

# **LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Summary**

South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road, (Bldg. B-1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Storch Room)  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

This meeting was conducted as a teleconference call at (561) 682-6800  
Meet-me number (855) 682-6800 - Meeting ID #992 262 759

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:00 AM**

1. Call to Order by Terrie Bates, Chair
  - a) Meeting began at 9:00 AM
  
2. Attendees
  - a) Committee Members
    1. Terrie Bates, Chairperson, SFWMD
    2. Mindy Hogan-Charles, USACE
    3. Ed Smith, DEP
    4. Michael Spinelli, DERM (Teleconference)
    5. Ron Miedema, USEPA
    6. Robert Progulske, USFWS (Teleconference)
    7. Jason Hight, FFWCC (Teleconference)
    8. Jeff Rosenfeld, MDLPA (ex-officio)
  
  - b) Other meeting attendees
    1. Robert Hopper, SFWMD
    2. Lourdes Elias, SFWMD
    3. Steve Coughlin, SFWMD
    4. Steve Krupa, SFWMD
    5. Ernie Barnett, MDLPA
    6. Joan Lawrence, USDOJ
    7. Cecelia Harper, USEPA

8. Dave Colangelo, SFWMD
9. Michelle Quigley, SFWMD
10. Gabrielle Lager, SFWMD
11. Julie Maytok, SFWMD
12. Ray Palmer, SFWMD

c) Other teleconference attendees

13. Howard Hayes, DEP
14. Alan Whitehouse, DEP
15. Katy Collins, DEP

3. Approval of Minutes

LBMC Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2017 were reviewed by the Committee members. The minutes were moved for approval by Robert Progulske, with a second by Mindy Hogan-Charles. The minutes were approved by the Committee.

4. Submittal of Invoices for Acceptance by LBMC – Robert Hopper / Jeff Rosenfeld

Terrie Bates and Robert Hopper discussed the funding/escrow account/invoice approval process for the benefit of the new Committee members. Jeff Rosenfeld discussed the invoices submitted since the last Committee meeting and Robert Hopper presented a spreadsheet (copy attached) summarizing the invoices to be accepted by the Committee. These invoices included: 1) four L-31N Phase II invoices totaling \$19,259.54, 2) seven Dade-Broward Levee Construction Monitoring Phase 2 invoices totaling \$1,827,001.21, and 3) three Lake Belt Water Quality Monitoring invoices totaling \$61,179.90. Total invoices were \$1,907,440.65. Ed Smith moved to accept the invoices and Robert Progulske seconded the motion. The motion to accept the invoices was approved by the Committee.

6. Approval of 2017 LBMC Annual Report – Jeff Rosenfeld

Jeff Rosenfeld presented a copy of the draft 2017 LBMC Annual Report to the Committee. Jeff discussed the financial aspects of the report in Appendix C and the summary tables indicating the amount of mitigation that has been approved by the Committee and the

overall positive Lake Belt mitigation balance. Ron Miedema moved to approve the 2017 Annual Report and the motion was seconded by Mindy Hogan-Charles. The Annual Report was approved by the Committee. After the Committee meeting, it was noticed that the Annual Report had been updated to reflect the 5-acre Pennsuco acquisition discussed in 8.A. except in one paragraph on page 8 where the Corps of Engineers wetland mitigation balance was discussed. The acreages and wetland units were increased to 1,667.4 acres and 416.85 wetland units in the Annual Report that was provided for consideration at the April 2018 SFWMD Governing Board meeting.

#### 7. Project Status – L-31N Phase 2 and Dade-Broward Levee seepage projects – Jeff Rosenfeld

Construction of the 3 additional miles of the L-31N seepage barrier was completed in April 2016. Jeff Rosenfeld showed some 2016-2017 monitoring results. The results show significantly increased water level differences across the seepage barrier after construction, compared to both the two-mile results as well as the new control wells that were installed beyond the end of the seepage barrier at 5.5 miles. The seepage vs. gradient graphs indicate reduced seepage after completion of the 5-mile seepage barrier. The 2017 results clearly show the effect of increased water levels due to Hurricane Irma and monitoring is planned through the 2018 wet season to confirm the 2016-17 results. Steve Krupa mentioned the need to provide all of the monitoring results to the District's modeling group (already provided in March 2018) and to make sure the barrier location/information is well documented.

The 7.5 miles of Dade-Broward Levee berm repair was completed in July 2016. Comparison of USGS monitoring well data before and after the repair indicate higher relative water levels in the monitoring well located in the Pennsuco wetlands, which are similar in magnitude to the project modeling estimates. The next phase of the project, construction of the two proposed water control structures in the Wellfield Protection Canal, started in October 2017. Canal stage monitoring data indicated a 0.4' canal stage increase in the upstream portion of the canal (adjacent to the Pennsuco wetlands) on 11/12/2017, when the canal was plugged to start construction. The structure will remain closed during the wet season and this immediate increased canal stage provides a "proof of concept" of what the water control structure will accomplish once completed. Design of the repair/automation of the existing L-30 structure has

been completed and the plans have been submitted for review to the District and Miami-Dade County.

#### 8. Funding Requests – A. Terrie Bates / B. Jeff Rosenfeld

A. Pennsuco wetlands - A motion was presented to “Approve funding of \$50,133.85 to SFWMD for acquisition, restoration, and long-term management of 5 acres in the Pennsuco wetlands (Tract W9307-022)”. The acquisition of this parcel was approved by the SFWMD Governing Board in July 2017, but was inadvertently left out of the Pennsuco wetlands update provided at the 8/25/17 LBMC meeting. The acquisition was included in the 2017 Annual Report. Robert Progulske moved to approve this funding request and the motion was seconded by Ed Smith. The funding request was approved by the Committee. Ron Miedema asked for information on the monitoring/performance measures used for the Pennsuco wetland restoration project, which Robert Hopper will provide at a future meeting.

B. Dade-Broward Levee Phase 3 construction/monitoring – A motion was presented to “Approve funding of \$2.2 million for the estimated L-30 structure repair construction, permitting, oversight, contingency, and monitoring costs.” The MDLPA design engineer prepared a construction-only cost estimate of \$1.6 million dollars, which includes a new gate, operator, power, stops logs, control building, and remote control communication equipment. SFWMD Engineering staff reviewed the construction cost estimate and developed a construction-only estimate of \$1.8 million dollars. The \$2.2 million funding request includes the \$1.6 million cost estimate, which may need to be changed once a contractor cost proposal is obtained. The original proposal distributed to the Committee also included an initial \$1.0 million dollars to be held in an escrow account to reimburse SFWMD for long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for the L-30 structure and the two new Wellfield Protection Canal structures currently being constructed. Ron Miedema recommended removing the \$1.0 million dollars in O&M costs from the funding proposal until the structures are completed and SFWMD has provided an updated O&M cost estimate. The motion was revised to include a transfer of \$2.2 million dollars from line item 1 (L-31N Phase 2) of the SFWMD, MDLPA, and Greenberg Traurig Payment Tracking spreadsheet to a new line item for Dade-Broward Levee Construction

Monitoring Phase 3. Ron Miedema moved to approve this funding request and the motion was seconded by Mindy Hogan-Charles. The funding request was approved by the Committee.

9. Committee Comment

Ron Miedema notified the Committee that he was retiring at the end of the month and that Cecelia Harper would be EPA's new committee member.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be scheduled in July/August for review of FY19 project funding.

12. Meeting Adjourned