

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
March 12, 2021  
Minutes

A joint meeting of the Broward County Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held virtually on WebEx on March 12, 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 Kevin Biederman, City of Hollywood  
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie, City of Weston, Alternate  
Commissioner Sandy Welch, City of Coconut Creek  
Vice-Mayor Denise Grant, City of Lauderhill  
Commissioner Tim Ryan, Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano, City of Margate  
Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron, South Florida Water Management District  
Mayor Greg Ross, South Florida Regional Planning Council, Vice Chair  
Gene Goldman  
Kevin Hart, Chair TAC  
Mark Peterson, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance  
Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City of Fort Lauderdale, Alternate  
Councilmember Jim Allbritton, Town of Southwest Ranches, Alternate  
Mayor Michelle J. Gomez, Alternate, City of Tamarac, Alternate  
Commissioner Aisha Gordon, City of Oakland Park, Alternate  
Commissioner Nancy Metayer, City of Coral Springs, Alternate  
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton, City of Pompano Beach  
Commissioner Doug Bell, CBWCD Board of Commissioners

**WAB MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner Tom Good, City of Pembroke Pines  
Commissioner Andrea McGee, City of Coconut Creek, Alternate

**II. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee**

Albert Carbon  
Randolph Brown (Vice-chair)  
Mike Bailey  
Steve Urich  
Talal Abi-Karam  
Mark Collins

Leny Huaman  
Sara Forelle  
Adolfo Gonzalez for Mike Crowley  
Steve Holmes  
Janeen Weitzgreffe for Patrick Davis  
Harold Aikin  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado  
Susan Bodman for Alan Garcia  
Lorraine Mayers for Pete Kwiatkowski  
Lisa Milenkovic  
Renuka Bajnath  
Jose Lopez  
Rafael Frias  
Stephanie Pearson  
Isabel Cosio Carballo  
Brett Butler  
Doug Bell

**TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Tim Welch

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Kimberly Mayo, Host  
Michael Owens, Esquire, County Attorney's Office  
Dr. Gregory J. Mount, Water Resources Manager, EPGMD  
Colonel Andrew D. Kelly, Jr., Commander and District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District  
Drew Bartlett, Executive Director, South Florida Water Management District  
Marty Cassini, Esquire, Section Manager, Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs  
Devon West, Legislative Policy Advisor, Broward County  
Monique Davis, Administrative Coordinator, Environmental Planning and Growth Management Department  
Dr. Carolina Maran, SFWMD  
Dr. Samantha Danchuk, EPGMD  
Jay Ameno  
Fernando A. Craveir de Sa/HBC  
Jcederberg  
Lynette Cardoch  
Guillermo Regalado  
Michael Zygnerski  
David McIntosh  
Dianys Arocho  
Kassandra Myers COH  
Eva B. Velez, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Bob Mayersohn  
Susan Juncosa  
Jason Kruszka  
Amy Eason

Hernan Lugo  
SAJ  
Christina Miskis  
Eugen Bold  
Johana Narvaez  
Dan Lindblade  
Franklin PE  
Isabel Botero  
Wilson Mendoza  
Sara Ayers-Rigsby  
Robk  
Bingjie Zhao  
Lenny Vialpando, Director, EPGMD  
Stephanie Molloy Director, EPCRD  
Rajendra Sishodia  
David Geller  
Dylan Larson  
Sam Baker  
David Rosa, McFarland-Johnson, Inc.  
Katie Lelis  
Jinsheng Huo  
Kareen Boutros, Broward Workshop  
Max Wemyss  
Mohammed Mohammed  
Nancy Cavender, Laws Reporting, Inc.

### **III. New Member Introductions (Led by Mayor Geller)**

Chair Geller announced the new municipal members: Council Member Jim Allbritton, from the Town of Southwest Ranches as an alternate; Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie from the City of Weston, as an alternate; Commissioner Rhonda Eaton, City of Pompano Beach, as a member; Vice-Mayor Denise Grant, City of Lauderhill, as a member; Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City of Fort Lauderdale, as an alternate; Commissioner Nancy Metayer from the City of Coral Springs, as an alternate; Commissioner Aisha Gordon, County of Oakland Park, as an alternate; and Commissioner Andrew [sic] Caggiano, City of Margate, as a member. Chair Geller will provide time later in the agenda for them to introduce themselves.

### **IV. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **V. WAB Chair and Vice Chair Vote**

Chair Geller opens the floor to nominations.

Commissioner Starkey nominated Mayor Geller as Chair. Seconded by Governing Board Member Bergeron. Chair Geller asked for additional nominations, seeing none, Commissioner Starkey made a motion for nominations to be closed, seconded by Governing Board Member Bergeron. Vote was without objections and unanimous for Mayor Geller to continue serving as Chair for the term 3/2021-3/2023.

Chair Geller opened the floor to nominations for the position of Vice-chair.

Commissioner Starkey nominated Commissioner Sandra Welch. Chair Geller asked Commissioner Welch if she would accept, and Commissioner Welch answered yes. Seconded by Mayor Greg Ross. Chair Geller solicited additional nominations, seeing none, Chair Geller closed the nominations. The vote was unanimous for Commissioner Sandra Welch for the Vice-chair position for the term 3/2021-3/2023.

**VI. WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 13<sup>th</sup> [sic], 2020**

On Motion of Mayor Greg Ross, seconded by Vice-mayor Starkey, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2020.

**VII. Presentations**

**A. Proposed C&SF Resiliency Study**

*Col. Andrew D. Kelly, JR. Commander and District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers*

Chair Geller introduced Col. Kelly and the topic of discussion.

Col Kelly Responded to the introduction by saying there is good news and that there is momentum. He went on to say that there are certainly many challenges but sees an ability to go forward and perhaps rapidly get to real solutions that we can implement as quickly as possible. Col Kelly then presented what is known as the 216 study and provided a background on what the Corps was doing now. Col Kelly highlighted the fact that adaptation to climate change affects everything that they do- from recreation to ecosystem restoration. He detailed some of the measures in action and how they deal with coastal flooding and climate change, referring to is as a mosaic of opportunities- and that no one solution can do it all. The 216 project is a piece of the solution that has to be done right.

Chair Geller asked for further clarification of what the 216 study is, and it was explained as a section of a bill that allows for the Corps to go back and look at a system that is old and take a look at it again. The C&SF project is of the age that it needs to be looked at again and encompasses the area from Disney land out to Florida Bay. The system as it was built serves its purpose, but did not account for changes, such as sea level. Col Kelly stressed the interrelated nature of all the studies and systems going on now, and how we need to have an approach that is compatible with the other projects and operating manuals. We need to ensure that the system functions in a coordinated, sophisticated, systematic way with what we are dealing with in the studies.

Col Kelly explained that the Corps is getting away from decade-long studies that result in a product and then you start working appropriations, resulting in a decades long project. Instead, they are trying to do things in phases and work in the most urgent risks areas first. The 216 study is a standalone after removing it from the South Atlantic Coastal Study, this was done with support from elected officials. There is a lot of community support and engagement for the proposed project. SFWMD has supported as local Federal Sponsor- now it just needs to be funded.

The funding must come as a "New Start Designation," which requires congressional and administrative support. There are typically 6-8 new starts each year, and the Corps is being

aggressive in securing this New Start Designation. Once it is given, the resiliency study can get underway in Southeastern Florida.

Chair Geller begins the discussion period by asking about jargon and acronyms used by the Corps. He follows with how many requests are made for the 6-8 available new starts? Col Kelly responds with "probably over 50 and less than 100 are really in the running." Col Kelly reiterates that it is a highly competitive environment, but the Florida Congressional delegation is aware and involved with the process- but it will take everyone pulling on the rope to get it done.

Chair Geller then talked about the system of canals used for drainage, and that the county is just a few inches away, depending on the tide, from overtopping the existing drainage control structures. Due to sea level rise, we could have seawater reversing the drainage so that seawater could cause devastating ecological issues. Chair Geller asked how far away from this overtopping situation are we in terms of inches and depending on tides?

Col Kelly said he was unsure of the exact elevation but was aware that it is already happening and that event such as king tides are affecting the day-to-day operations. He summarized by saying it is inches, the effects are now, and we see the impacts and those were exasperated by Eta.

Chair Geller's final question sought to determine how long the process would take. Col Kelly said the project is on a 6-year horizon, with the first phase taking about 4 years from when it starts. 2022 is the next available New Start. After the first phase an additional funding round would be required, that would start at the earliest in 2026. The rest of the project would commence at the speed of funding. Chair Geller comments that 2028 or 2029 would be an optimistic date to get the worst locations rebuilt and Col Kelly agreed that it would be a doable timeframe.

Commissioner Welch asked a question in the chat. "What can we as local communities do to help them attain their request for future budgets and get the new start designation?"

Col Kelly responded that the thing to do now would be to build energy, build momentum, build awareness. That is with the Congressional delegation and administration as well. They need to understand the need, how it affects very really in current time and that they know what they are going to get for this. That energy and the need can get us to the New Start Designation. Chair Geller followed up with where does the FL Congressional delegation stand on the issue and how are New Starts chosen? Col Kelly responded that Congress designates how many New Starts and in what program they fall into and that it is a combination of the administration and Congress that decides. The Colonel hasn't heard a single Member of Congress say that this isn't a good idea.

Chair Geller then asked Drew Bartlett, Executive Director for the South Florida Water Management District to elaborate on the District's perspective. Mr. Barlett stated that - first of all, I think it is very incumbent upon all of us to get behind the Corps and the study, and certainly the Water Management District has raised its hand with being the local sponsor and bringing our resources to this effort. And the reason the Corps of Engineers is -- is so critical in this effort is because it's a massive endeavor. It's a big system, and to retrofit it to address the challenges of the future is going to be costly.

Mr. Barlett discussed ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of sea level rise and the recent BRIC grant application and reiterated the high cost of each retrofit. For example, the BRIC grant

was for 60 million dollars. The funding decision is expected late summer 2021. He also updated the members with c-11 and c-9 impoundment as part of the Broward County Water Preservation Area projects.

Commissioner Molina-Macfie asked about the City of Weston's donation of land for the C-11 retention area. Mr. Bartlett confirmed that the utilities were being moved and then it would be turned over to the Corps for construction.

Governing Board Member Bergeron updated the recent action of seepage well approval to connect modified water deliveries to Florida Bay and that will eliminate high water events in the Everglades. Mr. Bartlett continued with Yesterday, we approved a infrastructure project in Miami-Dade that would enhance flood protection along Everglades National Park, so it would relieve that -- the constriction from moving water out of the central Everglades into Everglades National Park and deal with high water levels that could occur in the central Everglades. So trying to create -- right now, we get in these situations too frequently where Everglades National Park needs water and we can't move it beyond Tamiami Trail very easily.

Vice Mayor Starkey asked two questions, the first was whether a project already in design would be funded by the resilience restudy and the second was considering siting new pump stations to move water into the C-14 and not just the C-11. Mr. Bartlett reported that the annual budget would lead to projects, and that priority was given to those that were in the worst shape-- as part of the flood Level of Service Program. The BRIC grant included work on the C-11 to improve local drainage efforts. Dr Maran provided more information about specific projects as part of the FPLOS program.

#### **VIII. New Member Introductions (Led by Mayor Geller) Continued Out of Order**

Chair Geller took the agenda out of order in consideration of Col. Kelly and Mr. Bartlett, and then returned to the introductions for new WAB members. Chair Geller provided each of the 8 new members with some time to introduce themselves.

#### **B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

*Marty Cassini, ESQ., Section Manager, Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs.*

Mr. Cassini began his presentation by discussing the current legislative session and noting that they had just wrapped up the second week and that budgets are beginning to come together and they should be coming out shortly. Some of the governors initiatives that are in his budget are the Resilient Florida Coastline Program and the attached Resilient Florida Trust Fund. He detailed HB 719 and SB 1954 that would establish a grant program that deals with local government, water management districts, and the DEP will work together on statewide flooding and sea level rise. The bill that would rename the reef system after Rep. Kristin Jacobs is primed for the House floor and is getting close in the Senate, it should be heard next week.

The PACE program would be expanded in a series of bills, and makes mention of lienholder preference when it comes to financial institutions. The PACE program allows homeowners to finance certain types of upgrades to their house to harden or make them more energy efficient. Another bill would make the Office of Resiliency official and would require the establishment sea level rise task forces. Other bills were brought up but they were noted as not likely going to move in this session.

Mr. Cassini stated that two bills are related to statewide constitutional amendments. The first would raise the threshold from 60 to 66% for a voter referendum to be approved. Then Then, the abolishing of the Constitutional Review Commission, stating that elected officials are not necessarily creating policy that affects the Constitution and the citizens of the State of Florida. Which is moving through the Senate, but hasn't gone anywhere in the House. And then with -- the other one is 540, which would required the Legislature to have a super majority if they did want to preempt. But, there's no House companion to that.

Chair Geller asked Mr. Cassini his opinion of the C&SF restudy. Mr. Cassini responded that-- when it comes to the C and SF, clearly, it is one -- the -- one of the most important things that we are working on, not just with members of the delegation, but, obviously, members of the business community. Every time there is some kind of environmental committee, it comes up. Like the Colonel said, it's imperative to keep this going, to keep educating, and to keep making it a topic of discussion, much like the deepening and widening project. Everybody was talking about it. The whole community knew about it, was supportive of it, aside from some -- from some separate groups. However, it is a top priority for this section and, as Commissioner Furr has made it a top priority for the Board, we are working hand-in-hand with Dr. Jurado, federal lobbyists, with the community to really drive home the need for the study now. And are working with our delegations in the new earmarking process that they have established in Washington to actually push -- push that through as an earmark. Mr. Cassini is confident that they can get the C&SF restudy done this year- either through the work program or through earmarks.

**IX. Proposed resolution for the Broward Water Partnership and Conservation Pays**

Chair Geller took the agenda out of order and asked for an explanation from staff about the resolution that was sent to members prior to the meeting. Dr. Mount explained that the resolution would be a formal means of support by the Broward County Commission for the renewal of the Broward Water Partnership and Conservation Pays. He noted that both the WAB and TAC had voted on this in the past, but it was not formalized to ask for a resolution for support.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Governing Board Member Bergeron, voted unanimously in favor.**

**Agenda Item VIII. Discussion**

**A. Discussion of joint task force meeting with Palm Beach County.**

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

Dr. Mount provided context for the discussion in Dr. Jurado's absence. The meeting would bring together both Broward and Palm County's water advisory boards for a joint meeting to communicate and discussion common issues.

Chair Geller asked membership if anyone was opposed to directing staff to investigate discussions pertaining to a joint meeting.

**B. Topics for 2021 WAB Discussion.**

*Mayor Steve Geller, Chair, Water Advisory Board*

Chair Geller solicited items for discussion for upcoming meetings. He suggests: Deep well injection, Septic tanks, fertilizer ordinance, and at the next meeting a Water 101 as a refresher to existing members and information for new members. Members asked for a discussion on seawall infrastructure and funding, Everglades restoration, and what municipalities are doing to become more resilient.

**AGENDA ITEM IX - LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER LEVELS:**

03/01/2021: 15.23; 02/01/2021: 15.51; 03/01/2020: 12.64 ft-NGVD

Announcements:

1. FDEP grant will be available soon. County staff will communicate with members as information becomes available.
2. Invitation to the Regional Planning Council Meeting from Ms. Carballo.
3. Water Matters Day/Month is underway and virtual this year. [Watermatters.broward.org](http://Watermatters.broward.org)

**AGENDA ITEM X - ADJOURN**

There being further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Motion: Mayor Ross, Second Mayor Gomez.