



South Florida Water Management District

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 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,**
WRAC Chairman

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kevin Powers	Chair	Present	
Douglas Yoder		Present	
Samantha Whitcraft		Absent	
D. Albrey Arrington		Present	
Scott Benyon		Absent	
Shelley Vana		Absent	
Douglas Bournique		Present	
Bob Ulevich		Present	
Craig Tepper		Present	
Chuck Collins		Present	
Mike Tammaro		Present	
Harry Cronin		Absent	
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		Present	
Mark Perry		Present	
James Humble		Present	
Tommy Perry		Absent	

Kristin Jacobs		Absent	
George Jones		Present	
William "Chad" Kennedy		Present	
Thomas Kenny		Present	
Kahlil Kettering		Present	
John Lamkin		Absent	
Joan Lawrence		Absent	
Barbara Miedema		Present	
Linda McCarthy		Absent	
James Murley		Present	
Kimberly Lawrence		Absent	
Newton Cook		Present	
Don Fox		Absent	
Mary Martin		Present	
Isabel Cosio-Carballo		Absent	
Bevin Beaudet		Present	
Matthew Raffenberg		Absent	
Timothy Sargent	Vice-Chair	Present	
David Hoffman		Absent	
Joe Capra		Present	
Sommer Foster		Present	
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		Present	
Adrienne Carter		Absent	
Mitch Hutchcraft		Absent	
Maelo Reyes		Absent	
Rich Budell		Absent	
Wovoka Tommie		Present	
Malcolm Wade		Present	
Don Donaldson		Present	
Jennifer Hecker		Absent	
Greg Rawl		Absent	
Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch		Present	
Thomas Greco		Present	

2. WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop Report - Newton Cook, RIW Chairman

A. Discussion

Mike Collins - the Receptions Issues Workshop (RIW WRAC) is an important group as they handle issues that otherwise would come before the Governing Board.

B. Public Comment

There was no public on this issue.

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

Patrick Hayes - Are there dollars associated with any of these?

Kim Taplin - That will be the next step.

Mike Collins - The PDT has done a good job but the assumptions going in where flawed. What analysis was done to come up with the 5 mile issue on Tamiami Trail constriction. Why so wide?

Kim - That was a Department of the Interior (DOI) decision. I do not know but can get back to you on that.

Mike Collins - It just seems that we are creating a flowway for water that does not exist.

Tom Kenny - Did you say 200,000 acre feet of additional water, that would have been going to the estuary, will be going south? So if we go back to last September when the St. Lucie was getting hit could we have sent that water south.

Kim Taplin - Probably not because the FEBs and STAs would already have been full.

Mark Perry - This is a step in the right direction but would only take care of 14% of the discharges to the estuaries. This has to be looked at phase 1 of a multi-phase project. If the plan gets done this year and a signed chief's report by 2013 so Congress can act on it.

Kim Taplin - Authorization, detailed design and then appropriation before construction can start. This will then be added into the USACOE's implementation strategy.

Joe Capra - Thank you for coming to Stuart. Why does alternative 1 show the L28 triangle but no other option shows that?

Kim Taplin - The Miccosukee Tribe asked for that and it will be part of the analysis and can be added to any recommended plan.

Joe Capra - Is everything contingent on the improvements to the Tamiami Trail?

Kim Taplin- Yes.

Newton Cook - Thanks to Kim for including the recreational folks in this process. Get the flow right and then worry about the water quality. Will the water be of suitable quality to go into the ENP?

Kim Taplin - Our water quality modeling is limited but will be considered in the final report.

Barbara Meidema - Does the "without project condition" assumes that the C44 and C43 reservoir systems are built and operational?

Kim Taplin - Yes.

Barbara Meidema - At the 16 County Summit they approved continues work on C44 and C43 but did not embrace CEPP. Where is the money going to come from for the first generation projects?

Doug Yoder - I am interested in the 5 mile seepage barrier. The rock miners have already built 2 miles of that and had planned to build 5 miles even before this plan is authorized. Does this plan incorporate the rock miners schedule?

Kim Taplin - The data from the 2 mile seepage barrier demonstration project has not been made available yet. It will be incorporated when it becomes available. We are working with best available data.

Doug Yoder - If the seepage barrier is part of the final plan do the rock miners get reimbursed for work already done?

Mike Collins - I was not in favor of the original programmatic regulations. That was \$700 million spent on process - salaries, planning and paperwork. When the auditing gets done Congress may not be happy. We need to get the most important projects built. The rest of the nation will not continue to support us.

Kahlil Kettering - The process was inclusive and well done. What will be the benefits to Biscayne National Park?

Kim Taplin - The plan will create no additional adverse impacts to Biscayne National Park. We may be able to take some of the additional seepage and move that water to Biscayne Bay. But improvements to the Bay was not a big part of this.

James Humble - Is permitting all part of this?

Kim Taplin - We have to create a permittable plan.

Tom Greco - We will do our best to take all public comment into consideration but our goal is to take the best plan we can forward to Congress.

B. Public Comment

Jane Graham - We think this has been a great process. Alternative #4 seems to give the best improvements to WCA3B which has suffered from extreme water level

fluctuations. Bird nesting will improve as we improve the water level management within the area.

John Marshall - I have given Paul Millar a copy of a handout - "Response to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Report on Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity". Ecosystem Services Valuation on the tentatively selected plan has to be done as part of the CEPP process.

4. Restoration of the Western Everglades Natural System - CraigTepper, Director Environmental Resource Management Department, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Steve Walker, Lewis Longman and Walker, Patricia Power, BOSE Public Affairs Group

A. Discussion

WRAC member, Wovoka Tommie, introduced this presentation giving a personal account of his history with the Everglades.

Mike Collins - The fact that you guys have treatment capacity is huge. Have you thought about those opportunities?

Steve Walker - We have not done any analysis but there are several options.

Craig Tepper - We have built storage but they are dry. The aquifer fluctuates so much. We need conveyance and the Tribe could potentially handle some of that extra water that goes to tide. The L1, L2 and L3 system would be part of the solution to move water out of the Lake when it is too high.

Tom Kenny - Is water quality a problem? Can we meet the standard?

Kevin Powers - Yes, it is an issue.

Mark Perry - It seems like we could use the western part of the US Sugar purchase.

Steve Walker - The Seminole Tribe has the ability to set it own standard.

Craig Tepper - We are looking at a potential of 50ppb phosphorus. Our swamps are more potassium limited and low levels of potassium limits the amount of phosphorus that can be assimilated. This area would be an excellent area to assist the CEPP process, but it was left out.

Bill Hammond - Perhaps the BOMA property can assist with a first level nutrient scrubbing.

Bubba Wade - This issue was looked at by the Governor's Commission but it was abandoned because when you have too much there were already wet and folks were concerned that it would become another straw into the Lake during dry periods.

Mark Perry - Any option to get water out of the lake should be looked at.

Tom Greco - This issue will come up at the Task Force meeting later this month. It might be a spin off analysis of the CEPP.

James Erskine - Craig can you go back to the slide on reservation lands? The Miccosukee have significant lands adjacent to this area and is concerned about potential water storage and treatment in this area. I would suggest that we bring this back to WRAC after the Task Force has a chance to look at it.

B. Public Comment

Martha Musgrove - Much of the improvements to the western basins were supposed to be done even before CERP was even started.

Craig Tepper - You are correct the project is half built - two of the four storage areas are done.

Marth Musgrove - I would like to see WRAC have a presentation on the western basins. This area needs to be a major District focus.

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

A. Discussion

Mike Collins - The focus seems to be the large pieces of property but the problem seems to be with the small pieces of isolated property. Will that be assessed.

Ray Palmer - The large tracts can be eliminated fairly quickly and we will get down to the small tracts with time.

Bob Ulevich - Will adjacent land owners be given preference?

Ray Palmer - No, not unless there is an access issue.

Bill Hammond - Is there a provision to transfer to local governments?

Ray Palmer - Yes, that will be part of the process.

B. Public Comment

Jane Graham - We have been following this process State-wide. The web site is very important and must contain the GIS information as well as the on the ground ecological assessment. WRAC needs to stay involved but there should also be public meetings to gain stakeholders input. We are concerned that is we surplus lands adjacent to natural areas it will open them up for potential development which may be inconsistent with the public use of the adjacent lands. There is an island in the middle of the Caloosahatchee River that needs to be evaluated further.

6. Adaptive Protocols Update - Susan Gray, Chief Environmental Scientist, Water Resource Division, SFWMD and Cal Neidrauer, Chief Engineer, Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division, SFWMD

A. Discussion

Barbara Meidema - I read that US Fish & Wildlife would de-list the wood stock and the manatee due to the statistics that the populations were coming back, but your numbers do not reflect that for wood stock nesting on Lake Okeechobee.

Back to Cal's presentation...

Albrey Arrington - Floodplain stage recession rates on the Kissimmee are crucial ... if you pull water too fast out of the floodplain you may exacerbate fish kills.

Paul Linton - Dissolved oxygen was the cause of the fish kill but we have not related that to the additional water runoff.

Lawrence Glenn - The suggested regulation schedule for Kissimmee and the connected lakes will store more water and therefore provide more water for the restored Kissimmee.

Mark Perry - I remember being one of the guys that was concerned about the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes discharging even though they were below regulation. A serious look at a revised schedule would be warranted. The St. Lucie did get a huge amount of water from our own watershed which was added to by Lake discharges but the St. Lucie does not have a regulation schedule and seems to get the brunt of high water conditions. The C44 reservoir/STA system will definitely help.

Bubba Wade - The Tribe's proposal that we heard earlier could help. Someone at the District needs to look at that issue in depth.

Kevin Powers - I agree.

Mark Perry - I think WRAC should recommend to the Governing Board that we do that initial analysis.

Kevin Powers - I want to recognize Lt. Col. Greco for his understanding and leadership

B. Public Comment

Martha Musgrove - We are happy to hear about the modifications to the Adaptive protocol (AP) decision tree to improve conditions especially for the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

Jane Graham - We would like to see the regulation schedule for the Upper Kissimmee Chain modified as soon as possible to maximize the littoral zone and increase storage and provide additional flows for the revitalized Kissimmee River.

7. Open Discussion - WRAC Members

Jason Leitchy introduced himself as Commissioner Kristin Jacob's alternate, replacing Patti Webster.

Pat Martin introduced himself as the alternate to Mr. Harry Raucher from Lake Worth Drainage District, a new seat on the WRAC.

Mike Collins - Referenced the new proposed language in the FDEP Rule 62-40, Conditions of Issuance, revisions specifically minimum flows and levels language is controversial and unclear. The second issue is the reservation issue which states no change, which is inconsistent with the District's language. I would like to hear from Legal and see if I am right and I would like to see this come before a future WRAC.

Beth Ross - I understand the issue and have spoken to the Florida Department of Environmental protection (FDEP) attorney and they are anxious to take this before the 2013 Legislative Session. I think we do have time to discuss this issue and provide input.

Mike Collins - I think the Governing Board should request a time extension.

Beth Ross - I think we have time under the existing time constraints. It will be difficult to make changes after the rule is passed.

Bob Brown - I will talk to FDEP and see if we can get an extension.

Newton Cook - Every year Tallahassee seems to attempt to turn public lands over to adjacent land owners. There is a bill filed this year which will trade adjacent land for conservation easements on the private land. United WaterFowlers is against this because it takes the public off of public lands.

Kahlil Kettering - Reminded everyone about the Everglades Coalition meeting next week.

Mary Ann Martin - A record breaking Black Crappie was caught there recently. The Lake is having a great year.

Mark Perry - Referenced Ten Mile Creek, Lake Okeechobee discharges and the Everglades Coalition meeting.

Jim Murley - I think that the Outdoor Public Information (OPIS) issue should have come before WRAC for discussion before it went to the Governing Board.

Larry Hilton - We heard that the District is considering a new land acquisition in Glades County. This concerns us. We have not been told about this proposed acquisition but have yet to see the details.

Ernie Barnett - We are asking the Governing Board for permission to make an offer on one section and an option of additional lands. The District will make payment in lieu of taxes on the property.

Larry Hilton - The property taxes alone is not the issue. It's the additional loss of jobs associated with the property.

A. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.