

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team

Friday, October 2, 2009, 11:00 AM

Broward County Government Center West
1 N. University Drive, 2nd Floor Hearing Room
Plantation, Florida 33324

Summary:

Task Force Chair Shannon Estenoz had notified staff that she would be unable to attend the meeting, and in her absence, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jacobs at 11:08 A.M. It was noted that there was not a quorum, but one was expected, so Vice Chair Jacobs began the presentations. Roll call was not taken, but attendees were noted (see attendance below). Albert Perez gave the Technical Team report. Mr. Perez indicated the Tech Team would be putting together a matrix/framework with criteria to help the members better understand the projects under consideration and some of the time constraints as they look to make decisions about various projects. Vice Chair Jacobs indicated that the agenda was changed slightly to exclude utility concerns regarding 2-day watering restrictions to allow more time for preparation of a presentation.

Vice Chair Jacobs introduced Steven Bassett of the Tech Team. His presentation was on Cooling Tower Options, Costs and Water Savings Analysis and Recommendations. Mr. Bassett described the cooling process and how much water could be saved by recycling condensate and cooling tower bleed-off (wastewater). He estimated that a substantial amount of water (1.9 MGD) could be saved, based on the number of commercial properties where cooling towers would be expected, which was estimated by data from the Broward County Property Appraiser's office. He explained what currently happens to condensate (it is discharged to a stormwater system) and then went on to discuss cooling tower bleed-off and provided an estimate for how much water is lost through that process (5.6 MGD). He then compared treatment costs and explained that by recycling these lost waters, new systems could pay for themselves in a short timeframe. He then discussed two possible implementation strategies - 1.) submit proposed revisions to the Florida Building Code requiring no-bleed and/or condensate recovery systems upon cooling system change-out and/or in new construction (which might be a lengthy revision process); or 2.) submit proposed revision to the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals to implement locally. If neither of those options are suitable, Mr. Bassett indicated that would be the time to consider drafting ordinances. He provided copies of a relevant ordinance from the City of San Antonio, Texas and also mentioned similar actions by the Cities of Los Angeles and Las Vegas. There was a brief discussion on retrofitting, whether the County could require an ordinance, which method would expedite implementation, and why Broward County requires bleed-off to be discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Vice Chair Jacobs remarked that, per one of Mr. Bassett's slides, it appears that the potential savings from cooling tower options could constitute as much as 25% of the County's 2025 water shortfall, and this is a good reason to pursue these options further. She then asked the Task Force if they would recommend requesting the Tech Team to further explore cooling tower options and be prepared to bring specific recommendations for implementation back to the Task Force, and

to work in concert with the League of Cities to move them forward, to which there was agreement.

Following Mr. Bassett's presentation, and noting there was then a quorum present, the Vice Chair asked for approval of the September 04 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Vice Chair then introduced Kim Taplin, from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and other Corps representatives. Ms. Taplin provided an updated on the C-9/C-11 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Water Preserve Area (WPA) Project and explained that her office was based in West Palm Beach near the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) headquarters. She showed a slide of the schematic of the Water Preserve Areas CERP project and discussed how it is supposed to work and its purpose to prevent seepage from the conservation areas and to maintain water levels. She stated it is hopeful the project will be studied further in 2010 as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). She explained the Corps' review process and the importance of the Chief Engineer's report in getting a project into WRDA. She explained that there have been considerable changes with the way the real estate costs for the WPA project had been calculated and this would require a re-evaluation to see if the project would still pass the benefit-cost analysis. All diligence is being made to move the project forward and the Corps is working closely with the SFWMD to get updated land values which will drive how fast the updated report can be prepared. There were then some additional questions about how the project worked during the dry and wet seasons which Ms. Taplin and Mr. Larry Gerry (SFWMD) answered. Mr. Gerry said the project should be viewed like a surge tank. Dr. Jennifer Jurado asked some questions about whether the design had changed based on today's presentation and if operation of the project would be changed. She indicated that previously the plan integrated well with plans for secondary canal integration and this appears to have disappeared in the latest description of the project. There was some further discussion about continuing the dialog. There was a question about funding and whether there was any consideration of climate change which might also provide sources of funding. It was explained that funding was a two step process where the project needed to be authorized before appropriations could be made and that it would only receive funds pursuant to the Everglades restoration effort. Ms. Taplin pointed out that the project has a high profile with the current administration. Vice Chair Jacobs inquired about plans to do a similar project in the northern part of the County where similar issues exist. She pointed out that we have a new opportunity with the recently annexed property from Palm Beach County and that we now have a new land opportunity. Mr. Gerry discussed the opportunities to reduce seepage from north to south along the levees and that the priority areas are to the south. There was some further discussion about whether there were opportunities to look at this project with respect to Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

Following Ms. Taplin's presentation, Dr. Jurado gave a presentation on Planning for Reuse Development and Expansion and discussed opportunities for coordination and planning on reuse options with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). She indicated that FDOT has been evaluating one type of reuse application, and she explained that FDOT considers the MPO their client and thus coordination with them is critical. Dr. Jurado indicated there had been a few reuse coordination meetings held between FDOT, Broward County, Broward municipalities and the MPO, and one of the better opportunities might be to obtain a copy of FDOT's five-year

resurfacing and capacity plan. This has been requested of FDOT by the County, but has not yet been received. There was a discussion of landscape irrigation, where it was noted that FDOT funding does not include installation of an irrigation system. There are opportunities for partnering with municipalities to provide funding for installation of irrigation systems. With respect to infrastructure installation, there is no FDOT funding, but the FDOT indicated an interest in partnering. Early coordination during the planning process of a resurfacing project is necessary. Dr. Jurado discussed general needs which include a GIS coverage showing locations and schedules for upcoming FDOT roadway projects, a county-wide reuse master plan (requested by FDOT) and a single point person for coordination. Dr. Jurado then provided policy recommendations, with respect to agency coordination, planning, and regulation. There was a discussion by Councilmember Starkey of the lost opportunity related to cost-share in the redevelopment of I-595. There was further discussion on coordination with the MPO, their 2035 plan, and how the Task Force's issues might best be incorporated. Vice Chair Jacobs stated that the Task Force might be in a good position to influence some of the language used in the 2035 plan and asked if staff and the Tech Team would look into that. There was a discussion of the reuse master plan and which entities might need to be involved in that effort and their likely level of participation, including a financial commitment.

Vice Chair Jacobs indicated time was getting short and she asked for any final comments. Commissioner Blattner asked for an update at the next meeting on what the Palm Beach Task Force is doing with regards to the C-51 project.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force:

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek
Kristin Jacobs, Vice Chair and Commissioner, Broward County
Susan Starkey, Councilmember, Town of Davie
Allegra Webb Murphy, Vice Mayor, City of Oakland Park
Douglas Bell, Chair, Central Broward Water Control District Board of Commissioners
Glen Hanks, Secretary, Coral Springs Improvement District Board of Supervisors
Jack McCluskey, Commissioner, City of Pembroke Pines
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood
Lamar Fisher, Mayor, City of Pompano Beach
Thomas Good, Commissioner and Vice Chair, South Broward Drainage District Board of Commissioners

Technical Team:

Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation
J. Martin Cala, Asst. Director, City of Lauderdale Dept. of Engineering & Environmental Services
Hector Castro, Director of Utilities, City of Sunrise
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac
William Brant, Public Works Director, City of Hallandale Beach

Raj Verma, Director of Utilities and Engineering, City of Coconut Creek
David Womacks, Public Works Director, City of Oakland Park
John Crouse for Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Natural Resources Planning & Mgmt. Division
Doug Hyche, Utilities Director, Coral Springs Improvement District
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division
Neil Buckeridge for Bruce Taylor, Director of Utilities Operations, Town of Davie
Dylan Larson, Builders Association of South Florida
Timothy Mayer, Broward County Health Department

Other Attendees:

Keith London, Commissioner, City of Hallandale Beach
Todd Hiteshew, Fort Lauderdale Utilities
Chris VanVliet, City of Lauderdale Lakes
Jesus Martinez, Parsons
Larry Gerry, SFWMD
Kim Taplin, USACOE
Ltc. Michael Kinard, USACOE
John Abbot, Keith and Schnars
Jon Cooper, Calvin, Giordano
Jim DiPietro, Broward County
Barry Heimlich, Florida Atlantic University
Don Giancoli, City of Lauderhill
Maite Azcotia, Broward County Attorney's Office
Steve Weinsier, Allstate Resource Management
Ed Dion, Nabors, Giblin law
Charlotte St. John, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services
Ben Chen, Chen & Associates
Mike Bechtol, FDEP
Constance Ruppender, CBWCD
E.L. Waters, SFWMD
Rosemarie C. Fallon, Broward County Planning and Redevelopment
Carole Morris, SFWMD
Jose Lopez, SFWMD
Eric Myers, Broward County Environmental Protection & Growth Management
Michael Zygnerski, Broward County Natural Resources Planning & Mgmt. Division
Toni Edwards, Broward County Natural Resources Planning & Mgmt. Division
Rudy Rudolph, Broward County Natural Resources Planning & Mgmt. Division