



## Minutes

### **WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION**

#### **Monthly Public Forum**

August 02, 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 9:01 AM and welcomed fellow Governing Board Member, Jaime Weisinger, to the forum.

**2. Water Conditions Report - John P. Mitnik, Chief Engineer; and Ecological Update - Terrie Bates, Water Resources Director**

Mr. Mitnik provided an update on current water conditions followed by Ms. Bates with an ecological update.

Participants expressed their concerns and frustration regarding conditions in the estuaries and thanked water managers for their continued efforts to lower water levels and send water south.

WRAC Invitees stressed the need to seek additional federal assistance so that projects, like Dispersed Water Management and Emergency Estuary Protection Wells, can be utilized to provide relief during high-water emergency situations.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Newton Cook
- James Erskine
- Mike Elfenbein
- Karson Turner
- LTC Jennifer Reynolds
- Mike Collins
- Malcolm Wade
- Nyla Pipes
- Joan Lawrence
- Joshua Kellam
- Celeste De Palma
- Albrey Arrington

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.igmd.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1843&Format=Agenda>

#### Public Comment

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### **3. Around the Table Discussion**

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

Many in attendance commended Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and District Staff for their response and continuous work in combatting the high-water emergency affecting the northern estuaries and South Florida.

Several WRAC Invitees commented on the Task Force Meeting recently held in Washington, DC and made comments related to LTC Reynold's excellent presentation on the history of water management in Florida. Other discussion topics were related to Tamiami Trail Phase 2 Next steps; seepage management in the southern end of the system; and the need for federal funding of Restoration projects.

A WRAC Invitee expressed concern over the large number of tilapia in the STAs and their potentially negative impacts and suggested that the District explore alternatives for reduction.

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### **4. 2018 Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update - Tom Colios, Section Leader, Water Supply Bureau**

Mr. Colios, provided an overview of the Draft 2018 Lower East Coast (LEC) Water Supply Plan Update. He stated development of the 5-year update is nearing completion for the LEC Planning Region which includes Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, most of Monroe County, and the eastern portions of Hendry and Collier counties. The Draft 2018 LEC Water Supply Plan Update will be released for public review in mid-August and scheduled for Governing Board approval in November 2018.

A WRAC Invitee inquired on impacts to the recharge area of the Floridan Aquifer System to which staff responded that the recharge would be primarily in the central part of the state.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- Mark Generales
- Adam Gelber
- Mike Elfenbein
- Gene Duncan
- Joan Lawrence
- H.M. Ridgely
- James Humble

Comments are recorded at:

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Public Comment

None

## 5. **Combined Operating Plan Update - Matt Morrison, Office Chief, Federal Policy & Coordination**

Mr. Morrison presented on the Combined Operational Plan (COP) being developed by the USACE to revise the water control plan that moves water from Water Conservation Area 3 to Everglades National Park via the L-29 Canal.

Discussion ensued on the alternatives currently being proposed.

WRAC expressed the importance of delivering water to Taylor Slough and Florida Bay, and concerns were raised regarding water quality compliance, water supply and flood protection.

Invitees emphasized the need to work as partners in completing the updated water control plan.

WRAC Invitee comments provided by:

- James Humble
- Newton Cook
- Mike Collins
- Gene Duncan
- Joan Lawrence
- LTC Jennifer Reynolds
- Mike Elfenbein
- Charles LaPradd
- Celeste De Palma
- Adam Gelber

Comments are recorded at:

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Public Comment

None

## 6. **Lake Okeechobee Operations Simulation Exercise**

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 September 6, 2018 at District Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.