

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 10

From: Staff

Date: December 13, 2013 Council Meeting

Subject: Lake Worth Lagoon Update - Presentation by Julie Bishop, Palm Beach County
Department of Environmental Resources Management

Introduction

At the May 17, 2013 Council meeting, Council initiated a series of presentations that address water resource issues in the region. Recent presentations have focused on the Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie River Estuary, and C-51 Basin. The subject of this presentation is Lake Worth Lagoon, which is the largest estuary in Palm Beach County. The lagoon extends 20 miles from the Village of North Palm Beach to the Town of Ocean Ridge. Challenges facing the lagoon include storm water runoff, muck deposition, and loss of habitat. Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management is the lead agency undertaking efforts to address water quality and restoration of natural systems in the lagoon.

Julie Bishop, Environmental Program Supervisor for Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, will discuss freshwater discharge volumes reaching Lake Worth Lagoon, the sources of those discharges, the measured environmental impacts, and what is being done to lessen the volume and impacts of major rain events in the future. The presentation will discuss the correlations between rainfall and seagrass coverage, and rainfall and oysters populations. Also, the presentation will discuss the impacts of muck sediments in the lagoon, and highlight some of the key programs and projects to improve water quality and restore natural systems in the lagoon.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.