



**MEETING MINUTES**

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 9:00 AM  
District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Members and Alternates Present:

**John Adornato**

**Scott Benyon**

**David Burr**

**Walter Carson**

**Jennifer Conner**

**Joan Davis**

**Brij Garg**

**Patrick Hayes**

**Barbara Miedema**

**Rick Rodriguez-Pina**

**Judy Sanchez**

**Ray Scott**

**Craig Tepper**

**Joseph Walsh**

**Howard Wegis**

**Bevin Beaudet**

**Douglas Bournique**

**Al Calloway**

**Michael Collins**

**Harry Cronin**

**Gene Duncan**

**James Harvey**

**Beth Lewis**

**Barbara Jean Powell**

**Terrence Rock Salt**

**Jeff Schmidt**

**Raymond Smith**

**Kenny Thomas**

**Patti Webster**

**Samantha Whitcraft**

**1. Welcome and Introductions - Michael Collins, Chair**

Chair Collins welcomed everyone and introduce Jennifer Conner alternate for Jody Thomas and the new director to FWCC Paul Sousa.  
Chair Collins read a list of upcoming meetings.

**2. Member Issues - Mike Collins, Chair**

30m

Thomas Kenny: The St Lucie lock, are we looking at discharging from the top instead of the bottom? Can it be rebuilt?

Chair Collins - We are looking at it, we will get back to you, it has been done and it is one of the Lake Okeechobee Committee recommendations.

John Adornato - Thanks to WRAC for the support of the resolution presented at the last WRAC meeting. Florida Bay algae bloom it still growing. SFWMD will be giving an update at the next Sanctuary Advisory Committee Oct 17.

Chair Collins - We won't be attending the next advisory meeting but we will be attending November meeting with an update. The Governing Board meeting in November will be at the keys.

Patti Webster - Broward County is moving forward with WBA, there is a special meeting tomorrow, it will be one of the last opportunities for any input.

Chair Collins - We haven't resolved some of the issues with Weston, some of the issues are strong enough to stop the project. We may pass on the project to the Federal Government, if you can let the Commissioner know, we could use her support in some of these issues.

Barbara Jean Powell - How are we going to be able to have recreational input if the design is done?

Terence Rock Salt - We will keep the dialogue going while the Corps develops the master plan.

Joe Walsh - I want to commend the District for all of the work and effort that has gone into the recreation plans, including all of the Acceler8 projects.

Bevin Beaudet - There is no item in the agenda regarding Alternative Water Supply (AWS). We are still drawing water from the aquifer above our limit, and I am concern there is going to be a roll back at the end of the permit.

Chair Collins - I don't think that is the way the rule is written, please contact Cecile Piverotto.

Walter Carson - I also have concerns with this rule, a land that doesn't have a current permit won't be able to get a permit.

Chair Collins - What is in the rule is the way the District has been issuing permits for the last six years and it accordance with the B list. We need to get the language right, please give your technical input to our staff.

**3. WRAC Priority Plan Update - Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator**

30p 30d

Rick Smith, the WRAC priority plan was presented at the July meeting, we have incorporated the comments. Rick proceeded to read the priority plan to the WRAC members and the audience.  
CERP, Goal a & b, no additional comments  
Terence Rock Salt, for the last six months we have been talking about water that will be available from CERP, we expect to have a new version of the Guide memorandum, it will explain what the Corps, Dept of Interior and others are doing.

Lake Okeechobee, we reflected the recommendations made by the Lake Okeechobee Committee in regards to the health of the lake and the estuaries.

Ray Scott asked that the language Lake Okeechobee Watershed be changed to Lake Okeechobee Project.

Barbara Miedema, Goal B Objective 4 "construction of forward pumps", can we insert "and operations"

Ray Scott asked if the findings of the new Advisory Committee are being taken into consideration.

Chair Collins, yes but it will not be part of the WRAC priority plan.

Douglas Bournique, we need to be proactive, we have lost a representative and whoever is reelected needs to be brought up to speed, we have lost 14 years of experience.

Terence Rock Salt we haven't heard a word of diminishing support, the issue is in the executive branch and the funding support.

Regional Water Supply Plan, added language to goal A about the revised Lake Okeechobee water shortage management plan as part of SFWMD water shortage management plan

Barbara Miedema, can we address the regional water availability rule in Objectives 1, 2 or 3.

Rick Smith, I will work with water supply and add the proposed rule under outcomes.

Beth Lewis, Dennis Duke had a 5 hour meeting with the Budget office and I got very good feedback.

Bevin Beaudet suggested removing the dates, as the target dates keep changing.

Chair Collins, December 2006 as a date stays on.

Ray Scott agreed with Mr. Beaudet to reword "to review and provide timely comments"

All agreed

Ray Scott on Goal B do we need the modifier "initial"

Chair Collins, yes, there are separate issues initial water reservations and project water reservations

Ray Scott, requested "initial" be taken out so as not to confused anyone

Chair Collins, all agreed

Water Quality, language by Patti Webster was included

Terence Rock Salt, would like to see a way of managing water more efficiently so that we don't have to clean water to the strictest standard, store and release over time in a more cost effective way.

Chair Collins language to be added to water quality goal as suggested by Terence "Rock" Salt to enhance operation management.

Rick Smith, we'll talk to George Horne and work on the language

Kissimmee Restoration, we've included the Lake and basin water level regulation schedule

It stays as stated

Public Comments:

Martha Musgrove, under the Kissimmee restoration I would like to integrate Kissimmee watershed management strategies, river and Lake Okeechobee restoration.

Chair Collins, the goal captures it very well.

4. Lake Okeechobee Committee Report - Malcolm "Bubba" Wade, Chair 15p 15d

Bubba Wade reported on the Lake Okeechobee Committee report as discussed at the meeting in Fort Myers. We have a draft document pretty similar to the WRAC priority plan that will be submitted to this group.

Terence Rock Salt, have we made any comments regarding the new Lake Okeechobee regulation plan?

Bubba Wade, there was not enough time to present to the WRAC so comments were made directly to the SFWMD Governing Board and some of the issues have been resolved since then. We are still waiting for an opinion by the FWCC.

Chair Collins, the comments presented to the Governing Board will be made part of the Regulation schedule.

Joe Walsh, I spoke to Don Fox and he has had a hard time presenting a formal response to the TSP, but informally I have been told that we got everything we needed, I just wanted the Committee know.

5. WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop - 9/14/06, Rob Barton, Chair, Recreation Issues 15p 15d

Rick Smith reported on the WRAC Recreation Issues Workshops. One of the biggest issues was the discussion of signs posted by the SFWMD that the FWCC has agreed to help enforce hunting regulations. There was a discussion regarding whether the airboaters were being discriminated.

Terence Rock Salt, in my plate there is the Picayune Strand access; there is an agreement that states you can't have ORV access that is harmful to the environment. We are going to work thru this but it has to be in a balanced way.

Barbara Jean Powell, we have advocated for lime rock roads that already exist. There was an agreement with SFWMD to mitigate lands for ORV use and this agreement has expired. Small ATV sales in the state of Florida exceeded the sales of small pick up trucks, and we need to provide them with an area for riding. This situation it's getting very volatile. Airboaters objects to the discrimination shown towards them. All other vessels can go up to the shoreline while airboaters need to wade in these waters. We respectfully request WRAC to support the coordination to move the signs back to where they were and we will address whatever concerns the SFWMD may have.

Chair Collins, we will schedule a discussion when all the parties are available and bring it up to next month's WRAC.

Barbara Jean Powell, we are at a point we can't hold it back anymore. Chair Collins, I have reviewed our agreement with ORVs riders, we understand the issues.

Barbara Jean Powell, the WCAs are closed to recreation because of high levels, we remained concern about the wildlife and these water are lower than projected for CERP.

Gene Duncan, we shared your concerns the islands are completely submerged, the water is too high. We are losing the hardwoods; the roots need air to breath. Conservation area 2 has lost all the tree islands and it looks like a lake. Part of the way to resolve this is MOD waters, moving the waters thru the system is the answer.

Public Comment:

Newton Cook, We support moving the signs back to where they were, where the water is shallow enough. We had great duck hunting season, 5,000 permits were issued. Thanks to Jerry Krenz and Fred Davis for opening new small game hunting areas, alligator hunt is going well also. We want to thank the District.

Rick Smith, there are issues that need to be discussed, there are violations been committed by airboaters, that are not part of the community and there are very compelling reasons for this; people from the Department of Forestry added that other user want to use these facilities. The Department of Forestry and the SFWMD Land Management Department are receiving a lot of complaints about airboaters that interfere with other users/stakeholders.

Chair Collins, we try to balance the use to the best of our ability, we are trying to provide access to all users. I am going to take a look at the signs again. We have a responsibility to the safety and enjoyment of all users.

**6. Kissimmee River Restoration: Baselines, Data and Restoration - Jennifer Jorge, Ph.D., Dir., Kissimmee Div., SFWMD**

15p 15d

Jennifer Jorge reported on the Kissimmee River Restoration

Terence Rock Salt, I urge everyone to take a look at this amazing work.

Public Comments:

Newton Cook, Kissimmee Restoration it is going to be managed, we are concerned about not enough water in the restoration. We want to have a real marsh.

7. Upper Chain of Lakes Management Plan, Kissimmee Watershed Operations Model - Jennifer Jorge, SFWMD

15p 15d

Barbara Jean Powell, Are they any plan for the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to build any kind of STA?

Chair Collins, there is an awareness to create storage north of the lake, we are discussing it with the legislature. It is my expectation that we will try to do something in that area.

Jim Harvey, we need to see the process which the Kissimmee restoration went thru, CERP will be more complicated more complex. Chair Collins, we will take the heat for decisions we have made.

Public Comments:

Newton Cook, the best STA north of the lake is the Kissimmee River and Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. There is a problem with submerged vegetation, and is because of hydrilla control, go for all the submerged vegetation that will help water quality.

8. Lunch - 12:30-1:30p.m.

60m

9. Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Watersheds Basin Rule Update - Damon Meier, Dep. Dir., Env. Rsrcs. Reg. Dept., SFWMD

15p 15d

Damon Meiers gave an update on the Lake Okeechobee and Estuaires Watersheds Basin Rule.

Barbara Miedema, How does it match to the BMPs in the EAA?  
 Damon Meiers, The BMPs are for urban areas, if you were to come in as new agricultural you will fall under this rule. If you change crops but not water management it will not fall into this rule.  
 Ray Scott, The permitting process is comparing what this land is now to what is going to be in the future. I would like to hear from counsel about statutory concerns; it is hard to understand the legal and the technical part of it.  
 Damon Meiers, Under the current Lake Okeechobee protection plan it says that changes in land use must be made not to exceed the phosphorus level. Prior to permitting we are trying to improve it, with 25/50. We are estimating the run off volume under the existing land use without the improvement. This is our starting point.  
 Chair Collins, This rule is at the beginning stages, we are going to do something to get to the TMDLs.  
 Damon Meiers, the comment time ends Oct 30.  
 James Harvey, This is more for urban than agricultural, you should state something about phosphorus like in Wellington you can't use phosphorus on turf fertilizers.  
 Damon Meiers, a lot of research going on with the TMDLs.  
 Patrick Hayes, thank the SFWMD for taking the initiative to deal with the environmental issues that face south Florida.  
 Samantha Whitcraft had a question on one of the boundaries.  
 Damon Meiers, that is part of the acreage and it drains to the east coast thru the Loxahatchee River and is not part of the Caloosahatchee or St Lucie estuaries and there are different watersheds.  
 Chair Collins the focus of the plan is Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries.

10. The Bold Decpartmentalization Concept - Dennis Duke, Chief, Restoration Div., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

15p 15d

Kim Taplin, Gave a report on Decpartmentalization Concept for Dennis Duke

Barbara Miedema, asked for a clarification on one of the slides.

Samantha Whitcraft, Filling the Miami canal, what are the comparisons between the canal and the C111?

Kim Taplin, the two systems are similar, Miami canal pulls water from the national wetland area and is stored lower in the system, C111 draws seepage out of the national wetlands and sends it to the estuaries.

Chair Collins, when we get the money we will do C111

Terence Rock Salt, This is a concept and after the issues are worked out, the Corps will go thru their process with the PDT. The working group is meeting next week and all these issues will be dealt with. Also during the task force meeting in December at Key West.

Kim Taplin, This is to give the PDT some guidance towards this project. We will go forth to the task force in December and have a project implementation report to coincide with the Tamiami Trail canal construction.

Chair Collins, Is the PDT going to redesign this project, most of the land belongs to the SFWMD are you planning on briefing the Governing Board.

Patti Webster, What is yellow book and Bold benefit to the well fields in Broward?

Kim Taplin, With this plan you will have more seepage to 3B, piping is more efficient than canal delivery.

Chair Collins, It can not be done till MOD waters.

Kim Taplin, Decpartmentalization is a compliment to MOD waters to restore the sheetflow.

Terence Rock Salt, MOD waters is a first step into this process.

Benyon Scott, We need to find the way of getting MOD waters going.

Terence Rock Salt, It is up to Congress to give us the money for MOD waters, decpartmentalization has always been in the yellow book, this is only tweaking.

John Adornato, To have a successful implementation we need to implement seepage management to prevent flooding in Miami. There is a lot of land acquisition to be accomplished for the seepage management. Miami Dade County needs to be onboard with this and stop development in the western areas.

11. SFWMD 1990s Pipeline Study - Tommy Strowd, Asst. Deputy Exec. Dir., CERP, SFWMD

15p 15d

Tommy Strowd gave an update on SFWMD 1990s Pipeline Study

James Harvey, the canal system in the WCA are more harmful than beneficial, the notion of a pipeline is a timeline idea, the vision was to take a foot of the lake and delivered it south with out a thought about water supply. Is there is notion that we are going to do out of the box thinking. There are no new ideas, lets take time as a group and look at all ideas that will help the Everglades restoration process.

Chair Collins, the time of the year we will be moving water out of the lake is the time Miami can't handle anymore water.

Terence Rock Salt, all of these are becoming constraints. This is a bold part of thinking of other ways to move water south.

Samantha Whitcraft, anytime you move water thru a biotic live system is cleaner.

Tom Kenny, MOD waters is holding up decompartmentalization, how does the pipeline work with the decompartmentalization?

Chair Collins, My concern is that we are going to shoot this water down a pipe and it is not going to benefit any of WCA during drought.

Barbara Jean Powell, Could this pipeline be use to delivered more water than the 1100cfs?

Chair Collins, Assuming MOD waters is done, yes

Terence Rock Salt, one option is to allow the WRAC and the SFWMD Governing Board to participate in the task force

Chair Collins, some of these projects are taking a live of their own, some of these groups are making decisions without talking to your local sponsor. There is a growing concern that at the level of the PDT are making decisions. Some of these PDT believe that they need to expand of these projects without bringing it to the Governing Board before it goes to the Task Force.

Bubba Wade, We need to see some modeling where there is excess water in the lake and we pipe it to the South, where is the water going? To tide?

Chair Collins, If we bypass the WCA what do we do with this polluted water? The 1100 cfs is to supply Miami Dade County during drought.

Gene Duncan, The water quality is an issue, the water been delivered to Miami is exempt from the Everglades protection area and is not up to 10ppb.

Chair Collins, Miami Dade County have their own standards for water quality and it is higher than Federal and State laws.

**12. Adjourn: 3:00 p.m**

Chair Collins adjourned the meeting at 3:05