

MARCH 15, 2016

A [Workshop Meeting](#) of the [Board of Lee County Commissioners](#), sitting as the Management & Planning Committee, was held on this date with the following Commissioners present:

Franklin B. Mann, Chairman
 John E. Manning, Vice Chairman
 Cecil L Pendergrass
 Larry Kiker
 Brian Hamman

1) **Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Mann welcomed Mr. Rick Barber, Member of South Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

2) **County Manager Comments**

County Manager Roger Desjarlais stated that today's discussion deals with conversations of the rising level of fresh water discharges, brown water, projects that involved the past, current projects, current spending and planned projects.

At the request of County Manager Desjarlais, Assistant County Manager Dave Harner noted that today's presentation would focus on a number of Lee County Initiatives: Water quality, water storage, original impacts, current conditions, what the County is doing, planning and can do. Lee County has been proactive on water quality since 1980 with the purchase of parcels of land in the Six-mile Cypress Slough and those outside of the county – the larger Ecosystem. In the last 5 years Lee County spent \$96 Million both Operational as well as Capital. Mr. Phil Flood, South Florida Water Management District's Intergovernmental & Outreach Representative, Lower West Coast Service Center was invited to talk about recent events as well as regional projects. Mr. Roland Ottolini, Director of Natural Resources will do more on the details.

3) **Presentation: Water Quality and Storage Comprehensive Review (Roland Ottolini)**

Utilizing a [PowerPoint presentation](#), Director of Natural Resources Roland Ottolini provided an overview of Lee County water quality/storage initiatives, regional initiatives, current conditions, and moving forward. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Ottolini responded to questions and observations by the Commissioners. Following the presentation, Board discussion continued with Mr. Ottolini responding to Board questions.

4) **Board Discussion**

Responding to Board questions, Mr. Barber noted that one of the things to consider in the operation of the system is that the State, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Water Management District, Army Corp of Engineers, and the Fish and Wild Life Service in order for the system to work as efficiently as possible. Emphasis is also on the importance of protecting the integrity of the dike and finish it in order to protect the 20,000 people from drowning if the dike fails. Mr. Flood also responded to Board questions. In summarizing today's meeting, Mr. Desjarlais provided the following:

1. Continue to follow-up the water quality described by Mr. Roland Ottolini
2. Support the Comprehensive Everglades restoration program in its current form
3. Continue to provide Data and Science in the next month or two
4. Federal and State Law to support the projects.

5) **Adjourn**

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

ATTEST:
 LINDA DOGGETT, CLERK

 Deputy Clerk

 Chairman, Lee County Commission