

**CITY GREEN TASK FORCE
MEETING May 6, 2010
Approved Minutes**

Members Present:

Harvey Hathaway
Ira Raab
Janet Schreiber
Carol Shein
Al Vazquez, Chair

Staff and Commissioners Present:

Pat Painter
Penni Redford
Suzanne Schluter

Call to Order/Sign In/Changes to Agenda

- Meeting was called to order at 4:11 PM.

Minutes

- *Approval of 2/18/10 minutes was postponed until the next meeting.*

Unfinished Business

New Business

- **Climate Change Adaptation related to Water Resources**
 - **Dr. Nancy Gassman, Natural Resources Manager, Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division**
 - Dr. Gassman gave the attached presentation on Climate Change and Water Resources.
 - She has been working for the past year on the Broward County Climate Change Action Plan by the Broward County Climate Change Task Force. The full text of this plan can be found at www.broward.org/climatechange.
 - She mentioned that the main water resource concerns are the following:
1) Drinking water: Demand, Availability of existing and future water supply, and Treatment requirements, 2) Predictability of Rainfall/Storm events, 3) Drainage, and 4) Utility carbon footprint. She pointed out that current predictions of sea level rise are higher than predicted before. Salt water intrusion into aquifers, canals, and well fields will be a large issue. Storms are predicted to become less frequent but more severe with more rainfall, which will impact drainage. The drainage issue will be compounded by the need to provide adequate drainage for more rainfall at one time and at the same time control salt water intrusion.
 - **Kim Shugar, Director of Intergovernmental Programs, SFWMD**
 - Kim Shugar gave the attached presentation on Climate Change and Water Resources Planning.
 - Some of the main points presented were:
 - Though climate change is a global phenomenon, impacts and actions are local.
 - SFWMD's primary focus is on regional water management issues and coordination with federal/state/local governments.

- The main areas of focus are: Flood control, Salt water intrusion, and Everglades's restoration.
 - Preserving wetlands for fresh water storage and aquifer recharge will be important.
- **Questions/Points Discussed:**
- Current projected sea rise looking at several scientific sources are between 5-20 inches by 2060 and about 33 inches by the end of the century. It was noted that these numbers may change, they are being checked often. Dr. Gassman mentioned that sea level rise is not expected to be linear.
 - Several county governments in South Florida have signed a regional climate compact to work together. This compact got the attention of the white house, local agencies, congress, the senate and the nation. NOAA has also proposed assistance. It was noted that the city governments have not been brought into this discussion yet and Dr. Gassman stated that it is already challenging working with as many local governments as are currently involved and to be patient. Municipalities will be encouraged to participate but it is too soon yet in the process. There is not yet a website regarding the compact.
 - It was mentioned that some counties/cities will be impacted sooner than others or in different ways. Kim Shugar stated that SFWMD is working with all the counties in their jurisdiction.
 - Water conservation will be very important to aid against salt water intrusion as this will allow aquifers to be recharged. SFWMD has extensive information and programs on water conservation. Additional care in issuing consumptive use permits may be helpful. Codes limiting potable water for landscape use may be helpful. Using stormwater to replenish aquifers and wells might be part of a solution. Building and preserving wetlands will play an integral part.
 - Pat Painter mentioned that many of the natural barriers to salt water intrusion such as oyster beds were destroyed due to navigation needs or development. If we can put back some of the natural barriers, that will be a better solution than trying to engineer our way out of the situation. Dr. Gassman remarked that we are still working to keep area dry that were not initially, but we cannot displace 1.8 million people. Modeling, monitoring and mapping need to be done to better understand effects and what we can do. A unified methodology from Jupiter down to Key West should be devised.
 - It was mentioned that rate structures that incentivize reducing water use or penalize water consumption could be used. Penni Redford mentioned that we'd hoped to use the SFWMD Water SIPP Grant to help create more conservation programs in the City. Kim Shugar mentioned that that grant will not be available this fiscal year, 2011.
 - Pat Painter mentioned that he's counting on the SFWMD to create a big plan regarding the whole Everglades system that we are part of, which the District represents. This system has been completely fractured. Kim

Shugar stated that they would like to do that, but they need financial assistance to get there. They are hoping to get some money from the Federal Government.

- Recent population estimates have changed considerably recently and do not call for significant growth.
- Public education will be very important. Dr. Gassman mentioned that population turnover of about 1/3 every 3 years has made education very difficult. Culture change is needed.
- David London mentioned we should use Bermuda as an example. There 90% of all homes just use rainwater harvesting.
- Pat Painter mentioned that GWP and the Office of Sustainability are putting in a model cistern at the water catchment area. He also mentioned that Australia is a very good example. There the water utilities install and maintain cisterns for irrigation at private properties.
- New Water Plant that the City is building is planned to produce the same amount of water as the current plant. Conservation will make up any additional needs.
- Dr. Gassman mentioned that in modern society, water is not a limiting factor in the same way as before. People will still come, but it will change the socio-economics. Only the people who can afford the water will be able to come to a popular area.

Public Comments

- Al Vazquez mentioned the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference, July 31 & August 1, 2010. Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, Florida. Will Allen is the keynote speaker. <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>

Future Meetings

- Meetings:
 - May 20, 2010, 4-6 PM, Flagler Gallery - Climate Adaptation and Resiliency
- Work Sessions:
 - Thursday, May 13, 4 - 6 PM, Library Hibiscus Room
 - Thursday, May 27, 4 - 6 PM, Library Hibiscus Room

Adjourn

- ***A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.*** Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.