

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	March 10, 2020	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Department:	<u>Environmental Resources Management</u>		

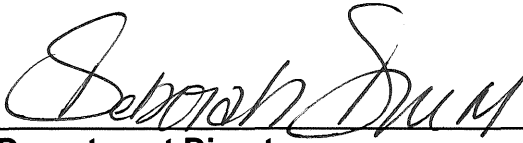
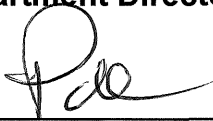
I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff requests board direction: Update on Proposed Environmental and Water General Obligation Bond Referendum.

Summary: Staff will provide a progress update on the proposed environmental and water general obligation bond referendum, including further details on anticipated operations and maintenance costs, ideas for project prioritization, current and planned public outreach activities, and proposed changes to the original bond referendum language. Countywide (DB)

Background and Policy Issues: At the January 28, 2020 Board of County Commission (BCC) Workshop and at the February 11, 2020 BCC meeting, staff was requested to provide further updates on the proposed environmental general obligation bond referendum anticipated for the November 3, 2020 ballot.

Attachment:
1. PowerPoint Presentation

Recommended by:		<u>2-21-20</u>
	Department Director	Date
Approved by:		<u>2/23/20</u>
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Is Item Included in Current Budget?	Yes _____		No _____		
Does this item include the use of federal funds?	Yes _____		No _____		
Budget Account No.:					
Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____ Program _____					

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Department Fiscal Review:

S. Newmy

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Reign Rawson 2/24/2020
OFMB
acs 2/24
Joe S. Faulkner 2/25/2020
Contract Development & Control
2/25/2020 TD

B. Legal Sufficiency:

2/26/2020
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

UPDATE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM



BCC Meeting
March 10, 2020

AGENDA

- Status and Progress
- Public Education and Outreach
- Proposed Changes to Ballot Referendum Language
- Estimated Operations and Maintenance Costs for Proposed Projects
- Proposed Project Evaluation Framework
- Direction / Discussion



STATUS AND PROGRESS

November 19, 2019

BCC directed staff to provide a briefing on a proposed General Obligation (GO) bond referendum for environmental and water projects

January 28, 2020

Staff presented proposed projects, an overview of GO bonds, a financial summary of a 20-year \$150 million bond, key dates for an August 18 ballot referendum, and draft ballot referendum language

BCC directed staff to prepare considerations for both August 18 and November 3 ballot referendums, develop operations and maintenance costs for the proposed projects, conceptualize a project prioritization framework, and initiate public outreach

STATUS AND PROGRESS (CONT'D)

February 11, 2020

Staff provided key dates for both an August 18 and November 3 ballot referendum and summarized voter participation in previous County bond referendums

BCC directed staff to plan for a November 2020 ballot referendum and to incorporate approaches to ensure economically disadvantaged communities are equitably included

Public Education and Outreach - January 21, 2020 to date

County staff presented to local elected officials, and economic, municipal, environmental, and water resources leaders

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Jan. 21 – Lake Worth Waterkeeper, Florida Atlantic University, Sustainable Palm Beach County (PBC), Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group, Florida Native Plant Society PBC Chapter, Audubon Society of the Everglades, Everglades Trust

Jan. 30 – PBC Water Resources Task Force

Feb. 5 – Economic Council of Palm Beach County

Feb. 10 – Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches Business Forum

Feb. 19 – PBC League of Cities Environmental Committee

Feb. 26 – PBC League of Cities Board of Directors and General Membership



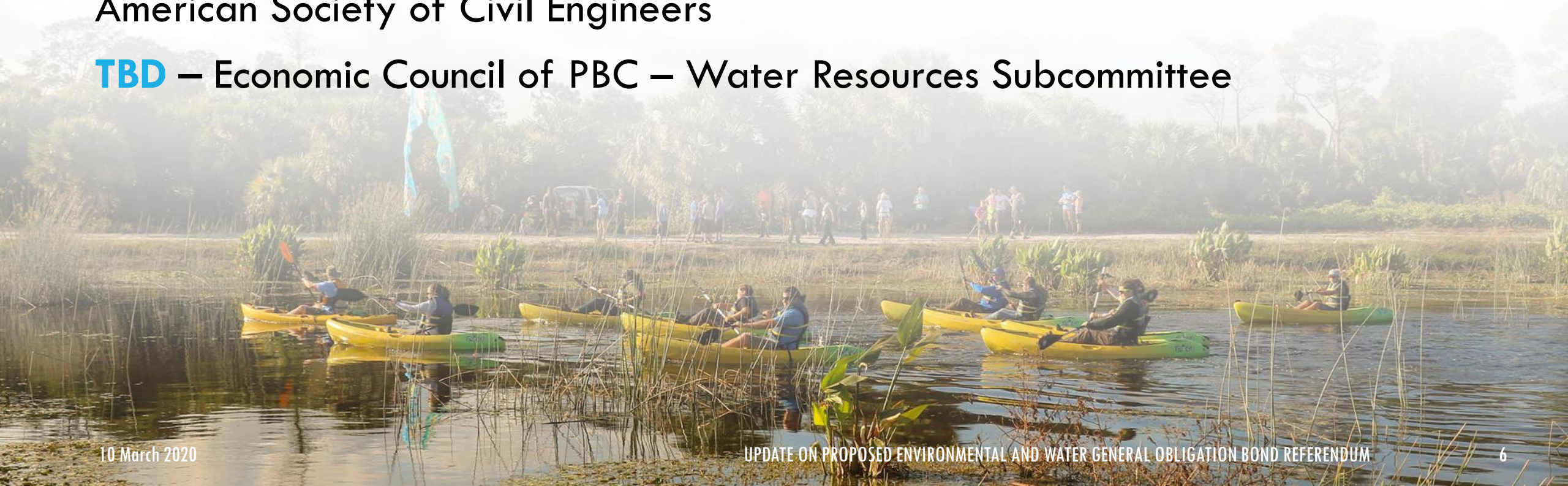
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (CONT'D)

Mar. 11 – Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce

Mar. 12 – Palm Beach County Tourism Development Council

Apr. 14 – Environmental and Water Resources Institute Palm Beach Chapter,
American Society of Civil Engineers

TBD – Economic Council of PBC – Water Resources Subcommittee



PROPOSED CHANGES TO BALLOT REFERENDUM LANGUAGE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR LANDIMPROVED WATER RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

To enhance the environment by ~~acquiring and restoring lands~~, improving water resources and water quality ~~by~~, through acquiring and restoring lands, constructing infrastructure to clean water and wastewater, expanding water storage and treatment facilities and increasing public access to waterways, shall the County issue not exceeding \$150,000,000 of bonds, bearing interest rate(s) not exceeding legal maximum, maturing in not exceeding twenty years of issuance, in one or more series, payable from ~~the~~ County's full faith, credit and ad valorem taxing power?

_____ For Bonds
_____ Against Bonds

ESTIMATED OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

- Many of the proposed projects will require routine operations and maintenance (O&M) in the future
- O&M will be the responsibility of the project owner / funding recipient
- O&M costs cannot be paid for with Bond funds



PROPOSED PROJECTS



Restore Lake Worth Lagoon, Loxahatchee River, Lake Okeechobee, and the Intracoastal Waterway

Project	Description	Potential Partners	Areas that Benefit	Estimated Annual O&M Costs
Lake Okeechobee Restoration	Constructed islands in Lake Okeechobee near Pahokee to improve fish and wildlife habitat and water quality	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	District 6. Lake Okeechobee / Glades Region	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Loxahatchee Slough Flow-way Connection and Hydrologic Integration	Additional infrastructure to optimize the quantity, quality, timing and distribution of water to benefit the Loxahatchee River watershed	Palm Beach Gardens, SFWMD	Districts 1 and 6. Loxahatchee River and Watershed	\$5,000 - \$20,000
Mecca Restoration	Upland and wetland habitat restoration on SFWMD-owned Mecca site	SFWMD	Districts 1 and 6. Loxahatchee River and Watershed	\$275,000 - \$325,000

PROPOSED PROJECTS



Restore Lake Worth Lagoon, Loxahatchee River, Lake Okeechobee, and the Intracoastal Waterway (cont'd)

Project	Description	Potential Partners	Areas that Benefit	Estimated Annual O&M Costs
Pal Mar Acquisition	Acquisition and restoration of environmentally sensitive lands and/or mitigation rights	Willing sellers	District 1. Pal-Mar / Loxahatchee River and Watershed	\$75,000 - \$150,000
West Palm Beach Canal Spillway (S-155) Retrofit	Infrastructure improvements to reduce harmful sediment discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon	SFWMD	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7. Lake Worth Lagoon	\$80,000 - \$300,000
Submerged Lands Acquisition	Acquisition of submerged lands with high habitat quality threatened by development	Willing sellers	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7. Lake Worth Lagoon	None

PROPOSED PROJECTS



Water Supply Storage and Treatment

Project	Description	Potential Partners	Areas that Benefit	Estimated Annual O&M Costs
C-51 Reservoir Phase 2 Storage	Secure a quantity of water storage to benefit environmental water needs, water quality, and water supply	Palm Beach Aggregates, SFWMD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. County-wide / Water supply and Water quality	\$100,000 - \$500,000
Green Cay Wetlands Phase 2	Increase water supply sustainability via treatment plant expansion, advanced treatment technologies and wetlands; includes public access	N/A	District 5. Habitat Restoration in Lake Worth Lagoon watershed. County-wide Public visitor opportunity	\$150,000 - \$200,000

PROPOSED PROJECTS



Water Supply Storage and Treatment (cont'd)

Project	Description	Potential Partners	Areas that Benefit	Estimated Annual O&M Costs
Natural Area Connector Parcels	Acquire critical parcels to reduce habitat fragmentation, increase connectivity, and increase water storage benefits	Willing sellers	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. County-wide	\$400 - \$700 per acre
Water Storage in L-8 Basin	Construct a water storage feature to benefit environmental water needs, water quality, and water supply	Willing sellers, SFWMD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. L-8 Basin / Lake Worth Lagoon, Loxahatchee River and Watershed	\$100,000 - \$400,000

PROPOSED PROJECTS



County-Wide Water Quality Improvement

Project	Description	Potential Partners	Areas that Benefit	Estimated Annual O&M Costs
Septic to Sewer Conversion	Improve water quality via conversion of septic tanks to central sewer; priority areas are Lake Worth Lagoon and Loxahatchee River watersheds	Local governments, special districts, HOAs	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. County-wide	\$500 per customer
Stormwater Quality Improvements	Improve water quality via construction of stormwater quality improvement projects; priority areas are Lake Worth Lagoon and Loxahatchee River watersheds	Local governments, special districts, HOAs	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. County-wide	\$10,000 - \$500,000

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Public Access



Project	Description	Potential Partners	Areas that Benefit	Estimated Annual O&M Costs
C-51 Boat Lift	Provide public access to waterways via construction of a boat lift that enables the passage of small vessels between inland freshwater bodies and the Intracoastal Waterway	Blueway Trails LLC, SFWMD, Lake Clarke Shores, Lake Worth Beach, West Palm Beach	Districts 2, 3, 7. Lake Worth Beach, Town of Lake Clarke Shores, West Palm Beach	\$150,000 - \$260,000
Natural Areas Public Use Facilities	Construct public access and use facilities in the County's Hungryland Slough Natural Area	N/A	Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. General public and visitors to natural areas	\$25,000 - \$35,000

PROPOSED PROJECT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Projects should be based on sound science and expected technical performance to achieve objectives of the bond referendum. County staff will develop:

- Detailed application guidelines to ensure consistency with referendum objectives and project eligibility
- Application requirements
- Evaluation considerations
- Scoring criteria
- Deliverables and reporting requirements

Consider establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Proposed Role: review and consider staff recommendations and advise BCC on projects that should be considered by BCC for implementation
- Create new group or modify responsibility of an existing advisory board (e.g. Water Resources Task Force, Natural Area Management Advisory Committee)

PROPOSED PROJECT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (CONT'D)

Proposed Evaluation Criteria

- Environmental and/or water resources benefits (~50 points)
- Cost-share collaboration (~20 points)
- Project readiness / quality and detail of project planning (~ 20 points)
- Past performance / record of timely completion (~10 points)
- Designated Economically Disadvantaged Communities (e.g. Rural Economic Development Initiative areas, Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern, County-wide Community Revitalization areas) would be eligible for additional 40 points if a minimum threshold of 60 points total for the 4 evaluation criteria above are met

DIRECTION REQUESTED

- Approval of modified ballot language to enable preparation of future BCC resolution
- Conceptual approval of proposed project evaluation approach
- Additional input on public education and outreach
- Timeline for future updates to BCC



UPDATE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM

DISCUSSION



BCC Meeting
March 10, 2020