



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT

8/7/2018 9:00 AM

MINUTES

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

2401 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FLORIDA 34996

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman

Harold E. Jenkins II, Vice Chairman

Doug Smith

Ed Fielding

Sarah Heard

Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator

Sarah W. Woods, County Attorney

Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the Circuit Court and

Comptroller

Emergency Mtg Algae/Water Conditions

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ciampi at 9:03 a.m.

Present: 4 - Chairman Edward V. Ciampi
Commissioner Doug Smith
Commissioner Ed Fielding
Commissioner Sarah Heard

Absent: 1 - Vice Chairman Harold E. Jenkins II

1. INVOCATION - Moment of Silence

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Fielding for approval of the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Ciampi, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Fielding, and Commissioner Heard

Absent: 1 - Vice Chairman Jenkins II

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

COMMENTS

1. PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

Chairman Ciampi recognized the following dignitaries in the audience: Congressman Brian Mast, Regional Director Greg Langowski (Senator Rubio's Office), Regional Director Shawn Hall (Senator Nelson's Office), Carrie Lira (Senator Negron's Office), FDEP Deputy Secretary Drew Bartlett, FDEP Southeast District Director Jennifer Smith, Communications and Special Events Coordinator Ben Hogarth (City of Stuart), and Florida Oceanographic Society Executive Director Mark Perry.

Congressman Brian Mast updated the Board on the full appropriation to bring the Herbert Hoover Dike Restoration to completion and the passing of WRDA through the House of Representatives (with a provision to begin redoing the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, beginning 2019). He spoke about keeping Lake Okeechobee at a lower level during dry months and announced that, on August 17th, there would be a meeting in Stuart (at the Flagler Center) on that issue. He also announced that both the Kissimmee River Restoration and the raising of Tamiami Trail were nearing completion.

FDEP Deputy Secretary Drew Bartlett spoke about the way the DEP tests for toxins, the effects on the water where people are recreating, ongoing testing for microcystines, and testing on the local fish population. He also spoke about the necessity of investing in the entire Lake Okeechobee Watershed, and the need for CERP to be completed in order to solve the problem.

Florida Oceanographic Society Executive Director Mark Perry spoke about the blue-green algae coming from Lake Okeechobee through the discharges. He spoke about the need to get the CDC, the EPA, and NOAA (on the federal level), and the Department of Health, the FDEP, and other agencies (on the state level). He spoke about the need to reinvigorate the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force.

Mickie Cook addressed the Board with concerns about health and the quality of Martin County's drinking water. She spoke about switching to bottled water to reduce the liver enzymes in her pets, and issues she has had with respiratory problems, skin problems, and hair loss.

Stanley Buys spoke about best management practices, money being spent on studies instead of fixing the problems, and the need to eliminate septic tanks by helping people connect to sewer.

William Embrey spoke about effects to the fisherman and the estuary, and money being spent on more studies instead of helping the people/businesses effected.

Eileen DuClay spoke about moving to Martin County and the current water toxicity, and voiced concerns for her grandchildren's future.

Ed O'Connor spoke about flood control, pollution, and the need to stop the pollution at its source.

Mike Glynn spoke about the need for more signage to warn people not to swim, play, or fish in the water. He suggested dedicating a staff member to the water quality issue 365 days a year.

Mary Radabaugh, with Central Marine, spoke about working on this issue for the last 13 years. She showed years of studies, reports, and algae books, and showed photos of algae pockets. She voiced concerns about her health and the health of her marina employees.

Darrell Brand, a representative of the Rivers Coalition, spoke about the impacts to the real estate industry and urged that this is a health and safety issue that needs to be acted on now.

Gary Dolderer urged the Board to hold people's feet to the fire and get them to put their money and their efforts to solving the problem.

Indian Riverkeeper Marty Baum spoke about the waterkeepers' big concerns: the harmful algal blooms, the lack of testing, and the lack of warning in our community. He spoke about the need to test the blooms, not just outside the blooms. He also spoke about the need to do aerosol testing.

Laura Schmidt, a riverfront resident, spoke about her issues with asthma and her concerns about fishing in the contaminated water.

Paul Laura, representing the Treasure Coast Democratic Environmental Caucus, spoke about the causes of cyanobacteria blooms and the impacts of our local watershed and Lake Okeechobee. He suggested enforcing current flow-to-nutrient runoff regulations, increasing monitoring stations, and eliminating bio-waste at the waste treatment plants.

Ivette Guiroz addressed the Board regarding a machine that works on wind energy that will clean the water.

Maggy Hurchalla spoke about misinformation and people who believe that the algae blooms are not toxic. She suggested that the Board bring in the CDC and the USGS, and the EPA to test the sediment, the fish, the water column, and the blooms.

Donna Melzer, representing the Conservation Alliance, spoke about the influence of special interests and voiced concerns that the residents are not hearing the facts.

Patrick Hayes informed the Board that the system is broken in that it was designed over 90 years ago for about 1/4 of the population. He pointed out that you can't fix something with the mind that created it. He offered to organize civil disobedience, with the support of the Board.

Kim Streiber spoke about protecting residents and visitors from cyanobacteria and glyphosate. She stated that the warning signs need to stand out, and the time had come to call in the CDC, the EPA, and to file a federal lawsuit.

Wetland and Lake Scientist Joe Gilio warned the Board that food taken from St Lucie and Indian Rivers should not be used for public consumption. He informed the Board that the cyanophytes are throughout the water column and need to be tested at different levels. He suggested the following solutions: restore 90% of the Kissimmee River (restore the million acres of cleansing wetland), do not do deep well injections, use ASRs as a fall back measure, and increase the treatment area south of the reservoir.

Michael Syrkus thanked the Board and staff for their increased interest in stormwater retention areas. He suggested that more retention areas in Martin and surrounding counties could treat billions of gallons of water and keep it from going into Lake Okeechobee.

Laurie Prim urged the Board that it's time to stop trying to clean up dirty water and time to prevent the dirty water and bacteria.

Butch Olson thanked Congressman Mast and Senators Negron and Nelson for their efforts and urged the Board to assist in getting water project bills funded.

Port Salerno Commercial Dock Authority Vice President Steve English informed the Board that the fisherman are hurting and asked them to look into the Commercial Fishery Disaster Assistance program.

Merritt Matheson spoke about the blue-green algae/cyanobacteria and the need to test on local level to compare our data with the state agencies who are only testing around the algae blooms.

William Weed urged the Board to ban bio-solids (fertilizers) on any farmland in Martin County. He asked why no lawsuit had been filed against the FDEP, the ACOE, and the SFWMD.

Attorney Alex Gillen, representing BullSugar Alliance, spoke about testing in the heart of the bloom and the need for 'worst case scenario' sampling. He asked that the Board send a letter to the CDC and the EPA requesting support and technical assistance. He requested that the Board publish their evaluations.

2. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Fielding asked staff to follow up on the information about potential monies for the fisherman.

Commissioner Smith spoke about the recent Bio-Solids Conference and spoke about advancements in the technology of treating sewage and fertilizer, and informed the public that the County would be working toward getting a pilot project launched to bring that equipment to Martin County.

Commisisioner Heard recognized Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch and her husband for all their efforts on behalf of the rivers. Chairman Ciampi also thanked them for all the work that they've done.

Commissioner Fielding spoke about the number of the contributing sources of contamination: septic, wastewater plants, bio-solids, muck breakdown, yard trash, contaminants flowing off the land, back pumping, and spraying (RoundUp, Rodeo).

3. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DEPARTMENTAL

ADMINISTRATION

DEPT-1 RIVER CONDITIONS UPDATE

Agenda Item: 18-0687

Ecosystem Restoration & Management Manager John Maehl provided the staff's presentation to the Board. The presentation included current conditions, Lake Okeechobee structure data, salinity levels, comparison of Lake Okeechobee surface algae (July to August), water (algae) photos from Central Marine and Riverland Marine, and a video showing the changes to the quality of the water during the month of July releases.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Heard to adopt the draft Declaration of Local Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Ciampi, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Fielding, and Commissioner Heard

Absent: 1 - Vice Chairman Jenkins II

Agenda Item: 18-0687

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Heard and seconded by Commissioner Fielding: We need to bring in the CDC and we need to bring in the EPA and ask for their help in evaluating health risks associated with these toxins. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Ciampi, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Fielding, and Commissioner Heard

Absent: 1 - Vice Chairman Jenkins II

Agenda Item: 18-0687

Regional Director Greg Langowski (Senator Rubio's Office) urged the Board to act quickly if they wished to have the public health and safety language included in this WRDA bill.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Heard and seconded by Commissioner Fielding: Advocate in Tallahassee that Amendment 1 funds are used to purchase lands, stop spreading municipal sludge on rural lands (a state-wide prohibition on spreading bio-solids on rural lands), we need to urge the Governor, the State Legislature, and Florida's Congressional Delegation to demand immediate congressional action to make public health and safety the top priority in managing South Florida's water (with the understanding that it be included in this WRDA bill), and also that we create a new LORS schedule that recognizes that public health and safety are a top priority, and that we commit to full funding for IRL South. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Ciampi, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Fielding, and Commissioner Heard

Absent: 1 - Vice Chairman Jenkins II

PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

ADJOURN

The Board of County Commissioners August 7, 2018 meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Comptroller
/mkv

Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes approved on:
