



Minutes
WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION
Monthly Public Forum

November 01, 2018, 9:00 AM
District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

1. Call to Order - Brandon Tucker

Mr. Tucker called the forum to order at 9:01 AM and welcomed fellow Governing Board Member, Jaime Weisinger, to the forum.

2. Water Conditions Report - Matahel Ansar, Section Administrator, Applied Hydraulics

Mr. Ansar provided an update on current water conditions.

WRAC Invitees inquired regarding the current status of El Niño. Invitees also discussed the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS).

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Kurt Harclerode
- H.M. Ridgely

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1846&Format=Agenda>

Public Comment

None

3. Around the Table

An around-the-table discussion took place, wherein a WRAC Invitee stated that Southwest Florida anglers and conservationists were using farming methods to help with restoration efforts on the Caloosahatchee River and stated \$1 million dollars of seagrass was scheduled to be planted to filter water coming from Lake Okeechobee.

This project was made possible by a grant obtained from Florida Department of Protection.

The Miccosukee Tribal WRAC representative informed the group that the Annual Everglades Study on Water Conservation Area 3 concluded. He expressed concern over the staggering numbers of dead native bay trees believed to be caused from laurel wilt disease on the tree islands.

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Public Comment

None

4. Water Years 2014-2018 Southern Everglades Water Quality Overview - Stuart Van Horn, Water Quality Bureau Chief, Water Resources Division

Mr. Van Horn provided an update on Southern Everglades Water Quality.

Staff efforts were commended by many attendees for putting together a clearer and easy-to-follow presentation of the facts related to water quality and discussed the success achieved over time to reduce phosphorus levels – particularly in the southern portion of the system. Invitees suggested a stark contrast in similar progress for water quality improvements existed north of Lake Okeechobee.

WRAC Invitees recognized nutrient removal associated with STA performance but stressed the importance of looking at the combination of restoration efforts throughout the system acknowledging the importance of addressing untreated inflows from the Western Basins into tribal lands associated with Water Conservation Area 3A. The representative of the Miccosukee Tribe encouraged moving ahead with the Western Everglades Restoration Project.

In addition, WRAC Invitees commented on constraints related to sending more water south including system operations revolving around the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow and maintenance of STA performance into the future.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Gene Duncan
- Newton Cook
- Mark Generales
- LTC Jennifer Reynolds
- Mike Collins
- Mike Elfenbein
- Pete Quasius
- Nyla Pipes
- Malcolm Wade
- Jennifer Jurado
- James Erskine
- Chad Kennedy

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5. Combined Operational Plan Update - Matt Morrison, Office Chief, Federal Policy & Coordination and Stuart Van Horn, Bureau Chief, Water Quality

Mr. Morrison and Mr. Van Horn provided an update on the Combined Operational Plan (COP) process underway to finalize a water control plan to utilize constructed features of Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 South Dade projects.

WRAC invitees appreciated the overview and status on developing the COP and for the explanation on the relevancy of the Federal Consent Decree to plan formulation. The briefing covered the objectives and scope outlined for COP and what the identified risks and uncertainties were for water supply, flood protection, and compliance with the Federal Consent Decree.

Invitees discussed Appendix A of the Consent Decree as a possible constraint for restoration of Everglades National Park.

Invitees were provided with an example whereby the Florida Department of Protection was prohibited from issuing an operation permit to SFWMD this year to use the additional capacity of S333N structure after construction is complete, arising from the assumptions in the Consent Decree regarding violations that could occur under revised water control plans like COP.

Invitees suggested that COP alternatives were being formulated to meet an outdated Consent Decree based on its assumption for federal project improvements and not on needed restoration going forward.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Newton Cook
- Mike Collins
- Mike Elfenbein
- Celeste De Palma
- Chad Kennedy
- James Humble
- Dennis Duke
- Gene Duncan
- Jennifer Jurado
- John Lesman
- Malcolm Wade
- Charles LaPradd

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Public Comment

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6. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Tucker announced that the next WRAC public forum is scheduled for December 6, 2018 at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM.