

MINUTES

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2024

WAB MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Steve Geller, Chair
Vice Mayor Sandra Welch, Vice Chair
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano (10:13 a.m.)
Commissioner Doug Bell
Commissioner Kevin Biederman
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton (10:12 a.m.)
Commissioner Tom Good
Councilmember Susan Starkey
Pete Kwiatkowski for Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron
Kevin Hart, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson
Mayor Michelle Gomez

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Andrea McGee
Commissioner Denise Grant
Commissioner Denise Horland
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie
Commissioner Nancy Metayer-Bowen
Commissioner Tim Ryan
Councilmember Jim Allbritton
Gene Goldman
Mayor Greg Ross
Mayor Aisha Gordon

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Hart, Chair
Randolph Brown, Vice Chair
Chris Cappiello for Albert Carbon
Susan Bodmann for Alan Garcia
Brett Butler
Commissioner Doug Bell
Dawn Teetsal
Giovanni Batista
Heather Cunniff
Isabell Cosio Carballo
Jeff Jiang
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Jose Lopez
Alison Witoshinsky for Lisa Milenkovic

Patrick Davis
Pete Kwiatkowski
Irela Bague for Rafael Firas
Steve Holmes
Suzanne Mechler
Talal Abi-Karam

**TAC MEMBERS
ABSENT:** David Walker
Renuka Mohammed
Stephanie Pearson
Tim Welch

**OTHERS
PRESENT:** Gregory Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Assistant Chief Res. Officer
Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A joint meeting of the Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 10:06 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 at 10:16 a.m.

II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board (WAB)

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell. Chair Geller stated that Commissioner Denise Horland was appointed and will replace Greg Ross. He noted that her absence is excused.

Chair Geller spoke on the attendance of the WAB/TAC members. He stated that the Broward League has been contacted and a request has been made to replace members that do not attend. He noted that no other municipal officials had requested an excused absence. Chair Geller asked Dr. Jurado to prepare a list of members who have missed three consecutive meetings with unexcused absences.

Dr. Jurado explained that Mayor Gomez has been repositioned as an alternate due to her limitations on attendance. She also stated that Mary Lou Tighe had reached out to the members to reinforce the absolute need for consistent participation. Ms. Tighe received strong assurances of intent to participate in the WAB/TAC meetings. Dr. Jurado stated that she will follow up with Ms. Tighe due to the lack of attendance at today's meeting. (Commissioner Eaton and Commissioner Caggiano entered.) Chair Geller reiterated the importance of this Board and its attendance.

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

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Real Time Reporter, Karen Pannell. Chair Geller stated that Isabel Cosio Carballo's absence is excused.

IV. **Public Comments**

(None.)

V. ****WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 12th, 2024**

Councilmember Starkey made a motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2024. Commissioner Caggiano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Updates and Announcements**

- Chair Geller announced that March 9, 2024, is Water Matters Day. He encouraged everyone to attend at Treetops Park.
- Dr. Jurado announced the retirement of the Director of the South Broward Drainage District and TAC Chair Kevin Hart. She recognized Mr. Hart, and the Board honored him with a plaque. Chair Geller congratulated Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart thanked the Board and acknowledged Dr. Jurado for her efforts. Commissioner Good spoke on the excellent work that Mr. Hart performed through the South Broward Drainage District and wished him luck.
- Dr. Jurado announced that Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz and Dr. Michael Sukop were recently in Broward County. She spoke on their work of funding and installation of groundwater monitoring wells throughout the Southeast Florida region. Dr. Jurado thanked them for their continued support and advocacy toward water resource initiatives.
- Dr. Jurado reminded the Board that Water Matters Day was being held on March 9, 2024.

VII. **Presentations:**

a. **C-51 Update**

Mr. Ernie Cox provided an update on the C-51 reservoir. He announced that Phase 1 has been completed. He presented several photographs of the Phase 1 reservoirs, concrete levees, embankment and the construction site of Phase 2, Cell 12. Mr. Cox stated that the groundbreaking for this project was in February of 2021 and showed progression photographs from that time to the present.

Mr. Cox invited the WAB/TAC members to the C-51 Reservoir Celebration and tour, which will be held on March 15, 2024. He answered several questions from the members.

b. **Solutions to Emerging Issues with PFAS**

Suzanne Mechler described the manufactured chemicals known as PFAS

and spoke on the dangers and products that contain PFAS. She stated the importance of educating the public about PFAS in products and wastewater. Ms. Mechler introduced Tim Rynders from Colorado to speak on the perspective from a state that has PFAS regulations in place.

Ms. Mechler stated that PFAS are everywhere and are very toxic. She noted two movies that have been made that reference PFAS. Ms. Mechler explained that PFAS are a consumer issue and spoke on the need for regulations. She spoke on the International PFAS Regulations noting that 20% is in our drinking water. Ms. Mechler discussed the cancers, developmental, and thyroid defects that are associated with PFAS exposure and the importance of reducing exposure.

Ms. Mechler discussed the regulatory timeline. She stated the proposed regulation began in March of 2023 and is expected to have the publication of the final rule by summer of 2024. The compliance deadline will be three years after publication of the final ruling.

Ms. Mechler spoke on the treatment approaches that are EPA approved in Florida to remove PFAS. She stated that Granular Activated Carbon, Anion Exchange, and Reverse Osmosis have all been EPA approved but all have impacts that can cause challenges to PFAS removal.

Mr. Rynders discussed a case study in Colorado that may pertain to Florida in the next few years. He stated that people all over the country are working to identify the correct treatment for PFAS as it works for the geography. Mr. Rynders discussed possible solutions and the challenges of PFAS removal from utilities as well as processes and costs.

Mr. Rynders detailed a Colorado case study removing brackish groundwater to remove contaminants from drinking water. He explained that due to the 2022 Health Advisory that was released from the EPA, it was determined that the PFAS level was above the Health Advisory limit. He spoke on the further reduction of PFAS to immediately get below the regulatory limit. Mr. Rynders discussed the costs associated in energy and replacement costs. He spoke on the 2024 allocations that have been released for funding reduction projects.

Ms. Mechler answered several questions from the WAB/TAC members regarding regulations, costs, and impacts.

c. Resilience Update

Dr. Jurado presented the Broward County-wide Resilience Plan update. She explained that the updated Groundwater Table Map was advanced to

the Planning Council who supported transmittal back to the Broward County Commission for the setting of a public hearing which will take place on March 21, 2024. Dr. Jurado stated the anticipated date of implementation will be July 1, 2024. She thanked everyone for their support on the Groundwater Table Map.

Dr. Jurado stated that there will be a need to discuss improvements for water management infrastructure and redevelopment strategies as the resilience plan moves forward. She noted that the sea level rise projection, which was developed in 2019, would not be adjusted at this time. She discussed the economic assessment of the resilience plan modeling including the yearly assessment on initial adaptation strategies. Answering a question by Chair Geller, Dr. Jurado stated that a presentation could be made to municipalities or at a Commission meeting if requested.

Dr. Jurado indicated that regional workshops will be held during the month of March and stated that the data that will be shared will include the initial output from some adaptation scenarios to get feedback on priorities. She stated areas of emphasis, such as, storage (both above and below ground), reduced impervious, conveyance improvements, and barriers. Dr. Jurado discussed several opportunities that will be addressed to improve the system.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the increase of groundwater storage and elevated seawalls to help reduce flooding. She stated the goal is to use these strategies to reduce flood depths and lessen the duration of flooding throughout Broward County. Dr. Jurado stated that the online flood viewer is being updated with more scenarios and model results.

Dr. Jurado provided a C&SF update. She stated that meetings have been set with the Regional Planning Council and that there is a meeting for Broward County on March 14th, 2024, with a project development team. She explained the purpose of the meetings is to collect feedback on the model output data, review performance metrics, and identify priority areas. Dr. Jurado outlined the C&SF amended study scope, budget, and timeline. She answered questions from the WAB/TAC members.

VIII. New Business

a. Topics for Discussion at Future WAB Meetings

Chair Geller encouraged the members to reach out to Dr. Jurado if they have a topic for discussion at a future meeting.

IX. Discussion

Vice Mayor Welch announced that Davie is working on their resiliency through the

Stormwater Master Plan and will be conducting a Stormwater Assessment based on priorities. She encouraged municipalities to begin their stormwater projects.

Chair Geller reminded the WAB/TAC members that Water Matters Day will be held at Treetops Park in Davie on March 9, 2024.

- X. Lake Okeechobee Water Levels:** (ft-NGVD 1929) **This month:** 16.32; **Last month:** 15.99; **One year ago:** 15.26

Next scheduled Joint WAB/WRTF Meeting – May 16, 2024. In Person PBC Vista Center, 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Next scheduled TAC Meeting – April 19, 2024. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430.

XI. Adjourn

Councilmember Starkey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eaton seconded the motion. With no objection, Chairman Geller adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.