

## MINUTES

### JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 12, 2024

**WAB MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senator Steve Geller, Chair  
Vice Mayor Sandra Welch, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Andrea McGee  
Commissioner Doug Bell  
Commissioner Kevin Biederman  
Commissioner Nancy Metayer-Bowen  
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton (10:13 a.m.)  
Commissioner Tom Good  
Councilmember Jim Allbritton  
Councilmember Susan Starkey  
Pete Kwiatkowski for Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron  
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair  
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano (10:15 a.m.)

**WAB MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Denise Grant  
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie  
Commissioner Tim Ryan  
Gene Goldman  
Mark Peterson  
Mayor Greg Ross  
Mayor Michelle Gomez  
Mayor Aisha Gordon

**TAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Hart, Chair  
Randolph Brown, Vice Chair  
Albert Carbon  
Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia  
Brett Butler  
Commissioner Doug Bell  
Heather Cunniff  
Jeff Jiang  
Dr. Jennifer Jurado  
Jose Lopez  
Patrick Davis  
Pete Kwiatkowski  
Rafael Frias  
Steve Holmes  
Suzanne Mechler

Talal Abi-Karam  
Tim Welch

**TAC MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

David Walker  
Dawn Teetsal  
Giovanni Batista  
Isabel Cosio Carballo  
Lisa Milenkovic  
Renuka Mohammed  
Stephanie Pearson

**OTHERS  
PRESENT:**

Gregory Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Assistant Chief Res. Officer  
Leonard Vialpando, Director of Resilient Environment  
Department  
Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A joint meeting of the Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held on Friday, January 12, 2024, at a.m., in Room 430 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**I. Call to Order**

Senator Geller called the meeting to order.

**II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board (WAB)**

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell. Chair Geller expressed dismay regarding the WAB member attendance. He noted that by his request Dr. Jurado has spoken with the Broward League of Cities to emphasize the importance of this Board's attendance and to remove city members who do not consistently attend. Chair Geller explained that items that pass through this Board are taken to the Broward County Commission.

**III. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell.

**IV. Public Comments**

(None.)

**V. \*\*WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from 11/3/2023**

Commissioner Good made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/3/2023. Councilmember Allbritton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Updates and Announcements**

Chair Geller announced that Commissioner Tom Good was appointed by the National League of Cities to serve on the National League of Cities Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee. He extended his congratulations to Commissioner Good on the appointment.

Chair Geller reminded the Board that all meetings are recorded, and he encourages people to watch the WAB meetings because they address important issues.

**VII. Presentations:**

**a. Resilience Update**

Dr. Jurado provided an update to the Broward County-wide Resilience Plan, C&SF Resilience Study, and Resilient Florida Funding. She explained the work by Hazen and Sawyer over the past year, which is focused on flooding and heat. Dr. Jurado acknowledged the Resilient Florida Grant Program that be assessed during the analysis.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the work being done to make sure that the model captures pertinent details and is responsive to the priorities of the community, such as, water and planning elements. She noted the challenge of being a county agency and not having the community level relationship that cities do. Dr. Jurado discussed several listening sessions that were held to hear from the more vulnerable communities who are more sensitive and severely impacted by heat and flooding due to location, economics, and social factors including youth. She spoke on the collaboration with community organizations to ensure they have updated information that can be shared with the broader community. Dr. Jurado mentioned that she had been in contact with the development community regarding their needs, also.

Dr. Jurado reminded the Board of items captured within the plan, such as boundary conditions, drivers, initial conditions, groundwater, rainfall, tidal, sea level rise conditions, and a variety of scenarios that account for a 20% change factor. She gave the active link [bit.ly/RiskAnalyses](https://bit.ly/RiskAnalyses) where people can go to view their location and evaluate scenarios with no adaptation. Dr. Jurado stated that online discussions have taken place to share this platform and receive feedback before the addition of adaptation scenarios.

Dr. Jurado stated that while working with Hazen and Sawyer, they recommended the addition of heat to the analysis due to the emphasis on

green infrastructure. She provided a map identifying hotspots and how they affect community members now and in the future. Dr. Jurado noted that in 2023 there was a record set for the number of consecutive days with excessive heat. She answered questions regarding the redevelopment of parking lots to keep green infrastructure.

Dr. Jurado provided the final deliverable memo relating to the economic no action assessment. She highlighted the three bullet points under the two-foot Sea Level Rise scenario:

- Average 13% decline in residential property value
- \$800 Million reduction in ad valorem property tax base per year
- 41% more vulnerable people exposed to flooding.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the projections for 2070 with a potential of a three-foot sea level rise noting residential and productive assets damage by 500% relative to the average annual exposure. She discussed rainfall-induced flooding and sea level rise flood risks stating that the coastal areas have significantly higher exposure. Dr. Jurado explained that these projections do not account for the effects of the seawall ordinance nor managing tidal flooding, both of which will be included in the next round of model scenarios.

Dr. Jurado presented a summary of damages and spoke on the potential of reducing flood insurance premiums by making adaptation improvements and protecting against uninsured losses. She provided a summary of the real estate devaluation and potential loss in ad valorem. She stated that the 2070 timeline there is a projection of a 30% reduction in ad valorem.

Referencing a presentation, Dr. Jurado discussed the development of seven regional areas and their adaptation options. She noted that water storage needs to be addressed moving forward specifically in Zone 7. Dr. Jurado provided the next steps and stated that the preliminary model will be shared with the Resilient Steering Committee on February 7, 2024.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the strong dependency on C&SF system performance and the ability to discharge to the primary canals. She discussed the challenges of drainage due to several factors and the search for solutions. Dr. Jurado compared the comprehensive study and the refined study which will focus on the salinity control structures to improve the canal systems.

She discussed the timeline for the anticipated approval from the Army Corps, the estimated budget for the project, and obstacles that arose

during the approval process. Dr. Jurado detailed a hybrid approach which would include funding from the Corps along with assistance from the district to move forward to update all necessary structures through this partnership.

Chair Geller spoke on the history of drainage ways throughout South Florida and the deterioration of these systems due to increased rain and sea level rise. He stated that if not addressed, the ocean water will rise causing saltwater infiltration into the canals, aquifers, and drinking supply. Chair Geller expressed great concern for the timeline of the study, receiving sufficient funding from the Army Corps, and installation of salinity control barriers and pumps to address the water issues.

Dr. Jurado explained that the resilience plan is both incremental and phased. She stated that incremental advances would be made with priority going to structures that are currently failing then others will be addressed. Dr. Jurado acknowledged that everything will need to be upgraded and that the comprehensive plan will move in parallel with the salinity control structures to address weaknesses within the canals, banks, cross sections and dredging, which will need to be completed in stages.

Dr. Jurado answered questions from the WAB/TAC members regarding King Tides and funding strategies. Mr. Vialpando agreed with Dr. Jurado that this will be an incremental process and he stressed the importance of working with the Corps on these projects.

Dr. Jurado presented slides on the Resilient Florida funding and pointed out that no Broward County projects were approved for funding in 2024-2025. She noted that Broward has previously accounted for 13% of statewide funding. Dr. Jurado explained the new organization of the statewide plan which includes a structured prioritization as a result of the vulnerability assessments. She indicated there will be competition for funding by water management districts and suggested that Broward County examine alternate funding sources.

Dr. Jurado acknowledged letters of support of the CNSF project from the City of Oakland Park, the Regional Planning Council, the League of Women Voters, and the Broward Workshop.

Mr. Vialpando provided an update to the previously discussed septic-to-sewer topic. He explained the progress in the Broadview Park pilot area including grant funding to cover 50% of the cost to 220 residents to assist with the conversion. Mr. Vialpando detailed the timeline of the work to be completed and the penalties for those who are noncompliant of the

ordinance. Mr. Vialpando answered questions from the members regarding the septic-to-sewer conversion.

**b. Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) Year in Review**

Dr. Mount provided an update on the IWRP achievements for 2022-2023 and presented the goals of 2024. He stated that the IWRP was conceptualized in 1997 and last updated in 2019 with the specific focus on resilience. Dr. Mount spoke on the primary components that make up the IWRP, which include urban water resource management strategies, water resources system programs, regional governance and coordination, and public outreach.

Dr. Mount announced the ribbon cutting would be taking place soon for the C51 project and noted that the next phase has been discussed at the Broward Leaders Water Academy.

Speaking on the Flood Reach Study and the Future Conditions Groundwater Elevation work, Dr. Mount stated that it had passed through the LPA and will move to the Planning Council in the next month or two with the anticipation of taking it to the Broward County Commission.

Dr. Mount discussed the Annual Broward Water Matters Day. He noted changes to the event, which was held virtually in 2022 due to COVID-19, but stated that in 2023 the event was held in person. He indicated that thousands of people attended this event in 2023. Dr. Mount announced that the Annual Broward Water Matters Day will be held March 9, 2024, and named several people and organizations that will be in attendance in addition to Xavier Cortada, world-famous climate artist.

Dr. Mount introduced new staff members and discussed projects they are working on.

Dr. Mount named several awards received by the Conservation Pays program in 2022 and the increased participation and rebate programs through 2022 and 2023. He discussed the Netscape Irrigation Service and spoke on the evaluations and residential irrigation rebate program. Dr. Mount hopes to expand the social media presence and involvement in the Naturescape Broward. He spoke on the Broward Schools Environmental Partnership, noting that 2022 was the 15<sup>th</sup> year of participation. Dr. Mount discussed the achievements and goals of the Broward Schools Environmental Partnership and the Youth Climate Summit in 2022 and 2023.

Dr. Mount stated that the conservation efforts are working. Referencing the presentation, he showed that the quantity of water usage per person has been decreasing. He stated that continual efforts for water conservation make a great impact. Dr. Mount spoke on the Water Resource Assessment and Modeling noting that the first draft of the mapping and modeling for the resilience plan is complete and the next phase is the adaptation scenarios. He discussed several updates and improvements.

Dr. Mount stated that the Climate Change Risk Assessment to find where the biggest impacts are most likely to occur due to climate change has been completed.

Dr. Mount discussed the Document the Floods website and encouraged people to report weather conditions. He spoke on the updates to this website including access in multiple languages. Dr. Mount spoke on the work with Flood Factor and its new dashboard.

Dr. Mount explained that the IWRP grant cycle has concluded and they are working with the awardees on finalization to get the projects started.

Dr. Mount indicated that the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Broward Leaders Water and Climate Academy is nearing the end and will have one more meeting. He discussed demonstrations and events that occurred.

Dr. Mount announced that new drones are being used within the Resilience Unit. He shared data and photos taken by the drones which include thermal images.

Dr. Mount provided a summary of the progress being made with advancing the IWRP, positive water conservation results, partnerships, modeling for the Future Conditions and resilience applications, and other achievements.

## **VIII. New Business**

Chair Geller stated that if anyone has questions or topics for discussion to send them to Dr. Jurado to be included in future meetings. Commissioner Good recommended that the Board should familiarize itself with the new items being passed through the EPA regarding drinking water and sewer systems.

Chair Geller explained that Congressman Crist had drafted a bill that would drastically reduce property insurance rates. He announced that Congressman Schiff from California filed a version of Congressman Crist's bill that is 98% the same. Chair Geller showed his support of this bill and hopes that other states will

support the bill regarding national catastrophe insurance.

Commissioner Doug Bell announced that Commissioner Tom Good was selected by the Central Broward Water Control District, as Manager.

Councilmember Allbritton thanked Dr. Mount for the Water Academy Climate class.

**IX. Discussion**

Commissioner Eaton spoke on concerns regarding homeownership within flood areas. She stated the importance of home inspections when buying a home. Dr. Jurado spoke on the flood risk and exposure of properties. Much discussion ensued regarding flood risks and real estate.

- X. Lake Okeechobee Water Levels:** (ft-NGVD 1929) **This month:** 15.99; **Last month:** 15.97; **One year ago:** 16.36  
**Next scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting** – March 8, 2024, Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430  
**Next scheduled TAC Meeting** – February 16, 2024. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430

**XI. Adjourn**

With no objection, Chairman Geller adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.