



Minutes

WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION

Monthly Public Forum

September 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, 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

Mr. Mitnik provided an update on current water conditions.

WRAC Invitees commented on the consequences of closing S-12 and opined the structure should stay open longer instead of waiting until January. Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds stated that discussions are in progress relative to operation of the S-12 structures.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- James Humble
- Kurt Harclerode
- Mike Eifenbein
- Charles LaPradd

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1844&Format=Agenda>

Public comment

None

3. Around the Table Discussion

An around-the-table discussion took place, wherein WRAC invitees expressed factual concerns regarding the estuaries and ecological conditions. Some referenced the media coverage on these conditions and the miscommunication being fed to the public by others. A WRAC Invitee stated this misrepresentation of facts has led to safety concerns for employees within their organizations. These employees are now being personally targeted, which ties up law enforcement and other resources. WRAC Invitees stated a possible solution would be dissemination of sound science that can be easily understood by the public.

Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds stated the Corps is looking at ways to better manage water in the lake long-term including reducing flows.

Two WRAC attendees commented on the good fishing taking place on Lake Okeechobee. A representative from the Fish and Wildlife Commission reported that 40 fishing tournaments were held on the Lake between June 21st and mid-August with many tournament winners weighing in between 20 and 30lbs of Bass.

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Public Comment

None

4. Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Update - Drew Bartlett, Deputy Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Bartlett, presented on Northern Everglades and Estuaries Basin Management Action Plans. In his presentation he discussed: Legislative requirement that BMAPs be reviewed every 5 years and be provided to the Legislature and Governor; and Lake Okeechobee's review is scheduled for December 2019.

WRAC Invitees thanked DEP's efforts and commented on the metrics being used identifying that there is still a lot of work to be done. WRAC discussions continued relative to the importance of designing strategies that focus on all contributing factors and the priority of Coastal BMAPs.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Mike Elfenbein
- Newton Cook
- Mike Collins
- Barbara Miedema
- Cheryl Grieb
- Celeste De Palma
- Nyla Pipes
- Kurt Harclerode
- Joshua Kellam
- Albrey Arrington
- Malcolm Wade
- Adam Gelber
- Pete Quasius

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Public Comment

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5. Emergency Estuary Protection Wells in the Northern Everglades Update - Robert Verrastro, Principal Hydrogeologist, Water Supply Bureau and Calvin Neidrauer, Chief Engineer, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau

Mr. Verrastro and Mr. Neidrauer presented on Emergency Estuary Protection Wells in the Northern Everglades as directed by the Governing Board in October 2017. This presentation was a continuation of the initial analysis.

Many WRAC Invitees had positive comments regarding the proposed test wells. There was some dissent expressed based on concerns with maintaining the current Integrated Delivery Schedule and losing excess stormwater to tide.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Mike Collins
- Joshua Kellam
- Mike Elfenbein
- Celeste De Palma
- Mark Generales
- Nyla Pipes
- Ray Scott
- H.M. Ridgely
- Adam Gelber
- Albrey Arrington

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1844&Format=Agenda>

Public Comment

None

6. Lake Okeechobee Operations Simulation Exercise - Calvin Neidrauer, Chief Engineer, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau

was Agenda item postponed.

7. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Tucker announced that the next WRAC public forum is scheduled for October 4, 2018 at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.