

MINUTES
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE WATER ADVISORY BOARD

June 19, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Albert Carbon (Chair), Kevin Hart (Co-Chair), Harold Aiken, Doug Bell, Randy Brown, Mark Collins, Patrick Davis, Sara Forelle, Rafael Frias, Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia, Leny Huaman, Jennifer Jurado, Pete Kwiatkowski, Jose Lopez, Lisa Milenkovic, Stephanie Pearson, Steve Urich, Tim Welch

OTHERS PRESENT

Kevin Carter, Ernie Cox, Monique Davis, Norma Ellison, Carolina Maran, Kimberly Mayo, Robert Rudolph

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Water Advisory Board was held on June 19, 2020; commencing at 9:35 am. The meeting was conducted virtually. A quorum was present. Monique Davis, Broward County Planning & Development Mgt Division, acting as the Web Host assisted in guiding the technical direction of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 21st meeting were motioned and approved.

PRESENTATIONS

C-51 Update

Ernie Cox, Palm Beach Aggregates

Ernie Cox provided a brief update on the C-51 Reservoir. Miami-Dade County is considering an agreement for a 15mgd allocation in Phase 1. It has been approved by a committee of the Board of County Commissioners in July. The DEP Loan Agreement is almost finalized and should be and hopefully will be confirmed soon. Discussions for the balance of the construction financing are underway, although delayed by COVID-19, and hopefully will be confirmed soon. Participating utilities are working on their consumptive use permit modifications and PBA is having weekly construction team calls, all working towards commencement of construction in September of this year.

Flood Protection Level of Service Study

Dr. Carolina Maran, District Resilience Office, SFWMD

Carolina Maran provided some background information. As a result of the U.S. Congress Flood Control Act of 1948, the Florida Legislature created the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, predecessor to the South Florida Water Mgt District, to manage the Central & South Florida (C&SF) Project. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was authorized by Congress

in 2000 to restore, preserve, and protect the South Florida ecosystem while providing for water supply and flood protection.

She explained that a new review study, Central & South Florida Flood Resiliency Study, came about as a result of climate changed conditions due to sea level rise, more extreme rainfall, and higher groundwater. Consequences of the impacts observed, i.e. sunny day flooding, extreme rainfall flooding, and saltwater intrusion, led to the necessity to address these changed conditions.

The study is a joint request between US Army Corps of Engineers and the District conducted under the Flood Control Act of 1970. The study will be a phased approach focusing on the most critical features which can reduce the most immediate flood risk, based on a broad C&SF system overview.

Dr. Maran next referred to a map of the District's Flood Protection Level of Service Program's depicting flood study areas and their respective priorities.

She then summarized the next steps:

- Initial Appraisal Report is to be approved by the South Atlantic Division
- Funding request for the study is advancing
- Scoping phase involves wide stakeholder participation
- Hydrologic/rainfall climate change scenarios will be developed

In conclusion, Dr. Maran remarked on additional coastal study efforts being conducted; the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) and the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study.

A question and answer session followed. Dr. Jennifer Jurado thanked Dr. Maran for her presentation. She encouraged the members to send letters urging support of this project. She informed that Glen Landers of the Corps had recently retired, acknowledging his tremendous support in providing the tools to advance the early scope of work and in overseeing the modeling of the seawall work that was advanced. Dr. Maran agreed to provide presentations to the committee and the board on details of flood protection projects in October and November.

Dr. Jurado remarked on the formal request flagging local areas of interest sent to the Army Corps of Engineers urging funding for these areas. She referred to the Compact of Counties' letters of support advanced through the Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Maran agreed to provide a technical report to the committee.

The Chair thanked Dr. Maran for her presentation.

Broward County Resilience Program Update

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resiliency Officer and Director, Environmental Planning & Community Resilience Division, Broward County

Dr. Jurado explained how the focus in the last several years has been on resilience standards. She referred to Broward County's board action in 2017 to formalize standards for the basis of planning. The priority planning map in the land use plan with design criteria focusing on drainage will be undertaken over the next several years. She explained how much of the previous work was based on a previous projection of a 2 ft. scenario by 2060 and the uncertainty of what the standard will be

in 5-10 years. The model will be updated as a result of this work. She referred to the modeling for future conditions for the 100-year flood map used for FEMA floodmap. She referred to the table in her hand-out reflecting the 13% adjustment in groundwater levels and discussed in detail future conditions rainfall projections. Additional scenarios are still being reviewed to determine which map would be best in capturing conditions most appropriate for planning future conditions. Stakeholder workshops will be scheduled in the fall.

Dr. Jurado announced that the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP) will be hosting a virtual series focusing on adaptation partnerships and projects around the country including Virginia Beach's Sea Level Rise Program's proposed stormwater and drainage standards under review. The first webinar will be June 30th from 2-3 pm. She encouraged the members to register for it.

She then provided a brief update on the countywide resilience standards for tidal flood barriers. The Broward County Board formally adopted the new requirements at a virtual meeting on March 31st. They were communicated to all the cities for their municipal adoption of an implemented ordinance consistent with the requirements within 2 years. She also mentioned the Board adoption of unified sea level rise projections that need to be formally communicated to the cities encouraging their adoption.

Dr. Jurado announced that Hollywood was able to finalize the retrofitting of the Hollywood Marina involving building up its elevation to 4.5 NAVD. She encouraged the members to visit this superior example of an investment.

She then discussed in detail the next steps involved in the countywide resilience plan. The plan may have a phased approach. She informed that the Board voted to allow County Admin to execute the RFQ anticipated this summer; procurement involves a 2-step process of RFQ and FRP. The County is working with USGS to update the groundwater table map anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

The Chair thanked Dr. Jurado for her update.

Utilities Response to COVID-19 Discussion

Mr. Kevin Carter, Assistant to the Director Water & Wastewater Services, Broward County

Mr. Randy Brown, Director, Pompano Beach Utilities

Randy Brown provided a report on how Pompano Beach Utilities is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. He outlined the various actions taken:

- Laboratory and Field Operations took split shifts (one week on and one week off)
- Treatment Plant went to 12-hour shifts to reduce overlap
- Temperature testing protocols for employees were instituted
- Turn-offs for non-payment were discontinued. 20% discount off May water bill provided.
- Cases to Special Magistrate for failure to test backflow devices were stopped
- Office staff were outfitted to work from home
- Travel and vacations were suspended

He next outlined the impacts to the utility's operations:

- Increased overtime

- Projects fell behind
- Regular maintenance backed up
- Construction projects tied to grants fell behind
- No water cut-off policy until 6/30 will cause uncollected dollars to increase
- Compliance concerns exist with backflow testing
- Vacation time is backlogged

He then informed that Pompano Beach Utility volunteered to distribute EPA's cloth masks to 56 South Florida utilities. He provided statistics on the total distributed, informing that there are some left over and provided the Florida Water Rule site to download the request form.

The Chair thanked Mr. Brown for his report.

Kevin Carter provided a report on utility responses from a national, statewide, and regional perspective. He congratulated Mr. Brown on his volunteering efforts, expressing how the water sector has a great tradition for coming together in crises.

National Level - The Center for Disease Control, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and American Water Works Assoc (AWWA) immediately provided information and resources for utilities and the general public at the pandemic's beginning. These resources focused on safe and reliable public water supply and wastewater services provided before, during, and after the pandemic. The national organizations also documented the financial burden the pandemic is causing utilities and educated Congress on the issue. In addition, important webinars are routinely being held for the water sector. Mr. Carter provided some web links for the various associations and a report.

Statewide Level – The Florida Section of the AWWA Water Utility Council and the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council are hosting weekly coordination meetings (virtually) for utilities statewide. Over 100 participants have participated in some meetings. The call's purposes include comparing practices, sharing unique experiences, coordinating resource deployment. i.e. personal proactive equipment through the Florida Water & Wastewater Response Network (FlaWARN). He acknowledged Mr. Brown for being the Southeast Coast's PPE Coordinator. He mentioned that FlaWARN has produced a mutual aid during pandemic best management practices document, and provided the web link.

Regional Level – The Southeast Florida Utility Council (SEFLUC) facilitated coordination among utilities from Martin down to Monroe County, including Broward County. SEFLUC is also a critical forum for regional and local hurricane response for FlaWARN such as occurred after Hurricane Michael in 018.

The Chair thanked Mr. Carter for his report.

NEW BUSINESS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

Dr. Jurado informed that Ken Banks is retiring as of June 30th, Nicole Sharp received a private sector position, and Henry Sniezek is retiring as of July 24th. Lenny Vialpando will be the new director.

NEXT SCHEDULED TAC MEETING: August 21, 2020

NEXT SCHEDULED JOINT WAB/TAC MEETING: September 11, 2020

The Chair mentioned that the next committee meeting in August will be another Webex meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.