

**JOINT MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** May 9, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., in the Emergency Operations Center Auditorium, West Palm Beach, Florida.

1.A. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Warren H. Newell  
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts  
Commissioner Burt Aaronson  
Commissioner Addie L. Greene  
Commissioner Mary McCarty  
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus  
Commissioner Tony Masilotti  
County Administrator Robert Weisman  
County Attorney Denise Dytrych  
Deputy Clerk Judith Crosbie

MARTIN COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Dennis Armstrong  
Vice-Chair Elmira R. Gainey - Arrived later  
Commissioner Michael DiTerlizzi - Arrived later  
Commissioner Doug Smith  
Commissioner Lee Weberman  
County Administrator Russ Blackburn  
County Attorney Steve Fry

1.B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

1.C. **INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS**

Commissioner Armstrong requested a copy of the minutes be made available to the Martin County clerk.

Mr. Armstrong, after introducing his colleagues, said his board had productive meetings with St. Lucie County and the municipalities of Port St. Lucie and Stewart. He said both Martin and Palm Beach counties shared common interests and would benefit from working together.

Commissioner Newell welcomed the Martin County group to the Emergency Operations Center. He announced Governor Jeb Bush's visit scheduled for later in the day.

2. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

2.A.

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER ROAD. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-9-2001

Commissioner Weberman stated that:

- Martin County, Palm Beach County, the Town of Jupiter, and the Village of

Tequesta had been trying unsuccessfully to solve Loxahatchee River Road mediation issues for about eight years.

## 2.A. - CONTINUED

- Martin County had included the Western Corridor in both its 2025 road plan and its capital improvement plan (CIP). The Western Corridor was funded in the long-range plan and shown in the short-range plan for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.
- It was anticipated that both counties would sign an interlocal agreement detailing timing and location.
- A former board had agreed to place speed humps on the Martin County side of the county line and to remove existing traffic signs, a decision which he characterized as a "phantom political victory."
- The speed humps had not deterred traffic, according to Martin County engineers.
- Martin County residents called for the removal of the humps.
- The speed humps were wrongly applied, causing the character of Loxahatchee River Road on the Martin County side to differ from the Palm Beach County side.
- About 10 days earlier, his board had decided to remove the speed humps and to replace them in kind and at more appropriate locations. It was decided to delay action however, until the issue was discussed by both boards.
- Palm Beach County should allow Martin County to have control over traffic operations within its jurisdiction.
- If Palm Beach County decided the humps had to be reinstalled, Martin County would comply. Palm Beach County however was faced with the decision of putting the speed humps back in respecting jurisdictional boundaries.
- Both commissions should focus on Martin County's willingness to participate in the planning and funding of the Western Corridor.

Commissioner Marcus responded as follows:

- She was appreciative of the decision Martin County had reached on the Western Corridor but pointed out that it had not yet been brought to fruition. The CIP would be considered for adoption in September 2001, and neither a time frame nor a schedule had been set for the Western Corridor, with Town of Jupiter and Palm Beach County in partnership.
- The installation of speed humps was not considered a political victory because Martin County had asked Palm Beach County to keep Loxahatchee River Road open. Both boards had agreed on speed humps as a short-term application, and the Western Corridor would be the long-term solution.
- The speed humps had not been installed to deter traffic but to slow traffic in a residential community. While not all residents were pleased with the device, the community recognized that the humps were necessary.

## 2.A. - CONTINUED

- She requested reinstallation of the speed humps and offered county assistance in determining locations. Speed humps would suffice as a short-term compromise; the next step would be for both counties and the Town of Jupiter to sign an interlocal agreement for a triggering mechanism for the Western Corridor.

In response to Commissioner Weberman, County Engineer George T. Webb said traffic deterrence generated by speed humps was minimal. He added that because the alternate route was several miles away, drivers would rather slow down than go out of their way.

Commissioner Aaronson inquired about the rationale of removing the speed humps 10 days before a joint county meeting and commented that the move was politically inappropriate.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Martin County Commissioners DiTerlizzi and Gainey joined the meeting.)

Commissioner Roberts agreed with Commissioner Marcus that speed humps were used to slow, not deter, traffic.

The board informally agreed to support Commissioner Marcus's request to reinstall the speed humps.

Commissioner Armstrong suggested that the attorneys of both counties meet with Jupiter Mayor Karen Golonka to develop an interlocal agreement setting the time frame for the Western Corridor.

**MOTION to direct Martin County staff to work with Palm Beach County staff to determine the locations in which to reinstall the speed humps. Motion by Commissioner Weberman, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and carried 5-0.**

**MOTION to direct County Administrator Blackburn to work with Palm Beach County and Jupiter on a tri-party interlocal agreement on the design and construction of the Western Corridor. Motion by Commissioner Weberman and seconded by Commissioner Smith.**

Martin County Engineer Donaldson sought clarification on the number of speed humps to be reinstalled. Both staffs should work jointly to determine the appropriate number of humps and locations, Commissioner Armstrong clarified.

**UPON CALL FOR A VOTE, the motion carried 5-0.**

## 2.B.

NORTH COUNTY PLANNING SUMMIT MEETING FOLLOW-UP. DISCUSSED 5-9-2001

The following points were brought out that by Martin County staff:

- Loxahatchee River Road was one of the issues discussed.
- The counties and some municipalities had the opportunity to work together on north-south connections for the Western Corridor.

## 2.B. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Weberman said he supported the two staffs working together to establish a mechanism for better connections and traffic flow.

Commissioner Gainey requested Palm Beach County staff to attend their Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meetings on the third Monday each month at 9:00 a.m. This would provide better planning for infrastructure needs and interaction between counties, she said.

Commissioner Roberts responded that she would discuss the request at the next MPO meeting because there was a need for regionalization.

## 2.C.

### SECTOR PLAN. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-9-2001

Planning Director Frank M. Duke said that:

- Palm Beach County had been focusing on a regional planning area of about 60,000 acres in the unincorporated county, known as the Sector Plan area. The location was primarily in Commissioner Masilotti's and a portion of Commissioner Marcus's districts.
- The Sector Plan boundaries were south of the Beeline Highway, east of J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area and L-8 Canal, north of Southern Boulevard, and west of the unincorporated areas of Royal Palm Beach and West Palm Beach.
- The predominant development pattern in the area constituted single-use low-density residential.
- County staff was attempting to address transportation and water resources issues in a common pattern.
- Palm Beach County was one of three counties in the state to take advantage of the sector planning opportunity.
- Thirty percent of the entire area consisted of single-family residential homes. The current population was about 39,000 residents and was projected to be over 50,000 people in the next 20 years. A single commercial center was located within the area.

Commissioner Armstrong observed that some issues piggy-backed on some of his board's discussions and suggested that the Sector Plan consultant make a presentation to his board.

Commissioner DiTerlizzi said his abutting district consisted of vacant land with agricultural interest, that the City of Indiantown was the closest populated area, and that he was already working on expanded economic development and growth issues.

Commissioner Armstrong commented that his county's intent was to retain the agricultural designation as Palm Beach County was attempting to do in its Sector Plan area. He said it would be beneficial if his board could hear some ideas on how to achieve that goal.



## 2.C. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti said the opportunity to jointly participate in preserving the entire area in agricultural interest may arise. He said although some people were pro-development and others anti-development in the Sector Plan area, the county was trying to determine reasonable uses without stopping property owners from using their land as it had been zoned. He said Martin County should recognize that the Sector Plan would have an impact on its community as well.

Mr. Masilotti said the western connector was Seminole Pratt Whitney Road because the road already existed through Martin County and in Palm Beach County, through the Sector Plan area, except for 3.2 miles, which was already budgeted.

Commissioner Newell suggested that the Martin County board be included in the peer review process of the plan.

Commissioner Marcus said a rural land policy had been approved by the Florida Legislature. The policy would benefit Martin County because their commission could capture the opportunity to discuss true urban redevelopment and designate agricultural land preservation in specific areas. She encouraged the commission to review the plan that outlined a program for rural counties.

Commissioner DiTerlizzi said Martin County had gone through the visioning process and the rural lands would predominantly be for agricultural use. Some developers, however, were filing petitions within the rural land use category for 20- to 30-acre tracts in an attempt to bypass previous decisions. He said he and Commissioner Smith had been working on developing rights and conservation easement issues and had been trying to identify funding for those programs.

Mr. Duke remarked that the second phase of the Sector Plan process was being completed. The board would be asked to select one of several alternative scenarios on May 22, 2001. A more detailed conceptual plan, as required by law, would be developed, and adoption would be the final phase, he concluded.

Commissioner Armstrong suggested interaction between both planning staffs for the sharing of comments of their respective boards. Commissioner Weberman requested information on steps already taken concerning environmental overlays and protections, and on the Geographic Information System.

Commissioner Gainey said that a look at Palm Beach County's plans and Martin County's involvement in the process would enhance the planning opportunities in her county.

Commissioner Newell directed staff to provide Martin County with information on the May 22, 2001, meeting. County Administrator Blackburn requested documentation on the Sector Plan issue. Commissioner McCarty suggested videotapes be forwarded to Mr. Blackburn as well.

## 2.D.

### COUNTY COALITION PROGRAM. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-9-2001

Commissioner Gainey requested board support of county coalition objectives. She outlined that the Martin County Board of County Commissioner approved a program to comply with the coalition efforts. She asked the board to support a resolution approving recommendations concerning the water management level and the diversion canal option.

Commissioner Gainey shared that:

- The coalition began with Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Lee counties. Palm Beach County had since joined the coalition.
- The goal was to create a more balanced management plan for Lake Okeechobee with focus on the environment and water supply. The concern derived from the environment-damaging discharges that had been flowing into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers.
- Under the new approved regulation schedule, the lake would see environmental restoration of the lateral and planning zones. The restoration would provide a greater economic opportunity for fishing and eco-tourism. There would also be less chances of damaging post-releases entering the rivers, under provisions of the schedule.
- It would be beneficial if the lake was managed in a manner that could sustain public water supply and by having a common voice to show support for the associated projects around the lake, such as stormwater treatment areas and aquifer storage and recovery wells.
- There were common elements, boundaries and goals for the management. The lake was being restored and Bio-solid issues and how the counties would benefit were among issues to be addressed.
- Mutual benefits would be to relieve discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon, create enhanced water supply, enhance the flow to the Loxahatchee River in Martin and Palm Beach counties, enhance the Pal Mar Water Control District and the Corbett Hydroperiod restoration.
- Overall, the Palm Beach County board was being asked to approve the lake's level be managed between 13.5 and 15.5 feet of water and ratify a north-south flow way in the C-23 Canal basin to the C-44 Canal.

Commissioner Marcus suggested the information be given to her staff for presentation to her board. She would like to review pertinent documentation before making any decision, she said.

Commissioner Newell added that while the information was beneficial to the county, his board was not prepared to make any decision. His board had already addressed the bio-solid issue and agreed that no sludge would be discarded outside the county. He said the board had been unaware that sludge from this county was being discharged into Martin County until a report was made by the coalition.



## 2.D. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti suggested the improvements to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST) also be reviewed. Commissioner Gainey stated that her board recently had appointed two representatives to the group associated with the issue.

Commissioner Newell stated that the county had not received any funding from the state for pelletization. The county was ranked, however, and would probably obtain state monies next year. Commissioner McCarty commented that if the lobbyists worked together probably both counties would be favored with state funding.

Commissioner Gainey said Martin County had approved a memorandum of understanding. This would lead to the involvement of their utility group working with Palm Beach County and other organizations on an analysis of the possible siting of a bio-solid facility. She said she hoped the counties would work together for funding. Commissioner McCarty interjected that she believed the Solid Waste Authority was being considered as the site. Commissioner Masilotti added that he understood that the state association of utility engineers were spearheading the movement toward pelletization.

Commissioner Newell directed County Administrator Weisman to schedule the issue for the next board meeting, to notify Martin County staff of the date, and to ask involved utility organizations in Palm Beach County to be available for discussion.

Commissioner Newell said the issue had been added to the federal lobbyist agenda and that he had met with Congressman Mark Foley to discuss funding options during next year's budget session.

## 2.E.

COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PROJECT (CERP) AS IT RELATES TO THE WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMON TO BOTH MARTIN AND PALM BEACH COUNTIES. DISCUSSED 5-9-2001

Martin County Deputy County Administrator Dan Hudson stated that funding was an important component for continuation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) and that the chances of funding would increase with a more unified voice.

Commissioner Newell observed that both counties attempted to obtain funding from the same sources and suggested they cooperate in seeking funding for similar projects.

Eric Olson, Martin County chief of water quality, said that:

- CERP was one of the better examples of how water knows no boundaries.
- The Northern Palm Beach County water management project not only created a water supply program, but also, in the process, directed excess water into the Loxahatchee Slough and into the Loxahatchee River in Martin County. The project was now a part of the CERP program.

**2.E. - CONTINUED**

- The impact on development in Northern Palm Beach County as it may affect projects for the Loxahatchee River had been questioned, but the project had proved to be a winning situation for both counties.
- The funding element and the success of being a CERP project was the result of the counties working together. The Pal Mar/Corbett area was tied closely within the northern Palm Beach County plan, and into Martin County, sharing common boundaries.
- CERP will be a 20- to 25-year program.
- The CERP program in northern Okeechobee County will be a restoration area with the development of reservoirs to create a management system to Lake Okeechobee.
- The ability to create the reservoirs will eliminate pulse discharges in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and also create a water supply system that goes into the Lake Worth Drainage District and in other areas that create a permanent supply.
- Aquifer storage and recovery should be explored further and would be a benefit to both counties.

Commissioner Newell suggested Palm Beach County and Martin County schedule monthly meetings to discuss common issues. Commissioner Armstrong added that both staffs meeting on a regular basis would be beneficial to both counties.

**2.F.**

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM: COMMON ISSUES REGARDING THE LAKE WORTH LAGOON, ST. LUCIE RIVER, AND THE LOXAHATCHEE RIVER RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE FUNDING. NOT DISCUSSED 5-9-2001

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

**The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.**

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Clerk

Chair