



**Minutes**  
**WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION**  
**Monthly Public Forum**

June 07, 2018, 9:00 AM  
District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

**1. Call to Order - Brandon Tucker, WRAC Facilitator**

Mr. Tucker called the forum to order at 9:03 AM and welcomed fellow Governing Board Member, Jaime Weisinger, to the forum.

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

John Mitnik provided an update on current water conditions stating that May had been the wettest on record. Terrie Bates followed with an update on reports of algae on Lake Okeechobee.

A West Coast WRAC Invitee commented on the poor health of the estuaries, however, no reports of algal blooms off the coast of Sanibel. This particular Invitee requested that the Corps hold meetings with local stakeholders prior to making discharge decisions and immediately stop all discharges to the west from the S-77 and S-79 structures. The Invitee also stated that earlier in the year, when releases were requested, the Corps did not grant those releases.

The Army Corps representative explained the purpose of the aggressive discharges and why Corps' decisions cannot wait for feedback before releases occur.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Newton Cook
- Mike Elfenbein
- Kurt Harclerode
- Neal Montgomery
- Brandon Tucker
- Joshua Kellam
- Nyla Pipes
- Kurt Harclerode
- Chad Kennedy
- Barbara Miedema
- Mark Generales
- Douglas Bournique

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

### **3. Around The Table Discussion**

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

WRAC invitees praised the progress being made on the C-43 and Lake Hicpochee projects to the benefit of the Caloosahatchee basin. WRAC invitees recognized District staff for doing a great job in protecting residents through expert water management and flood control provisions despite record rainfall in recent weeks.

Invitees commented that the current State/Federal Partnership Process for Everglades Restoration is broken and should be evaluated for effectiveness and refocused on worthy projects.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

#### Public Comment

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

### **4. Caloosahatchee River Minimum Flows and Levels Rule Development Update - Don Medellin, Principal Scientist, Water Resources Division**

Don Medellin provided an update on the ongoing rule development process for the Caloosahatchee River Minimum Flows and Levels re-evaluation and an overview of public comments received to date. The overview included a summary of the path forward to seek Notice of Proposed Rule from the Governing Board at the July 2018 meeting.

WRAC Invitees complimented District staff for completing such a comprehensive science analysis for re-evaluating this MFL. A request was made that scientific language be kept at a minimum and presentations and information be relayed in layman's terms when possible.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Jaime Weisinger
- Mike Collins
- Kurt Harclerode
- Joshua Kellam
- Mark Generales
- Karson Turner
- H.M. Ridgely

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

#### Public Comment:

None

**5. Integrated Delivery Schedule 2018 Update - Kim Taplin, Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, US Army Corps of Engineers**

Kim Taplin, Program Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). Ms. Taplin explained that the IDS is a tool to provide guidance to decision-makers for scheduling, staffing and budgeting and it is updated to reflect progress and or program changes as warranted.

Invitees questioned delayed projects due to the amended IDS; cost to continue on the planned track; and asked if the Corps could make a future WRAC presentation to include a flow chart on all authorized projects with the date authorized, status, and anticipated funding needed to complete.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- James Humble
- Karson Turner
- Joshua Kellam
- H.M Ridgely
- Nyla Pipes
- Mike Collins
- Mike Elfenbein

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

Public Comment:

None

**6. Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project Update - Matt Morrison, Federal Policy Chief, Everglades Policy & Coordination**

Matt Morrison reported on the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project.

WRAC Invitees expressed concern for landowners and the possible use of eminent domain. They also asked the District to investigate Deep Injection Well options for eliminating stormwater in association with this project. Staff stated that they had reached out to landowners and will continue to work with each landowner within the project footprint.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Ray Scott
- Mark Generales
- Mike Collins
- Barbara Miedema
- James Erskine
- Joshua Kellam
- Nyla Pipes
- Newton Cook
- Mike Elfenbein
- Neal Montgomery
- Kim Taplin
- H.M. Ridgely

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

Public Comment:

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

**7. Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project Update - Jennifer Leeds, Section Administrator, Everglades Policy & Coordination**

Jennifer Leeds, from the Federal Everglades Policy Office provided an update on the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project.

WRAC Invitees discussed the process of quantifying project benefits using habitat units; the cost-effective analysis performed as part of the project; and the meticulous effort the project team undertook to accurately represent project benefits.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Ray Scott
- Newton Cook
- Mike Elfenbein
- Mark Generales
- H.M. Ridgely
- Albrey Arrington

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

Public Comment:

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1842&Format=Agenda>

**8. Staff Report - Eva Vélez, Division Director, Everglades Policy & Coordination**

Eva Vélez provided a staff report on the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir which included the ASA's Section 203 feasibility review and the concurrent Corps headquarters review on the Federal interest. Ms. Vélez stated the South Florida Water Management District is the first non-federal sponsor in the nation to successfully receive a feasibility determination through the use of the Section 203 Process which has been a provision in WRDA since 1986.

**9. Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**10. Adjourn**

Mr. Tucker announced that the next WRAC Recreational public forum was scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> and the next regularly scheduled WRAC public forum was scheduled for August 2, 2018 both at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM.