)
- V. WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2023**
Councilmember Starkey motioned to approve the minutes of January 13, 2023. Mayor Caggiano seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one noted name update.
- VI. Updates and Announcements**
 - a. Recognition of Lorraine Mayers, SFWMD**
Senator Geller and Dr. Jurado presented a gift while recognizing

Lorraine Mayers for 27 years of service to Broward County as the Broward Regional Representative of the South Florida Water Management District. Ms. Mayers thanked the Water Advisory Board, Technical Advisory Committee, South Florida Regional Planning Council and other Broward Committees.

b. Water Matters Day

Dr. Jurado announced the 21st Annual Water Matters Day event, would be held on March 11, 2023, at Tree Tops Park. She stated that this is the largest environmental event held in Broward County. Dr. Jurado spoke on the growth of this event due to the support of municipalities, water districts, business community partners, not for profits, and others within the community. She thanked everyone for the support if this event.

VII. Presentations:

a. Babcock Ranch-Resilient by Design

Senator Geller introduced Dr. Jennifer Languell, Owner of Trifecta Construction. He announced that Babcock Ranch had recently received special recognition from the Aspen Institute.

Referencing a presentation, Dr. Languell discussed the importance of green buildings, sustainability, and resilience. She spoke on environmental sustainability goals such as the reduction of green house gas, water usage and increasing efficiency. Dr. Languell provided a brief history of the purchase of Babcock Ranch. She noted that the both the developers and the investors are very passionate about sustainability and resilience.

Dr. Languell explained that this was the largest land purchase in the history of Florida, which included 92,000 acres. 74,000 acres were sold back to the State and placed into permanent conservation. She spoke on the importance of the location that allows for additional safety.

Dr. Languell discussed the restoration to develop the master plan that includes 9K acres of the original purchase. She spoke on the recurring theme of safety. Dr. Languell explained the choice to use the Florida Green Building Coalition Land Development Certification in order to attain third party certification and recognition. She announced that Babcock Ranch is the only Platinum Certified community in the State.

Dr. Languell discussed the plan to restore the water movement on the site before Hurricane Ian arrived. The total damage of the hurricane includes 2800 homes, 12-15 commercial buildings, and two schools, has been estimated at approximately \$500,000. She stated that Hurricane

Ian was over Babcock Ranch for 9 hours with 100+ mile an hour winds.

Dr. Languell spoke on the clean up and resilience after Hurricane Ian. She discussed water and utility infrastructure noting multiple power sources, which allowed for power throughout the storm. She further spoke on the protection and safety precautions taken to ensure durability and energy efficiency.

Senator Geller stated the largest downside that has been discussed is the cost of construction but noted that the sustainability may decrease the cost of insurance rates. He spoke on the importance of building codes and code enforcement. Dr. Languell answered several questions from the committee. Discussion ensued regarding funding and solar.

b. Septic and Sewer Discussion and Proposal

i. Overview and Update by the County Attorney's Office

Assistant County Attorney, Mike Owens, stated that he was present for Jennifer Brown. Referring to the Babcock Ranch presentation, Mr. Owens discussed the importance of the design to ensure water management at the site. He spoke on the impacts of Hurricane Ian and water damage.

Mr. Owens spoke on the movie "Path of the Panther", which is a documentary on the expansion of the panther population to the North of Babcock Ranch.

Mr. Owens reviewed the previous septic to sewer and wastewater management discussions. He spoke on permitting, management and funding for the septic to sewer project. Mr. Owens stated that the Water Advisory Board has been seeking evaluation and development of examples for real estate disclosures that may eventually become recommendations. He indicated the importance of buyers knowing whether a property has septic or sewer making a disclosure appropriate.

By request of Senator Geller, Mr. Owens explained the code requirement that a hook up to the sanitary sewer system within 180 days of being notified of availability for those properties that have septic. Citations can be issued for noncompliance by municipalities.

Mr. Owens answered questions from the committee. Much discussion ensued regarding mandate enforcement and potential financing.

ii. Discussion and Vote

Referencing an ordinance, Assistant County Attorney, Mike Owens, detailed the specific disclosure requirements regarding septic systems. Dr. Jurado spoke on the obligations and responsibilities of property buyers and how the disclosure could help. The committee discussed several small updates to the drafted ordinance. Senator Geller requested that the effective date of the ordinance would begin six months after it is passed.

A motion to recommend enactment of a Septic Disclosure Ordinance in substantially the form attached to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners was made by Mayor Caggiano, as amended. Vice Mayor Welch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VIII. New Business

After the Public Comment section was closed, Senator Geller introduced Katherine O’Fallon, the Executive Director of the Marine Research Hub. Senator Geller explained that the country’s largest concentration of university based Marine Research is within Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties. He spoke on the priority to create high paying jobs and ways that universities can assist.

IX. Discussion

Councilmember Starkey thanked everyone who was able to join the zoom meeting regarding the 216 Study. She requested that this topic is added to a future agenda for discussion. Senator Geller stated that it would be added to the May meeting. Commissioner Bell noted that legislation exists regarding additional work to the comprehensive plan. Dr. Jurado will investigate the legislation further. Dr. Jurado introduced Sarah Pariseau to the department. Commissioner Eaton thanked the committee for the connection of the North Pompano Highlands area with reclaimed water and for providing an incentive.

X. Lake Okeechobee Water Levels: (ft-NGVD 1929) This month: 16.01; Last month: 16.36; One year ago: 14.91

XI. Next scheduled Joint BC WAB/TAC and PBC WRTF Meeting – May 12, 2023. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430. Next scheduled TAC Meeting – April 21, 2023. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430.

XII. Adjourn

Councilmember Starkey motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Eaton seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.