

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
January 15, 2021  
Minutes

A joint meeting of the Broward County Water Advisory Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and Water Resources Task Force was held virtually on WebEx on January 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

(The WAB/TAC meeting minutes were summarized by Gregory Mount. Copies of the presentations are filed with the supplemental papers of the meeting.)

**I. 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	Mayor Steve Geller, Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Chair Commissioner Doug Bell, CBWCD Board of Commissioners Ron Bergeron, South Florida Water Management District Commissioner Kevin Biederman, City of Hollywood Albert Carbon, TAC Chair Eugene Goldman, via telephone Mayor Michelle Gomez, Alternate, City of Tamarac Commissioner Tom Good, City of Pembroke Pines Mark Peterson, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Commissioner Tim Ryan, Broward County Board of County Commissioners Mayor Sandy Welch, City of Coconut Creek, via telephone Lorraine Mayers for Pete Kwiatkowski, Alternate South Florida Water Management District Councilwoman Susan Starkey, Town of Davie
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WAB MEMBERS ABSENT	Commissioner Neil Kerch, Alternate, City of Sunrise Mayor Dean Trantalis, Alternate, City of Fort Lauderdale Jack McClusky, Alternate, SBDD Board of Commissioners Mayor Wayne Messam, City of Miramar Mayor Michelle Gomez, Alternate, City of Tamarac Andrea McGee, Alternate, City of Pompano Beach Mayor Frank Ortis, Alternate, City of Pembroke Pines Mayor Greg Ross, South Florida Regional Planning Council Mayor Ken Thurston, City of Lauderhill
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**II. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT	Albert Carbon, Chair Kevin Hart, Co-Chair Harold Aiken Doug Bell Ms. Janine for Patrick Davis Sara Forelle Kevin Carter for Alan Garcia, via telephone Steve Holmes, via telephone Barry Heimlich
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Leny Huaman  
Pete Kwiatkowski  
Jose Lopez  
Lisa Milenkovich  
Pat O'Quinn  
Stephanie Pearson  
Steve Urich  
Tim Welch  
Adolfo Gonzales (for Mike Crowley)

TAC MEMBERS  
ABSENT

Kalal Abi-Karam  
Mike Bailey  
Randy Brown  
Mark Collins  
Rafael Frias  
Renuka Mohammed

Also Present:

Kimberly Mayo, Host  
Monique Davis, Co-host, Administrative Coordinator, Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department  
Michael Owens, County Attorney's Office  
Gregory J. Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Water Resources Manager, Environmental Planning and Community Resilience, Broward County  
Dr. Carolina Maran, P.E., SFWMD Resiliency Officer  
M. Ellard  
Michael Zygnerski  
Neil Buckeridge  
Wilson Mendoza  
Sam Baker  
Jessica Ward, Broward County Marine Resources Manager, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department  
Lynnette Cardoch  
Guillermo Regaldo  
Steven Eagle  
Janeen Wietgreffe  
Vilma Menendez  
Rose Bechard Butman  
Chuck Drake  
David Geller, Mayoral Assistant to Mayor Steve Geller  
Adolpho Gonzalez  
Norma Ellison, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department  
L. Teich Dianys Arocha, Black & Veatch, via telephone  
Rajendra Sishodia  
S. Juncosa  
Z. Haob  
Jason Kruszka  
Glen Harrelson  
Danny Pollio  
Josh Freeman, Chief of Staff, Broward County Mayor Steve Geller

**III. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**IV. Updates**

**C51 Reservoir Update**

*Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director, Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department*

Dr. Jurado reported that she spoke to Ernie Cox the day before and he had shared some updates.

He was preparing for the loan closing by the end of the month, he thought it would have happened sooner. Both loans, the DEP loan for \$30,000,000 and the Goldman Sachs loan for \$70,000,000 and the rest is being financed by Palm Beach Aggregates in order advance Phase 1.

She stated that the city of Fort Lauderdale was successful in negotiating the amendment to the consumptive use permit, which was signed off last week, and there are just Miami-Dade and Dania Beach left to get approved. Neither is a contingency for the loan closing.

She reported that Palm beach Aggregates would be commencing construction by the end of the month and anticipates a groundbreaking ceremony on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

**V. Discussion: WAB Chair and Vice Chair Vote for March Meeting**

At the march meeting there will be the annual election for the WAB chair and Vice Chair. Chair Geller also requests 15 minutes at next meeting for discussion of future topics.

**VI. Presentations**

**A. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION - MAYOR STEVE GELLER.**

Chair Geller read the plaque provided to Norma Ellison in honor of her 25 years of support to the Joint Broward County Water Advisory Board and technical Advisory Committee. This will be her last meeting due to retirement.

Norma commented: "It was my pleasure. I felt -- I feel honored to be a -- a Broward County employee. I was always blessed by that. I think it's a great organization. I've worked with Jennifer for many years. She's the greatest boss. I have the most respect for her. I have the most respect for everybody on the TAC and Water Advisory Board. It's been my pleasure." Thank you.

**AGENDA ITEM IV WAB Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2020 [out of order]**

On Motion of Vice Mayor Starkey, seconded by Commissioner Biederman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2020. [please note this was done out of order, after C51 updates and Norma Ellison Plaque Presentation]

**B. Future Conditions 100-Year Flood Map**

*Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director, EPGMD*

Dr. Jurado stated that there had been a very detailed presentation at the last meeting and that most of this should seem familiar and that this presentation was also presented at the last TAC meeting, so she will not go through this with the same amount of detail.

Dr. Jurado reiterated the purpose of the project was to address the compounded challenges that we have regarding flood risk and climate change, noting the influence on sea level rise, impacts on groundwater that influence flood conditions and that we also want to be able to account for changes in rainfall. Therefore, we need to think about and design site infrastructure within our communities to mitigate that risk.

She noted that the county's flood map had not been updated since the 1970s, so working with the consultant the county was able to update and project future flood conditions using advanced modeling techniques. A comparison was shown between the county's past map, the future conditions maps and the FEMA FIRM maps. She stated that we don't find sweeping changes when the future conditions map is considered, most of the changes come from the FEMA map and the new Coastal A Zone designation.

Dr. Jurado elaborated on the stakeholder engagement with the Water Control Districts, engineers, and agencies, the two years worth of presentations to the TAC and their valued involvement. She also added the municipal workshop that included nearly 100 attended and the 160 people that attended that were affiliated with the county's engineering and licensing agency. Questions asked were answered to their satisfaction and all appeared to be in agreement.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> the TAC had endorsed support with the presentation of the same information. Dr. Jurado has reached out to the League of Cities for endorsement and is in the process of scheduling local planning agency and Planning Council meetings. Dr. Jurado stated that staff would be looking to present to the County Commission in April. Dr. Jurado concluded her presentation.

Chair Geller opens the floor to questions.

Councilwoman Starkey asked if any outreach events were held that targeted the residential community, such as HOAs within the coastal flood areas.

Dr. Jurado responded that there was no specific outreach to those groups and noted that changes in the FEMA requirements already subject these communities to changes and requirements. She further stated that she does not anticipate significant changes that impact the ability to develop/redevelop.

Chair Geller followed with a point of clarification that you could rebuild, but it might cost more for insurance, and rebuilding a condominium would be difficult.

Dr. Jurado confirmed that nothing in the current ordinance would preclude rebuilding. But safety and protection of people and infrastructure should be the prevailing issues.

Councilwoman Starkey asked a question about trespass of water from higher sitting properties and if there is any sort of protection for existing properties when others are raised.

Dr. Jurado responded that she is well familiar with the challenge, and the ordinance does not include an allowance for exceeding what is already required in the way of those protections. As

land use has changed over time some of these issues have been increased, especially when previously vacant lots were being used to offset drainage.

That was the last question and Chair Geller moved to a vote.

**CHAIR GELLER: Asks for a motion for the Water Advisory Board to Recommend for approval the Future Conditions 100-Year Flood Map for transmittal to the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County.**

***Motion: Councilwoman Starkey***

***Second: Gene Goldman/ Albert Carbon***

***No discussion.***

***Adopted Unanimously***

**C. BROWARD WATER PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL - DR. JENNIFER JURADO, CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT, BROWARD COUNTY**

Dr. Jurado begins by stating this is a similar presentation to the one made at the last meeting and last month at the TAC meeting. It had not been voted on by the TAC so the final approval was postponed until this meeting.

Dr. Jurado presents project milestones, the increase of funding and the project's next steps. She notes the history of the project starting in 2010 and the subsequent renewals, until today 10 years later and renewing for the third time.

She notes that nearly 17,000 toilets have been rebated, 32,000 water saving devices, and more than 1.5 million dollars has been returned to the public to help pay for those items. This has resulted in saving nearly 3,000,000,000 gallons of water.

Dr. Jurado goes on to state the importance of conservation and county implemented irrigation restrictions and programs such as NIS to help drive conservation. She provides a graph to illustrate these savings and the relevant actions at the times. She also explains this year's pilot program that will focus on lower income communities and the installation of high efficiency toilets with no out of pocket costs to homeowners.

Dr. Jurado states the need to proactively approach continued conservation measures and due to increasing costs and lack of respondents to the last RFP for consultants, it is necessary to increase program funding. County will provide 25,000 and the partners will split another 25,000.

At the last TAC meeting not all members were supportive of the cost increase. They have been provided with additional information. We request discussion and support from both the TAC and the WAB though a vote at this meeting.

CHAIR GELLER opens the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Biederman asked a question asking if increased lawn watering would decrease ground water tables.

Dr. Jurado responded that it would not.

Chair Geller asked Dr. Jurado a question about the extent that reclaimed water has been utilized in the county and the expense of such systems.

Dr. Jurado responded that certain communities have impressive programs but that we all know we need to do more, and over the next 20 years there will be much improvement. She further stated that the county would want to maximize and optimize investments before we are forced to use more expensive sources.

Governing Board Member Bergeron stated the importance of the Everglades and Everglades conservation and the storage of water. Future water demands could be offset with the Everglades as well.

**Seeing no more questions, Chair Geller asked if there is a motion from the Technical Advisory Committee to approve the Broward Water Partnership Renewal.**

*Motion: Pat O'Quinn*

*Second: Albert Carbon*

*No discussion*

*Voted in favor unanimously.*

**CHAIR GELLER: It is now in order for a vote of the WAB to recommend approval and transmittal to the Board of County Commissioners. Remember that although this is an advisory committee, that we have powers beyond almost any other advisory committee, that it requires an affirmative vote of the County Commission not to adopt recommendation.**

*Motion to approve: Councilwoman Starkey*

*Second: Gene Goldman*

*No Discussion*

*Voted in favor unanimously*

**D. DISCUSSION OF WATER AND RESILIENCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CCAP - DR. JENNIFER JURADO, CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT BROWARD COUNTY**

Dr. Jurado presents a brief education and information about the efforts of the Climate Change Task Force which will be considering an update to the Broward County Climate Action Plan. She highlighted a presentation to the TAC that was received without any additional input from the TAC. Dr. Jurado is looking to the WAB to weigh in on one or two of the priorities, that she feels might be of interest to the board.

Dr. Jurado highlights the past interaction of the WAB with the Climate Action Plan, where they have provided information, input or have been an advocate for those items. Dr. Jurado states that there is a need to bring a 50-year planning horizon to all aspects of regional water supply planning, renewed look at wellfield and reclaimed water facilities, emphasized sustainable use of the Biscayne and have looked at the Floridan in the past.

Dr. Jurado notes that this years storms has shown issues with soil saturation and continued rain events. With several sewer systems being under such stress that they were almost unusable. Some of these highlights are the types of recommendations that could be part of the WAB discussion as it related to the implementation of resilience strategies over the next years.

Chair Geller opens the floor to questions:

CHAIR GELLER: Chair recognizes Councilwoman Starkey.

Councilwoman Starkey suggested a recommendation for the elevation of lift stations due to back flow of waste into streets and properties during floods.

CHAIR GELLER read a question from the chat box: How is the WAB/TAC interacting with the South Florida Water Management District regarding their flood protection level of service exercise for basins inside Broward County, such as the C-11 east and west basin?

Dr. Jurado responded that there have been one or two presentations by the SFWMD at the TAC meetings, and TAC members and County staff are engaged in the District's regular meetings.

**E. COASTAL ISSUES UPDATE - JESSICA WARD, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER, BEACH AND MARINE RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DIVISION, BROWARD COUNTY**

Ms. Ward begins her presentation about coastal issues. She specifically mentions water quality, turbidity, and the proposed ruling for coral-critical habitat listing.

Ms. Ward explains the ECA, or the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area was designated by Florida Legislature in 2018. The reefs within the ECA suffer from a variety of ailments, including physical damage, sedimentation, bleaching disease, and as you're also aware, I mentioned last meeting's presentation by Alycia Shatters with the DEP, she went over ECA-wide water quality sampling, which was initiated in 2017 to look at potential correlations between water quality and overall reef health, with a focus on land-based sources of pollution, which can carry sediments and elevated nutrients that can negatively impact corals and our coral reef communities. Nitrogenous pollutants in particular were found to be higher at the southern sampling areas, including around Port Everglades.

Ms. Ward states that increases in the nutrients have been positively correlated with algae growth and negatively correlated with stony coral cover. However, these pollutants are attributed to land use and population, which means they have the potential for being managed, as nitrogen in particular can come from agricultural runoff as well as fertilizer use from single-family homes.

She also provides a brief overview of the state's turbidity rule. In 2019, following the designation of the Coral Reef ECA, the state proposed a new turbidity standard for coastal construction projects from 29 NTU above background with the intention of providing added protection for corals and coral reef and hardbottom organisms. These proposed modifications included requiring permit applicants to establish quote/unquote natural background for compliance and put restrictions on sampling conditions for establishing that natural background.

Ms. Ward continues with a brief overview on a proposed listing and takes the opportunity to let everyone know that the NOAA Fisheries is proposing to designate critical habitat for five additional Caribbean reef-building coral species. The county already has *Acropora cervicornis* and *Acropora palmata* that have already had critical habitat designated. This is going to designate additional habitat for these five species for waters in -- for U.S. waters including within Florida. Proposed critical habitat consists of substrate and water column, habitat characteristics that are essential for the reproduction, recruitment, growth, and maturation of the listed coral species.

Chair Geller opens the floor for 5 minutes of discussion.

Commissioner Welch asked about the possibility of bringing the fertilizer ordinance or the seasonal ban on fertilizer sales to the County.

Chair Geller stated that he has run into some technical issues and problems and asked Dr. Jurado to elaborate.

Dr. Jurado stated that County staff was approached about considering an ordinance that would provide those restrictions, and that there is an opportunity to achieve water quality improvements through better use practices. In Broward though we would be limited due to the small amount of unincorporated areas, it would be better implemented at the municipality level. Large areas such as golf courses and sports fields tend to be exempted in these ordinances, but through green practices and certifications, there can be a great savings there. In terms of seasonal prohibitions though, staff were unable to find a single occurrence of the seasonal prohibition applied to golf courses and sports fields. The City of Miami has implemented a rigorous ordinance and could be used as a model here in Broward. However, in the past we have realized that previous landscape ordinances were difficult to comply with and had to be amended .

Chair Geller proposed to wait and see what happens with the City of Miami before this is brought up in Broward County.

### **Agenda Item VIII. New Business and Open Discussion**

Chair Geller asked membership to return at the following meeting with topics that they would like to see for discussion. Chair Geller suggests septic tanks, reclaimed water, deep well injection. He also suggests a joint meeting between the WAB and Climate Change Task Force. He also suggests outreach and suggest hearing from PR or digital media on ways to get information out to the public.

**AGENDA ITEM IX - LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER LEVELS:**  
**01/04/2021: 15.81; month ago: 16/13; 1 Yr. Ago: 13.35 ft-NGVD**

### **AGENDA ITEM X - ADJOURN**

There being further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.