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## South Florida Water Management District

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### WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2013

9:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

#### **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions - Kevin Powers, WRAC Chairman**

Chairman Powers welcomed the WRAC. He also introduced Tim Sargent WRAC Vice Chairman. Chairman Powers informed the group that the April WRAC will be in Clewiston and will include a field trip on the Lake.

Chairman Powers introduced Executive Director, Melissa Meeker, to brief the group on recent organizational changes at the agency.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Douglas Yoder		Absent	
Samantha Whitcraft		Absent	
D. Albrey Arrington		Present	
Scott Benyon		Present	
Shelley Vana		Absent	
Douglas Bournique		Present	
Bob Ulevich		Absent	
Chuck Collins		Present	
Mike Tamaro		Present	
Ray Scott		Present	
Jeff Scott		Absent	
Vincent Encomio		Absent	
Jim Reynolds		Absent	
John Renfrow		Absent	
Bill Hammond		Present	
Michael Harford		Absent	
Patrick Hayes		Present	

Larry Hilton		Absent	
Mark Perry		Present	
James Humble		Present	
Tommy Perry		Present	
Kristin Jacobs		Absent	
George Jones		Present	
William "Chad" Kennedy		Present	
Thomas Kenny		Present	
Kahlil Kettering		Absent	
John Lamkin		Absent	
Joan Lawrence		Present	
Barbara Miedema		Present	
Linda McCarthy		Present	
James Murley		Absent	
Kimberly Lawrence		Present	
Newton Cook		Present	
Don Fox		Absent	
Mary Martin		Present	
Isabel Cosio-Carballo		Absent	
Bevin Beaudet		Absent	
Matthew Raffenberg		Absent	
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		Present	
Dennis Duke		Absent	
John Lesman		Present	
Ashley Tripp		Absent	
Cheryl Miller		Absent	
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		Present	
Thomas Greco		Present	

Neale Montgomery		Present	
Harry Raucher		Present	
Pat Martin		Present	
Kevin Powers	Chair	Present	
Timothy Sargent	Vice-Chair	Present	

**Statewide ERP Consistency Rulemaking Update - Anita Bain, Bureau Chief, Environmental Resource Permitting, SFWMD**

**DISCUSSION**

Mike Collins - Unlike the consumptive use consistency effort (CupCon), these changes seem logical and warranted.

John Lesman - I have been doing permitting for 20 years now and these changes are a good move. The consistency between Water Management Districts is also a positive move. These changes should streamline the process and make it much easier for the applicant.

Patrick Hayes - Does this change the pre-versus-post issue?

Anita Bain - No, that is not part of this process at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jane Graham - On behalf of Audubon, we are supportive of this process and appreciate the open involvement of the stakeholders. We appreciate the District working closely with the US Fish and Wildlife on their concerns of the language used in the discussion of the mitigation issue. However, Audubon has also submitted a list of concerns and recommendations that we have yet to see addressed.

**Tropical Storm Isaac After Action Report - Lucine Dadrian, Section Administrator, Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division, SFWMD**

**DISCUSSION**

Newton Cook - I received a call last night from the Florida Sportsman Conservation Association, they are very interested in what is going on out in the Corbett area.

Barbara Miedema - Some of these things look like they can be achieved in the short term, cleaning, blasting, maintenance kind of work, to improve conveyance capacity.

Lucine Dadrian - The canal constrictions are the first thing we can move forward on, but the blasting is not inexpensive.

Barbara Miedema - I think a meeting with the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) stakeholders would help find partners in this area and move these projects forward cooperatively.

Neale Montgomery - You referenced an impact to the agricultural pumps? What would that impact be?

Lucine Dadrian - If we increase the cross sections of the agricultural canals, then the pumps which line the edges of the canals will have to be modified.  
Patrick Hayes - Have we ever updated the criteria for calculations of flood events? It seems like we experience a 100 year storm event on a very frequent basis.

Sharon Trost - Yes, the District statistically updates those numbers every few years based on real-time data.

Lucine Dadrian - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is also updating the flood inundation maps.

Mark Perry - When I add up all these funding estimates the number approaches \$90 million. Is there funding available for these projects and what is the cost share with the agricultural interests? Will this expenditure become a recommendation to the Governing Board?

Melissa Meeker - Some components are in the budget such as the Corbett levee. Most are not. We need to have that discussion with the Board as we move through the budget process.

James Humble - (did not speak into the microphone and was not captured).

Kevin Powers - I sat in some of the after-storm assessments and I was very impressed with what was done before, during and after the storm. At the same time, we have learned a lot from this event.

Joe Capra - It would seem that some of these repairs would be eligible for state or federal grants.

Lucine Dadrian - We have submitted where possible (NRCS, FEMA, etc) but the funds have not been forthcoming. Some of these repairs are not eligible for grant funding.

Joe Capra - If no grant funding is available, then I assume the District funds would have to be utilized. I assume that the private sector would be involved in some of these permitting, design and repair work.

Lucine Dadrian - Yes, this would require a combination of District and external resources .

Albrey Arrington - I would like clarification on the location of the proposed levee work at Corbett and the impact to natural systems. Hopefully, mitigation efforts for those levee upgrades will be targeted to making Mecca functional to assist the Loxahatchee River.

H. M. Ridgely - Enhanced conveyance alone doesn't store water. Was there an analysis done of areas that might have been kept too high during the rainy season, thereby reducing their ability to absorb additional rainfall.

Melissa Meeker - We have done a detailed look at the operation of the primary canal system prior to the storm onset to optimize storage and conveyance, but I do not think we looked at private properties via the regulatory programs to see if we entered the storm even too full.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lisa Interlandi - I was happy to see the use of Mecca Farms during Isaac. I hope the District will continue to vet the improvements to the Corbett levee in a public forum. I think we need to move carefully in the Corbett area. The costs of repairing and upgrading the existing system may be more expensive that adding additional areas such as Mecca and Vavrus.

Martha Musgrove - I have been supportive for many years of improving the conveyance in the Cross and Bolles Canals in adding to the flexibility in operating the system. Additionally, the levee improvements at Corbett have significant environmental impact to environmentally sensitive and publicly owned recreational lands and the levee itself is actually owned, not by the SFWMD, but by Indian Trail Improvement District. It is one thing to provide assistance during a severe event, but it is another thing to improve drainage in areas that were never meant to have high levels of flood control. Indian Trail should bear the costs of these improvements, not the SFWMD.

## **C-51 Conceptual Plan - Ernie Barnett, Director, Everglades Policy and Coordination, SFWMD**

### **DISCUSSION**

Bubba Wade - What is the timing of the construction of the C-51 reservoir and its tie to the existing L-8 Flow Equalization Basin (FEB)?

Ernie Cox - Optimistically, phase 1 is estimated to be finished in the fall of 2015.

Mark Perry - I know the L-8 chlorides were high. Will this project affect the operation and use of the existing reservoir?

Greg Kivett - We do not see any chloride issues in the proposed reservoir because they do not plan to excavate as deep.

Patrick Hayes - How deep are we going?

Ernie Cox - 30' below land surface or -20' NGVD.

Patrick Hayes - Who will own this facility and who operates the finished facility?

Ernie Cox - Various utilities will buy into the facility and sign a contract for a specific capacity and delivery. This is not a public facility but a proposed private venture controlled by a consortium of utilities - operated in conjunction with the District.

Patrick Hayes - I would not be in favor of public/District funding in this project.

Mike Collins - Being involved at the time, I would state for the record that the purchase of the original L-8 reservoir was a sound and justified purchase, given what we knew at the time.

Albrey Arrington - The interior divides on the reservoirs give us the ability to do maintenance without bringing the entire facility off-line. The existing L-8 has worked well to help the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee, but passing water through the City of West Palm Beach's Water Catchment Area has been problematic.

Joe Capra - What is the material to be mined?

Ernie Cox - Department of Transportation (FDOT) grade aggregate, for road construction, etc.

Joe Capra - Is the anticipated construction schedule related to the need for the material or the need for the resultant storage?

Ernie Cox - The storage ... we can stockpile the material if there is not a concurrent demand.

Chad Kennedy - What about the loss of water during the conveyance all the way to Broward County?

Terrie Bates - The anticipated loss was part of the modeling that was done.  
Neale Montgomery - Will Palm Beach Aggregate get paid twice ... once to mine material and then for the storage?  
Ernie Cox - That depends on the need for the material.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment on this item.

#### **Restoration Strategies Updates: L-8 FEB, A-1 FEB and Science Plan - Jeff Kivett, Chief, Engineering & Construction Bureau and Linda Lindstrom, Chief,**

Applied Sciences Bureau, SFWMD

#### **DISCUSSION**

Newton Cook - Public access is key to the public's support of these constructed FEB areas. It concerns me that I see no boat ramps in the preliminary design plans.

Melissa Meeker - This agency has a huge commitment to public recreation. The number one priority of these projects is water quality. This agency will do everything we can to include recreational components where feasible.

Neale Montgomery - Will this plan address damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee Estuary?

Jeff Kivett - No, the purpose of these projects is water quality improvement.

Mark Perry - Water quality is a huge part of being able to send more water south from the Lake and help protect the estuaries.

Tommy Perry - I want to thank the District for looking at the minimizing operational costs associated with these construction projects. Sometimes that issue gets lost in the analysis.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Drew Martin - Were the elevated chlorides at the L8 - was that a function of the mining operation? Is phosphorus control an important issue in the operation of the FEB?

Martha Musgrove - Can a FEB later be converted to a STA?

Jeff Kivett - They will be built with flexibility for possible future modifications in use and purpose.

#### **Overview of Alternative Treatment Technologies - Kim O'Dell, Supervisor Environmental Scientist, Applied Sciences Bureau, Water Resources, SFWMD**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Bubba Wade - Great presentation. FEBs and STAs alone will not get us where we need to be. We need to look at chemical, land based treatment.

Albrey Arrington - Can you tell me more about the water treatment residuals?

Kim O'Dell - The residuals were alum based from a public water supply facility.

Melissa Meeker - The Governing Board has asked staff ... "what is the next step"? This is the start of that conversation.

Bubba Wade - The cost of nutrients removed per dollar is the ultimate test. When I was on the Board we looked at chemical treatment plants versus stormwater treatment areas. The Federal Government was not in favor of chemical treatment plants due to environmental impacts of pure biologically sterilized water ... the water would not be "marsh ready".

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Drew Martin - I am interested in possible residual chemicals or side effects of these treatment technologies?

Kim O'Dell - Staff will continue to look at that issue in terms of wide range implementation.

Jane Graham - Thank you for a very informative presentation. What type of data would you need in order to implement this technology on a wider scale? The best way to clean up water is to prevent the pollution from entering the water in the first place (advanced BMPs).

### **Land Assessment Process Update - Ray Palmer, Section Leader, Real Estate, SFWMD**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Chad Kennedy - Are there any patterns to the comments so far?

Ray Palmer - Yes ... in general we hear because it was bought with government funds, don't sell it. Keep the land in conservation.

Chad Kennedy - Some smaller, isolated parcels may be appropriate for sale due to maintenance responsibilities. The funds will come back to the District for addition acquisition of necessary parcels.

Tom Perry - All vacant land has some ecological benefit but how does it weigh against the greater good of having additional funds for new, even more essential, acquisitions.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Drew Martin - Most of the land I have looked at has had a beneficial environmental use - recreation or environmental education.

### **Open Discussion - WRAC Members**

**Chairman Powers modified the agenda to add an update on the Central Everglades Planning Process (CEPP/Matt Morrison). Matt Morrison proceeded with a brief update on CEPP.**

Barbara Miedema - At the last Governing Board meeting there was discussion that water quality assurances were a significant part of this plan. Additionally, the savings clause required assurances that existing users were kept whole. Dade

County would have a hard time supporting the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) due to concerns that their level of service for water supply might be diminished. Agriculture was also assured that there would be no loss of water supply as a result of the implementation of this plan. This planning effort assumed that C43 and C44 reservoirs, as well as other construction projects, would be complete which is not a guarantee.

Matt Morrison - We are continuing to work through the water quality issues. As well as the secondary issue of water supply... we are continuing to work through those commitments.

Mike Collins - I know the staff has worked very hard on this plan. The savings clause issue cannot be addressed last minute. At this time it is very unclear how this is going to be handled. Adaptive management can not get us past sound design and consideration of that savings clause. The improvements to Florida Bay portion of this is minimal. As we increase flows to the east coast we reduce flows to Florida Bay ... not improve them.

Mark Perry - I would also be interested in additional discussions on the savings clause issue ... and again we can not send more water south unless we clean it to meet the water quality standards.

James Humble - We need a drainage divide on the west side of Dade County. As we send more water east we increase flooding potential for Dade County specifically agriculture.

Kim Taplin (USACOE) - In terms of flood control, we actually see improvements to Dade County. In order to bring in additional flows we need to incorporate improvements in seepage management.

James Erskine - The sequencing of these projects is essential. In my mind we need to move from north to south. Work above the red line to improve the performance of the water conservation areas. The modified waters project will improve the situation allowing more water to move south. If Tamiami Trail improvements are delayed that will affect the implementation of the CEPP.

Barbara Miedema - The USACOE would like to be wrapped up by April 16th. That does not leave us much time for public comment.

**The Chairman moved to member issues:**

Newton Cook - Just to remind everyone that Monday, March 18th is the meeting of the REC WRAC.

Thomas Greco - the USACOE is trying to meet an aggressive timeline. We will include and incorporate as much public comment as warranted and possible.

Mark Perry - For future agenda items, I would like to hear an update on the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) study and an update on Ten Mile Creek.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Drew Martin - The Sierra Club is supportive of the CEPP Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). It is important that we move forward. I hope that we don't delay the project just because everyone is not convinced that we have the perfect solution.

**Adjourn**

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Joe Collins, Chairman  
Governing Board  
South Florida Water Management District

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Brenda Low  
Deputy District Clerk  
South Florida Water Management District