



South Florida Water Management District

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2013

9:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

1. **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions - Kevin Powers,**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kevin Powers	Chair	Present	
Douglas Yoder		Absent	
Samantha Whitcraft		Absent	
D. Albrey Arrington		Present	
Scott Benyon		Present	
Shelley Vana		Absent	
Douglas Bournique		Present	
Bob Ulevich		Present	
Chuck Collins		Absent	
Mike Tammaro		Absent	
Ray Scott		Present	
Jeff Scott		Absent	
Vincent Encomio		Absent	
Jim Reynolds		Present	
John Renfrow		Absent	
Bill Hammond		Present	
Michael Harford		Absent	
Patrick Hayes		Present	
Larry Hilton		Present	
Mark Perry		Absent	
James Humble		Present	
Tommy Perry		Present	
Kristin Jacobs		Absent	
George Jones		Present	
William "Chad" Kennedy		Present	
Thomas Kenny		Present	

Kahlil Kettering		Present	
John Lamkin		Absent	
Joan Lawrence		Present	
Barbara Miedema		Present	
Linda McCarthy		Present	
James Murley		Present	
Kimberly Lawrence		Present	
Newton Cook		Present	
Don Fox		Absent	
Mary Martin		Present	
Isabel Cosio-Carballo		Absent	
Bevin Beaudet		Present	
Matthew Raffenberg		Absent	
Timothy Sargent	Vice-Chair	Present	
Joe Capra		Present	
Sommer Foster		Absent	
H.M. Ridgely III		Present	
Bud Howard		Absent	
Jim Watt		Absent	
Michael Collins		Present	
John Hayford		Absent	
Erica Villafuerte		Absent	
Medora Krome		Absent	
James Erskine		Absent	
Dennis Duke		Absent	
John Lesman		Present	
Ashley Tripp		Present	
Cheryl Miller		Present	
Adrienne Carter		Absent	
Mitch Hutchcraft		Absent	
Maelo Reyes		Absent	
Rich Budell		Absent	
Wovoka Tommie		Absent	
Malcolm Wade		Present	
Don Donaldson		Absent	
Jennifer Hecker		Absent	
Greg Rawl		Absent	
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Absent	
Thomas Greco		Present	
Neale Montgomery		Present	
Harry Raucher		Present	
Pat Martin		Present	
Abe Cooper		Present	
Jason Liechty		Present	

2. DEP/WMD Consumptive Use Permitting Consistency Update - Greg Munson, Deputy Secretary, Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration, Department of Environmental Protection

A. Discussion

Mike Collins - Congratulations on the process. It is getting better. The idea of treating Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) as the anomaly, and not the template, is a good idea. Southwest Florida Water Management District is going to have a tougher time with this due to over-allocation, something that SFWMD has avoided. As to the issue related to cost; the original documents advertised no cost to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), but will there be an additional cost to the taxpayers? We look forward to continuing to be involved in the process.

Bubba Wade - Hats off to the FDEP for the inclusive process. Public meetings indicated that the consumptive use process was becoming arduous. The result of this initiative had been a streamlining and consistency initiative. The CFWI needs to be worked out and not be the model for the rest of the state.

Ray Scott - What do you anticipate will happen with the CupCon subgroups in the future?

Greg Munson - We will put some incentives out there for the agricultural groups toward water conservation. I assume these groups will continue and have input. I don't think there is a lot of room left for additional water conservation within the agricultural community, particularly in South Florida.

Joan Lawrence - We are following the CFWI initiative due to the impact on the Kissimmee Restoration.

Greg Munson - We need to work closely with Department of the Interior (DOI) on this process.

Doug Bournique - The Governor did want streamlining and the citrus industry has done its best to comply.

H.M. Ridgley - I have seen a huge change in the staff attitude as a result of the Governor's initiative. Water conservation is the low hanging fruit. Water going to tide is a lack of water conservation. Storage of that excess water is essential. Agriculture does not pump more that it needs due to cost.

Patrick Hayes - Is there piece of this (62-40) that specifically looks at more storage?

Greg Munson - In general, yes, but not with specificity. The intent is to reward water conservation and recognize current efforts.

Bill Hammond - Surface storage needs to be incentivised. Not all water that goes to tide is a bad thing. The estuaries do need some base flow to maintain their salinity. More storage gives us greater buffers for the dry times.

The Chair moved to public comment

In response to public comment:

Greg Munson - The BMP initiative is very important, but not a part of the existing CupCon initiative. I do believe that incentives, and not penalties, are the key to water conservation.

Mike Collins - Realistically this is just fine tuning. Water Conservation is just a small portion of the water released to tide. We need regional water storage because there is plenty of water it just flows to tide before we can capture and store it.

B. Public Comment

Jane Graham - Our staff has been working closely with the FDEP on this process and believe that water conservation needs to be a statewide effort. It is the cheapest, but most effective, thing we can do and more needs to be done. More storage on private property helps both sides of the equation: environmental protection and water conservation.

Irene Quincy - The process has been a positive one and we appreciate the cumulative effort. The statewide consistency issue is a great approach.

Drew Martin - Water conservation is important and Best Management Practices (BMPs) can be improved. BMPs help protect the water supply, the environment, and assure future water supply. Future permits are bound to affect existing users and/or natural systems. Make sure we do not give away too much water.

The Chairman moved back to WRAC member for final comment

3. **Central Everglades Planning Project Update - Kim Taplin, Chief Central Everglades Study Branch, USACE, Jacksonville District and**

Matt Morrison, Section Administrator, Office of Everglades Policy & Coordination, SFWMD

A. Discussion

Mike Collins - What are the benefits to Florida Bay?

Matt Morrison - An estimated 200,000 additional acre feet of water to Florida Bay and improved timing of that additional water.

Mike Collins - How does that water get past the park entrance road. The culvert system there is very minimal.

Matt Morrison - The plan assumes that there is full conveyance through Tamiami Trail and that we can build enough head to get the water to Florida Bay.

Mike Collins - I would like to see that analysis because I am not convinced.

Barbara Miedema - One thing we mentioned at the very beginning was the saving clause analysis be done early in the process. What happens, after all this work, if we find that public and agricultural water supply is not held whole?

Matt Morrison - We have been doing that screening process throughout the process. The preliminary modeling indicates that seepage management measures incorporated in the plan will work. Detailed modeling should be in hand within the next few weeks and that may affect our tentatively selected plan.

Barbara Miedema - What happens if they saving clause analysis does not work out?

Matt Morrison - We will modify the recommendation plan.

Scott Benyon - When we talk about adaptive management, the planning process needs to look carefully at the things that have to be done - the assumptions going in. What are the benefits to the estuaries?

Matt Morrison - Based on constraints the plan is to redirect water (200,000 acre-feet) from the east and west coast estuaries and send that water through the Central Everglades to Florida Bay. Does this fix the estuaries? No. This is merely the first increment.

Newton Cook - 200,000 acre feet takes about 2/3 of a foot off the Lake. We are depending on the Flow Equalization Basins (FEBs) to clean that water and feed it to the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). My concern is that in a drought the FEB will be dry. Therefore, the Everglades National Park will not receive the water during the crucial time - drought. Water quality is an additional constraint - we will have to meet the 10ppb standard for phosphorus.

Kahlil Kettering - We have to do something and I believe this plan is an important incremental step in the right direction. As to Mike Collins comment - Mike do you not think that water will get to Florida Bay?

Mike Collins - I don't think it will get through Shark River Slough past the park road and into Florida Bay.

Matt Morrison - Fred Sklar (SFWMD staff) has just indicated that much of the water is subsurface flow and not surface flow, therefore, will not be constrained by the Everglades National Park entrance road.

Chad Kennedy - There seems to be some pessimism that I have not heard expressed at the public meetings.

Newton Cook - It is a good plan but I think we are claiming benefits that may not be realized.

Tom Kenny - I come from an area where nothing is ever good enough. I think this is an incremental step in the right direction and may not give us a total solution. Lots of 5% solutions get us a total solution.

Joe Capra - Do we know the cost of the recommended alternative?

Matt Morrison - Still working on that number. It depends on the modeling results.

Joe Capra - If this gives us a 200,000 acre foot break... will the HHDike rehab give us an additional 200,000 acre feet?

Matt Morrison - We would have to check with the USACOE on that.

Mike Collins - This is a plan. We need funding at a time when there is extensive competition for those funds. Should this project be put ahead of CERP? I don't believe so. Storage is number one, but this has become the new guy on the block.

The Chairman moved to public comment

The Chairman moved back to WRAC member comment:

H.M. Ridgley - One of the initial goals of this process was not to reduce water to the estuaries during wet, wet seasons due to the timing.

Kimberly Lawrence - The analysis of cost - what does that include?

Matt Morrison - Land acquisition costs, construction and annualized operational costs.

Kimberly Lawrence - I agree with previous speakers that water quality will improve as we improve the hydrology.

Joe Capra - Assuming that we get the funding, can we build this in ten years?

Matt Morrison - Assuming all goes well, it would be tough. Even after a tentatively selected plan, we still have the detailed planning to be completed.

Bubba Wade - We have the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) with 67 projects. We have completed one. Now we have a billion dollar water quality plans dictated by the federal government. This planning process is largely driven by the federal government. Should the State of Florida be setting the priorities instead of the federal government? Should we develop the business plan that prioritizes dollars with bang for the buck?

B. Public Comment

Drew Martin - I disagree with Mike Collins... water quality and water quantity are linked. The cleaner the water the more we can send south. The more storage we have the more wetlands we protect of recreate the more we will address the problem.

The Chairman moved back to WRAC members for final comments

4. CERP Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project Water Reservation Update - Don Medellin, Principal Scientist, Applied Sciences Bureau

and Beth Lewis, Senior Supervising Attorney, Office of Counsel, SFWMD

A. Discussion

Jim Murley - What is the Miami-Dade County's position on the proposed rule?

Beth Lewis - There has been verbal comments from the County at the workshops but we have no formal comment from them. There is a lot of time for comment as we move forward.

Mike Collins - Early in the process there was a question of the Florida Power and Light's (FPL) cooling ponds at Turkey Point and their impact on salinity in the Bay.

Terrie Bates - FPL has very detailed monitoring of the area and some of the preliminary monitoring results are in-house and are being reviewed by staff.

Mike Collins - We still have not solved the issue of a dependable water supply for Biscayne National Park.

Kahlil Kettering - I agree with Mike Collins. The Park Service has asked for a full analysis of the restorative flows to Biscayne Bay and not simply a reservation.

Chad Kennedy - Just a reminder that the reservation is a requirement of the Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the State of Florida to commit funds to this project.

B. Public Comment

Drew Martin - I agree with Mike Collins and Kahlil Kettering, this is a first increment but by no means a total restoration strategy. How is FPL's Turkey Plant impacting Biscayne Bay wetlands.

Terrie Bates (SFWMD staff) - We are working through those issues now.

5. C-139 Annex Restoration Plan Update - Ernie Barnett, Director, Everglades Policy and Coordination

A. Discussion

Newton Cook - Lots of folks are excited about this project many of which are looking at the possible recreational uses. I would urge that any District lands that are not quite ready for construction be open for public recreational land use.

Joe Capra - Is this not part of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)?

Ernie Barnett (SFWMD staff) - No, this is independent of CEPP and part of the State's restoration strategy.

B. Public Comment

Martha Musgrove - Is there a time certain for the construction of the Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) on this site?

Ernie Barnett - Yes, there is a time certain as part of the water quality settlement. I believe that it is 2019.

Martha Musgrove - On behalf of the Wildlife Federation, we support this project and work within the area for some conservation easements.

6. Land Assessment Update - Ray Palmer, Section Leader, Real Estate, SFWMD

A. Discussion

Newton Cook - Thanks to District staff for keeping the Recreational Issues (RIW) WRAC up-to-date.

B. Public Comment

Drew Martin - We had originally thought this was a prelude to a surplus process and watching this process it has become a re-validation of the reason we bought the lands for conservation, recreation and public education.

Jane Graham - We think it is a good step to have the regional meetings. Most of the list has some very valuable lands on it that have conservation and habitat value. If we get to the point of possible surplus, we would encourage a second round of regional meetings to solicit input. If surplus to local government, the District should retain a conservation easement over the property.

7. Open Discussion - WRAC Members

Kevin Powers - Welcome to Harry Raucher, representing Lake Worth Drainage District, for his first WRAC meeting.

Doug Bournique - The water farming program that the District has initiated has proven the tremendous benefit of water farming especially from a cost benefit point of view. The program can be implemented short term and has a variety of benefits.

Kimberly Lawrence - I am sure that many of you know that the Lake Okeechobee B-Map is starting up. If you have not seen this, the FDEP website has information.

Newton Cook - The Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) have tremendous waterfowl habitat and that offers a variety of benefits to the recreational community. This brings ecotourism dollars to South Florida.

Chad Kennedy - The Lake Okeechobee B-Map process is kicking off February 20th and will also come to the March WRAC.

Bill Hammond - With land costs going up and development starting again, it would be a great time to look at pre-certification of developers under the green building/urban BMP program to look at maximizing on site retention/detention.

Mary Ann Martin - The Lake has seen a huge increase in hunters as well as fisherman. The spraying program is still a sore spot. It might be time for WRAC to take a field trip.

Joe Capra - If you add up all the additional storage projects, the number is huge.

Joan Lawrence - The CEPP meeting is February 13th. The wood stock is proposed for being down-listed. There is no proposal for the manatee.

A. Public Comment

Paul Gray - The Lake's Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) is 140 metric tons. We are nowhere close to meeting that number due to the number of additional tons of phosphorus we are still adding. Indeed the situation is actually getting worse. We need some new ways to address this issue.

Jane Graham - We need to fix the water quality in Lake Okeechobee. We want to see a direct and cost effective path to meeting the Lake's TMDL. Obviously the current BMPs are not enough. We need to look closely at fertilization practices in the Northern Everglades watershed. The dispersed water storage project is a key program to help us implement real changes. We would also like to see an additional effort on the urban BMP program specifically urban fertilization practices. We would also like to see sharper restrictions on the land spreading of biosolids.

8. Adjourn