

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

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

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT Commissioner Neil Kerch, Alternate, City of Sunrise
Pete Kwiatkowski, Alternate, South Florida Water Management District
Jack McClusky, Alternate, SBDD Board of Commissioners
Mayor Wayne Messam, City of Miramar
Andrea McGee, Alternate, City of Pompano Beach
Mayor Frank Ortis, Alternate, City of Pembroke Pines
Mayor Greg Ross, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Vice Mayor Susan Starkey, Town of Davie
Mayor Ken Thurston, City of Lauderhill
Mayor Dean Trantalis, Alternate, City of Fort Lauderdale

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT Albert Carbon, Chair
Kevin Hart, Co-Chair
Talal Abi-Karam
Doug Bell
Randy Brown, via telephone
Adolfo Gonzalez for Mike Crowley, via telephone
Patrick Davis, via telephone
Heather Cunniff for Sara Forelle, via telephone
Aleem Ghany for Rafael Frias, via telephone
Kevin Carter for Alan Garcia, via telephone
Steve Holmes, via telephone
Jennifer Jurado
Lorraine Mayers for Pete Kwiatkowski, via telephone
Jose Lopez, via telephone
Lisa Milenkovic, via telephone
Stephanie Pearson, via telephone
Tim Welch, via telephone

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TAC Harold Aiken, via telephone
MEMBERS Mike Bailey
ABSENT Leny Huaman
Renuka Mohammed
Pat O-Quinn
Steve Urich

Also Present Dianys Arocha, Black & Veatch, via telephone
Nancy Cavender, The Laws Group, via telephone
Ernie Cox, Palm Beach Aggregates, via telephone
Monique Davis, Broward County EPGMD, via telephone
Steven Eagle, via telephone
Christina Evans, Broward County Planning Council, via telephone
Commissioner Beam Furr, Broward County Commission, via telephone
Joshua Freeman, via telephone
Laurel Geller, via telephone
Dylan Lason, via telephone
Kimberly Mayo, Broward County EPCRD, via telephone
Joaquin Mojica, via telephone
Michael Owens, Broward County Attorney's Office, via telephone
Alycia Shatters, FDEP
Larry Teich, Fort Lauderdale Environmental Services, via telephone
Jessica Ward, Broward County EPCRD, via telephone
Janeen Weitgreffe, Hazen & Sawyer, via telephone
B. Zhao, Gai Consultants, via telephone

A joint meeting of the Broward County Water Advisory Board and the Technical Advisory Committee was held on November 13, 2020 at 10:00 am.

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

Roll Call – Water Advisory Board (WAB)

Roll call was taken by the Real Time Reporter. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

None

WAB Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2020

On Motion of Mayor Gomez, seconded by Commissioner Ryan, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2020.

C51 Reservoir Update

Ernie Cox, Palm Beach Aggregates

Ernie Cox provided a brief update on the C-51 Reservoir. He informed that the ceremonial groundbreaking date is now December rather than November or may even be deferred into the New Year. Serious construction starts in December. He mentioned letters were distributed to the utilities with the updated schedule. Pre-construction activities are proceeding with the contractor and engineers. Pre-closing activities are proceeding with FDEP and the private financing partner, Goldman Sachs, on construction financing.

Mr. Cox reported that Broward County, Sunrise, Hallandale Beach, and Margate have received their consumptive use permits. Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Dania Beach, and Miami-Dade are in process with their consumptive use permits.

In conclusion, Mr. Cox remarked that he doesn't expect any delays and everything seems to be on schedule.

The Chair suggested that updates be received at every other meeting now unless there is something noteworthy. He thanked Mr. Cox for his update.

The Chair acknowledged Commissioner Ryan's lead on this issue for the County Commission. In response to Commissioner Ryan, Mr. Cox answered that all the consumptive use permitting processes are going well. The State Legislature appropriated the \$30 million loan, it has been signed, so the administrative process is proceeding with DEP staff.

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area Water Quality Monitoring Program

Alycia Shatters, Land-Based Sources of Pollution Coordinator, FDEP

The Chair introduced Alycia Shatters and added that Commissioner Beam Furr will also be contributing to the presentation, acknowledging his lead on this issue for the County Commission. Commissioner Furr provided some background information on the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative, of which he was a participant, and the resulting Coral Reef Conservation Area that was established along with funding for the necessary sampling resources.

Ms. Shatters shared some results of the state's offshore water quality assessment, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area Water Quality Monitoring Program. She provided some background information. Data was collected within the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area (ECA), which was designated by the Florida Legislature in July 2018. The area is a marine managed area that spans from the St. Lucie Inlet in the north to the Biscayne National Park in the South, extends 3 miles offshore, and encompasses 9 major inlets along the Southeast Florida's coast. DEP selected 2 ECA's to focus first: the Boynton ICA in Palm Beach and the Miami ICA.

Referring to her hand-out, Ms. Shatters discussed in detail how poor water quality can lead to increased incidences of coral bleaching and disease.

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She outlined the timeline of the water quality monitoring project. In 2015 DEP and NOAA met with local stakeholders and water quality experts to identify issues and gaps in water quality knowledge for the ECA region. The sampling assessment plan was defined and put in place in 2016. Through expanded funding, sampling continues in all 9 ECA's using the latest data analysis as of 2016-2018.

She explained that sampling occurs at 3 site types: inlets, ocean outfalls, and coral reefs. Each month 115 samples are conducted across 9 ICA'S. Referring to various graphs in her hand-out, Ms. Shatters discussed in detail the differences between the ICA'S, comparing the northernmost ICA and the southernmost ICA. When comparing the trends to land use, i.e., some patterns emerge. The water quality from the program was compared to values published in literature deemed harmful to corals. The published values are specific to southeast Florida and do show thresholds of nitrogen and phosphorus that are noted to sustain macro algal blooms on coral reefs. Referring to her maps, she showed results comparing phosphorus to nitrogen.

Ms. Shatters emphasized that all this data can be used to make comparisons that exist to show the influence of water quality on coral reefs, revealing correlations or trends that may be making these coral more susceptible to disease. She further pointed out why it is useful and important to co-locate biological and chemical sites when planning water quality programs. She remarked that all this data is publicly available, to continue to be shared and used to potentially develop coral-specific water quality regulatory thresholds and detect changes after management actions are implemented.

In summary, Ms. Shatters outlined the next steps:

- Sampling will continue at all 9 inlets
- Adaptation efforts will continue as needed to answer changing or new management questions
- Partnering efforts with local counties and municipalities will continue to identify priority areas and potential projects

The Chair thanked Ms. Shatters for her presentation. A lengthy question and answer session ensued.

In response to the Chair, Ms. Shatters informed that the Boynton ICA Watershed Management Plan led by NOAA developed a fertilizer ordinance recommendation. Also, at the Chair's request, she further answered that she is working on a presentation more relevant to the public and lay persons. Dr. Jurado emphasized that the effects of nitrogen is a really important topic to study further as well as wastewater streams and septic tanks as contributing factors. Commission Ryan commented that a positive article for the upcoming editorial interview with the Sun Sentinel would be beneficial both for information and advocacy for obtaining state and federal funding on remedial efforts. Mr. Bergeron congratulated the Chair, Commission Ryan, and complimented the Governor for their commitment to the importance of Everglades Restoration for the future of South Florida, stressed the importance of education, and complimented DEP for its funding of extensive monitoring.

Future Conditions 100-Year Flood Map

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

The Chair explained that due to the limit on in-person attendance, the Technical Advisory Committee has not yet had the opportunity to examine Items B and C, 100-Year Flood Map and Broward Water Partnership Renewal, on the agenda. Therefore, it is the Chair's intent not to take a vote on either item.

Dr. Jurado introduced Rajendra Sishodia, PhD, EPCRD's new modeler. She clarified that the TAC has seen the final results, but now that the public engagement process has finished community feedback can be provided. She remarked that it is her intent to come back to the TAC and WAB for a recommendation to be presented to the Broward County Commissioners for adoption.

Referring to her hand-out, she provided a brief overview of the regional climate challenges, the factors involved in compounded flood risk, implications of planning and investments, and evolving resilience planning. She shared pictures and graphs of rainfall amounts, groundwater levels, and rising flood elevations statistics and risks. Discussion centered around the rain events in October/November.

Dr. Jurado next shared the 100-year map results and discussed in detail the modeling itself and where it fits into the next steps with regional strategy. She informed that the next step is to apply the model results to the County's funding of a resilience plan, of which procurement is underway. She shared that the business community and the SEFL Climate Change Compact jointly developed a report evaluating the return on investment from the resilience standpoint. The evaluation showed a return on investment of 2 to 1 with community-wide investments. She further shared that a municipal workshop was held several weeks ago with more than 100 attendees. A business community workshop was held with about 160 attendees.

In conclusion, Dr. Jurado remarked that stakeholders' comments can still be accepted through today. She reiterated that with the endorsement of TAC and WAB, the modified map will be presented to the Broward County Commission for adoption.

The Chair thanked Dr. Jurado for her presentation.

In consideration of the time, the Chair postponed the Broward Water Partnership Renewal agenda item to the next board meeting in January.

Chair Geller continued discussing the Future Conditions 100-Year Flood Map. He explained that this board has more actual power than other advisory boards, the County Commission requires 6 votes to not approve something brought before this board to them. He emphasized that when this item is voted on at the next meeting, it will have real impact. He advised the board members who are city representatives to make sure their technical people fully understand it.

In response to the Chair, Dr. Jurado provided a quick summary for final clarification on the significant impacts as a result of voting on this item. Commissioner Ryan suggested that the various comments on the different applications and interpretations of flood elevation be incorporated in a more direct way. In response to Commissioner Ryan, Dr. Jurado answered that Phase 2 of the C-51 Reservoir is a very important element for long-term, sustained storage for regional water management. She added that ASR warrants continued exploration for capturing and retaining below ground rainfall volumes, and more green infrastructure needs to be employed. Mr. Bergeron commented that the importance of

Everglades restoration, quality of water, equalizing water levels, and the ability to deliver water to Florida Bay affects 2/3 of Broward County.

New Business and Open Discussion

None

Lake Okeechobee Water Levels: 11/05/20: 16.13 ; 1 Month ago: 15.53; 1 Yr Ago: 13.35 ft-NVGD

Next Scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting – January 8, 2021

Next Scheduled TAC Meeting – December 18, 2021

Adjournment

There being further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 pm.