



**Minutes**

**WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION**

**Monthly Public Forum**

April 05, 2018, 9:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

**1. Call to Order - James J. Moran**

Mr. Moran called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed fellow Governing Board Member, Brandon Tucker, to the meeting.

**2. Water Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, Chief Engineer**

John Mitnik provided an update on current water conditions and Lake Okeechobee discharges.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1840&Format=None>

**3. Around The Table**

An around-the-table discussion took place, wherein WRAC invitees addressed issues of local concern.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1840&Format=None>

**Public Comment**

None

**4. Western Everglades Restoration Project Update - Jennifer Leeds, Section Administrator, Everglades Policy and Coordination Division**

Jennifer Leeds from the Everglades Policy and Coordination Division gave an update on Western Everglades Restoration Project. The project is approximately 772,700 acres, roughly the size of the Central Everglades Planning Project CEPP area, which is historically dominated by wetlands. The current land use and land cover includes natural land/wetlands and agriculture.

The update included a discussion of the planning assumptions, including water quality planning targets, that were used during round one of modeling to determine benefits each alternative provided and what project features functioned well to be carried forward into round two.

WRAC Invitees reiterated their support of the FDAC's BMP program and the Districts proactive approach of working with landowners to address water quality which several consider it to be a successful plan.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmp2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1840&Format=None>

Public Comment

None

**5. Habitat Units Overview - Melissa Nasuti, Biologist, Restoration Resources Section, USACE Jacksonville District**

Melissa Nasuti from the US Army Corp of Engineers provided an overview on Habitat Units. Habitat units are the basis by which the Corps compares plans using non-monetary based units for ecosystem restoration projects. An example habitat unit methodology developed during the Central Everglades Planning Project was also provided.

WRAC Invitees requested an itemized account for the habitat units associated with the estuaries. Corps agreed to provide this report to Invited Attendees.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmp2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1840&Format=None>

Public Comment

None

**6. Loxahatchee River Lainhart and Masten Dam Restoration Update - Lucine Dadrian, Section Administrator, Engineering and Construction Bureau**

The Lainhart and Masten Dams Restoration Update was postponed.

**7. Staff Reports**

There was no Staff Reports.

## **8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **WRAC Invited Attendees Comment**

Charles LaPradd, Miami-Dade County, mentioned that engineers from Maryland, assigned by the Corps had visited. The engineers requested parcel by parcel information. Mr. LaPradd asked the purpose of their request; however, it was unclear why they were there.

James Humble, Miami-Dade Agricultural, also commented regarding two people in town from Maryland conducting an analysis. The presumption was that they were appraising the value of land East of L-31 and West of Chrome Ave.

## **9. Adjourn**

Mr. Moran announced the next WRAC public forum is scheduled for May 3, 2018 at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 AM.