



Minutes
WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION
Monthly Public Forum

May 03, 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 forum to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed fellow Governing Board Member, Brandon Tucker, to the forum. Mr. Moran announced that he would conclude his tenure as WRAC Facilitator, effective at the adjournment of the meeting.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1841&Format=Agenda>

2. Water Conditions Report - Akin Owosina, Bureau Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics

Akin Owosina provided an update on current water conditions and Lake Okeechobee discharges.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) representative stated the agency hit its low-water criteria in early April and has a closure in the northern portion of the Everglades Wildlife Management Area to monitor for muck fires. Also, a report of record low-water levels and active enforcement of year-round water restrictions in the Caloosahatchee area.

WRAC Invitee comments:

- James Erskine, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

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3. Around The Table Discussion

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

Invitees expressed appreciation for Mr. Moran's four years of service as WRAC Chairman.

Comments made referenced FWCs April Commission meeting and Everglades panel in which Mr. Marks and LTC Reynolds participated. FWC wants to remain heavily engaged in Everglades matters.

Management of the Lake was discussed, specifically burning to protect the Lake's health and sustaining tourism.

An invitee reported clear water conditions in the St. Lucie Estuary, but lack of seagrass due to Irma impacts and water quality within the estuary. Concern was expressed related to enteric bacteria in the North Fork of the Estuary and the continued effort to galvanize the community to acknowledge sewage issues whether they are related to septic tanks or improperly functioning sewers. It was also reported that on the Northern end of the Indian River Lagoon, a study demonstrating water quality before and after septic to sewer conversions has been released.

WRAC invitees expressed the importance of District flood control and water supply structures as part of its core mission and the importance to press federal legislators and partners to fund Everglades Restoration and fulfill partnership obligations of Operations and Maintenance of the system.

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Public Comment

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

Lucine Dadrian provided a presentation on completed restoration of the Lainhart and Masten Dams. The dams are located on the Loxahatchee River in northern Palm Beach County. The presentation included a video exhibiting the project phases where WRAC Invitee Albrey Arrington was featured.

WRAC Invitees thanked the District for their special attention in preserving wild and scenic areas within the State. They also commented on the speed at which the project was completed -finishing six months early, and how when projects are implemented, managed and constructed by the District, project timelines and budgets seem to be substantially reduced.

WRAC Invitee comments provided:

- Nyla Pipes, One Foundation Florida
- Joan Lawrence, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Beth Lewis, The Nature Conservancy
- Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers of Florida

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Public Comment:

None

5. 2016-2018 Cooperative Funding Program Implementation Update - Mark Elsner, Bureau Chief, Water Supply Bureau

Mark Elsner provided an update on Cooperative Funding Program Implementation. At the September 2016 Governing Board meeting, the Board authorized over \$9 million in support of the District's Cooperative Funding Program in cost-share funding to 71 alternative water supply, stormwater management and water conservation projects. The funding supported construction/implementation of these projects in Fiscal Year 18. The presentation provided an update on the implementation of the approved projects.

WRAC Invitees expressed support of the Cooperative Funding Program and the good will it provides. Invitees inquired about unexpended program funding. WRAC was informed that this item will be presented at the June Governing Board where staff will seek direction.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Richard Lewis, Lewis Solutions, LLC
H.M. Ridgely, Evans Properties, Inc.

Other Comments:

- Jason Liechty, Broward County

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Public Comment:

None

6. South Florida Fire Conditions Report - Rory Feeney, Bureau Chief, Land Resources

Rory Feeney provided an overview of vegetation management through controlled burns. Districtwide 76,124 total acres have been burned. These numbers reflect collaborative efforts with other agencies.

WRAC Invitees discussed fire management on District lands, inquired about combining resources from other agencies to help in these efforts along with assisting with public outreach. Invitees brought attention to the South East Corner of Lake Okeechobee (Burn Area 6) and stated that current conditions make this area prime to burn now.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Beth Lewis, The Nature Conservancy

- Celeste De Palma, Audubon of Florida
- Newton Cook, United Waterfowlers of Florida
- Nyla Pipes, One Foundation Florida
- LTC Jennifer Reynolds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- James Erskine, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Douglas Bournique, Indian River Citrus League
- Joshua Kellam, The ESG Companies
- Karson Turner, Hendry County Commission
- Mary Ann Martin, Roland Martin Marina

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Public Comment:

None

7. Staff Reports

There were no Staff reports.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Moran announced the next WRAC public forum is scheduled for June 7, 2018 at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.