

MINUTES

JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

WAB MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Steve Geller, Chair
Vice Mayor Sandra Welch, Vice Chair
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano
Commissioner Doug Bell
Commissioner Denise Horland
Commissioner Kevin Biederman
Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie
Commissioner Nancy Metayer-Bowen
Commissioner Tom Good
Councilmember Jim Allbritton
Councilmember Susan Starkey
Barbara Cady
Pete Kwiatkowski for Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron
Albert Carbon, TAC Chair
Mark Peterson
Mayor Michelle Gomez
Commissioner Aisha Gordon

WAB MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Denise Grant
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton
Commissioner Tim Ryan

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Albert Carbon, Chair
Randolph Brown, Vice Chair
Kevin Carter for Alan Garcia
Brett Butler
Commissioner Doug Bell
Darren Badore
David Walker
Deanne Von Stetina for Dawn Teetsal
Heather Cunniff
Isabel Cosio Carballo
Jeff Jiang
Dr. Jennifer Jurado
Jose Lopez
Alison Witoshinsky
Luis Ochoa
Janeen Wietgreffe for Patrick Davis

Rafael Frias
Renuka Mohammed
Rodrigo De Castro
Stephanie Pearson
Suzanne Mechler
Talal Abi-Karam

**TAC MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Giovanni Batista
Pete Kwiatkowski
Steve Holmes

**OTHERS
PRESENT:**

Gregory Mount, Ph.D., RPA, Assistant Chief Res. Officer
Carlos Adoriso, PE, CFFM, Assistant Director, Resilient
Environment Department, Environmental Permitting Division
Marty Cassini, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A joint meeting of the Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held on Friday, September 13, 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 10:06 a.m.

II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board (WAB)

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

III. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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

Chair Geller spoke on the challenge of having a quorum because some members of the Broward League of Cities have not been attending. He stated that he has requested to amend the ordinance to remove members that have three unexcused absences within a one-year period.

IV. Public Comments

(None.)

V. Introduction of New Member

- a. Councilmember Denise Horland (SFRPC) – Thanked Senator Geller for the appointment to the Water Advisory Board. She provided a brief background noting that she is the First Vice President of the Florida League of Cities and showed support in amending the ordinance as mentioned above.

- b. Ms. Barbara Cady (Layperson Category) – Thanked Commissioner Furr for the appointment to the Water Advisory Board and provided a brief background noting her affiliation with the Florida Rights of Nature Network.

VI. **WAB Approval of Meeting Minutes from 3/8/2024

Mayor Gomez made a motion to approve the minutes from March 8, 2024. Commissioner Good seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Updates and Announcements

Chair Geller announced the passing of former Board Member Eugene Goldman. He discussed Mr. Goldman’s invaluable contributions to the community.

VIII. Presentations:

a. FEMA Flood Map Updates

Carlos Adoriso provided a brief history of the FEMA study noting that the maps became effective July 31, 2024. He discussed the FEMA Map and the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), which reflect the current flood risk conditions. Mr. Adoriso explained that flood insurance premiums are based on actuarial rates. He detailed the different flood zones and the probability of flooding in those areas.

Referencing a presentation, Mr. Adoriso spoke on the Broward County 100-year Flood Elevation Map from 1977 and the Broward County 100-year Future Conditions Elevation Map from 2021. He stated that these maps are used for planning purposes, but not for flood insurance. Mr. Adoriso stated that homeowner’s insurance does not cover flood damages in most instances. He explained that flood insurance is needed to cover flood damages and discussed instances when flood insurance is mandatory. He spoke on programs and discounts that have been available for flood insurance policies.

Mr. Adoriso discussed the FEMA CRS Program (Community Rating System). He explained that there are 27 CRS communities in Broward County, which can receive discounts in flood insurance premiums.

Mr. Adoriso stated that the last FEMA Map update was August 18, 2014, and the new FEMA Map became effective on July 31, 2024. He discussed several revisions to the map due to the Coastal Flood Risk Study and the parcels that have been affected by the revisions. Mr. Adoriso provided the website to find more information on the Flood Zone Maps and how to contact a Floodplain Manager. Chair Geller showed support to the revisions. Mr. Adoriso and Dr. Jurado answered several questions.

b. Broward County Resilience Plan Update

Dr. Jurado provided the Broward County Resilience Plan Update. She acknowledged Chair Geller for his advocacy of the Resilience Plan as Chair of the Regional Planning Council. Dr. Jurado thanked the Water Advisory Board on the Future Conditions Groundwater Table Map Update which took effect on July 2024. She noted that the update was based upon the 3.3-foot modeling of the Groundwater Table.

Dr. Jurado spoke on the C&SF Flood Risk Resilience Study. She explained that more appropriations are needed to move the study along at a faster pace. She stated that timeframes have been extended over the past several years and the study has still not been finalized. Dr. Jurado explained that the South Florida Water Management District has agreed to move the Study from a Section 216 process to a Section 203 process, which will allow the Water Management District to lead the planning study. She stated that the Army Corps has received a statement of intent and August 22, 2024, Broward County received a response authorizing the Army Corps of Engineers staff to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Water Management District. The Army Corps will not be working on the planning study but is authorized to provide technical support.

Dr. Jurado discussed the \$5M budget for study cost share. She noted that Broward County's participation is pending a second hearing. Dr. Jurado stated that the targeted completion of the study is May 2026. She discussed the timeline of authorization. She acknowledged that the Comprehensive Study is still required for recommendations beyond the Section 203 Study. Dr. Jurado answered questions from WAB/TAC members.

Commissioner Good made a motion to thank the South Florida Water Management District for their assistance. Commissioner Horland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Good made a motion to thank Chair Geller and the Broward County Commission for approving this funding opportunity. Mayor Gomez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jurado stated that at a previous meeting, all members had received maps and a presentation detailing the adaptation strategies to address the future conditions flood risk. She reviewed the information that was provided regarding Water Management groups classified by conditions. Dr. Jurado spoke on the model under several flooding scenarios.

Dr. Jurado acknowledged several members of the Hazen team including Janeen Wietgreffe, Rob Taylor, Guillermo Regalado, and Grace Johns for

their work on the Broward County Resilience Plan update.

Dr. Jurado discussed the need to be more aggressive addressing storm surge. She explained that with the Hazen team, a two-tier plan has been developed to address tidal flooding and rainfall driven flooding. Dr. Jurado detailed the adaption strategies for specified improvements, noting there will be moment of opportunity projects.

Chair Geller recognized the Broward County Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Marty Cassini.

Referencing a presentation, Dr. Jurado detailed the Economic Analyses for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 implementation through 2050 and 2070. She explained that implementation of Tier 2 will cause a reduction in exposure to more properties and protects property value. She stated that there could be a 32% reduction in property devaluation after Tier 1 and a preservation of 78% after Tier 2 is implemented.

Dr. Jurado recognized McKenzie Global for the economic data they provided.

Dr. Jurado showed several maps while discussing Tier 1 and Tier 2 from a spatial view noting the reduction in property damage and the preservation of property values. She stated that Tier 1 and Tier 2 adaption strategies could increase flood insurance coverage countywide. Dr. Jurado spoke on the assets, economic output, and costs of these adaptations.

Dr. Jurado stated that the scenario viewer has been enhanced will be released soon. She noted that people will be able to evaluate and compare scenarios for flood conditions and include the Tier 1 and Tier 2 adaptations.

Dr. Jurado reviewed the benefits of improved water management storage and upgraded seawalls. She stated that the County Resilience Plan provides a phased strategy for addressing resilience needs near and long-term, with prioritization of socially vulnerable communities. She reiterated the goal is to deliver a more stable environment that protects residents, businesses, assets, and jobs with new opportunities for all who live, work, and play in Broward County. Dr. Jurado expressed her full support of the Tier 1 and Tier 2 mitigations.

Dr. Jurado answered several questions from the WAB/TAC members.

TAC Chair Carbon announced Mark Darmanin, Director of Water and Wastewater Services, Distribution, and Treatment of Broward County was

awarded the National Manager of the Year award by American Public Works Association.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Marty Cassini, stated that the changes to the ordinance will be ready at the next meeting.

c. Broward County RED Drone Program

No presentation was given due to timing.

IX. New Business

a. Topics for Discussion at Future WAB Meetings

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

X. Discussion

(None.)

XI. Lake Okeechobee Water Levels: (ft-NGVD 1929) This month: 14.16; Last month: 13.55; One year ago: 15.37

Next scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting – November 8, 2024. Vimeo. G.C. East, Room 430.

Next scheduled TAC Meeting – October 18, 2024. Hybrid. G.C. East, Room 430.

XII. Adjourn

With no objection, Chairman Geller adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.