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OIAPS STAFF

Gretchen Harkins
Eddy Labrador
Christopher Brown
Susan Harbin

Climate Communities Conference

The 2011 Local Clean Energy Leadership Summit was hosted by Climate Communities, in Washington, D.C. June 15-17. During the conference, Commissioner Kristin Jacobs, Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Natural Resources Planning and Management Division, and Susan Harbin from OIAPS attended a series of meetings with members of Broward County's congressional delegation, committee staff, and agency staff, in which issues relating to the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (SEFRCCC) were discussed. Broward-specific meetings relating to Port Everglades, beach projects, and the Osborne Reef waste tire removal project, also occurred.

Meetings were held with Senator Nelson, Council on Environmental Quality staff, and Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Staff Director John Anderson to discuss recent progress made by Broward County and other SEFRCCC counties in securing "Adaptation Action Area" language in state law and to advocate for our federal counterparts to follow suit.

Representative West was briefed on the status of the Osborne Reef waste tire removal project and Broward County's desire to revive the project. The Congressman took great interest in this project and agreed to write a letter to the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs requesting consideration of the reef tire removal project for a late service request for DoD's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program; and a letter to the Director of IRT Programs supporting the County's request for IRT program support in 2013 and beyond. The Commissioner also discussed the need for help in securing United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funding to support Broward County's beach renourishment projects and specifically asked the Congressman to contact the Jacksonville District to process the unquestioned reprogramming of \$7.7 million to provide for partial reimbursement of Broward County's \$12 million Segment III project completed in 2006.

Additionally, the Congressman will ask USACE to accelerate the process of reprogramming unspent federal funds (approximately \$340,000) from a terminated General Reevaluation Report (GRR) in Segment I (Deerfield Beach) to fund Corps coordination activities in Segment II (Pompano Beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, and Ft. Lauderdale). Commissioner Jacobs requested assistance in accessing additional Port dredging funding now that the USACE has determined that \$3-4 million more

will be needed to dredge Port Everglades. Commissioner Jacobs also attended a highly informative meeting with members of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). CEQ staff members were impressed with the progress that the SEFRCCC has made to date and requested a photograph of all 4 Compact members signing the Compact as well as a quote from the group that can be used in White House Council on Environmental Quality's next major publication.

A meeting also occurred with John Patrick Walsh in Governor Scott's Washington office encouraging the Executive office to act on allocating the \$190 million in bond capacity available to Florida through the Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) program. QECBs can be used to finance projects to reduce energy consumption in public buildings, produce renewable energy, and research and develop new energy-related technologies. Since the meeting, the Governor's staff has been directed to advance a QECB proposal. We are hopeful that the Governor will include QECB in his anticipated legislative energy initiative.

On June 17, Commissioner Jacobs gave a presentation entitled "*Climate Change – Adapting to the Impacts: Steps to Make Your Community Resilient*" to the conference attendees. Using Southeast Florida as an example, the presentation provided examples of what local governments can do to plan and adapt to the impacts of sea level rise.

National Ocean Council, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop, U.S. Department of Interior

Commissioner Kristin Jacobs, who was named Chair of the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee on June 9, 2011, and approximately 300 participants, attended the 3-day workshop in Washington, DC June 21-23, 2011 designed to kick-off the process for development of regional coastal and marine spatial plans in implementation of President Obama's National Ocean Policy authorized in Executive Order No. 13547.



The President's national ocean policy includes ten (10) priority areas, including coastal and marine spatial planning to support comprehensive, integrated, and

ecosystem-based management of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystem and resources.

Participants included representatives from federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, fisheries, environmental/conservation groups, renewable/alternative energy groups, other interested stakeholders, and the public. The purpose of the workshop was to review the objectives of coastal and marine spatial planning, discuss the general process, and seek input from workshop participants.

The process can generally be described as:

- Being coordinated by the National Ocean Council (NOC).
- Requiring a formal agreement between state and federal governments regarding support for the planning process and approach to developing a regional coastal and marine spatial plan.

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- Requiring the development of a regional planning board (RPB) with representatives from federal agencies, tribes and the state (or their designees) who will be responsible for developing the regional plan with appropriate input from stakeholders.
- A 5-year process with the regional plan to be considered and approved by the National Ocean Council.

Participants spent the majority of time in facilitated breakout sessions designed to solicit feedback as to how the proposed process and strategy might be improved. In addition to Commissioner Jacobs, the only representatives from Florida were from local government and federal agency staff; meanwhile, the state did not send any representatives.

Participation in this Workshop was important for demonstrating Broward’s interest in active engagement in the coastal and marine spatial planning process, regardless of state participation, and to advance our recommendations through the workshop process. The Workshop aided the establishment of important contacts with agency personnel relating not just to this initiative, but Broward County’s climate adaptation activities as well. Additional value was gained in meeting stakeholders with whom we can expect to coordinate in the South Atlantic regional planning efforts, and to learn from the experiences of others in undertaking similar efforts.

FY 2012 DHS Funding and Urban Area Security Initiative

The House-passed FY 2012 DHS Appropriations bill no longer contains a cap on the number of UASI designations, thanks to The Ferguson Group (TFG) and other coalition partner lobbying efforts. However, the approach to funding local programs remains problematic. The bill combined several significant programs together (State Homeland Security Grant Program, UASI, Port Security, Citizen Corps, Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention, and MMRS, Transit Security and several others) and reduced their funding to an overall level of \$1 billion, which represents a cut of \$2 billion from current funding levels. The DHS Secretary would have discretionary authority to allocate that total to existing programs without Congressional review. Concerns exist that the Secretary might not fund UASI at all, based on the fact that all regions of the country would be eligible for funding under the state grant program. Focus is now on the Senate, where Chair Mary Landrieu has pledged to fund the program for state and local governments at 2011 levels. We continue to alert the House members of this problem and need. Additionally, the bill would prohibit DHS and FEMA from funding any portion of the President's Interagency Climate Change Task Force.

The FY 2011 DHS program for state and local governments, as passed earlier this year by Congress, included a major policy change that combined the formerly separated Miami/Miami-Dade and Fort Lauderdale/Broward UASIs. County staff met with Miami-Dade representatives in late May to discuss moving forward. The congressional delegation has been updated on the County’s desire to restore its separate UASI status and funding needs for FY 2012.

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QIAPS STAFF

Gretchen Harkins
Eddy Labrador
Christopher Brown
Susan Harbin

Port Everglades Security Grant Funding

While outstanding funding awards as far back as FY 2008 (2007) remain, only \$3.3 million remain outstanding. FEMA assures the County that the release of almost all of that is imminent. The only allocation with a longer-term delay is from FY 2010 and that is due to a location modification of a camera surveillance system project which triggered an extra environmental review. The Port will receive \$1.24 million under the recently announced FY 2011 program.

Customs and Border Patrol

In light of the current earmark moratorium, TFG worked with the County's congressional delegation to insert programmatic language into the House Homeland Security appropriations bill requiring Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to address wait times at the FLL and Port Everglades. Last July, TFG, at the County's direction, successfully advocated for the inclusion of legislative language to the House Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill requiring CBP to anticipate increases in passenger volume at International airports and seaports and adjust their operations and staffing as necessary to avoid excessive customs and immigration wait times; however, that language was eventually stripped out of the FY11 appropriations bill that will fund the federal government through the end of FY11.

The FY 2012 DHS appropriations bill, marked up in committee in June, included language stating that:

"The Committee continues to be interested in monitoring CBP processing times. Beginning no later than January 30, 2012, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, CBP is directed to brief the Committee on the number of passenger arrivals at air and sea ports of entry for which the immigration and customs processing time exceeds 60 minutes. The Committee also requests that CBP include on its website wait time information for seaports, similar to the information already posted for air and land ports of entry."

This language was included in the final 2012 DHS appropriations bill that passed the House of Representatives.

Affordable Care Act Updates

The National Association of Counties (NACo) released following information regarding recent developments related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with over a billion dollars to be awarded for the following programs:

- \$500 million in Partnership for Patients funding will be made available to help hospitals, health care provider organizations and others to improve care and reduce preventable injuries and complications related to health care acquired conditions and unnecessary readmissions. For more information, please click here: <http://www.healthcare.gov/center/councils/nphpphc/index.html>
- \$500 million in ACA funding to be awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center through solicitations and other procurements for federal contracts. The \$500 million in funding is available through the ACA and will be awarded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Innovation Center through a solicitation and other procurements for federal contracts. For more information,

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please click here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/06/20110622a.html>.

- \$40 million to improve coordination of chronic disease prevention and health promotion activities within state and territorial health departments. State and territorial health departments interested in submitting proposals for the *Prevention and Public Health Fund Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program* can find more information at www.grants.gov. The application deadline is July 22, 2011. For more information, please click here: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/06/20110607a.html>
- \$42 million over three years for up to 500 eligible Federally Qualified Health Center Advanced Primary Care Practice (FQHC ACP) demonstration projects to coordinate care for Medicare patients. FQHCs that have provided medical services to at least 200 Medicare beneficiaries in the previous 12-month period will be invited by letter to apply to participate in the demonstration. Applications for the project will be accepted from June 6, 2011 through August 12, 2011, and the demonstration will be conducted September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2014. For more information, please see: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/06/20110606a.html>
- \$10 million to create and evaluate comprehensive workplace health promotion programs. The initiative utilizes ACA dollars from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to help develop workplace environments that support healthy lifestyles. Organizations interested in submitting proposals for the *Comprehensive Health Programs to Address Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Tobacco Use in the Workplace* can find more information at www.fbo.gov. The application deadline is August 8, 2011.

Additional information is available at www.naco.org/healthreformimplement regarding the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.