



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT

5/7/2019 6:00 PM

MINUTES

**OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 2800 HIGHWAY 441 NORTH,
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
2401 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FLORIDA 34996**

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman

Harold E. Jenkins II, Vice Chairman

Doug Smith

Stacey Hetherington

Sarah Heard

Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator

Krista A. Storey, Acting County Attorney

*Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the Circuit Court and
Comptroller*

Joint Meeting with Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Martin & Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

The joint meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner.

Introductions

The members of the five County Commissions introduced themselves for the record:

Martin County: Chairman Edward V. Ciampi, Harold Jenkins, Stacey Hetherington, and Doug Smith.

Hendry County: Chairperson Mitchell Wills, Emma J. Byrd, Darrell Harris, Michael Swindle, and Karson Turner.

Glades County: Chairman Tim Stanley, Weston Pryor, Donna Sorter Long, Donald Strenth, and John Ahern.

Okeechobee County: Chairman Terry Burroughs, Chair Kelly Owens, Bradley Goodbread,

David Hazellief, and Bryant Culpepper.

Palm Beach County: Hal Valeche, Gregg Weiss, Dave Kerner, Robert Weinroth, Mary Lou Berger, and Melissa McKinlay.

DEPARTMENTAL
ADMINISTRATION

**DEPT.-1 JOINT MEETING OF THE HENDRY, GLADES, OKEECHOBEE,
MARTIN, AND PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

This is a joint meeting of the Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Martin and Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners to discuss Lake Okeechobee - Water Level Discussion and other related issues.

Agenda Item: 19-0079

Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Reynolds provided a presentation on Lake Okeechobee. The presentation included the lake's history and the highlighted the multi-pronged problem: quantity, quality, timing, and distribution. The presentation addressed water levels, the Everglades River of Grass, and the Herbert Hoover Dike.

South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Drew Bartlett and Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Reynolds led the water level discussion and responded to questions from the commissioners.

Discussions among the commissioners and with the public included the following issues: storing water north of the lake, the need for a cleaner lake, a cleaner estuary, and a cleaner river, slowing the flow from the north end, working together for mutually beneficial solutions, working with the 16 County Coalition, impacts from septic tanks, Disney's human waste treatment, the consequences of lower water levels, negative impacts to businesses, the need for an agricultural representative and a representative from the central counties on the South Florida Water Management Board.

Chief of Staff Steve Leighton addressed the Board on behalf of Congressman Mast regarding efforts being taken and his willingness to meet with and work with the affected counties.

The members of the public who offered public comment to the commissioners included: One Florida Foundation Director Nyla Pipes, Former Hendry County Commissioner Janet Taylor, Brandon Tucker, Pastor Robert Reese (on behalf of Representative Tina Polsky, J.P. Sasser, Engineer Gary Goforth, WPB Assistant City Administrator Scott Kelly, Mike Syrkus, South Florida Water Coalition Director Ryan Rossi, George Cooper, David Aycock, Village of Indiantown Mayor Susan Gibbs-Thomas, Elisha Parenteau, John and Tracy Halpert, Clayton Humphries, Lee Simons, Robert Lampert, SFWMD Governing Board Member Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, and Fred Humphries.

The commissioners decided to take language back to their individual boards to create

their own resolutions. It was also recommended that staff from each county get together for a similar meeting in south Martin County. The Okeechobee County Board unanimously passed a motion directing their staff to move forward with a resolution.

ADJOURN

The Joint Hendry County, Glades County, Okeechobee County, Martin County, and Palm Beach County Commissions Meeting of May 7, 2019 adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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

Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes approved:

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