

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
September 10, 2021
Summary Minutes

A joint meeting of the Broward County Water Advisory Board, Technical Advisory Committee, and Water Resources Task Force was held virtually on WebEx on September 10, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

(The WAB/TAC meeting minutes were summarized by Gregory Mount. A verbatim transcript and copies of the presentations are filed with the supplemental papers of the meeting.)

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call – Water Advisory Board (WAB)**

Roll call was taken by the Real Time Reporter. A quorum was present, and the record of attendance follows:

WAB MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Steve Geller, Broward County Board of County Commissioners, Chair
Mayor Greg Ross, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Commissioner Sandy Welch, City of Coconut Creek
Commissioner Kevin Biederman, City of Hollywood
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie, Alternate
Councilmember Susan Starkey, Town of Davie
Vice Mayor Tom Good, City of Pembroke Pines
Eugen Bold for Commissioner Tim Ryan, Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano, City of Margate
Commissioner Nancy Metayer, Alternate, City of Coral Springs
Pete Kwiatkowski, for Ron Bergeron, Governing Board, South Florida Water Management District
Jack McClusky for Commissioner Doug Bell, CBWCD Board of Commissioners
Gene Goldman
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Aisha Gordon, Alternate, City of Pembroke Pines
Commissioner Andrea McGee, Alternate, City of Coconut Creek
Commissioner Ben Sorensen, City of Fort Lauderdale, Alternate
Councilmember Jim Allbritton, Southwest Ranches
Mayor Michelle J. Gomez, City of Tamarac
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton, City of Fort Lauderdale
Vice Mayor Susan Starkey, Town of Davie
Vice Mayor Denise Grant, City of Tamarac

- III. **Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee**

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Albert Carbon

Randolph Brown, Vice Chair
Mike Bailey
Adolfo Gonzalez for Mike Crowley
Steve Urich
Tim Welch
Gio Batista for Mark Collins
Leny Huaman
Steve Holmes
Patrick Davis
Harold Aiken
Doug Bell
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia
Lorraine Mayers for Pete Kwiatkowski
Marta Reczko for Renuka Mohammed
Jose Lopez
Isabel Botero for Rafael Frias
Stephanie Pearson
Isabel Cosio Carballo
Brett Butler
David Walker
Talal Abi-Karam

TAC MEMBERS ABSENT:

Susan Carrano
Lisa Milenkovic
Mark Collins

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2021, and June 2, 2021

For the Minutes of May 14, 2021, on Motion of Commissioner Good, seconded by Commissioner Biederman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2021.

For the Minutes of June 2, 2021, on Motion of Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Biederman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Joint WAB/TAC and Palm Beach County WRTF Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2021.

VI. Updates and Announcements

Dr. Jurado shared that on October 1, 2021, the annual Resilience Roundtable will be held. There is an invitation to all of the municipalities, our Tribes, and our local business partners.

VII. Presentations

A. IWRP Grant Recommendations

Dr. Gregory Mount, Water Resources Manager. Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department/Resilience unit.

Chair Geller introduced Greg Mount and the topic of the presentation. Chair Geller noted that one of the important things that Broward County does, which is fairly unique, is providing planning money. He continues that it is always much more difficult to get planning money than it is to do the actual carrying out of the construction.

Dr. Mount then began with a brief history of the IWRP and the funding opportunities it has provided since 1997, with a total award value of 2.5 million dollars. About 70% of this money have been provided for design, and he noted that ideally some of those projects would hopefully move to construction.

Dr. Mount introduced the six projects (five feasibility and one construction) that had already been voted on by the TAC and were forwarded to the WAB. He noted that a total of 8 were submitted during the grant cycle, staff set a threshold of 70 points awarded when the criteria were assessed for the project to move forward. This cut off ensures an adequate return of investment. On August 20th, the TAC made recommendation for the five feasibility projects for a total value of \$334,035 of the \$473,000 available. Chair Geller asked a qualifying question about the source of the money and why this sum is available. Dr. Mount responded that the funds come from a capital budget request and are rolled over each year to accumulate a larger amount to support these types of projects. The grants are offered every other year, so that the money from multiple years can be pooled.

Dr. Mount wrapped up his presentation and answered questions. Chair Geller asked for the total number of projects submitted. Dr. Mount responded that there were technically 9 projects. One withdrew before being considered, and two were not advanced past the 70-point cutoff. Commissioner Welch asked if the strategic plan in conjunction with the drainage towards C-14 only? Dr. Mount deferred to Ms. Bodmann, and she replied that it is to address the network in all four districts, not just the C-14. Councilmember Starkey provided a thank you to the TAC for prioritizing the reclaimed water projects in Davie and that she was excited to see the recapture the swale project in Hollywood.

Vice Mayor Good brought up the regionalization of reuse water and the potential for connecting reuse plants from Pompano and north Broward. Dr. Jurado responded that she would follow up with WWS and explore the conversation there.

Councilmember Starkey made a motion to accept the projects recommended by the TAC. Commissioner Caggiano seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. SFWMD Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Priorities (30p 10d)

Dr. Carolina Maran, P.E., District Resiliency Officer, South Florida Water Management District.

Chair Geller introduced Dr. Maran and she began her presentation on Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Priorities. She noted that in the last meeting with Palm Beach County Executive Director Bartlett summarized the critical conditions in the C&SF system and the Memorial Day extreme rainfall event last year. So we have been testing resources at the agency to identify some priority projects, establish partnerships, and

really coordinate with water management in all three tiers on our system, so trying to understand where those improvements are needed. And we are also identifying potential funding sources to help us implement and accelerate those projects in the -- in those issues.

So earlier this year, we all learned about this story, the largest Florida flooding and sea level rise resiliency initiatives. We have between 500 and \$640,000,000 million dollars available to support efforts to support state and local communities are prepared to deal with the influx of sea level rise, intensified storms, and flooding in our region. So in order for us to demonstrate the overall resiliency needs that we have at -- in the agency to the resilient -- for the program and to support our individual applications, we agree as an agency to put together what we are calling a projects planning document. She discussed the evaluation of salinity control structures and the development of planning cost estimates and a ranking list for repair or replacement.

Chair Geller asked how do these studies interface with the restudy? Dr. Maran stated that We shared this plan document with them, and they understand this is a piece of the C and SF study. So definitely coastal structure enhancement and funding is going to be the recommendations as part of the C and SF. We do have a series of project recommendations that I listed in those final slides that we believe are also going to be important to be included as part of the C and SF study. Looking at basin-wide projects and -- but, yes, we are currently discussing with them to understand what we can do with the current process, with the current planning approach that is being made available to us.

Chair Geller followed up by asking what is the timing on these projects? And what is the total being requested statewide for this program? Dr. Maran noted that implementation will be a little faster, assuming that some of the funding is approved. She also stated that 2 billion dollars was requested and 500 million were available. Chair Geller noted that the District said they had plenty of money for resiliency and that is why they cut the millage. This kind of shows that they don't have- you don't have enough money for the resiliency program. He asked if there is a plan to go back to the previous millage?

Dr. Maran explained that the plan is to explore alternative funding as much as possible and maximize the route of state funding and federal funding.

Dr. Jurado noted that she thinks that the community, as a whole, will have to become more accustomed to the fact that, in the future, even with improvements, there's just going to be more water around. So we're going to have to manage that water differently.

I want to imagine that we'll be more successful than the scenario that you've described. But, clearly, there's a lot more water that will need to be managed in a different way moving forward. And I don't know that it's reasonable to think that the same level of service will continue to be provided with time. I do want to acknowledge that the timeframe that you've expressed is a deep concern, no matter how quickly we move.

And, finally, she wants to acknowledge that, one, we will have at the Resilience Roundtable the incoming Colonel Booth -- Colonel Kelly, who is transitioning, as they do every several years. And so the end of September is the end of Colonel Kelly's term here in Jacksonville. So we do need to establish our relationship with Colonel Booth. It's going to be increasingly critical. I think the sustained engagement of all elected officials at all levels of our state, it -- I just want to point out that it appears that a \$15,000,000,000 allocation was just made again to New York/New Jersey in order to address flood circumstances there, where we can't even get the \$6,000,000 request that we've been vying for ten years to support the flood resilience needs here in south Florida. And we have robust plans. We've got a history of investment. And for these communities where they've not been making the same investments and they have these dire circumstances that arise, they receive a whole lot of federal funds in these major, you know, disaster recovery efforts, and we can -- we're, thankfully, not in the same situation, but every single time we seem to make headway, as soon as there's disaster recovery dollars, the efforts that were going to be directed to south Florida get redirected to one of these other regions.

Commissioner Welch asked how many counties are included in the 2 billion dollar price? Dr. Maran responded Broward and Miami Dade. She followed up by asking about the lockout position of the structures, and Dr. Maran responded that the gates were typically locked out 5 days in advance of storm surge events, but now with remote monitoring, they might be able to wait and lock closer to the event.

C. The Role of a Local Water Control District

Kevin Hart, P.E., District Director, South Broward Drainage District

Mr. Hart provided an introduction to the operation of an independent water control district that covered the operation of the South Broward Drainage District (SBDD), relationship between local districts, the relationship between locals and the SFWMD, some water quality initiatives and closed with a case study on the SBDD response to Tropical Storm Eta.

Commissioner Starkey asked if the SBDD reached out to HOAs and private communities to ensure that some of their levee systems and other drainage systems are working properly and adequately pre-storm. Mr. Hart stated that many of the flooding issues are due to general maintenance, such as clearing storm grates. She responded about more serious maintenance issue such as silting of ponds and Mr. Hart referred back to a statutory requirement that communities are required to inspect, upgrade, and certify that their system is operating at the design capacity from when they were originally permitted.

Mr. Zygnerski made a statement that he just wanted to add that he thought Kevin shortchanged himself. He thought he was correct in the way that he categorized what an impressive event Eta was, but when we looked at the -- this event from Water Management, we identified that, you know, the previous month leading up to Eta, that the area actually received 20 inches of rain, which is roughly a third of the total yearly rainfall for Broward County. So it was really, really, really, really wet leading up to it. And

certain areas, if you look at longer metrics, qualified for a 200-year 30-day event. So, I mean, Eta was impressive in itself, but preceding it, it was truly exceptional.

D. Broward County Citizen Science Flood Monitoring Program.

Katie Lelis and Adrienne Aiken, *Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department/Resilience Unit.*

This presentation was moved to the next meeting due to time constraints.

VIII. New Business

Dr. Jurado was asked by Chair Geller to make some remarks on the Structural issues Committee. She replied that many of the recommendations have been engaged with by the board. She believes that the members appreciate the need to incorporate sea levels in some way into their 40-year certifications. Additionally, climate related impacts, specifically sea level rise, but also just warming and issues of humidity and CO2 levels that affect concrete pH helped provide the basis for a recommended adjustment from a 40-yr certification to a 30-year.

IX. Discussion

No Discussion was held.

X. LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATER LEVELS:

This month 14.67; Last month 14.04; one year ago 14.74 (ft-NGVD)

XI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.