



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force**

Dade County Courthouse  
73 West Flagler Street  
Suite 242  
Miami, Florida 33130

June 5, 2014  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

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**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SEA LEVEL RISE TASK FORCE**  
**June 5, 2014**

The Miami-Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force (Task Force) convened a workshop on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at Dade County Courthouse, 73 West Flagler Street, Suite 242, Miami, Florida, at 2:00 p.m. Present were Honorable Clerk of Courts Harvey Ruvin, Task Force Chairman; and members Dr. David Enfield, Ms. Sara Fain, Mr. Arsenio Milian and Mr. James Murley; (Mr. Willard T. Fair, and Mr. Jorge Gonzales were absent).

In addition to the Task Force members, the following staff members were present: Ms. Nichole Hefty, Chief, Office of Sustainability, Planning Division, Miami-Dade Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER); Assistant County Attorney Christopher Angell; and Deputy Clerk Maryse Fontus.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Ruvin called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. He announced that there was a quorum as five members were present, and welcomed the members of the audience.

### **II. Draft Report Review and Discussion**

Chairman Ruvin explained that a clean copy of the final report, as well as the appendices A-F had been distributed; and this constituted the package, which the County commissioners would receive.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the names of the Task Force members be placed on the cover sheet. He noted the word "Acknowledgements" should be deleted from the Table of Contents. He said that after the Table of Contents there would be a Chairman's letter, thanking the commissioners for creating the Task Force and indicating that Miami-Dade County had

been identified as ground zero for sea level rise; therefore, the international community was intently awaiting the measures that the County would adopt to address this issue.

Ms. Hefty explained that the documents that were distributed included the clean draft of the report; proposed alternative language for lines 36 to 102; the edits discussed at the last meeting; copies of edits that she had received since the last meeting; and a clean draft with Ms. Fain's edits.

Chairman Ruvin explained to the members of the audience that the Task Force held a dozen meetings during which presentations were made; and the last few meetings had been held as workshops for the members to work on the report. He suggested that the members review the clean document page by page to determine if they wished to make any additional edits.

In response to Mr. Milian's question as to whether the members had decided to organize the report in chronological order, or to discuss the problem and solutions, Chairman Ruvin said that it was decided to organize the report in chronological order.

Chairman Ruvin noted on page 4 of the report, an introduction was added in pink.

Mr. Murley suggested that in the first paragraph, a reference be made to the resolution creating the Task Force (Appendix C).

Ms. Fain noted on line 9 "s" should be added to extreme; and "affects" should be changed to "effects."

Mr. Murley suggested that on line 35, before the first recommendation, the following heading be added: "Overarching Recommendation."

Mr. Milian noted the word "planning" was used too many times from lines 23 to 29.

Ms. Fain suggested that the word “planning” be removed after sewer system and before resilient cities on line 27.

Ms. Hefty suggested that the word “system” be changed to “systems”, and Mr. Milian suggested that the word “sewer” be changed to “sewerage.”

Mr. Murley said that he had three comments regarding the overarching recommendation: “engineering expertise” should be changed to “engineering and other relevant expertise”; in addition, “capital plan” was used in a generic way and should be clarified.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the following language be used: “the robust capital plan referred to above,” because the elements of the plan were explained in the previous paragraph.

Mr. Murley suggested that “vital signs” be defined in the document.

Pursuant to Mr. Milian’s question as to what was meant by the term “vital signs,” Chairman Ruvin explained that they were measurable signs that could be tracked to help decide when to start implementing certain elements of the plan.

Mr. Murley said that the term “vital signs” was used in the Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) recommendations, and should be defined in this Task Force’s report.

Dr. Enfield noted it was a medical analogy.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the word “measurable” be placed in front of the term “vital signs.”

Mr. Murley suggested that the term “vital signs” be removed altogether and replaced by “measurable indicators.”

Ms. Fain asked whether anyone on the CCATF would be offended that the Task Force was suggesting that only by hiring the engineering expertise would the adaptation planning process begin.

Chairman Ruvin said he agreed with Dr. Enfield's suggestion that the word "beginning" be replaced by the word "accelerating."

Dr. Enfield suggested that the sentence on line 49 ending with the words "effective buy-in" be clarified by specifying that the re-insurance industry would buy into the County's adaptation efforts.

Chairman Ruvin noted the sentence clearly stated that "Involving the re-insurance industry in the plan's development will facilitate their effective buy-in."

Mr. Murley pointed out that the sentence beginning on line 46, which stated: "The framework for action should also include the South Florida Water Management District (the District), and the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan (RCAP)," was unclear. He suggested that it be divided into two sentences, one for the District, and one for the RCAP.

Ms. Hefty noted she had revised the entire section from lines 36 to 102 to be more chronological, and the sentence to which Mr. Murley referred would read: "The framework for action should also include the South Florida Water management District (the District). The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan (RCAP) will be essential as an overarching guide to updates as implementation gets carried out."

Responding to Ms. Fain's question as to whether the County Commission adopted GreenPrint, Ms. Hefty clarified that the Commission accepted GreenPrint, and it was being implemented primarily by the Office of Sustainability as well as the rest of the County.

Dr. Enfield suggested that Green House Gas be all lower case letters, and that the acronym following it be removed.

Responding to Mr. Murley's question as to how many resolutions the County Commission had adopted regarding this Task Force, Assistant County Attorney Angell said that it had adopted more than four resolutions.

Chairman Ruvin noted the first resolution provided that there would be five members but it did not name anyone; then there was another resolution which provided for six members and named the Chair; finally the number of members was increased to seven, and an at-large member was added.

Mr. Murley suggested that the Task Force refer to all resolutions from the Chairwoman addressing sea level rise, even those that were pending.

Assistant County Attorney Angell explained that the Chairwoman had proposed a resolution, requiring all County infrastructure projects to consider the potential impacts of sea level rise, which was adopted. He said that there was also an ordinance relating to the rules and procedure of the County Commission that passed on first reading.

Mr. Murley noted this proposed ordinance was most likely going to be adopted. He suggested that in the report, the Task Force either recommend that the County Commission adopt it, or refer to it as if it had already been adopted. Mr. Murley suggested that the chronological version of the section prepared by Ms. Hefty refer to this ordinance after the last paragraph.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the report contain the following language: "At the time of the submission of this report, there is a pending ordinance, passed on first reading, File No. 141-211, which would require a statement regarding consideration of sea level rise for all agenda items related to planning, design, and construction of County infrastructure. We urge passage of this ordinance, as fully consistent with, and supportive of the Task Force's recommendations."

Mr. Murley suggested that the Task Force members adopt the chronological version of the section prepared by Ms. Hefty, from lines 36 to 102, and the other members agreed.

Dr. Enfield noted he did not understand Recommendation 3, because it read "to reflect sea level rise." He suggested that the word "reflect" be changed to "accommodate."

Mr. Murley suggested that the word “incorporate” be used instead.

Ms. Fain noted the term Adaptation Action Areas (AAAs) was not defined in the legislation, and the Comprehensive Development Master Plan (CDMP) called on the County Commission to define this term by 2017.

Ms. Marcia Steelman, Public Works and Waste Management Department, explained that according to the CDMP, County staff had to specify criteria and targets for the AAAs; however, as of yet a unified policy did not exist.

Ms. Fain noted the Task Force members had to be careful when making substantive recommendations regarding the CDMP. She expressed concern that the County would continue allowing sensitive areas to be developed, and would only decide to implement the Task Force’s recommendations after these areas had been developed.

Mr. Milian noted the County was on the verge of adopting an ordinance stipulating that the County would take into account sea level rise for all agenda items related to planning, design, and construction of County infrastructure. He said that the Florida Building Code should adopt a similar stipulation.

Assistant County Attorney Angell explained that the County government was not involved in revising the Florida Building Code; however it could modify the zoning regulations.

Chairman Ruvin pointed out that the CCATF had a built environment adaptation recommendation, which suggested that the County should be more mindful of approving new development.

Ms. Fain stressed that this Task Force should go a step further, and specify that certain areas were not suitable for development.

Pursuant to Dr. Enfield’s question as to whether the Urban Development Boundary (UDB) was included in the zoning regulations, Chairman Ruvin noted the UDB was regulated by the CDMP.

Pursuant to Ms. Fain's question as to whether the recommendation could specify that certain areas were not suitable for development, Chairman Ruvin noted it would already be a major victory if the County Commission were to endorse the necessity to develop a robust capital improvement plan.

Ms. Fain said that while she recognized the need for the existing communities to adapt, it was also advisable to avoid making the same mistakes that would compound the problems.

Chairman Ruvin pointed out that this was one of the recommendations of the CCATF.

Ms. Fain offered to work on a sentence that would address this issue.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the following sentence be added on line 116: "Future land-use decisions should reflect the lessons learned from placing development in flood-prone areas."

Ms. Fain suggested that the sentence read as follows: "Future land-use decisions should reflect the lessons learned from intensifying land use in flood-prone areas." She asked whether flood-prone or vulnerable was more accurate.

Chairman Ruvin noted "vulnerable" was a broader term than "flood-prone." He said that he preferred to keep "placing development in flood-prone areas."

Mr. Murley suggested that on line 119 the report refer to "the Compact", rather than the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact."

Chairman Ruvin suggested that it be spelled out.

Dr. Enfield noted on line 119, the preposition "of" should be replaced by the preposition "by."

Mr. Murley suggested that some of the language in the legend from lines 127 to 129 be placed in the paragraph on lines 118 to 222.

Chairman Ruvin noted he agreed that some of the language could be moved out of the legend; however, he suggested that the report refer to the Compact rather than the work-group on line 127.

Mr. Murley recalled that in their discussion the Task Force members agreed to use 2 feet of sea level rise for 2060. He noted they heard from various presenters that the projection was 3 feet of sea level rise for 2100; however, the report did not state this.

Chairman Ruvin pointed out that the report indicated that "For longer-range planning up to 2100, at least three feet of sea level rise should be utilized."

Pursuant to Chairman Ruvin's comment that he would like to add one sentence mentioning that Miami Beach was dealing with this issue pro-actively, Mr. Murley suggested that this sentence be included in the cover letter.

Chairman Ruvin noted Recommendation 4 was provided by the Water and Sewer Department (WASD), and Ms. Hefty clarified that it was provided by Dr. Virginia Walsh, Mr. Glenn Landers and Dr. Jayantha Obeysekera Obe.

Dr. Enfield questioned the last line of the recommendation which stated that "This should develop the District plan to address a +1 foot sea level rise (SLR) ..." He pointed out that this recommendation seemed to contradict the Task Force's report, which was recommending planning for 2 feet of sea level rise by 2060, and 3 feet by 2100.

Ms. Hefty pointed out that the recommendation specified that the District plan to address a +1 foot sea level rise would be completed within a two-year timeframe.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that Mr. Murley contact Dr. Obeysekera to confirm that there was no error in Recommendation 4.

Ms. Steelman noted she disagreed with Recommendation 4 because it involved making changes to the Florida Building Code. She said she believed that the Task Force should make more general recommendations.

Ms. Fain suggested adding the words "fully fund both acquisition and management needs" to Recommendation 5.

Pursuant to Mr. Murley's question as to whether the resilience plan referred to in Recommendation 5 was the same as the robust capital plan referred to in Recommendation 1, Chairman Ruvin suggested that the language in Recommendation 5 be changed to "Miami-Dade County's resiliency efforts must incorporate support for Everglades."

Dr. Enfield noted he believed that lines 203 to 208 accurately reflected Swiss Re's presentation; however, the Geneva Association report states that in the absence of mitigation against increasing risk, people will increasingly self-insure due to rising premiums at a faster rate than they self-protect, thus creating an insurability deficit that ultimately gets charged to governments when disasters occur (Appendix F, Section 3.2, page 21). He suggested that this language be used in the report.

Chairman Ruvin noted the report already made this point, in the next to the last sentence, as follows: "Without a professionally well thought-out worst-case scenario plan in place, we risk losing insurability and financial support for our future."

Mr. Murley noted the section in the report on the re-insurance industry was very powerful, but did not have a recommendation. He referred to the sentence in capital letters in the conclusion, and pointed out that it was not clear whether this was a suggestion from the re-insurance industry. Mr. Murley suggested that the paragraph on the Geneva Association be moved to the section on the re-insurance industry, and that the report have a well delineated conclusion.

Chairman Ruvin said he agreed with Mr. Murley's suggestion. He suggested that the words "We believe that" should be added at the beginning of the sentence "Without a professionally well thought-out ..."

Ms. Fain suggested that the natural environment be mentioned in the sentence beginning with “With trillions of dollars of built environment ...”

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the sentence be modified as follows: “With trillions of dollars of built environment, and invaluable natural resources at stake in the region, the economic imperative to take action sooner rather than later is clear.”

Pursuant to Chairman Ruvin’s question as to whether the report could be finalized with the changes made at today’s (6/05) meeting, Mr. Murley suggested that the members meet one last time because he had not yet received Dr. Obeysekera’s clarification regarding Recommendation 4.

### **III. Next Meeting**

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

### **IV. Next Steps**

In response to Ms. Hefty’s question as to whether all of the members approved the template for the report, they confirmed that they approved.

Dr. Enfield indicated that he would attend next week’s meeting, but he would be travelling to Europe thereafter. He asked whether he could help with the presentation before leaving.

Chairman Ruvin said that he was inclined to forego a formal presentation, because he did not want to distract from the content of the report. He noted once the report was submitted it would be placed on the County Commission agenda, and the Task Force members would be present at the Commission meeting during consideration of the report.

Assistant County Attorney Angell informed the members that usually, the Chairwoman allocates 5 minutes for the presentations.

Dr. Enfield asked when the report would be considered by the Commission.

Assistant County Attorney Angell indicated that the report would be considered on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He explained that the report would be sponsored by Chairwoman Sosa; it would be waived out of Committee; and in order to meet this time table the package would have to be sent to Chairwoman Sosa by the 18<sup>th</sup> of June.

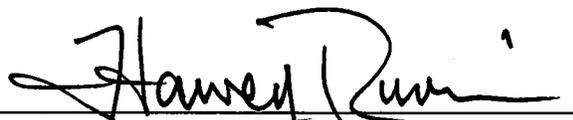
Assistant County Attorney Angell advised that the Task Force members could either leave the last minutes unapproved; or approve the minutes on July 1<sup>st</sup> immediately preceding the County Commission meeting.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Mr. Arsenio Milian that the minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, Sea Level Rise Task Force meetings be approved, as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. James Murley, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

## **VI. Adjournment**

There being no other business to come before the Sea Level Rise Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

  
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Chairman Harvey Ruvin  
Sea Level Rise Task Force



Miami Dade County  
Sea Level Rise Task Force  
June 05, 2014

Prepared by: Maryse Fontus

**EXHIBITS LIST**

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	6/05/14		Agenda
2	6/05/14		Roll Call Sheet
3	6/05/14		Attendance Sheets
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## Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force Meeting

June 5, 2014

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Dade County Courthouse

73 West Flagler Street, #242

Miami, Florida 33130

- **Welcome and Introductions**  
Honorable Clerk & Sea Level Rise Task Force Chair, Harvey Ruvin
  
- **Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes**
  - Process to Approve Final Meeting's Minutes
  
- **Draft Report Review and Discussion**
  
- **Discuss Presenting Report to the Board**
  - Administrative Paperwork/Process
  - Presentation at the Board Meeting
  
- **Questions and Comments from the Public**
  - Question from G. Cavros of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy: Plans for media outreach for release of SLRTF Report?
  
- **Schedule Next Meeting**
  
- **Adjourn**



Sea Level Rise Task Force Meeting

June 5, 2014

2:00 PM

73 West Flagler Street

Suite 242

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
1 Galen Treves	U Miami	612-209-1451	g.treves@umiami.edu
2 DAW KIPNIS	CITIZED	786-325-8878	
3 MARELA STEELMAN	PWWN	305-372-6691	STEELM@MIAMI.UMIAMI.EDU
4 Armando Sochor	PWWMD	385-372-6684	jor@miamidade.gov
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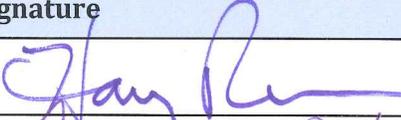
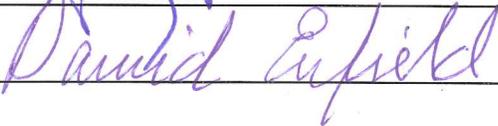
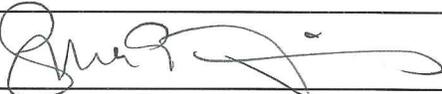
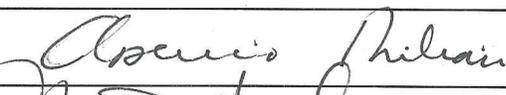
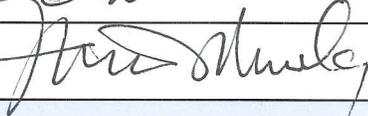
Sea Level Rise Task Force Meeting

June 5, 2014

2:00 PM

73 West Flagler Street

Suite 242

Name	Signature
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Chair	
David Enfield, Ph.D.	
T. Willard Fair	
Sara E. Fain, Esq.	
Jorge Gonzalez	
Arsenio Milian, P.E.	
Jim Murley	
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	
Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor/Director, Regulatory & Economic Resources	/
Mark R. Woerner, AICP, Assistant Director for Planning, Regulatory & Economic Resources	
Nichole L. Hefty, Chief, Office of Sustainability, Regulatory & Economic Resources	