



Minutes
WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION
Monthly Public Forum

December 06, 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 9:02 AM and welcomed fellow Governing Board Member, Jaime Weisinger, to the forum.

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

Mr. Mitnik provided an update on current water conditions.

WRAC Invitees inquired about the closure of the S-12 structures. Invitees also commented on the lower lake levels and possible benefits to the lake.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Newton Cook
- Pete Quasius
- Mike Elfenbein
- H.M. Ridgely
- Mike Collins
- LTC Jennifer Reynolds
- Kurt Harclerode

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1847&Format=Agenda>

Public Comment

None

3. Around the Table

During the around-the-table discussion a WRAC Invitee commented on the importance of building the EAA Storage Reservoir and remarked that legal barriers needed to stop.

Invitees conveyed that there were reports of animal mortality rates recently over on the West Coast. Mr. Erskine from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission stated that samples have been collected and a determination of what caused the deaths are pending.

Invitees also commented on the estuaries and ecological conditions which appear to be rebounding.

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Public Comment

None

4. Seventh Biennial Review - 2018 from the Committee on Independent Science Review of Everglades Restoration Progress Update - Susan Gray, Bureau Chief, Applied Science

Dr. Gray provided information on the CISRERP Biennial report to Congress on the progress towards achieving restoration goals of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

WRAC Invitees provided positive feedback, however, emphasized that any future efforts regarding mid-course assessment review should not result in delaying project implementation.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Mike Collins
- Pete Quasius
- Celeste De Palma
- Nyla Pipes
- Newton Cook
- Barbara Miedema
- Gene Duncan

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Public Comment

None

5. Dispersed Water Management Status Report - Ximena Pernet, Section Administrator, State Policy and Agriculture

Ms. Pernet and Ms. Marr provided an update on Dispersed Water Management explaining the local and onsite benefits, which included keeping local lands on tax rolls, water storage services, groundwater recharge, and expedited implementation. The presentation also provided an overview of the five types of project programs: Florida Ranchland Environmental Services projects, Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services, Water Farming, Northern Everglades Public Private Partnerships (NE PPP), and District Lands. An update on the six NE PPP projects were also included for which legislative appropriations were available for construction. Post

selection steps, due diligence, and cost effectiveness as a metric of evaluation were also explained.

Many WRAC Invitees supported the State's Dispersed Water Management Program and the projects presented while some attendees expressed the need for a simplified permitting process, a secure funding stream from the state to help reduce risks to both the State and landowners, and requests for these private lands to have some level of public access.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Newton Cook
- Pete Quasius
- Nyla Pipes
- Joshua Kellam
- Douglas Bournique
- Malcolm Wade
- Beth Lewis
- James Erskine
- Mike Collins
- Chad Kennedy
- Jim Reynolds
- Gene Duncan

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6. Staff Report:

EAA Reservoir Update - Eva Vélez, Division Director, Everglades Policy & Coordination and John Mitnik, Chief District Engineer

Ms. Vélez and Mr. Mitnik provided a staff report on the EAA Reservoir.

Mr. Mitnik reviewed the Reservoir and STA project map and included an overview of the A1 FEB directly east of the Reservoir and STA. He also provided an update on the early design and construction activities being conducted over the course of the dry season, including scrape down activities on 560 acres of land previously unavailable, geotechnical investigations, relocating embankment rock material from the A1FEB to the Reservoir and STA site for the new embankments.

Ms. Vélez explained that the authorizing language for the project required addressing certain project aspects identified by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works prior to project construction. Ms. Vélez stated that getting on the site to do investigations was critical to helping answer the questions raised by the Assistant Secretary for construction of a deep reservoir.

LTC Reynolds thanked the District for its efforts and explained the unprecedented speed of project planning and Congressional authorization for this project. LTC Reynolds indicated that a report was being prepared and would be due to Congress in February. She also acknowledged that early work and data collection was critical for all projects of this size.

WRAC members had a discussion focused on the federal partnership and early work currently underway.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Gene Duncan
- Mike Elfenbein
- Celeste De Palma
- Richard Lewis
- Newton Cook
- Nyla Pipes
- Malcolm Wade
- Adam Gelber
- Mike Collins
- Joshua Kellam
- LTC Jennifer Reynolds

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8. Adjourn

Mr. Tucker announced that the next WRAC public forum is scheduled for February 7, 2019 at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.