



Agenda Item Summary

File ID: 21-0766

DEPT-5

Meeting Date: 6/22/2021

PLACEMENT: Departmental

TITLE:

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE SYSTEM OPERATING MANUAL (LOSOM)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the current LOSOM effort is to re-evaluate and re-define operations for the Lake Okeechobee regulatory discharge schedule that takes into account additional infrastructure that will soon be operational. County staff have been heavily engaged in the process and will update the Board on recent meetings with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and upcoming opportunities for stakeholder input.

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PREPARED BY: **Name:** John Maehl

Title: Ecosystems Restoration and Management Division Manager

REQUESTED BY: John Maehl

PRESET:

PROCEDURES: None

BACKGROUND/RELATED STRATEGIC GOAL:

The Federal Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018) authorized the USACE to commence planning for an updated Lake Okeechobee management and regulatory discharge schedule to replace the current schedule. The current schedule was developed with the primary objective of reducing the risk of failure for the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD). The dike repairs are scheduled to be complete near the end of 2022 and the USACE is planning to complete and implement the new management schedule in coordination with the completion of the HHD repairs.

Management of Lake Okeechobee is of particular concern to Martin County because one of the primary outlets that have been used by the USACE to discharge excess water is through the St. Lucie River and Estuary (SLE) and through the St. Lucie Inlet. After leaving the inlet, the fresh and nutrient rich Lake discharges can reach the near shore reef. The schedule that prescribes management of the Lake has a significant impact on the volume and duration of damaging lake discharges to the SLE. Martin County has taken a proactive stakeholder role in the development of the new schedule and will continue to advocate as much as possible for the ultimate objective of eliminating damaging discharges to the SLE and near shore reef.

There are currently 5 potential regulation schedules that the Interagency Modeling Center is modeling for the 50 year period of record to generate performance output for each model. The results of the modeling are expected in June 2021. Then each schedule option can be evaluated against the baseline condition. A revised baseline condition will also be released with the 5-schedule model performance output. The USACE anticipates selecting a single schedule to be the tentatively selected schedule in July.

A PowerPoint presentation will be submitted as a Supplemental Memorandum to this Agenda Item.

ISSUES:

None

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW:

This item has been reviewed for legal sufficiency.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECOMMENDATION

Move that the Board hear the presentation.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDATION

None

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget Transfer / Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract / Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant / Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

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