

MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** January 16, 2001, at 12:28 p.m. in the McEaddy Conference Room, twelfth floor, Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Chair Warren H. Newell
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts
Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Commissioner Addie L. Greene
Commissioner Mary McCarty - Absent
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus
Commissioner Tony Masilotti - Arrived later
County Administrator Robert Weisman
Chief Deputy County Attorney Gordon P. Selfridge
Deputy Clerk Carl Zettelmeier

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Senator Ron Klein
Vice-Chair Representative Jeff Atwater
Representative Bill Andrews
Representative Susan Bucher
Senator Mandy Dawson - Absent
Representative Lois Frankel - Absent
Senator Steve Geller - Absent
Representative James Harper, Jr.
Representative Richard Machek
Representative Connie Mack - Absent
Representative Joe Negron
Senator Ken Pruitt - Arrived later
Senator Tom Rossin - Absent
Senator Debby Sanderson - Absent
Representative Irving Slosberg

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- III. **WELCOMING COMMENTS:** Senator Ron Klein

- IV. **SELF-INTRODUCTIONS**

- V. **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:**
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus

Commissioner Marcus, as president of the Florida Association of Counties, outlined FAC's legislative priorities for the upcoming session, which she characterized as priorities of the board as well. The first priority was funding of Article V. This was passed as a constitutional amendment in 1998, she said, but no money had so far been appropriated even though the state was scheduled to assume full responsibility for funding by 2004. There was a \$20 million recurring fund to which state attorneys and court systems can apply for grant monies. FAC expects the state to have to find \$300 million to meet the entire cost of Article V and is concerned that funds are not being set aside annually for this expenditure.

It was also a matter of concern to FAC, Commissioner Marcus continued, that costs for operation of the juvenile justice detention centers are beginning to be passed down to the counties. This cost is projected at \$60 million statewide. FAC opposes this shift of costs, she said, and never

understood it to be part of the state's assumption of Article V funding.

V. FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES - CONTINUED

The FAC has also been following the work of the governor's Commission on Growth Management. One likely outcome of the commission's work is full-cost accounting or disclosing the full cost of growth, she continued. The FAC supports this approach while acknowledging that smaller counties will experience difficulty with this method since they typically lack the staff to do the necessary detailed work. The commission's increased attention to and support of retention of agriculture also has the FAC's support she added. Another concern of the FAC was the state's budget, Commissioner Marcus continued. The FAC would like to see funds set aside each year to meet increasing budgetary needs.

Commissioner Aaronson asked about FAC's position on the need for new voting machines by the 2002 election. The association has taken a position that a change is needed in order to create a statewide voting system funded by the state, Commissioner Marcus answered. Commissioner Aaronson suggested making voting system reform the number one priority on the list of legislative requests. Commissioner Roberts noted her agreement with him and asked that the issue be formally identified as the first priority.

Senator Klein announced that the delegation had scheduled two town hall meetings on the issue the purpose of which was to receive constructive suggestions from the public on improvements to the voting system. The consensus, he said, was that the voting equipment had to be changed as soon as possible. There was agreement on the date by which this must be completed, Senator Klein said - the 2002 elections - but there is not agreement on the funding source. A report of the town hall meetings would be circulated to the delegation and to the legislature, he promised.

Commissioner Newell identified the items the special task force on election reform was working on, which included procedures, voter registration, election dates and times, ballot design, polling places, absentee ballots, recounts, contest certification, elections administration, and voter education and responsibility. A so-called provisional ballot was also under study, he continued, which would allow questions of voter registration and eligibility to be considered. The task force also agreed on 2002 as the deadline for a statewide system that would include accurate vote counting and give assurance to the voter that he or she had voted correctly and accurately before leaving the polls.

Representative Andrews noted the absence of cost analysis in the task force's work and suggested that costs might be prorated out of the budgets of the state's supervisors of elections. Commissioner Newell pointed out the inability of small counties to provide reforms by 2002, suggesting that the issues therefore need to be addressed from the state level. He added that the task force was also determined to identify the funding source or sources for these reforms rather than

leave that step to the legislature. County, state, and federal sources would all be considered, he said.

Representative Slosberg recommended a business point of view in the voting system reform task, which would include test marketing of any new equipment. Commissioner Newell said the task force would recommend the creation of a commission to review every election after the fact in an effort to draw lessons for the future from that experience. He said he was dismayed by a remark made by a state elections official, which

V. FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES - CONTINUED

was, "we've been waiting for this problem to occur for the last 10 years." Each of the four current voting systems and a fifth that the task force wants to introduced will be reviewed and corrected if need be by legislative action every two years, he vowed.

Commissioner Marcus asked the delegation to be sensitive to the burden it would create for counties to look to them as the funding source for election system reform.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Senator Pruitt joined the meeting.)

Commissioner Roberts noted that election costs would not necessarily decline with reform. Certain costs, she asserted, such as those for poll workers and telephones, might increase, depending on the system that is finally adopted. The California System, which is the most expensive but has the smallest error rate, is the only one that does not require as many precinct workers. The costs will be a burden for small and large counties alike, she said. Commissioner Newell pointed out that statute does not require phone lines at polls, which he said needs to be changed.

Representative Gannon brought up the problem that exists at the interface between the death registry and the notices sent to the supervisors of elections. The system adopted last year by New Jersey was an improvement over the one currently used in Florida, she said. Commissioner Newell said that issue was on the task force's work plan.

Senator Bucher cited the lack of poll worker training as a further issue, recommending statewide standards for this matter. She also recommended greater linguistic diversity in the hiring of poll workers to ensure that non-English-speaking voters would receive the assistance they require. Commissioner Newell agreed that this was an important issue before the task force. He predicted that the question of restoring the voting rights of felons would be one of the major issues to come before the legislature.

Commissioner Roberts brought up the issue of background checks for taxi and limousine drivers, which are now being done by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. These are deficient, she maintained, because they provide no information on an applicant's history outside the state of Florida. The law needs to be changed to allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct these background investigations on a national scale. Commissioner Newell directed Chief Deputy Attorney Gordon P. Selfridge to draft such a bill. Lobbyist Kathy Daley agreed to pursue the matter in Tallahassee. Mr.

Selfridge asked who would pay the cost of the broader investigation and was told that the applicants will bear the cost.

VI. PALM BEACH COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

A. APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

1. LAKE WORTH LAGOON - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Newell said he hoped the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant Program would be funded by the legislature.

2. WINSBERG FARMS WETLAND RESTORATION - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Representative Anne Gannon volunteered to work on the issue.

3. WORKFORCE INNOVATION GRANTS - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Representative Andrews said his committee would work on Workforce Innovation Grants. Ed Rich, director of the Community Services Department, explained that there were excess workforce development funds at the state level and that this legislation would request its distribution to the counties. Becky Gregory, director of the Human Services Division, said the department sought access to the surplus wages funds to use in teaching the skills necessary for entry into the workforce.

Senator Klein recommended working with Ken Montgomery of the Workforce Development Board. Senator Pruitt made a distinction between recurring and non-recurring uses of these funds, indicating that these funds were earmarked for non-recurring uses. Commissioner Marcus suggested pursuing the issue through the Workforce Development Board rather than as an appropriations request.

4. LAKE OKEECHOBEE SCENIC TRAIL - See page 10.

5. STATE ROAD 710 - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

County Engineer George T. Webb reported that the total project cost for this item was closer to \$60 million than the \$80 million projected earlier. Even so, he continued, this project will absorb all of the county's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) allocations through 2010. Without additional funding this will continue as the number one MPO unfunded priority. Commissioner Marcus noted that the Port of Palm Beach was also seeking funding for its portion of the

project.

Senator Klein suggested that it might be fruitful to seek funding from an intermodal perspective in alliance with Representative Lacassa, of Miami. Commissioner Roberts suggested looking for federal dollars from the transportation fund. Commissioner Aaronson said all these transportation programs will be held hostage to the high speed rail project. The legislative delegation must oppose this rail project, he insisted. Representative Slosberg said the transportation committee was opposed to the high-speed train. The question was how to stop the project, he said. Commissioner Aaronson suggested drafting an initiative for Senator Klein that would allow him to suggest that, in 2002, voters reconsider the issue. The state is not obligated to act on the high-speed rail project until November 1, 2003, he reminded the delegation. A successful initiative in 2002 would derail the project.

VI.A.5. - CONTINUED

Representative Greene questioned the absence of a dollar amount on the State Road 710 project in the table of contents. Commissioner Roberts explained that this project was the number one unfunded request. MPO Director Randy Whitfield added that the absence of a specific dollar amount indicates that the MPO is seeking funds wherever it can find them. Representative Andrews asked Mr. Whitfield whether any route could be made a taxable (user fee) route. The answer was no, not at the moment although this might be a possibility in the future. Mr. Andrews suggested surveying users to learn whether they might pay a fee for quick access to the Port of Palm Beach.

Commissioner Marcus observed that there is an economic revitalization aspect to the issue, too, involving the City of Riviera Beach. Representative Harper suggested tabling the issue until representatives of the City of Riviera Beach and the Port of Palm Beach could be present. Representative Bucher noted the onerous application deadline of January 31, 2001, in the house. The governor, she said, was asking legislators not to make requests that did not apply statewide. She asked whether anyone present had access to the governor's "hit list." Lobbyist Daley said she takes most appropriation requests through the agencies. Most items do not have a hearing because they stem from an agency budget, she continued. Ms. Bucher said she had heard that legislative budget requests would be fruitless, and Ms. Daley recommended approaching requests through the respective agencies. Commissioner Newell asked whether staff understood the need to involve the City of Riviera Beach and the Port of Palm Beach.

6. BEACH AND INLET MANAGEMENT PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Roberts characterized this item as an agency request. Senator Klein asked whether there had been communication with the City of Boca Raton on their beach renourishment project. Staff said there had been no contact.

7. STATE AID FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001

Library Department Director Jerry W. Brownlee explained that the governor's budget reduction plan would cost Palm Beach County \$372,000. This loss in revenue would be divided between the library taxing district and the seven municipalities that are part of the cooperative receiving state aid. This was the first time in 21 years, Mr. Brownlee continued, that a governor had recommended a reduction in state aid to libraries. He characterized this as setting a very bad precedent. While the reduction amounts to only 10 percent of the county's library budget, it will have devastating effects on smaller counties, he said, recommending that funding be kept at current levels at least or allocated at the levels recommended by the state library council. Representative Andrews said his committee would address the issue.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Mr. Brownlee said that items VI.A.7., Regional Multi-Type Library Cooperatives, and VI.A.8., Public Library Construction Grants, did not require discussion.)

VI.A. - CONTINUED

10. TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAMS - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001

Commissioner Roberts identified the heart of this request as an increase of \$1.50 in the annual registration fee for motorcycles, trailers, and trucks. The increase in revenue would be earmarked for Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) programs. With the increased demand for services under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), costs for that program would soon eclipse fixed route costs, she asserted. Representative Bucher said she would co-sponsor House Bill 79, which supports this request. Ms. Bucher explained that Representative Greenstein's bill on the transportation disadvantaged would also allow passage of an elder driver bill that would require retesting of drivers over the age of 70. Palm Tran Director Perry J. Maull pointed out the board's allocation of \$1 million above the \$1.2 million received from the state to the funding of TD services. Representative Andrews suggested avoiding seeking funds from the state pool; he recommended a local tax instead. Commissioner Aaronson said it was the delegation's job to bring the money back from Tallahassee.

At this point Senator Pruitt asked MPO Director Whitfield about the Transportation Outreach Program (the old high-speed rail fund of \$70 million plus additional funds totaling some \$115 million). On the past Monday, Senator Pruitt continued, when Palm Beach County presented its list of projects, District IV (which encompasses Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties), received no funding. Most of the money was awarded to projects in the home localities of the unelected advisory board members. One of the casualties of this process, Senator Pruitt reported, was a \$129,000 project

that would have created a bus route from Clewiston to Belle Glade. Mr. Whitfield said the project had been created in cooperation with the Workforce Development Board to provide a connection to Palm Tran for job purposes. Senator Pruitt said he wished to work with Senator Klein on proviso language in the appropriations act to implement projects in District IV and eliminate other inappropriately awarded projects. Senator Pruitt also said he would select projects that were important to the Florida Department of Transportation and eliminate them if only to send a message to Tallahassee. Mr. Whitfield agreed to share the MPO's priorities with Senator Pruitt.

B. LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

**11. TRAFFIC SAFETY PHOTO ENFORCEMENT - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001**

Representative Slosberg announced that he had filed H.71, the red-light safety bill. Commissioner Aaronson said there was compelling public support for the issue, which he suggested treating as a local option for the best chance of passage. Representative Bucher pointed out that H.71 would create a pilot program; the issue stands a better chance of passage as an opt-in issue, she said. Lobbyist Daley outlined last year's history on the bill. Senator Klein suggested a meeting in Tallahassee of those members interested in passage. Mr. Slosberg also mentioned his bill on primary enforcement of the seatbelt law.

VI.B. - CONTINUED

**12. INCREASED FLEXIBILITY FOR LOCAL GUN CONTROL -
DISCUSSED 1-16-2001**

Commissioner Newell said he wanted local initiatives to prevail on this matter. Commissioner Aaronson claimed last year's countywide gun ordinance was the toughest in the state. Senator Klein said he was comfortable with the local option approach and suggested talking with other representatives in Tallahassee for consensus. Commissioner Newell said he expected a challenge to the county's ordinance since it was passed under the attorney general's opinion. Polling the board, Commissioner Newell confirmed that no commissioner was looking for legislation. Senator Klein recommended a defensive posture to stop any effort to curtail the local option on this issue. Representative Andrews requested the exact language the board wished to see in a draft bill. Commissioner Newell reiterated his view that this was not a request for legislation and called for confirmation from Mr. Selfridge. The intent, Mr. Selfridge said, was to develop support for programs in effect at the local level. There was not a draft of a specific amendment, he concluded, though one could be drawn up if that was the board's direction.

**13. IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISION 7 [ARTICLE V] - See
pages 1-2.**

14. PAY DAY LOANS - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Roberts agreed to work on pay day loans. Commissioner Newell directed Mr. Selfridge to research the costs of pay-day loans.

15. PAWNBROKERING - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Newell mentioned the appropriations from the previous legislative session dedicated to the creation of a statewide database by FDLE. Lobbyist Daley noted that Representative Campbell would reintroduce his bill from last year and said she would follow up progress on the issue.

16. REGULATION OF MOVING INDUSTRY - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Roberts said this issue was of interest chiefly in south Florida and was not, therefore, appropriate for consideration by the delegation.

17. STATE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Palm Tran Director Perry Maull reported that the county had spent all of its local option gas tax dollars. The board last year had appropriated \$4.2 million in general revenue for public transportation, including the paratransit program. FDOT spends less than peer states on public transit, he said. The item calls for a doubling of the 4-5 percent of its budget that FDOT now spends on public transit.

VI.B. - CONTINUED

18. LAWTON CHILES ENDOWMENT FUNDING FOR SENIOR SERVICES - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Community Services Director Ed Rich said the Department of Senior Services has 723 eligible people on its waiting list. The county deserves additional funding, he said. Commissioner Marcus asked whether the extra funding provided by the governor for elder care would fund this need. Senator Klein said it would not. The FAC also supports more state funding for this area, Commissioner Marcus said. Representative Gannon asked whether this formula could be changed annually and was told it could be but only by taking funds away from some other area of concern.

19. MEDICAL EXPENSES OF PRISONERS - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Newell noted the ongoing dispute over who pays for indigent prisoner medical costs incurred during arrest. Assistant County Attorney Tammy Fields said all the county wants is clarification of the statute acknowledging that health care districts are responsible for these costs. It has

been the county's position that the language in the statute stating "any other health care provider" can be construed to refer to the Health Care District as the entity responsible for these costs. Representative Andrews suggested working with Ms. Daley and the League of Counties on Medicare/Medicaid rebates. Representative Gannon asked for cost figures on the issue and was told the county would provide them.

Cecil Bennett, CEO of the Health Care District, said the same sense of unfairness that had been attached to the county's need to assume costs for the operation of juvenile justice facilities could legitimately be applied to the view that the Health Care District was responsible for the medical costs of indigent prisoners. Commissioner Marcus said the county had paid these costs until establishment of the Health Care District, which was responsible for the medical costs of indigent prisoners and non-prisoners alike. Commissioner Newell directed Mr. Selfridge to provide language to the delegation on the desired change.

**20. COPYRIGHT OF PROPRIETARY SYSTEMS - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001**

Senator Klein said he had a bill in place on this issue.

21. GOVERNMENTAL INDEMNIFICATION - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Chief Deputy County Attorney Gordon P. Selfridge explained that the state law and the constitution prohibit counties from indemnifying private parties. This requirement had been affirmed in an attorney general's opinion, he continued, which also asserted that indemnification dovetails into sovereign immunity issues. Those instances -- especially involving negotiations for real property leases where the county is the active party and the private individual or entity is the passive party -- where indemnification by the county would occur in a normal situation, would find remedy in this proposed legislation, he said. Exposure to liability would also arise from this change, he cautioned, and has to be weighed against any gains to be had from the ability to indemnify. Senator Klein asked for a copy of the attorney general's opinion in this matter.

VI.B.21. - CONTINUED

Audrey Wolf, director of Facilities Development and Operations, characterized the problem as involving service delivery questions and provided examples, including the county's inability to negotiate a lease with a private party to provide rescue services in the community; the inability to negotiate a lease to allow a fueling facility at a fire station on leased property, forcing Fire-Rescue personnel to leave their district to fuel station vehicles; the inability to continue using an owner-controlled insurance program on construction projects that had produced a \$2 million savings on the courts and jails project; and the inability sign the standard permit in negotiating standard easement agreements and permit agreements from other governmental agencies.

Mr. Selfridge added the example of the county's inability to continue using FP&L property for the staging of artificial

reef materials because the county could not indemnify the corporation, which then banned further use of the property for that purpose. Senator Klein said he would consider the issue.

22. COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001

Commissioner Newell said the county wanted the ability to create more than one Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) in the unincorporated areas, without the need for commissioners to sit as the board of each of these CRAs. Representative Harper said he would take the issue as an amendment. Lobbyist Daley said there was already a bill on the issue that contained elements that might be offensive to the county. Commissioner Marcus directed Ms. Daley to determine whether the definitions of "slum" and "blighted" would be clarified, as the FAC wished them to be, in this bill.

23. DERELICT VESSELS - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Newell said the county sought a better mechanism to secure funds for the removal of sunken boats since the current process took up to two years to recover the costs of removal. Jon Van Arnam, deputy director of Environmental Resources Management, explained the county's twofold goals on this issue. The first was to support the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's budget request of \$750,000 for dealing with derelict vessels statewide. The second was to amend chapter 705 of the Florida Statutes, which concerns abandoned property, to enable the county to use its provisions in dealing with derelict vessels. Commissioner Newell said the county also sought the ability to cite the vessel before it sank.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Masilotti joined the meeting.)

24. COUNTY MEDICAID MATCHING FUNDS - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001

Commissioner Masilotti suggested that legislation was needed to give the Health Care District and other local agencies access to Medicaid matching funds. Commissioner Roberts added that the Agency for Health Care Administration opposed this change even though the desired authorization to use matching funds would cost the state nothing and would bring millions of dollars to the county. No new taxes would be necessary, she added. Senator Klein said he would work on the issue. Representative Bucher indicated her interest as well and was joined by Representatives Gannon and Slosberg.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Discussion of item VI.A.4. was postponed until the arrival of Commissioner Masilotti.)

VI.A.

4. LAKE OKEECHOBEE SCENIC TRAIL - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Masilotti outlined the history of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) project. State agencies had committed several millions of dollars toward the realization of the project, he said, which would result in the creation of 2400 jobs and the development of ecotourism in the five counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee. These jobs would save

the state some \$13 million in unemployment and welfare costs, he predicted. He asked the delegation to continue its support for the current appropriations, and he mentioned that the National Association of Counties had named LOST the best community revitalization project in the United States for the year 2000.

VI.C. MONITORING ISSUES

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Newell directed Mr. Weisman and Assistant County Administrator Brad Merriman to provide the delegation with a prioritized list of the appropriations requests and legislative requests. He then asked for discussion on those monitoring issues of interest to the board.)

27. SOVEREIGN SUBMERGED LANDS - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Marcus said the Florida Association of Counties expected this issue to figure in legislative deliberations again this year as it had last. The FAC's position calls for a study commission, she said, in an attempt to discover the real issues in connection with this matter, and she recommended this as the county's position as well. She said the FAC also advocated creation of a fund to reimburse parties who had paid taxes over the past three years on what they consider public lands.

29. EVERGLADES RESTORATION - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Senator Klein maintained that south Florida is paying a disproportionate share of the costs of Everglades Restoration. By definition, the region was paying 50 percent of the costs plus another 40-50 percent of the state's share, based on the commitment to general revenue. He recommended a twofold remedy: establishing a recurring amount of revenue that would meet the state's long-term commitment, and collectivizing the voting power of the 16 counties the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) comprises in order to secure a more fair distribution of financial responsibility for the long-term funding. Without taking these measures, he continued, the region risked the cancellation by the SFWMD of certain projects for budgetary reasons. Senator Klein also pointed out the economic development aspects of Everglades Restoration. It would be important, he insisted, that the school board, community colleges, and vocational schools become involved to ensure training of Glades residents for the construction jobs restoration would bring. He recommended working with Ken Montgomery and the Workforce Development Board toward this end. Commissioner Masilotti described the role the Lake Shore Middle School would play as the focal point of just the sort of programs Senator Klein was recommending.

VI.C.29 - CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti also warned the delegation about the threat to sustained economic development implied in the minimum flow level (MFL) regulations being sought by the SFWMD, especially if these were enacted prior to the construction of reservoirs. He urged the delegation to

consider asking the SFWMD either to withdraw the pending MFL legislation or to complete the reservoirs before implementing the prescribed flow levels.

Commissioner Marcus informed the delegation that the Regional Planning Council was involved in these deliberations because of the diversion of funds to Everglades Restoration that had originally been allocated to other projects such as Save Our Rivers. She offered information to the delegation on the projects from which funding had been withdrawn and suggested seeking a committed funding source rather than an annual appropriation for this issue.

Commissioner Newell asked for clarification on the status of the MFL legislation and was told that the statutory authority was already in place for the SFWMD to set the minimum flow levels. The district was seeking a rule that would allow the levels to be implemented, staff said.

Representative Bucher recommended a public education project that would inform communities about the projects that were at risk as a result of the current funding structure for Everglades Restoration. Representative Harper solicited suggestions from staff on how best to approach the MFL problem. Mr. Weisman reported that a meeting was to be scheduled with SFWMD on these issues. Commissioner Newell directed Mr. Weisman to outline the issues for the delegation and the board in a memorandum and follow this up with a report after the meeting. Commissioner Marcus said it was important to learn the implications of MFL for current residents of the county.

Mr. Selfridge said staff had not yet approached the board on the issue but when it did so it would follow the recommendation made by Commissioner Roberts and Water Utilities to tie the implementation of MFL to the creation of reservoirs. He said there was an argument that legislation would be needed at the state level to accomplish this coordination. Commissioner Aaronson said attention should be given to recycling wastewater as a conservation measure.

Representative Harper urged the scheduling of a workshop as soon as possible on the issue to enable the delegation to meet the new bill scheduling restrictions. If legislation had to be filed, he continued, the delegation had to move quickly. Senator Klein recommended considering the federal interests on this question as well. Lobbyist Daley recommended the creation of a shell bill to reserve space on the legislative schedule. Commissioner Roberts suggested that Gary Dernlan, director of Water Utilities, and Gordon Selfridge work on the draft of such a shell bill. Mr. Weisman noted that the SFWMD had twice canceled meetings scheduled with county staff. Commissioner Marcus directed staff to consider scheduling a meeting on the afternoon of the zoning meeting.

(CLERK'S NOTE: No other monitor issues were discussed.)

VI.D. LOCAL BILLS

**44. BUILDING CODE ADVISORY BOARD REVISION - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001**

Commissioner Newell learned from staff that this local bill was straightforward and that no critical issues were involved.

**45. SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY CODIFICATION - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001**

Staff explained that this was a straightforward bill required by state law and that a draft was already completed.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

1. PALM BEACH COUNTY DAY - DISCUSSED 1-16-2001

Commissioner Newell asked Iva Grady to brief the delegation and the board on the plans for Palm Beach County Day, which she said would take place in Tallahassee beginning Tuesday, March 6, 2001, and conclude on Thursday morning, March 8. Ms. Daley was assisting in scheduling speakers for the event, Ms. Grady continued, adding that about 300 persons from the county were expected to attend. She also passed out brochures and told the board that sponsorship was nearly complete and that only another \$5,000-\$6,000 was needed to meet the budget.

**2. REPRESENTATIVE SLOSBERG: MEMBER PROJECT - DISCUSSED
1-16-2001**

Representative Slosberg introduced Dr. Mary Russell of Florida Atlantic University's Safe Communities Life-Long Mobility Centers for Elder Mobility, who was consulting on his elder mobility project. Dr. Russell said the project focused on three things: community and professional education; driver assessment; and strengthening community-based transportation services. Drivers identified as high-risk would be offered counseling on alternative means of transportation, she concluded.

VII. COMMENTS/ADDITIONAL ISSUES

A. WORKSHOP AND DISCUSSION OF APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

(CLERK'S NOTE: Senator Pruitt conducted a workshop on the appropriations process for members of the delegation, which was not a scheduled part of the joint meeting.)

**B. FORUM ON ELECTION REFORM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2001,
6:00-8:00 P.M., PALM BEACH GARDENS**

(CLERK'S NOTE: See Senator Klein's comments on page 2.)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Clerk

Chair

