

MINUTES

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

WAB MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Steve Geller, Chair
Vice Mayor Sandra Welch, Vice Chair
Commissioner Doug Bell
Commissioner Kevin Biederman
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton
Commissioner Tom Good
Councilmember Jim Allbritton
Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson
Mayor Aisha Gordon

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Andrea McGee
Commissioner Denise Grant
Commissioner Nancy Metayer
Commissioner Tim Ryan
Councilmember Susan Starkey
Gene Goldman
Mayor Greg Ross
Mayor Michelle Gomez
Mayor Anthony Caggiano

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Hart, Chair
Randolph Brown, Vice Chair
Albert Carbon
Kevin Carter for Alan Garcia
Brett Butler
Commissioner Doug Bell
Dawn Teetsal
Heather Cunniff
Jeff Jiang
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Jose Lopez
Janeen Wietgrife for Patrick Davis
Melissa Velez for Rafael Frias
Stephanie Pearson
Suzanne Mechler

Talal Abi-Karam
Tim Welch

TAC MEMBERS David Walker
ABSENT: Giovanni Batista
Isabel Cosio Carballo
Jace Selby
Lisa Milenkovic
Mike Bailey
Pete Kwiatkowski
Renuka Mohammed
Steve Holmes

OTHERS Leonard Vialpando, Director of Resilient Environment Department
PRESENT: Mike Owens, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Gregory Mount, PH.D., RPA, Assistant Chief Res. Officer
Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A meeting of the Broward County Joint Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held on Friday, September 8, 2023, at 10:06 a.m., in Room 430 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I. Call to Order

Chair Geller called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board (WAB)

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell.

After Roll Call, Chair Geller discussed the importance of member attendance. He explained that the role of the joint WAB/TAC is more than an advisory role. Chair Geller stated that items approved from this Board are placed on the Commission Agenda. He reiterated the importance of this Board and expressed the need for greater attendance.

III. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell.

IV. Public Comments

(None.)

V. WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 10th, 2023

The Minutes from March 10, 2023, were approved without objection.

VI. Updates and Announcements

Chair Geller spoke on the Septic to Sewer discussion from past meetings. He stated that from this committee, the suggested disclosure was adopted as an Ordinance, by the Broward County Commission.

Attorney Owens explained that the Septic Disclosure Ordinance was passed, which means that the seller of a residential property has the obligation to disclose specific information of the presence or service of a septic system. Mr. Owens will confirm the effective date. He noted that a prospective date had been set to ensure that real property transactions through realtors and agents would be able to prepare their clients prepare for this Ordinance to take effect.

Chair Geller stated that this Ordinance is meant to encourage people to connect to the sewer system from a septic system or they will be in violation of the County Code of Ordinances, which may require owners to correct the issue.

VII. Presentation:

Chair Geller announced a recommendation to reorder the agenda. He stated that a vote is needed on the Future Conditions Groundwater Elevation Map Update. Without objection, the order of the agenda was changed. Item VII B was discussed first.

Chair Geller acknowledged the birthday of Governing Board Member, Ron Bergeron. Mr. Bergeron thanked the committee.

a. Resilience Update

Due to time constraints, this item was held to the next WAB/TAC meeting.

b. Future Conditions Groundwater Elevation Map Update

Dr. Jurado discussed the process to bring future conditions criteria into Broward County's infrastructure, design, and planning standards. She stated the importance of this process to adequately plan for and address the influences of climate change on the hydrologic conditions and prepare for drainage and flood management.

Dr. Jurado discussed the severity and challenges of compound flood

conditions. She noted an increase in flood severity and duration. Dr. Jurado spoke on the need to lessen the extent of infrastructure damage, safety concerns, and service disruptions through future planning.

Referring to a presentation, Dr. Jurado explained the consequences of evolving weather conditions on the landscape and the implications for land use consideration. She provided a brief history of the Resilience Planning and Standards. She noted the expansive evolution of tools to help support Planning and investments, such as the Priority Planning Area Map, Sea Level Change Projections, and the Future Conditions Map Series.

Dr. Jurado stated that the items to be voted on today are the proposed update to the Future Conditions Groundwater Table Map and the recently adopted Sea-level Rise Projection. She noted that the process has begun to reevaluate the 100-year flood elevations, which takes into account increased intensification of rainfall based upon additional regional work.

Answering a question from Chair Geller, Dr. Jurado clarified that Broward County receives an average of 58 inches of rain per year and that the rain volume has increased per rain event, which leads to flooding. She spoke on the collaboration with the United States Geological Survey to update the Hydrologic Model. Dr. Jurado presented the adopted map from 2017 which is the requirement for all new and major redevelopment pertaining to drainage and surface water management systems.

Dr. Jurado explained the updates to the regional Sea Level Rise Projection, which will establish the 50-year plan using the NOAA Intermediate-High curve. She noted that the NOAA Intermediate-High is one of the curves required for planning and grant requirements to be eligible for Capital Project Planning.

Dr. Jurado acknowledged that the 2019 Regional Sea-Level Rise Projection is currently being used, which establishes a 40-inch sea-level rise scenario. She stated that it was adopted in 2020 and requires a revised Ground Water Table Map update. She mentioned the change in the model will account for the 9-inch difference in the sea-level rise.

Dr. Jurado introduced Rajendra Sishodia, Water Assessment Manager, to discuss the modeling effort. Mr. Sishodia provided a brief history and spoke on the updates to the Ground Water Elevation Models between 2017 and 2023. He detailed the model parameters and future projections for the sea-level rise, which are increasing along the coastal areas.

Leonard Vialpando, Director of Resilient Environment Department, discussed the complexity of the modeling and answered questions from the

Board.

Referencing a presentation, Mr. Sishodia showed several maps that detailed the 2023 updates, which include the higher ground water elevation. He stated that these maps can be found on the Broward County website along with the Interactive Map. Referencing the “Appending Raster/Grids – Interpolate in Surfer” slide, Mr. Vialpando stated that this data is based on variations of typography and elevation.

Chair Geller noted the complexity of the presentation.

Dr. Jurado provided a detailed timeline of the work performed with the USGS modeling effort, which has been a several-year process. She stated that the map adoption process has been initiated as part of the Ordinance to update the Future Conditions Map. Dr. Jurado explained that the item has been drafted by the County Attorney’s Office, which will provide for the amendment in May. She stated that a Stakeholder’s Workshop had been held. The item was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee and was voted unanimously in favor of moving the item to the Water Advisory Board before being presented to the Broward County Commissioners for adoption after going through the Public Hearing process. She anticipates an effective date at the end of the calendar year.

Chair Geller reminded the committee members of the importance of this board. He stated that when an item is passed through this committee, it then goes to the Broward County Commission. Chair Geller noted that after questions and comments, he would entertain a motion to approve the map for transmission to the Broward County Commission for adoption.

Dr. Jurado and Mr. Vialpando answered several questions regarding the impact on local governments and the development community with the adoption of the new map. Dr. Jurado expressed concern of the map’s revelation that in some areas there is higher ground water elevation than the lands surface. She spoke on challenges to the City of Fort Lauderdale due to the Ordinance that restricts the amount of allowable fill. Mr. Vialpando spoke further on the limitation of fill within the flood plain and the potential impact on development. Much discussion ensued regarding drainage, fill, the possibility of flooding in specific areas, and the map data.

Mr. Vialpando clarified and explained the way the map will be implemented in the code. He stated that if the Master Permit is in place or if they are modifying an existing permit, the existing number can be used rather than the number that will be modified in this update. He noted that most Stormwater Permits have a five-year duration. Mr. Vialpando indicated that very few permits would be affected immediately by this change, which would affect only brand-new developments. He provided several examples.

Mr. Vialpando spoke on the effect of elevation changes to the models which can also effect flood insurance if the elevation is lower than FEMA's base-flood building code. He explained that FEMA only uses current conditions and does not project future conditions. Much discussion ensued regarding permitting and retaining walls.

Chair Geller announced that due to the length of this conversation, no other presentations would be heard at this meeting. Chair Geller recognized members of the Board to ask questions and speak on the presentation that was given.

Chair Geller explained that due to time constraints this discussion would be continued to the next WAB/TAC meeting when the vote will be held.

c. Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) Year in

Due to time constraints, this item was held to the next WAB/TAC meeting.

VIII. New Business

(None.)

IX. Discussion

(None.)

- X. Lake Okeechobee Water Levels:** (ft-NGVD 1929) This month: 15.36; Last month: 14.98; One year ago: 12.52
Nex scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting – October 20, 2023. Hybrid. GC East, Room 430.

XI. Adjourn

Commissioner Tom Good made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, Chair Geller adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.