

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Broward Water Resources Task Force and Technical Team

Friday, January 22, 2010, 11:00 AM

Broward County West Regional Library
1st Floor Auditorium
8601 West Broward Boulevard
Plantation, Florida 33324

Summary:

The meeting began at 11:10 A.M. Chair Estenoz called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken (see attendance below). The Chair mentioned that, in the absence of a quorum, she would defer on the voting items. She discussed the draft resolution extending the life of the Task Force and asked what would be the desired frequency of future meetings. Deputy Mayor Rosen suggested that the resolution should provide for more frequent meetings than quarterly. It was pointed out that the current draft reads "at least quarterly", and this should be sufficient. There was a discussion on how best to schedule meetings for the future and whether members should continue to reserve a spot for a monthly meeting in their calendars. It was suggested that until a report is complete, it would be good to at least keep monthly meetings scheduled. The County Attorney, Mr. Owens, provided further clarification as to what the resolution provided with respect to meetings.

With the arrival of Commissioner Jacobs, a quorum was established and a motion passed to approve a Resolution continuing the term of the Task Force and providing for a meeting frequency of at least quarterly. A motion also passed to approve the minutes from December 15, 2009.

The Chair then discussed the meeting objectives, referenced the backup materials for the meeting, and turned the meeting over to Mr. Perez to report the activities of the Technical Team. Mr. Perez explained that the Technical Team was working on addressing comments on previous work documents and was preparing information for inclusion in the Water Resources Task Force Report. Dr. Jurado asked members to send any comments on the draft outline of the report to Toni Edwards. She suggested that staff would start to develop the narrative for the report with the intent of sharing the narrative for discussion at a subsequent Task Force meeting.

Chair Estenoz asked for an update on the C-51 white paper. Dr. Jurado acknowledged that due to the very recent completion and distribution of the White Paper, that Task Force members probably did not have sufficient time to digest for discussion today, but that the Technical Team had provided some input which she then shared. She mentioned some of the pending issues from the original Phase I study, and deliverables undertaken by Hazen and Sawyer as part of the Phase 2A study, including three technical memoranda and a progress report on Task 4-Cost Effectiveness. Dr. Jurado suggested that the white paper serve as a basis for further discussion of the C-51 project at the next meeting. The Chair suggested members review and provide comment on the document for finalization.

There was a question whether any sites solely in Broward County had been considered for a large reservoir-type project. Dr. Jurado explained the limitations and lack of availability of sites within Broward County. There was discussion of the impoundments for the C-9 and C-11 projects and whether they could serve a water supply function, and the ability to use the Floridan. Mention was also made of the opposition expressed at the joint Broward County-Palm Beach County Task Forces meeting held earlier and the need to leave other types of regional supply projects on the table. It was reiterated that the amount of time invested in looking at the C-51 was justified because it was considerably cheaper than other alternatives. The Vice Chair discussed the lack of open space in Broward County and the benefit of using available open space for infiltration trenches and interconnects to move water. Dr. Jurado responded to the previous reference to opposition voiced at the Joint meeting and indicated that the movement of water through the Loxahatchee Refuge is no longer on the table and so this water quality concern was no longer a point of review and had been removed from the analysis. The other attractiveness of the C-51 project is the potential for long-term storage capacity, distinct from the Broward CERP impoundments and more similar in function to storage offered by Lake Okeechobee. The Vice Chair expressed a concern about controlling our own destiny, given that Palm Beach may consider the C-51 as their water. Mr. Perez discussed the time needed to develop water supplies and that certain decisions need to be made early by utilities to meet expected demands. Mr. Hanks mentioned that if the District would consider a change in operational protocols/flexibility, it might provide greater reliability, especially in light of water being sent to tide. There was additional discussion of this issue. The Chair discussed a possible conveyance approach through the Everglades Agricultural Area and the watershed politics associated with that. She mentioned there will always be some level of stakeholder opposition. She reiterated that, from the District's perspective, water that flows on Palm Beach County does not belong to Palm Beach County, and that the District considers issues on the regional level. She indicated that the more the project could be perceived as a win-win, the better the likelihood of it moving forward. There was further discussion of the conveyance methods being considered. The Vice Chair expressed that as we move forward, it was important to emphasize the things we (Broward) are doing to manage our water resources, such as our integrated canal efforts in the north part of the County, so that our efforts to move the C-51 project ahead isn't perceived of as something we need because we haven't properly managed our own resources.

The Chair then mentioned that the Task Force would next be discussing the water conservation strategy cost/benefit analysis. Robert Rudolph provided a PowerPoint presentation on a literature search on water conservation program costs and effectiveness throughout the U.S. He began by summarizing that much of the existing literature addresses individual practices and there is some inconsistency in evaluation methods, which makes it somewhat difficult to make comparisons between different programs. He discussed some of the findings from a study that looked at demand side conservation programs versus distribution side conservation programs and pointed out that that study measured water savings by cost per acre foot of water saved. He then discussed San Antonio's comprehensive water conservation program and the various components of its indoor programs and shared their savings for 2009 through November. Looking at Florida, Mr. Rudolph shared information from Tampa Bay Water's conservation program, including its effectiveness to date and the evaluation criteria that Tampa Bay Water uses to evaluate water supply projects. He shared a graphic of where water conservation stacks up against other projects considered or implemented by Tampa Bay Water. Mr. Rudolph then discussed some of the projects that have been considered to date and some of the conservation

programs underway throughout Broward County. He showed information for projects that had received funding from the District's WaterSIP program and some of the costs for projects considered by the Task Force. There was a brief discussion of how amortization was accounted for and again the importance of being consistent with how numbers are presented in order to be looking at apples to apples comparisons. He concluded with a discussion of costs for overall conservation programs that include multiple components. There was a discussion of some of the numbers presented. Dr. Jurado offered that the point of the presentation was not to focus on the absolute numbers themselves, but rather general comparison and the fact that we recognize that conservation efforts do have certain costs, which need to be provided for. The Chair mentioned that there has been an ongoing discussion of the per capita issue at the District and how it should be calculated. Mr. Bassett said there are several issues regarding how costs are presented, depending on who the audience is. If you come from a municipal perspective you are often looking at "costs deferred," but if you are a building owner, you are looking at how long to recover costs of implementing a particular conservation measure.

The Vice-Chair suggested the first conversation that should be had is with the municipality to see how much money they are putting in their conservation budget. Where do we decide to put that money? She would like to see growth in funding for conservation efforts in this part of municipal budgets over time and that conservation is the number one thing we should be focusing on. The Chair mentioned that while the Task Force recommendations are going to the County, the Task Force may want to consider that a recommendation be made to the Legislature to include funding for water conservation in their budget. There was a substantial discussion of conservation rate structures in different municipalities and Mr. Perez shared the perspective that conservation efforts could impact utility revenues and that might affect securing the bonds needed for construction of capital projects.

There was a brief discussion of how the report being prepared would address the regional water project proposals and water conservation and general agreement that the report would address water conservation separately.

The Chair moved to discussion of the strike and underline document (the WRTF Recommendations). She asked for clarification that this document would be a separate portion of the report and asked for comments. She suggested two recommendations – one, that governments conduct their own internal water audits and another for an edit in Section 3, incentivizing water utility conservation efforts, to add a comma after "demands" and add "pursuant to Chapter 373 FS and SFWMD's Basis of Review". She mentioned that this is important and is on Governing Board agenda. Mr. Rosen requested an e-mail with suggested changes incorporated and members were encouraged to send any suggested changes to staff (Toni) to consolidate.

The Vice Chair suggested moving the next meeting to March and there was discussion the upcoming meeting schedule. Dr. Jurado discussed review of the C-51 white paper. Objectives for the next meeting were discussed, including review of the C-51 white paper, finalization of the recommendations, and review and finalization of the WRTF report. The Vice-Chair said it was important to get comments submitted ahead of time. There was additional discussion on when the Task Force should meet next. There was general agreement to meet March 5 and get comments in by February 12.

The Vice-Chair then presented each of the Task Force members with a little piece of the Biscayne aquifer “paperweight” that had been donated by the USGS as a little memento of the time spent on the Task Force. Mr. Bassett mentioned that the work of the Task Force had been noted outside as he had received a call from an editor for a university engineering magazine who had run across the Task Force while doing a Google search. The Vice Chair invited members to participate in or view the webcast of the Joint Governing Board/Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting on February 10. The passing of Hamilton Forman was noted. Members extended good wishes to Dr. Jurado on her upcoming delivery. Dr. Jurado also mentioned that Fred Flanders had passed away. The Vice Chair thanked staff for their great efforts in supporting the Task Force.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force:

Lisa Aronson, Vice Mayor, City of Coconut Creek
Kristin Jacobs, Vice Chair and Commissioner, Broward County
Charlotte Rodstrom, Commissioner, City of Fort Lauderdale
Donald Rosen, Deputy Mayor, City of Sunrise
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
Susan Starkey, Council Member, Town of Davie
Shannon Estenoz, Governing Board Member, South Florida Water Management District
Peter Bober, Mayor, City of Hollywood
Richard Blattner, Commissioner, City of Hollywood

Technical Team:

William Brant, Director, City of Hallandale Beach Public Works
Randy Brown, Director, City of Pompano Beach Utilities
Hank Breitenkam, Director of Utilities, City of Plantation
J. Martin Cala, City of Lauderhill
Ray Gagnon, Director of Utilities, City of Tamarac
Albert Perez, Director, City of Hollywood Public Utilities
Susan Smith for David Womacks, Director, City of Oakland Park Public Works
Leo Schwartzberg, Director, South Broward Drainage District
Julie Leonard, Assistant Director, City of Fort Lauderdale Utility Services
Alan Garcia, Director, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services
Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Division
John Mulliken, Director, SFWMD Water Supply Planning Division
Neil Buckeridge for Bruce Taylor, Director, Town of Davie Utilities
Steven Bassett, South Florida Chapter U.S. Green Building Council
Linda Brien, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Joe McLaughlin, City of Pembroke Pines
Tim Mayer, Broward County Health Department

Other Attendees:

John Abbott, Keith and Schnars
Robert Trivino, Black & Veatch
Harold Aiken, MWH
Cory Johnson, CH2MHill
Juan F. Aceitano, CH2MHill
Keith London, City of Hallandale Beach
Steve Holmes, Audubon/Vyridian
Karl Kennedy, Calvin Giordano
Raymond Rammo, Broward County Health Department
Pattie Gertenbach, E Sciences
Maria Loucraft, City of Pompano beach Utilities
Ben Chen, Chen & Associates
Michael C. Owens, Broward County Attorney
Mark Abbott, AECOM
Todd Hiteshew, Fort Lauderdale
Stew Magenheimer, CDM
Carole Morris, SFWMD
Chris Van Vliet, Lauderdale Lakes
Katie Lelis, Broward County NRPMD
Eric Myer, Broward County EPGMD
Mike Zygnerski, Broward County NRPMD
John Crouse, Broward County WWS
Jose Lopez, SFWMD
Toni Edwards, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div
Robert Rudolph, Broward County Nat. Res. Planning & Mgmt. Div