



AGENDA

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, January 8, 2009, 9:00 AM
District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Michael Collins, Chair 5m
2. **Member Issues** 45m
3. WRAC Business Items - Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, SFWMD
 - * Travel Policies - 5p 10d
 - * WRAC Accomplishments - FY 2006-2008 - 5p10d
 - * WRAC Priority Plan - Discussion - 30d 10p 50dSee supporting document: [WRAC Accomp 2006.pdf](#)
See supporting document: [WRAC Accomp 2007.pdf](#)
See supporting document: [SFWMD Priorities & ProgGoals.pdf](#)
See supporting document: [WRAC Accomp 2008.pdf](#)
See supporting document: [Trav Pol WRAC 1 8 09.pdf](#)
4. Biscayne Bay Rule Development Update - John Mulliken, Director, Water Supply Planning Division, SFWMD 15p 30d
See supporting document: [Biscayne Bay.pdf](#)
5. Kissimmee Water Reservation Rule Development - Update: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources, SFWMD 15p 15d
6. **Adjourn: 12:00 Noon**

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

5m

1

2. Member Issues

45m

2

3. WRAC Business Items - Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, SFWMD

* Travel Policies - 5p 10d

* WRAC Accomplishments - FY 2006-2008 - 5p10d

* WRAC Priority Plan - Discussion - 30d 10p 50d

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**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2006:**

SFWMD STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Recommended that the FY 2006-07 SFWMD Strategic Plan emphasize restoring Biscayne and Florida Bays and adding more water storage to protect Lake Okeechobee, and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

WRAC PRIORITY PLAN:

- Proposed an updated WRAC Priority Plan to the SFWMD Governing Board. The Governing Board approved the plan in October, 2006.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION:

- Recommended moving forward with:
 1. C-44 Reservoir Preliminary Design;
 2. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir Structures Preliminary Design;
 3. Picayune Strand Canals/Levees/Roads Basis of Design.
 4. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Basis of Design;
 5. C-111 Spreader Canal Basis of Design and improvements to the C-111 Project Implementation Report.

- Recommended expedited permits for maintaining Tamiami Trail Water Control Structures (S-12 Structures) to improve water flow from Water Conservation Area 3 (WCA-3) into Everglades National Park.

- Recommended using Acceler8 funds to acquire land for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project.

- Recommended changes to the federal Draft Interim Goals and Targets Agreement including a statement that federal and state agencies would expedite permit reviews for Everglades restoration projects. Changes were agreed to by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force in September, 2006.

- Supported the Draft Land Acquisition Strategy for presentation to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board urge the U.S. Congress to fully fund the President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget for Everglades Restoration.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY PROTECTION/RESTORATION:

- Recommended to the SFWMD Governing Board that adjustments be made to the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule to protect the health of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries through appropriate pulse releases.
- Recommended that SFWMD staff work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, and local officials, to address Herbert Hoover Dike repair studies and emergency planning issues.
- Recommended that SFWMD conduct a feasibility study about the use of deep injection technology in Lake Okeechobee basins to reduce harmful discharges to the estuaries.
- Recommended that the Lake Okeechobee Committee review the Corps of Engineers' "Tentatively Selected Plan" for lake regulation schedule revisions, and forward consensus recommendations to the Governing Board as stakeholder recommendations and comments.

WATER SUPPLY:

- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve the Upper East Coast, Lower West Coast, and Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plans, with suggestions for clarification.
- Supported moving forward with Florida Bay Minimum Flows and Levels proposed rule.
- Endorsed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Alternative Water Supply program (80 projects funded for \$43.1 million) and supported moving forward with the FY 2007 Alternative Water Supply program.

WATER QUALITY:

- Recommended moving forward with revisions to "The Long Term Plan to Improve Water Quality", and enhancements to the Stormwater Treatment Areas.
- Recommended that the Governing Board approve a request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to extend the deadline by one month for comments regarding a proposed "Total Maximum Daily Loads" (TMDLs) for Lake Okeechobee tributaries.

RECREATIONAL USE AND PUBLIC ACCESS ON SFWMD LANDS:

- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve a Test Hunt for Alligators on Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5), to be managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

- **The WRAC endorsed staff recommendations to the Governing board regarding 2006 waterfowl hunting on the Stormwater Treatment Areas, and small game hunting on several vacant land parcels.**

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2007

EVERGLADES RESTORATION:

- Recommended moving forward with the C-111 Spreader Canal and Compartment C Buildout designs
- Recommended that a document entitled “Clarifying State Assurances for Acceler8 Projects” be presented to the Governing Board, accompanied by comments from stakeholders.
- Recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) clarify proposed revisions to “Guidance Memorandum 4”, and extend the deadline for comments to 60 days.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY RESTORATION AND PROTECTION:

- Supported legislation proposed for the 2007 Florida Legislative session to improve and protect Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.
- After reviewing the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update, recommended that the plan focus on achieving the phosphorous reduction goals and meeting the future Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the lake.
- Re: Proposed Interim Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Revisions: Recommended that SFWMD staff work with stakeholders and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to:
 - Develop more appropriate low lake level operational terms for the USACE Lake Water Control Plan
 - Revise the SFWMD Adaptive Protocols for Lake Okeechobee Operations; and
 - Amend the SFWMD Water Shortage Plan.
- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to extend the time deadline for publication of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Interim Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.
- Recommended a series of workshops be held to develop a revised rule for Lake Okeechobee Service Area Water Supply.
- Regarding “Understanding Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation and Spillway, Alternative Plan six and Everglades Agricultural Area Storage”: Recommended the following statement: “Cost effective

opportunities for additional storage, treatment, and conveyance throughout the Everglades ecosystem will continue to be evaluated in the implementation of the Everglades restoration components.”

- The Lake Okeechobee Committee recommended and the WRAC agreed that the “Lake Okeechobee Operations Simulation”, a centerpiece presentation at the SFWMD Water Summit, be posted to the SFWMD website and presented to County Commissions, Chambers of Commerce and civic groups to educate citizens about SFWMD water management decision-making.

WATER QUALITY:

- Recommended that the proposed Naples Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan be presented to the Governing Board for review and approval. The Governing Board subsequently approved the plan.
- Recommended that the proposed Lower Charlotte Harbor Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan be presented to the Governing Board for review and approval. The governing Board subsequently approved the plan.

WATER SUPPLY:

- Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2008 “Minimum Flows and Levels” Annual Priority List and recommended moving it forward to the SFWMD Governing Board.
- Recommended a draft Regional Water Availability Rule be presented to the Governing Board for review and approval.
- Reviewed presentations regarding the Floridan Aquifer to ensure better understanding of the extent of sustainable yield of the Floridan Aquifer, to avoid future adverse impacts.
- Recommended forwarding the proposed Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan to the SFWMD Governing Board.
- **Year-round Landscape Irrigation Measures:** Agreed that the proposed rule as written is valid in concept and is a good start, however, need answers to questions about implementation, accomplishing the stated goals and golf courses as rulemaking proceeds.
- **Final Consumptive Use Permitting Rule Language for Central Florida Coordination Area:** Agreed with condition, that the proposed rule be moved on to the Governing Board. Condition was that impacts to

Polk County from proposed rule be worked out between SFWMD and Polk County.

- Recommended initiation of rulemaking for the establishment of a water reservation for the Indian River Lagoon South project.

RECREATIONAL USE AND PUBLIC ACCESS ON SFWMD LANDS:

- Recommended creation of bank fishing opportunities for youth on Stormwater Treatment Areas.
- Everglades National Park (ENP) General Management Plan (GMP)“Alternative E”: Agreed without objection, but with comments, that the Governing Board support the concepts included in “Alternative E” to the Everglades National Park General Management Plan. “Alternative E” was developed by fishing guides, citizens and Park users.
- Recommended Governing Board approve proposed alligator hunting for 2007 season provided that better alligator population counts be made so that future hunting would be based on more accurate numbers.
- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with SFWMD and Broward County to include language re: Broward Water Preserve Areas Greenways project in either the Chief of Engineers’ Report, or the Record of Decision on the Project Implementation Report; and, present the issue to the Quarterly Review Board as soon as possible.
- Recreation Management and Partnership Plan: Agreed with staff recommendations about the Recreation Management and Partnership Plan for presentation to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval.

SFWMD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PROGRAM GOALS

Strategic Priorities:

- **Restore the Everglades by:**
 - **Acquiring Land and planning projects to expand water storage and treatment options south of Lake Okeechobee to revive the River of Grass.**
 - **Advancing construction schedules of existing key projects.**
 - **Implementing the Long-Term Plan to achieve water quality standards.**
- **Protect and restore natural systems in the Northern Everglades (Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Watershed) by increasing storage capacity and water quality treatment.**
- **Refurbish the regional water management system by implementing the 50-year plan.**
- **Meet the current and future demands of water users and the environment by implementing regional water supply plans.**

Program Goals (most relevant to work of the WRAC):

Coastal Watersheds: To restore coastal watersheds and receiving water bodies through local initiatives and partnerships, and applied scientific research.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: To restore, preserve and protect the South Florida ecosystem through implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and other related federal water resource projects.

District Everglades: To restore Everglades water quality, hydrology and ecology.

Kissimmee Watershed: to restore ecological integrity to the Kissimmee River and its floodplain ecosystem, and integrate Kissimmee watershed management strategies with those of Lake Okeechobee protection and water supply development.

Lake Okeechobee: To improve the health of the Lake Okeechobee ecosystem by improving water quality, reducing or eliminating exotic species and better managing water levels.

Land Stewardship: To provide natural resource protection, effective land management and reasonable opportunities for appropriate agricultural use, while allowing compatible recreational uses on designated public lands.

Water Supply: To ensure an adequate supply of water to protect natural systems and to meet all existing and projected reasonable-beneficial uses, while sustaining water resources for future generations.

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2008**

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2008:

EVERGLADES RESTORATION:

- **C-111 Spreader Canal Expedited Project, Phase I:** Recommended that the proposed C-111 Spreader Canal “Expedited Project” move to the next design phase.
- **Environmental Resources Permit (ERP) Rule Development:** Recommended that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection include non-agency stakeholders on the Technical Advisory Committee being appointed to help develop the proposed statewide ERP rule. This should include representatives of agricultural interests, one representative from the Florida League of Cities and one from the Florida Association of Counties.
- **CERP Programmatic Regulations:** Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board adopt a resolution urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately revise and simplify the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Programmatic Regulations.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY PROTECTION/RESTORATION:

- **Northern Everglades Watershed Phase II Construction Plan:** Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve forwarding the Phase II Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Plan to the Florida Legislature in February. Members had concerns about the impacts of possible revenue reductions for the funding of the Phase II Technical Plan.
- **Northern Everglades River Watershed Protection Plans:**
 - Recommended that the Northern Everglades River Watershed Protection Plans for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers Watersheds be presented to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval and forwarding to the Florida Legislature.
 - Recommended to the SFWMD Governing Board a statement that the Statewide Fertilizer Rule administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is a step in the right direction to reduce nutrient runoff in urban areas.
Concerns noted:

- continued research is needed to help further reduce phosphorous;
 - the public needs to be educated about fertilizer application methods;
 - the rule could preempt local government ordinances that may impose more stringent standards than the statewide rule.
- Approved a Resolution recommended by the Lake Okeechobee Committee honoring SFWMD Governing Board member Malcolm “Bubba” Wade, Jr., for his outstanding leadership as Vice Chair of the WRAC and Chair of the WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee.

WATER SUPPLY:

- **Minimum Flows and Levels Annual Priority List:** Recommended that the Annual Priority List for Minimum Flows and Levels should move forward to the Governing Board.
- **Water Conservation Program and Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule:** Participated in the Water Conservation Program Summit and made recommendations for improvement. Recommended improvements in the proposed Year-Round Landscape Irrigation rule.

RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND PUBLIC USE OF SFWMD LANDS:

- Endorsed recommendation of the WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop to request Governing Board approval of a bank fishing program at STA-1, West.
- Endorsed work by the Recreation Issues Workshop to initiate a mobility impaired access site at STA-5 for disabled veterans and other disabled or handicapped people.
- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve staff recommendations for the 2009 Waterfowl Hunting Season, including:
 - small game hunting on vacant, undesignated lands
 - that the annual waterfowl hunting program be established by the Governing Board as a permanent program.
- **Chandler Slough:** Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board authorize the FWCC to add the 3,700 acre Chandler Slough to the Kissimmee Public Use Area.

- **Recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include an Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) statement in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Master Recreation Plan. Statement:**

“ On lands where Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) access was a traditional and legal use, is consistent with any and all applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, including those of the managing agency, and is not in conflict with hydrological and ecological restoration goals, such ORV access should be considered as a possible future managed use in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Master Recreation Plan.”

- **Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Public Use and Recreation Access:**
Recommended that:
 - **the staff recommendation for Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Public Use and Recreation Access provisions be presented to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval and to authorize the FWCC to initiate rulemaking;**
 - **the provisions regarding air boating at Johnson Island be approved on a trial basis for one year;**
 - **request FWCC look into requiring non-toxic shot for all hunting areas;**
 - **concerns of those not in agreement were reported to the SFWMD Governing Board**

WRAC TRAVEL POLICY (based on SFWMD Travel Policy)

- Only one member or alternate will be reimbursed for travel expenses.
- Members attending meetings other than assigned committees will not be reimbursed for travel expenses.
- Overnight stay must be at a distance greater than 50-miles from the traveler's official headquarters or residence to the meeting site.
- For overnight stays, SFWMD will pay the cost of accommodations. Members/alternates will be responsible for the cost of incidental expenses. At time of check-in members/alternates will be asked to provide a Credit Card for personal incidental expenses.
- For overnight stays, lodging reservations will be made by WRAC staff only if the reply is received by the deadline established. If the reply is received after the deadline, members/alternates will be required to make own reservations. Hotel bills must be provided for travel reimbursement.
- For overnight stays if member/alternate does not cancel reservations within the allowable 48 hours prior to the meeting without good cause and prior notification to WRAC staff, the SFWMD will seek reimbursement from the member/alternate, or will withhold reimbursement of other expenses for the appropriate lodging cost.
- Meal reimbursement costs are as follows: \$6 for breakfast, \$11 for lunch and \$19 for dinner, unless otherwise provided by the District.
- Mileage is computed from the traveler's point of origin to the point of destination as displayed on map web sites (e.g. MapQuest, Google Maps, etc.).
- The rate per mile for official SFWMD business is currently .445 cents per mile, pursuant to Florida Statutes.
- Incidental travel expenses allowed are: parking fees (no valet parking fees will be reimbursed if self-parking options are available); and tolls (receipt required for amounts above \$5)

4. Biscayne Bay Rule Development Update - John Mulliken,
Director, Water Supply Planning Division, SFWMD

15p 30d

See supporting document: [Biscayne Bay.pdf](#)

WRAC Meeting, January 8, 2009
Biscayne Bay Presentation

- This presentation will provide an overview of Biscayne Bay, including recent efforts to identify the freshwater needs of the Bay.
- Specifically, the District undertook an independent scientific peer review of the available science supporting the linkages between freshwater inflows and the existing natural resources of Biscayne Bay.
- A peer review panel was convened in October 2008 and provided a summary document and extensive appendices related to Biscayne Bay. The peer review panel met in a public workshop on Oct. 28 and 29, 2008 to discuss the materials provided and to answer specific questions posed by the District.
- A final report from the panel was received on November 13, 2008.
- Additional information will be provided as part of the Jan. 8, 2009 presentation to WRAC.

5. Kissimmee Water Reservation Rule Development - Update: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources, SFWMD

15p 15d

6. Adjourn: 12:00 Noon