

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA**

I. INTRODUCTIONS

A. Lake Okeechobee Water Level

Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner said he serves as the Chair of the Lake "O" Coalition. He said this meeting is a result of conversations in counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee. Commissioner Turner said Lake Okeechobee is known as the 'Liquid Heart of the Everglades'. He explained that people around the lake heard that there was a movement to artificially get the lake down to 10.5 feet. This motivated the Commissioners around the lake to organize a public forum to voice their concerns and to make sure the Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) heard that they want to allow science and facts to drive that conversation in regard to the levels of Lake Okeechobee.

B. Introduction of Commissioners from Five Counties

Commissioner Turner introduced Drew Bartlett, Executive Director of SFWMD, and Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He recognized Steve Layton, who is one of the Chief Aides to Congressman Brian Mast.

The Commissioners from each county introduced themselves and everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance:

HENDRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Mitchell Wills
Vice Chair Emma Byrd
Commissioner Darrell Harris
Commissioner Karson Turner
Barbara Butler, Hendry County Clerk of Court

GLADES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Tim Stanley
Commissioner Donald Strenth
Commissioner John Ahern
Sandra Brown, Glades County Clerk of Court

PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Hal Valeche
Commissioner Gregg Weiss
Commissioner Robert Weinroth
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger
Commissioner Melissa McKinley
Mack Bernard, Mayor
Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Terry W. Burroughs
Vice Chair Kelly Owens
2nd Vice Chair Bradley Goodbread
Commissioner David Hazellief
Commissioner Bryant H. Culpepper

MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Edward V. Ciampi
Vice Chair Harold E. Jenkins
Commissioner Doug Smith
Commissioner Stacey Hetherington

II. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

A. Presentation - Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds

Lt. Col. Reynolds said she plans to make her presentation available online on the Corps' website as well as the websites of the counties around the lake. Some of the main points in her presentation of the Everglades were:

- It encompasses over nine million acres of lakes, wetlands and rivers
- Water flows from the headwaters near Orlando down to Florida Bay
- It is comprised of over thirteen specific ecosystems
- It is a habitat to over sixty-eight endangered and threatened species
- It is home to a lot of people

She said there is a quantity, quality, timing and distribution problem that has been the result of decades of people using the resources without knowing the consequences of draining some of the landscape to make it usable for different purposes. She explained that water used to naturally overflow the banks of Lake Okeechobee and slowly flow southward. There are a lot of people that live in those flood plains now and a lot of needs for all of the water. Historically between 52" and 60" of water would fall (each year) and currently the same amount falls but the original flood plain does not exist for it to settle on.

Lt. Col. Reynolds said in 2017 after Hurricane Irma there was the same amount of rainfall that caused the massive flooding in the 1940's that precipitated a lot of the flood control projects in existence now. People's homes did not flood after Hurricane Irma like they did in 1947 because the flood control system works. She said what doesn't work is all of the

unintended consequences of the flood control system where they are flushing the fresh water out making it unavailable to people, the ecosystem, and the aquifers that need that freshwater supply every year. There is a series of significant federal and state projects working together to solve this problem. She said the questions are: can we have people living here and a natural landscape side by side, can we have natural ecosystems and agriculture and ranching, to which she answered "we can". She said only by working together can they continue to move toward finishing the projects that actually solve the problem.

Lt. Col. Reynolds presented a chart showing the lake levels over the past decade along with the regulation schedule showing the current Lake Okeechobee schedule. The Army Corps of Engineers and SFWMD work together to look at how different environmental conditions affect the lake levels. They use this schedule to manage the lake. They used over four decades of data to model the schedule. She said there is an excess of fresh water in the lake. When the lake starts to get too high it becomes a safety problem for the people who live and work around Lake Okeechobee. This is important because we have had devastating hurricanes and this is why the Herbert Hoover Dike was built. She explained that when lake levels approach 16 – 17 feet they have seen active failure of the dike. This is why they are making repairs to the dike. She reported that during Hurricane Irma there was over a ten foot differential between one side of the lake and the other side. The levels went from 11 feet to 21 feet.

Lt. Col. Reynolds reported that in six of the last seven years the lake has gone over 16 feet. She said that was not normal and added they saw significant impacts on the lake ecology and on the ecology of the two northern estuaries as a result of having to make a lot of fresh water releases. She said before 2016 there were over 40,000 acres of aquatic vegetation in Lake Okeechobee. At the beginning of 2016 it decreased to 33,000 acres and by the beginning of 2017 there were 20,000 acres of aquatic vegetation in the lake. After Hurricane Irma there were only 5,000 acres of grasses in Lake Okeechobee and this had significant impact on the lake, the lake ecology, the habitat of the species that live on the lake and on the water quality of the lake. They also saw significant impacts to both northern estuaries. She reported the Corps worked with scientists from SFWMD and state and federal agencies to see if they had any flexibility to manage the water differently during this dry season to do something for the ecologies of both northern estuaries and the lake itself. They used some operational flexibility to get the lake levels down to below 12 feet. The scientists said if the levels were below 12 feet it would allow the grasses to germinate. The Corps sent small amounts of fresh water to the estuaries throughout the dry season prior to the oyster spawning and monitored the habitats and ecology of the estuaries and the lake. Their plan is to always stay within the operational band, manage and monitor things very closely, and take advantage of the opportunity to do as much as they can to build resiliency in those three ecosystems. One of the things they did was burning on the lake which was good for the habitat.

Lt. Col. Reynolds reported they started seeing a lot of the grasses germinate, they saw wading birds in the Kissimmee River and in the marsh areas of Lake Okeechobee, and they kept salinities within their ideal ranges in both estuaries. The lake levels were low and that was not good for everyone and so they are watching this closely. The Corps felt this was a reasonable amount of water in order to protect the health of Lake Okeechobee.

What they heard from the experts about weather forecasts is that there was no risk of drought this year. She said they could still get this wrong because there is no way to predict what will happen. As they approached the lower band of the operational band they started releasing less water. The lake hit a low of 11.17 feet but there has been some rain and today the lake is at 11.24 feet. The most significant impact on the lake at this time of year is rainfall and ET – evapotranspiration. She added that the Corps' releases from the lake do not make a significant difference in lake levels at this time of year.

In conclusion Lt. Col. Reynolds said they are continuing to manage the lake under the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (LORS-08) while they proceed with the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual Schedule. They will be offering public webinars later this month during lunchtime. The webinars will include a twenty minute presentation and then allow time for questions by email or chat. The topics covered will be:

- Fundamentals of the Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) Project
- Dam Safety and the Herbert Hoover Dike (all zones should be completed by 2022)
- Water Management and the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule
- Lake Okeechobee Ecology
- Kissimmee River Restoration
- Estuary Ecology

Lt. Col. Reynolds said what will solve the problem with the lake is a comprehensive set of projects that is part of the 50-50 partnership between the federal government and the state along with the components of everything local governments do in order to make sure they get the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of the fresh water into this system to benefit the ecosystems and the people.

III. LAKE OKEECHOBEE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Turner said his goal is for each Board to take language from tonight's discussion to create its own resolution, work closely with their municipalities as it affects them, and also share this message with their federal partners.

Commissioner Burroughs said he is supportive of completing the C-23, C-24, C-43 and C-44 Reservoirs. He said he is more supportive in terms of expanding the geographical footprint to include the headwaters of the Kissimmee River and figuring out how to slow the water coming down to Lake Okeechobee. His plan is to slow the flow and allow the lake to regenerate itself. He said this would also provide some relief to the east and west coasts in regard to discharges.

Commissioner McKinley would like the counties to find out what they can all agree on. She believes they all agree that they want a cleaner lake, cleaner estuaries and a cleaner river. The question for all is how they will get there. She hopes this discussion will open the door to more friendly conversations. She recognized Representative Cary Pigman and said at the budget conversations in Tallahassee recently he brought up putting more resources into storage projects north of the lake. She said they cannot manage a system with 2019 standards that was begun in 1928 and completed in 1964. She said they all need to work together to advocate that Congress will help fund their fair share of these projects. Commissioner McKinley announced that the Mayor of Belle Glade, the former Mayor of Pahokee, and the City

Commissioner of Pahokee were present at this meeting. She said the city and county officials bear a huge responsibility in making sure they are taking care of their own infrastructures. She believes some of the issues they are dealing with are related to aging septic tanks and she encouraged inspections of them. She also said they need to make sure the sewage treatment plants and lift stations are not falling apart and contributing to the problem. Commissioner McKinley said many of the cities had numerous budget requests before the legislature this year to fund storm water improvements. She reported the agricultural communities south of the lake are not back pumping into it. She said the Cities of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee did some back pumping in 2017 because of heavy rains that were causing the cities to flood. She would like them all to work together for a healthier environment.

Commissioner Turner said the legislature has created a South Florida Water Management District Water Caucus. He said there was a Water Policy Conference with the Florida Association of Counties that some of those present were able to attend. He said there will be an annual Water Policy Conference in June in Orlando.

Commissioner Owens said the focus of the counties should begin with the level of the lake. Slowing the flow from the north end should be emphasized. She commented on the thought of lowering the lake to 10.5 feet and keeping it there but said this is not viable and not appropriate. She said there is a fear of this happening and they need to make their voices heard about it. They need to understand the impact of keeping the level at 10.5 feet. She took part in a conference call with the White House about this but has not had any follow up at the federal level. She believes it is important for the counties to have a common voice, to stay together and be focused on what their message is so that the health of the lake and all of the communities surrounding it will be their top priority.

Commissioner Ciampi said many of the Commissioners in the five counties are friends and work well together. There are no adversarial relationships and he feels this is a great start for them and said if the elected officials don't get along then it trickles down into the communities. He said there is a lot of talk about shared adversity which he would like to change to mutually beneficial. He reported that all of the counties present tonight have invested millions of dollars on projects to stem what has happened. They have all experienced some environmental harm. He thinks they should all work together. He said they all understand, "No farming, no food". He knows the volume of water that comes into the lake from the north is something the east and west cannot control but he would like to know what those in the north are doing about it.

Commissioner Doug Smith said they formed a coalition of counties around the lake and the idea was to bring the collective wisdom of the elected officials together to discuss what was in the best interest for all of them. This grew into the 16 County Coalition. It is important for them to stay focused on the same idea to present to the federal government in order to get help. He pointed out that Osceola County would like to be included in the discussions about the lake. He noted that the Herbert Hoover Dike was accelerated by three years because they made it the number one priority of the 16 County Coalition.

Commissioner Stanley said they are willing to help but they are a small county and if land is needed for something such as storing water they would like to be compensated for it.

Commissioner Ahern agreed that they should be compensated for their land. He would like everyone to work together.

Commissioner Culpepper said he is glad to see all of the counties that want to fix this problem. He said Orlando is concerned and wants to help. He lives on the Kissimmee River where the outfall is. The water is the lowest he has ever seen it since he moved there in 2003. He noticed that the water control structures on the river all the way to Orlando open from the bottom up. He said grass cannot grow in silt that has chemicals in it and he asked how they could stop the silt. He asked an engineer if they could put in horseshoe weir structures and set the top of the structure at the level they want the maximum water level to be. This would only allow the clean, fresh water that comes from rain to flow over it and would trap the silt at the bottom. It could be cleaned out every few years. Commissioner Culpepper said \$50 million is spent on purchasing property with much of it not being used. He said septic tanks should be drained every five years because the solids flow into the drain field and are washed into the water. He offered this as an easy solution: the \$50 million could be put into a fund so that people who can't afford to have their septic tank cleaned out could get a voucher to get it done.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Turner opened the floor for public comment. He introduced Steve Layton who is Chief of Staff for Congressman Brian Mast. He has also worked for three other Congressmen.

Steve Layton said what we are under today is what each of the counties agreed on in 2007-2008. He said Lt. Col. Reynolds brought up multiple issues with the high level lake water due to hurricanes, floods, and disasters. He encouraged the counties to work together as they have already talked about tonight. He said there is a clear road map of where we are today and where we are going. He urged them to contact Congressman Mast or the Congressman that represents them and said the Congressman has been reaching out to farmers. Mr. Layton said they understand that the things that drive the economy of this region are the same for everyone in this area – on the east coast as well as the west coast. He said Congressman Mast wants the people to hear from him as well as the scientists on both sides of this conversation as to why the 10.5 foot lake is there.

Raymond Iglesias, co-founder of AFLO, Anglers for Lake Okeechobee, thanked Commissioner McKinley for combating the misinformation on Brian Mast's page on Lake O facts. He said if we don't take care of Lake Okeechobee it will die. He said 95% of the water that comes down the Kissimmee River is being sent to the east and west coasts and we don't want to do that.

Nila Pikes from One Florida Foundation said she is a coastal resident who lives in Brian Mast's district. She has spoken to him many times and asked him to clarify if he has adjusted his push for 10.5 feet year after year based upon the science from Paul Gray with Audubon Florida. She said we really need to look at 12 feet on the low level. She said there have been false comparisons between what people are trying to do with this very large ecosystem and the competition with wastewater treatment spills and septic tanks. She said it isn't one or the other, it's both.

Janet Taylor, former County Commissioner of Hendry County, said tonight she is representing Glades Lives Matter. She said from their perspective it seems like every Lake Okeechobee proposal by the coastal activists is mean spirited and meant specifically to punish the Glades community. She had three messages she wanted to leave with everyone.

1. To the critics: To those who threaten their security and livelihood please try to understand the people who live here. Choking off their water supply, or blowing up their dike, or driving them out of their homes will not work.
2. To the policymakers: In their deliberations she asked that they please consider the people who live here. They are the deep and powerful connection with the lake. Their lives and livelihood are tied to the lake and their families depend on this lake. She said the decisions of the policymakers will have generational consequences.
3. To their friends and neighbors on the coasts: We can do this together. They can solve these problems without taking jobs or robbing South Florida of drinking water, without destroying businesses, families and communities, and without hate or resorting to bullying and intimidation. They can solve these problems as brothers and sisters committed to this common cause.

Brandon Tucker is a third generation resident from around Lake Okeechobee who also spent the last two years serving on the governing board of South Florida Water Management District. He said lowering the lake to 10.5 feet is a very bad idea. It is dangerous for the northern estuaries and for all of South Florida. He urged people to listen to the science and keep the politics out of this.

Robert Reese, representing Representative Tina Polsky, District 81, read a letter she sent to Col. Kelly. Representative Polsky said the residents in her district which include the cities of Belle Glade, South Bay, and Pahokee in Palm Beach County are in grave danger if the Army Corps of Engineers proceeds with the plan proposed by Congressman Mast to keep the level of Lake Okeechobee as low as 10.5 feet. She wants to restore and protect the environment from the toxic blue algae but not at the expense of the residents, the homes, and the businesses of this district. They must pursue science based solutions that can measurably improve the environment without putting our people at serious risk. Lowering the lake to such extremes would create drought-like conditions throughout Palm Beach County which would impact every aspect of the life of the residents, businesses, and wildlife in the area. Eight years ago the drought brought the level of the lake so low it forced the City of West Palm Beach to buy water from the County, shut off basic functions, and limit the availability of water to the residents.

J. P. Sasser, former Mayor of Pahokee, said in the last drought the City of Pahokee could not get water until the SFWMD moved the water pipe further out into the lake. He said at the same time the City of West Palm Beach was less than two weeks away from running out of water. He said the problem is not those here that are working together; it is Washington. He said since all of this has happened the money from Washington has been woefully lacking. He reported that the farmers south of Lake Okeechobee have invited Congressman Mast repeatedly to tour the area and he has not returned their calls.

Newton Cook, President of United Waterfowlers of Florida, said the lake should go down every five years, but a 10.5 foot lake every year will ruin the lake - the Heart of the Everglades, and it would end up as a mud hole.

Gary Goforth, a professional engineer who has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and SFWMD, said this is an issue of water supply. He said since LORS has been in operation the Corps has discharged and wasted over 3 trillion gallons of water to the estuaries and Lake

Worth Lagoon. This would have supplied 90% of the water supply to Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. He said that has got to stop. He said there is no sea grass in the St. Lucie Estuary since these discharges began. He pointed out that due to the blue-green toxic algae in the lake the Counties of Okeechobee and Martin have twice the national rate of people dying from liver disease. He wants the State of Florida to go on record as failing the citizens for allowing the continued pollution of Lake Okeechobee.

Scott Kelly, Assistant City Manager of West Palm Beach, said in 2000 the lake was lowered to 13 feet with a forecast of above average rainfall. It did not rain that summer. In the spring of 2001 the lake hit a record low of 8.97 feet. In regard to how LORS was applied this year, he feels there was not a lot of discussion about this with the scientists. He thinks the counties and municipal governments in this area should all work together to ensure they do not go down this route next year or the following year. He believes it is too late this year.

Mike Circus, Chairman of the Martin County Young Farmers and Ranchers, said there is a lack of desire to keep up with the infrastructure and a lack of effort to curtail the hyper-urbanization along the coast as well as central cities. Lowering the lake does not address items such as the lack of storage water north of the lake, the lack of water conveyances to send the water from the north down to the Everglades, or that the majority of the nutrient loads come from local basin runoff. He said they could either lower the lake on a yearly basis, which achieves almost nothing, or they can look at their infrastructure; the septic systems, failing sewer systems, and to developing more stormwater treatment areas. The stormwater treatment areas in the north could also be looked at.

Ryan Rossi, Director of the South Florida Water Coalition, said their primary objective is to educate the public on the health and safety of our water. When speaking to residents he discovered their wish is for cooperation. He said the world is hotter now and a drought would be more severe and this coalition's purpose is to try to bring and forge partnerships with those present and to work together to solve this in a responsible way. He read a letter released by Republicans and Democrats in Tallahassee which stated that lowering the lake to the proposed level could create drought conditions which will have vast and potentially dire implications. All stakeholders must come together and work to solve our state's water issues. The letter urges everyone to consider all possible consequences of lowering the lake level.

George Cooper has lived here all of his life. He said there is an environmental side, a farming side, and a business side and each one is important. The best farmland in the world is in Belle Glade. There are a lot of people that make a living off of it. It is not only important to the people there but it needs to be important to all of the community and we need to understand it and try to keep it running.

David Acock has lived in Buckhead Ridge since 1968 and has seen the lake change dramatically. He said he is tired of the consistent mistakes that continue to affect the lake. He said for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project they poured herbicide to get the water to flow properly. It flowed down to the mouth of Lake Okeechobee and wiped out all the hydrilla and most of the vegetation in the area. He said the fish are struggling because there is no vegetation. Taking the lake to 10.5 feet means they would have to grow a new area of vegetation. Hurricane Irma blew aerated mud to the north of the lake and muddied it. He said if they keep the lake at 10.5

feet they are missing the area from Eagle Bay to the south end of the lake on the west side which has vegetation that can filter water. He asked why they aren't utilizing it.

Susan Gibbs Thomas, Mayor of Indiantown, said they are home to the C-44 Reservoir which borders and surrounds Indiantown on the east and northeast sides. She said Indiantown's Council was also present tonight because this issue is vital to their community as much as it is to the other communities. She said it is encouraging to see the multiple governing bodies willing to address the issues and respond to the science and facts. She agreed with Commissioner Ciampi that they should reframe their thinking from adversity to being mutually beneficial and working together.

Alisha Parento, who lives in unincorporated Martin County, said the lake should not go to 10.5 feet because of the ten performance measures the lake had an average measurement on only one of them. The current LORS 08 is adequate and should be considered for the next three years until the project is complete in 2022 and then go back to the WSE performance measures. She said Congressman Mast has done well for his constituents but it is not fair or beneficial to everyone concerned around the lake. She hopes the Commissioners will speak to the legislation and the governor and have more pull than just one Congressman.

John Helfrich said he and his wife work for River Forest Yachting Center. He said since the lake has gone down to 11.2 the boats are coming in with banged up props, and some are sinking. The repairs required range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. He said boats are not going to continue to travel the Okeechobee Waterway because they know they will tear up their boat. This is damaging business.

Clayton Humphries said his family has lived around the lake for seven generations. He commented that Disney has implemented one of the most state of the art human waste treatment facilities in the world. They are using the waste from their properties every day to create fuel for their generators that run some of their properties. They are running completely green. They also plan to put it in their busses. He thought they might do something like this in our counties. He would like them to look at a greener solution so we are not putting waste where it can be run off into the water. He would like unity with the coastal communities.

Lee Simons, a LaBelle resident, said the C-43 and C-44 Canals flow to the east and west and have changed the cross section and now there is no way to get the oxygen in the water column. He explained that they are dumping large volumes of dead water that is hyper nutrient into a low energy environment and it doesn't rinse out. The water released from the C-43 and C-44 that flows into the tribal area is permitted but the water flowing to the east and west is not permitted. He said the Corps of Engineers is undoing all of the requirements that are put on our water and dumping it to the east and west. He proposed they do a water quality study of the water flowing to the east and west. After they quantify the data and identify the solution it will probably take 10 to 12 years before they are able to apply the solution.

Ardis Hammock said there is no one on the South Florida Water Management District Board who is directly connected to our inland communities or to agriculture. She asked for someone to fill the vacant seat and let us have a voice.

Robert Lambert from Everglades Reserve said he was here on behalf of the marina and the City of Pahokee. He said the 10.5 foot level has done harm to the operation of the City of Pahokee. He said vessels such as his 42 foot vessel are landlocked – trapped in the City of Pahokee Marina. As of last week the level is 3'6" in their entrance. They cannot receive boats and the last boat that left got approximately \$30,000 worth of damage traveling from Route 2 to the locks. He said this is destroying the economy of the City of Pahokee. He said what the Congressman is proposing to do is unfair.

The FFA Ag Issues Team from Glades County was present and their spokesperson said they have studied the water quality of Lake Okeechobee and they will be competing in June to discuss the issue. They focused their energy on understanding the water flow from the north and why we need to talk to Osceola and Orange Counties because they have a huge affect on us.

Jacqui Thurlow Lippisch said she is one of the new South Florida Water Management District Board Members. She wanted everyone to know how important they are to her, to Governor DeSantis and to SFWMD. She hopes everyone will come to the District to speak and promised to listen.

Fred Humphries, a seventh generation Floridian, suggested they use Highway 41 and Alligator Alley as a positive and think about putting up a berm along the national park with a lot of weirs to control the flood waters going into the rivers.

Commissioner Goodbread gave a charge to Steve Layton for Congressman Mast to put someone on the SFWMD Board from agriculture to represent agriculture's interests.

Commissioner McKinley thanked Mr. Layton for being there and said she knows he is doing his job representing Congressman Mast. She also wanted Congressman Mast reminded that he also represents Palm Beach County. She said shared adversity is not sending all the water out the C-51 and blowing out the Lake Worth Lagoon. Shared adversity is all of us stepping up together to make this system work and to improve our community from Orlando to the Keys.

Commissioner Ciampi recommended for their staffs to get together and have a similar meeting. He would like to have another meeting of the elected officials in the fall.

Commissioner Berger said her district does not have a lot of water issues but tonight she has seen a community that has huge passion. She urged them to keep their passion up and that it is what will drive everything and bring them to a good conclusion.

Commissioner Ahern said the FFA did a presentation for the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Moore Haven, and the Glades County Board of County Commissioners and they plan to do it for the City of LaBelle. He invited others to have them come to give their presentation. He said it is interesting and fair and he appreciates the job they are doing.

Commissioner Turner thinks they will have solid ideas that will come out of another discussion. He said the Representative urged him to have another meeting before the Legislature goes back into committee week in November. He spoke about projects north of the lake and is

concerned about those lands being taken off of the tax roll. He does not want to shift an interest from one area to another and cause an adverse affect on the other. He asked everyone to look at passing a resolution and also a letter to compile all of the comments together. He asked Mr. Layton to get the Everglades Caucus and the Federal Delegation in Florida together for another giant meeting. Commissioner Smith said if they can get that pushed by the time FAC meets for the Water Policy Meeting which is June 11th – 14th it would be beneficial and would broaden the audience.

Vice Mayor Dave Kerner said the constituents in Palm Beach County would appreciate some official Board action on behalf of their elected representatives. He asked Commissioner McKinley to offer a motion on behalf of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners to direct staff to take the next step and continue to work with our neighboring counties on this issue and for the other County Commissions to make motions also. The Commissioners were advised to make motions in their respective counties at their Board of County Commission meetings.

V. ADJOURN

Commissioner Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Tim Stanley, Chairman

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court

Approved: August 13, 2019