

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
May 14, 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 May 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

(The WAB/TAC meeting minutes were summarized by Gregory Mount. A verbatim transcript and 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
Mayor Greg Ross, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Commissioner Sandy Welch, City of Coconut Creek
Commissioner Kevin Biederman, City of Hollywood
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie, Alternate
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton, City of Fort Lauderdale
Vice Mayor Tom Good, City of Pembroke Pines
Commissioner Tim Ryan, Broward County Board of County Commissioners Commissioner
Anthony Caggiano, City of Margate
Ron Bergeron, Governing Board, South Florida Water Management District Lorraine Mayers for
Pete Kwiatkowski, Alternate
Commissioner Doug Bell, CBWCD Board of Commissioners
Jack McClusky, Alternate
Gene Goldman
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance
Albert Carbon, TAC Chair
Councilmember Jim Allbritton, Southwest Ranches
Mayor Michelle J. Gomez, City of Tamarac

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Aisha Gordon, Alternate, City of Pembroke Pines
Commissioner Andrea McGee, Alternate, City of Coconut Creek
Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City of Fort Lauderdale, Alternate
Commissioner Nancy Matayer, Alternate, City of Coral Springs
Vice Mayor Susan Starkey, Town of Davie
Vice Mayor Denise Grant, City of Tamarac

II. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee

Albert Carbon
Randolph Brown, Vice Chair

Mike Bailey
Adolfo Gonzalez for Mike Crowley
Steve Urich
Tim Welch
Gio Batista for Mark Collins
Leny Huaman
Steve Holmes
Patrick Davis
Harold Aiken
Doug Bell
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia
Lorraine Mayers for Pete Kwiatkowski
Lisa Milenkovic
Marta Reczko for Renuka Mohammed
Jose Lopez
Isabel Botero for Rafael Frias
Stephanie Pearson
Isabel Cosio Carballo
Brett Butler
David Walker
Susan Carrano

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Talal Abi-Karam

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
Marty Cassini, Section Manager, Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs Marta Reczko, Utilities Department, Town of Davie
Ashok Raichoudhury
Cristal Joi Ford
Emily Derrenbacker
Ernest Cox
Francois Domond
Guillermo Regalado
Jason Kruszka
J. Melgarejo
Katie Leis
Lenny Vialpando
Stephanie Molloy
Robert McGolgan
Roy Virgin
J. Wietgreffe
William Tracy

Wilson Mendoza
David Geller, Chief of Staff, Mayor Geller's Office
Margaret McGrath
Nancy Cavender, Laws Reporting, Inc.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2021 and March 12, 2021

For the Minutes of January 24, 2021 on Motion of Mayor Ross, seconded by Commissioner Welch, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2021. For the Minutes of March 12, 2021 on Motion of Mayor Ross, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2021.

V. Presentations

A. Advocacy for the C and SF Project

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

Chair Geller introduced Marty Cassini and the topic of the presentation. Chair Geller expressed his concern for the speed at which this project would move forward, and that sea level rise is of utmost concern for him as the canals will no longer drain by gravity. He recalled that at the last meeting, Col. Kelly said that updates and repairs to the system could be completed in as little as 10 years, but after conversations with Dr. Jurado, a more likely time frame is 15 years.

Mr. Cassini then began with a brief history of the C and SF project and the process by which funding is given to these types of projects and how funding is shifted around by Members of Congress. Mr. Cassini requested continued support via contact with delegation members, as this situation is life or death.

B. LOSOM Status Update

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

Dr. Jurado began with a brief response to the presentation by Mr. Cassini about a presentation by the South Florida Water Management District to our Technical Advisory Committee which was a technical investigation of the capacity of the structures to operate under certain sea level rise scenarios. She reported that It wasn't so much a one, two, three foot scenario, but an analysis of if you were looking at a storm surge setup in a -- an amount of sea level rise, how much additional sea level rise could be sustained before canal bank overtopping occurred, assuming that you were maintaining, you know, discharges at the canal structures. It also looked at how much additional storage could you achieve in the canals themselves before you were causing flooding and still maintain the gate operations. Dr. Jurado expressed concern about the implications of water elevations in the canals and the ability of the inner part of the county to be able to discharge to those canals. And the reason that it would be relevant is because there is a ranking of the salinity control structures based upon that, and it would be largely influenced by canal banks as opposed to some of the discharge capacity concerns that we have for the entire basin. With the acceleration of sea level rise, we don't have the luxury of

waiting three and five and ten years for the funding to take place when we know how much process is involved.

Dr. Jurado then provided a brief update on the LOSOM project stating that the USACE is developing several models that will be used to inform a new operational schedule. She also added that Broward County went on the record requesting that the SFWMD and the USACE take a balanced approach. This seems to be consistent with SFWMD requests, but in some models, water is retained in the northern part of the system and directed to one particular class of users- rather than the full diversity of uses, which includes urban water supply and our natural systems needs. The final model selection will occur over the next several weeks, and staff will be monitoring those outcomes.

Chair Geller asked: "Is it fair to say that the problem is that, although we are looking at increased water storage for everyone, it turns out that agriculture has basically taken all or most of it?"

Dr. Jurado responded: "Some of the opinion is that the historical distribution of water is being preserved in those same proportions as opposed to looking to take advantage of the beneficial gains and sharing those more equally. And so, Yes."

C. Water 101

Dr. Gregory Mount, Water Resources Manager, EPGMD.

Dr. Mount provided an introduction to Broward Water Resources that covered the regional water system, Everglade's restoration, saltwater intrusion, C&SF system, Broward County seawall standards, and Broward County sanitary sewer standards. This presentation was requested by the Board in a previous meeting as a way to provide some background information to the newly appointed members. Dr. Mount also provided a future outlook for the next few years based on the topics staff is recognizing.

D. Integrated Water Resources Plan Year in Review

Dr. Gregory Mount, Water Resources Manager, EPGMD.

Dr. Mount provided a review of the past year's efforts with the Integrated Water Resources Plan and the achievements made by programs and staff. He began with a short overview that documented the conceptualization of the plan in 1997 and the latest update in 2019 with a focus on resilience. the Integrated Water Resource Plan, or the IWRP, has four main components that function synergistically together. There are a series of urban water resource management strategies that provide alternatives towards meeting our future water needs. There is a robust water resource assessment program that ensures that studies, programs, and projects are driven by good science. The regional governance and coordination is provided through what you have heard here today. Policy forums are used to convey the current events in government and planning activities across the boards. Public outreach is the last component. The need to communicate effectively and to explain what is happening to keep stakeholders engaged and municipalities involved and be able to explain what's going on to our residents at the level that everyone understands. Dr. Mount then provided program highlights and achievements that extended from national awards to water savings at the household level. Dr. Mount then talked about the renewal of the Broward Water Partnership and a new rebate program where homeowners would not have to put money out front of the toilet replacement.

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. Jurado provided an update that there has been an agreed-upon and coordinated agenda with the staff for the water -- Palm Beach Water Resources Task Force. We are using this opportunity just to kick off and a reminder of the very important role that it -- that the joint WAB and Task Force played back in 2008 when they came together to jointly advocate for the C-51 Reservoir. Dr Jurado added that many of you may not have had the opportunity to engage in the WAB at that time, or the Water Resources Task Force, which we had convened for nearly a decade here in Broward County, and the two groups were ultimately merged. But it was that political leadership that advanced what had been a technical project to the policy level, engaged our elected officials, and moved something that we never could have advanced just through our technical resources and evaluations.

And so we have a lot to celebrate together in being able to acknowledge the kickoff that occurred in February, and we will have a brief presentation by Ernie Cox representing Palm Beach Aggregates, providing a bit of an update on the status and encourage municipal participation in potential phase 2 opportunities.

The meeting will be held on June 2nd from 1:00- 3:00 in-person and online.

B. Topics for 2021 WAB Discussion.

Mayor Steve Geller, Chair, Water Advisory Board

Chair Geller identified two topics for future presentations. Deep well injection due to the number of questions raised about that technology and septic tanks/septic to sewer conversions. Commissioner Welch suggested a presentation on the canal system and how it affects municipalities that have those finger water sources in their community. Mayor Ross requested a presentation on the American Rescue Plan and how it could potentially relate to the septic to sewer conversions. Ms. Cosio Carballo added that there were potentially other categories of money that could address the funding.

AGENDA ITEM IX - LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER LEVELS:

This month 13.97; Last month 14.44; one year ago 11.43 (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

AGENDA ITEM X - ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 pm.