

MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE WATER ADVISORY BOARD
April 19, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Albert Carbon, Kevin Hart, Talal Abi-Karam, Harold Aiken, Mike Bailey, Doug Bell, Randy Brown, Adolfo Gonzalez for Mike Crowley, Enrique Vadiveloo for Patrick Davis, Sara Forelle, Rafael Frias, Kevin Carter for Alan Garcia, Barry Heimlich, Steve Holmes, Jennifer Jurado, Pete Kwiatkowski, Jose Lopez, Lisa Milenkovich, Renuka Mohammed, Pat O'Quinn, Tim Welch, Garrett McAllister for Kenneth Wenning

OTHERS PRESENT

Jay Ameno, Shana Coombs, Dania DeLaHorra, Norma Ellison, Francis Domond, Susan Juncosa, Lorraine Mayers, Jack McCluskey, Ali Parker, Jeff Thompson, Binjie Zhao

(A sign-in sheet reflecting those present is filed with the supplementary papers of the meeting.)

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Water Advisory Board was held on April 19, 2019; commencing at 9:35 am in the Hearing Room of the Broward County Government Center West in Plantation, FL. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 15, 2019 meeting were motioned and approved.

PRESENTATIONS

As Ernie Cox had not yet arrived for the first presentation, the Chair moved on to the second presentation.

USACE Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual
Savannah Hayes Lacy, Hydraulic Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville)

Jennifer Jurado introduced Savannah Hayes Lacy, Hydraulic Engineer Water Manager in the Corps' Jacksonville office. Ms. Lacy began by providing some background history of Lake Okeechobee. Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) was constructed in response to the deadly hurricane flooding of the 1920's and 1940's. Referring to a map in her hand-out, she explained that Lake Okeechobee is part of the Central & South Florida (C&SF) Project. She provided a broad overview of how the water moves through the system.

Ms. Lacy explained that the lake's operations are governed by a manual developed through a public process which is currently LORS 2008. She described in detail the various conditions the Corps must consider when making the decision to release water out of Lake Okeechobee. She outlined a simplified

representation of the current regulation schedule, illustrating the maximum release amounts corresponding to current lake levels, current conditions, and short and long-term forecasts. She explained that there are a lot of different release schedules based on information gathered from various stakeholders and partners with different opinions, needs, desires, and competing project purposes. She clarified that the lake cannot be operated for any one purpose. She emphasized that the Corps has always strived to achieve the delicate balance of competing purposes involving water supply, ecology, and flood control.

Ms. Lacy explained the reason the Corps is reviewing Lake Okeechobee operations to develop a new operational plan. Lake Okeechobee was lowered in 2008 to facilitate Herbert Hoover Dike's rehabilitation. LORS 2008 determined that Lake Okeechobee operations should be re-evaluated when the rehabilitation is completed in 2022. The dike's condition will be significantly improved, new science will have been developed, and new CERP projects will be coming online.

Ms. Lacy referred to a simplified version of the timeline including scoping meetings (completed), upcoming planning and alternative evaluation workshops, and both the draft and final report public comment periods. The scoping meetings which were completed was the initial phase to establish objectives, goals, and criteria to move forward. The next step is to provide educational webinars for stakeholders on various projects. She remarked that the process will take longer than the normal feasibility study of 3 years because there is more flexibility involved. She emphasized the importance of taking the time to do the science right by involving all stakeholders. She encouraged the members to stay engaged in the process. She provided the LOSOM website that includes project information, upcoming workshops, supporting documents available for review, news releases, etc. She also referred to the Corps' water management page for real-time information on lake levels, flows in and out, etc.

The Chair thanked Ms. Lacy for her presentation and invited her back to provide updates. A lengthy question and answer session followed.

As Ernie Cox had now arrived, the Chair returned to the first presentation, C-51 Reservoir Update.

C-51 Reservoir Update

Ernie Cox, Project Manager, Palm Beach Aggregates

Due to the new governor's much needed re-education efforts, Mr. Cox restated that he has been working on a summary of the whole C-51 Project. He expressed his concern with the spread of misinformation by a certain group that is attacking it, making re-education endeavors more difficult.

Mr. Cox reported that extension agreements for moving the conditions deadlines to November are being reviewed by Dania Beach, Hallandale Beach, and Sunrise staff. He expects them to be in place within the next 30-60 days to meet the target deadline to start construction by the end of the year in order to complete by the end of 2021.

Mr. Cox then provided a legislative update. He explained that HB 95 which passed contains language referring to reservoir operations being in agreement with district rules. However, SB 92 at the Appropriations Committee does not include this language. He advised that at some point they have to be reconciled. He recommended that letters requesting this language (Paragraph F) be put back in SB 92 in order to be amended on the floor. If not amended but passes without the language, it will go back to be reconciled on the House side. He recommended that letters need to be presented by next Tuesday,

April 26th. He explained that the language (Paragraph F) refers to management language that allows SFWMD to use the \$30 million loan appropriated by SB 10.

Dr. Jurado expressed that water management districts everywhere in the state are participants in the large-scale development of projects. She stated that lack of water management participation is more of an exception, so there is nothing unusual in seeking a mechanism to facilitate district participation should they find that to be in their own interests.

Mr. Cox expressed another point of fact that this almost identical language passed both the House and the Senate last year. However, the Governor vetoed it for other reasons. He commented that it was also included in the reuse bill at that time.

In conclusion, Mr. Cox informed that he had met with Miami-Dade staff who are very interested in the One-Water Strategy for water supply, ASR, bay coastal wetlands modeled land, etc. He mentioned he is hoping to schedule a meeting with the new District staff within the next 30-60 days.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cox for his update.

2019 IWRP Grant Ranking

Katie Lelis, GIS Analyst, Broward County EPCRD

Dr. Carolina Maran, P.E., Water Resources Manager, Broward County EPCRD

Katie Lelis provided a history of the various partners and their respective monetary grant awards they received for projects from 2006 thru 2018. The Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) Grants funded county-wide projects for feasibility design and most recently construction in 2017. A total contribution of \$2.3 million have supported projects for the Floridan aquifer, C-51 Reservoir, reuse, reclaimed water supply, and concentrate treatment. She displayed the projects in several different ways; i.e., map, graph, and pie versions. She depicted how reuse accounts for approximately 70% funding, and how it also supports ocean outfall legislation in addition aquifer recharge and saltwater abatement

Ms. Lelis informed that 7 applications had been received; 3 for feasibility and design, and 4 for construction. Her maps depicted that the applications came from 6 different cities; Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Plantation, Davie, and Hollywood.

She described in detail each city's respective projects as follows:

- Deerfield Beach – Reclaimed water distribution feasibility and design
- Plantation – Reclaimed water program expansion feasibility and design
- Davie – Pine Island-Bamford Park reclaimed water project feasibility and design
- Pompano Beach – Distribution expansion pipeline extension construction project
- Sunrise – Golf and country club reuse pipeline extension construction
- Davie – Pine Island-Bamford Park reclaimed water construction project
- Broward County Parks – Topeekeege Yungee Park reclaimed water construction

Carolina Maran outlined the grant selection criteria for both feasibility analysis and design and for construction. She outlined the respective monetary recommendations for each of the feasibility analysis and design projects in Deerfield Beach, Davie, and Plantation, which totaled \$187,500. She then outlined the next steps timeline, from TAC endorsement to project commencement in October 2019.

Dr. Maran then outlined the respective monetary recommendations for each construction project in Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Davie, and Broward County Parks, pending capital budget approval for \$300,000 each. She outlined the next steps timeline for them, from TAC endorsement to project commencement in December 2019/January 2020.

On Motion by Kevin Hart, seconded by Steve Holmes, and carried by majority vote, the Motion to transmit recommendation for the grant proposals to the Water Advisory Board for approval was advanced.

The Chair thanked Ms. Lelis and Dr. Maran for the report.

Septic Tank Ordinance – Best Practices White Paper

Albert Carbon, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Oakland Park and TAC Chair
Randy Brown, Utilities Director, City of Pompano Beach

The Chair recapped that at the last board meeting, Chair Geller requested a report from the committee on current best practices and solutions from other utilities and governments around the country since this is a national issue.

Randy Brown informed that he had sent out inquiries throughout the state and country on best management practices regarding incentives to connect, fees, permits, goals, budgeting, and timelines. As a result, he was directed to the “Septic to Sewer” Guidance Document developed by the Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA) in 2018 that addresses all concerns and provides case studies from various cities in the state. He referred to a program approved in 2017 by the Broward Municipal Services District (BMSD) and implemented for low income applicants.

The Chair clarified the plan is to simplify this presentation for the WAB, highlighting some examples in this report. The Board’s comments will be reviewed by the committee in June for a final draft white paper and presentation to the WAB in September. Dr. Jurado shared that Chair Geller is advancing an agenda item for May 21st which is a Motion to Direct the County Attorney’s Office to draft an ordinance. She suggested that the best practices should be forwarded as an exhibit at the time of adoption of the ordinance as a resource reference for support, rather than embedded in the ordinance itself. Mr. Brown agreed that its best to offer alternatives to the municipalities as a menu of options that are not part of the ordinance. A lengthy question and answer session continued.

The Chair thanked Mr. Brown for his report.

NIS Pilot Residential Rebate Program

Jeff Deloian, Natural Resources Specialist, Broward County EPCRD

Jeff Deloian presented about the new NIS Pilot residential rebate program to expand outdoor water conservation incentives, focusing on educational aspects by promoting the installation of EPA WaterSense labeled smart irrigation controllers in properties currently using potable water. The pilot has a pre-approved budget for 60 rebates, on a first-come, first served basis (between 2 and 5 for each partner municipality), for the pilot implementation in Year 1. Four rebate options will be offered to residents living within partner city service area:

- In The Zones – up to \$300. Correcting imbalanced areas that mix spray heads and rotor heads, this upgrade rebates the replacement of sprays with multi-stream nozzles on PRS bodies or

adding sprays/rotors within zones to eliminate head mixing. Replace current sprays with pressure regulating sprays to conserve water and improve efficiency.

- Get Smart – Up to \$500. Bring any mechanical wheel/pins timer into the Wi-Fi age with this upgrade that rebates EPA WaterSense-labeled weather-based (smart) irrigation controllers and new electric solenoid valves (to control zones individually) System design must meet ‘Fitness Score’ criteria.
- ‘VIP’ Upgrade – Up to \$200. Already have a digital irrigation controller with electric solenoid valves? Take the next step toward cutting edge irrigation technology and replace it with an EPA WaterSense-labeled weather-based irrigation controller. System design must meet ‘Fitness Score’ criteria.
- Mix and Match – Up to \$600. Improve zone design AND upgrade to a EPA WaterSense-labeled weather-based irrigation controller and valves.

Jeff highlighted that all program participants will receive: a free irrigation evaluation and ‘Fitness’ score; a free water conservation tool kit; additional sustainable landscape program information; and irrigation evaluation report available via Email following site visit. Estimated timeline for the pilot program implementation includes: open applications in May; start evaluations in June; and, complete evaluation in September 2019. Results will be finalized in December 2019.

Water Conservation Partner of the Year

Sam Baker, Project Coordinator, Broward County EPCRD

Samantha Baker explained that the Water Conservation Partner of the Year Award was developed to recognize a water partner that goes above and beyond water conservation efforts.

Ms. Baker demonstrated a new application that was developed that focuses on Broward programs and partnerships for community engagement. She referred to the various municipal participants, with those that provided additional comments underlined. She discussed the 6 evaluation categories; NatureScape Program, NatureScape Irrigation Services (NIS), Broward Water Partnership, Reduction in Water Per Capita, Reused Water, and Participation in other water conservation programs.

Ms. Baker then outlined the scoring system used to choose the winner; announcing that the City of Hollywood was the winner! Ali Parker, Outreach Coordinator for the City Hollywood, received and accepted the award, expressing her appreciation and honor for being chosen, and acknowledging the other partners’ efforts. Ms. Baker highlighted the City of Hollywood’s attributes.

Proclamation – Water Conservation Month

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County EPCRD

Dr. Jurado presented to Lorraine Mayers, Regional Representative for the South Florida Water Management District, and read aloud the Proclamation for Water Conservation Month. Ms. Mayers expressed her appreciation and complimented Broward County for the great job it accomplishes with conservation outreach and education.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Carter announced that a Stormwater Regional Meeting focusing on the upcoming hurricane season is scheduled for April 30th at the Southeast Florida Utility Council address in Boca Raton. The Florida Rural Water Association along with FDEP are hosting a flood resiliency training for water and wastewater folks on May 7th at the same address in Boca Raton. The Resilient Utility Coalition is hosting a Smart Water Association Network (SWAN) meeting at the Hyatt Regency on May 15-16th. He mentioned that abstracts are due by June 14th for the conference in September.

Dr. Jurado announced that the Broward County Florida Cooperative is active and open for the public. She remarked that over 100 people have registered. She encouraged the audience to take advantage of the opportunity to get in on the bulk purchasing power for Broward County residents to negotiate a cut rate on solar energy.

NEXT SCHEDULED TAC MEETING – June 28th
NEXT SCHEDULED WAB MEETING – May 10th

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.