



**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 11, 2014
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

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Clerk of the Board Division

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SEA LEVEL RISE TASK FORCE

June 11, 2014

The Miami-Dade County Sea Level Rise Task Force (Task Force) convened a workshop on Thursday, June 11, 2014, at Dade County Courthouse, 73 West Flagler Street, Suite 242, Miami, Florida, at 10:00 a.m. Present were Honorable Clerk of Courts Harvey Ruvlin, 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 Ruvlin called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. He announced that a quorum was present as five members were present, and welcomed the members of the audience.

II. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. James Murley that the minutes of the May 27th, 2014, Sea Level Rise Task Force meeting be approved, as presented. This motion was seconded by Ms. Sara Fain, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

III. Draft Report Review and Discussion

Chairman Ruvlin noted the Task Force members had listened to a number of presentations and worked long hours to produce their report.

Mr. Murley expressed his special appreciation to Ms. Elizabeth Soto and to Ms. Hefty for their work.

Chairman Ruvin noted the Task Force members had received a copy of the report with their additional comments. He suggested that the members review that document page by page. He said that he agreed with the comments on his Chairman's letter, and that "natural resources" should be added after "built environment." Chairman Ruvin indicated that he agreed that Climate Change Advisory Task Force (CCATF) and the Task Force should be used consistently in the report.

Ms. Fain pointed out that the quotes within quotes should be singular.

Mr. Murley suggested using a public/private partnership on the first line, second paragraph, which read "Dealing with this challenge will require a coordinated effort."

Chairman Ruvin noted he disagreed with this suggestion as public/private partnership had various connotations.

Dr. Enfield pointed out that the first line, third paragraph, should read "The Climate Change Advisory Task Force."

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the words "in the media" in the first line of the introduction be removed.

Mr. Murley noted king tides should not be capitalized.

Mr. Murley suggested that the words "referred to above" be deleted from the first recommendation.

Ms. Fain noted Recommendation 2 was the only recommendation that used "strongly urges". She suggested that it be modified to read "The Sea Level Rise Task Force recommends ..."

Dr. Enfield said that it should read "The Sea Level Rise Task Force recommends that ..."

Responding to Mr. Murley's question regarding hyperlinks, Ms. Hefty said that in her opinion hyperlinks looked messy; and she would suggest placing the Regional Action Plan in an appendix.

Chairman Ruvin noted he believed that hyperlinks made the report look more professional.

Assistant County Attorney Angell suggested having a footnote instead of a hyperlink.

Chairman Ruvin noted he agreed with putting the hyperlink on page 4 as a footnote, or leaving the hyperlink where it was and having a reference to the appendix. He suggested that a reference be made to the appendix right after Southeast Florida, and that the hyperlink remain in the text.

Mr. Milian noted Recommendation 2 stated "... including approving legislative actions called for, as appropriate." He asked what was meant by "as appropriate."

Ms. Hefty said that she added "as appropriate" because some of the recommendations were older and may not be pertinent or appropriate any longer.

Chairman Ruvin suggested the following language: "Approving appropriate legislative actions called for therein."

Ms. Fain noted she had proposed adding this part of the recommendation because some of the CCATF recommendations specifically indicated that legislative action would be necessary before they could be implemented.

Mr. Murley suggested that the sentence end with "recommendations."

Chairman Ruvin noted he agreed because the additional phrase would open up a discussion that could undermine the recommendation.

Ms. Fain said she agreed as long as it was clear that in order to implement some of the recommendations, legislative actions may be needed.

Chairman Ruvlin noted in the report's cover letter, he would mention Chairwoman Sosa specifically; however, in the body of the report he would refer to the County Commission generally. He said that as soon as the report was finalized, he would meet with Chairwoman Sosa.

Referring to the pending ordinance, Ms. Hefty noted it would have to be identified by its file number.

Chairman Ruvlin suggested that it be referred to as "A proposed ordinance ...", and Assistant County Attorney Angell advised that the short title was "Sea Level Rise -- BCC -- Rule Amendment."

Dr. Enfield referred to the following sentence: "Future land-use decisions should reflect lessons learned from placing development ..." He suggested that the word "placing" be changed to "allowing."

Ms. Fain noted she would argue that some people have not learned the lessons.

Pursuant to Mr. Murley's question as to whether "flood-prone" was the correct word, Ms. Fain noted she had suggested the word "vulnerable."

Chairman Ruvlin said he agreed with Dr. Enfield that the word "allowing" should be used, and with Ms. Fain that the word "vulnerable" should be used.

Ms. Fain recalled that at the last meeting she had suggested changing the word "placing" to "intensifying." She also suggested removing "lessons learned."

Chairman Ruvlin noted he believed that "lessons learned" should be kept.

Mr. Murley suggested that the words "long-range planning" in the sentence immediately preceding should be changed to "comprehensive planning."

Dr. Enfield pointed out that the report used the word "recommend" on page 6 in the paragraph before the graph. He asked whether this word could be used outside of a recommendation.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the words "The Task Force recommends that" be removed, and that the sentence read: "For longer-range planning up to 2100, at least three feet of sea level rise should be utilized."

Dr. Enfield suggested that USACE be spelled out in the caption of the figure, as the readers may not know the meaning of this acronym.

Ms. Hefty noted Dr. Obeysekera sent the recommendation on page 9 previously; however, he sent a revised recommendation today (6/11).

Dr. Enfield suggested that SFWMD be spelled out in Recommendation 4.

Chairman Ruvin asked why Recommendation 4 suggested +1 foot of sea level rise, and Dr. Enfield said that he was not comfortable with keeping one foot.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that +1 foot be removed, and the sentence would read: "This strategy should address sea level rise, a timeframe for implementation and potential funding mechanism."

Ms. Fain noted the first sentence of the recommendation read: "While recognizing the recent efforts to improve flood protection ..." She said this would give a false sense of hope as there should be no expectation that flood protection would improve.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the sentence be revised to read: "While recognizing the recent efforts to address flood protection and saltwater intrusion..."

Mr. Milian noted the Task force should stress the urgency of this recommendation.

Chairman Ruvin suggested that the sentence be revised to read: "This strategy should expeditiously address rising sea level, a timeframe for implementation and a potential funding mechanism."

Mr. Murley said it seemed that there should be an introduction before Recommendation 5.

Ms. Hefty suggested that the last two sentences before Recommendation 4 be placed before Recommendation 5. She also noted the report did not describe the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL).

Chairman Ruvin said that it could be assumed that the commissioners would be familiar with the EEL program.

Dr. Enfield pointed out that the phrase should be revised to "the canary in the coal mine."

Chairman Ruvin noted it had been suggested that the paragraph in pink on page 10 be turned into a recommendation. He said that the paragraph could begin with "The Task Force recommends that MDC consider ..."

Responding to Mr. Murley's question as to what was meant by a worst-case scenario plan, Chairman Ruvin explained that the worst-case scenario was very vague, as it depended on how fast the ice would melt, etc.

Dr. Enfield noted the report stated that it was moving target.

Chairman Ruvin explained that the plan should be designed to be resilient for the worst case, which may be 3 feet by 2100, or the moving target may change that worst-case scenario to 10 feet.

Mr. Murley suggested that the words "the robust capital plan" be used instead.

Ms. Hefty suggested that the words "a professionally well thought-out plan in place to address a worst-case scenario..." be used instead.

Chairman Ruvin reiterated that the worst-case was a moving target, and clarified that he was referring to an undefined maximum sea level rise for which the County should plan.

Dr. Enfield noted the sentence was not discussing the maximum level of risk that the County would face from storm surge; rather it was discussing the risk from sea level rise. He suggested that instead of referring to a worst-case scenario, the sentence refer to the maximum sea level rise.

Ms. Fain pointed out that this sentence was seeking to make an impact. She suggested that "worst-case scenario" be removed and replaced by "a well thought-out adaptation plan."

Chairman Ruvín noted he agreed with Ms. Fain's suggestion. He asked that the **RCA** ?? plan be placed in an appendix.

Mr. Murley suggested that the introductory text appear on the same page as the recommendation it introduces.

Chairman Ruvín noted all of the Task Force members should be proud of the report, which was drafted collaboratively. He said that the members had done their part, and it was now the responsibility of the County Administration to implement the recommendations. Chairman Ruvín said that he would entertain a motion to adopt the report and present it to the County Commission.

It was moved by Mr. James Murley that the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force Report and Recommendations be adopted with the changes made in the workshops, and presented to the County Commission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Arsenio Milian, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.

Chairman Ruvín congratulated the Assistant County Attorney for his guidance and advice during this process.

Pursuant to Assistant County Attorney Angell's question as to whether the members would meet one last time briefly on July 1st to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Chairman Ruvín said that would not be necessary.

In response to Ms. Fain's question regarding whether the Chairman could contact the other two members who had not attended the meetings, Chairman Ruvin noted he contacted them and invited them to attend the presentation at the County Commission.

Assistant County Attorney Angell advised that at this point their comments on the report would be moot, because the report had been approved.

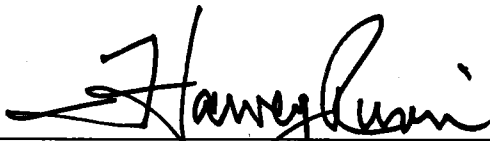
Assistant County Attorney Angell said that he would review the finalized report for legal sufficiency; but he did not foresee any problem.

Captain Kipnis asked the Chairman to invite the members of the CCATF to the presentation at the County Commission.

Chairman Ruvin expressed his gratitude to the members for serving on this Task Force. He noted he was proud of the final product.

IV. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Sea Level Rise Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.



Chairman Harvey Ruvin
Sea Level Rise Task Force



**Miami Dade County
Sea Level Rise Task Force
June 11, 2014**

Prepared by: Maryse Fontus

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	6/11/14		Agenda
2	6/11/14		Roll Call Sheet
3			
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MIAMI-DADE SEA LEVEL RISE TASK FORCE

MEETING DATE OF June 11, 2014

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Four (4) members constitutes a quorum