

LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road, (Bldg. B-2, 1st Floor, EMD Training 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 #999 326 620

Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order by Terrie Bates, Chair

- a) Meeting began at 10:00 AM

2. Attendees

a) Committee Members

- 1. Terrie Bates, Chairperson, SFWMD
- 2. Chris Klena, DEP Alternate (Teleconference)
- 3. Craig Grossenbacher, MD RER (Teleconference)
- 4. Krista Sabin, USACE
- 5. Marissa Krueger, FF&WCC Alternate
- 6. Bob Progulske, USFWS (Teleconference)
- 7. Eric Hughes, USEPA
- 8. Jeff Rosenfeld, MDLPA (ex-officio)

b) Other meeting attendees

- 1. Marjorie Moore, SFWMD
- 2. Marilyn Pratter-Rivers, SFWMD
- 3. Lourdes Elias, SFWMD
- 4. Bob Verrastro, SFWMD
- 5. Olga Serrano, SFWMD
- 6. Tom MacVicar, MDLPA
- 7. Samantha Rice, USACE

8. Martha Musgrove, FWF
9. Anita Bain, SFWMD
10. Bill Baker, MDLPA
11. Ernie Barnett, MDLPA
12. John Janzen, SFWMD
13. Steve Krupa, SFWMD
14. Ray Palmer, SFWMD
15. Karen Estock, SFWMD
16. Joan Lawrence, USDOJ
17. Kevin Kotun, ENP

c) Other teleconference attendees

1. Howard Hayes, DEP
2. Kerri Barsh, MDLPA

3. Approval of Minutes

a) LBMC Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2014 were reviewed by the Committee members. The minutes were moved for approval by Krista Sabin, second by Eric Hughes. The minutes were approved by the Committee.

a) LBMC Technical Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2014 were reviewed by the Committee members. The minutes were moved for approval by Krista Sabin, second by Eric Hughes. The minutes were approved by the Committee.

4. Submittal of Invoices for Acceptance by LBMC – Marjorie Moore / Jeff Rosenfeld

Jeff Rosenfeld discussed the invoices submitted since the last Committee meeting and Marjorie Moore presented a spreadsheet (copy attached) summarizing the invoices to be accepted by the Committee. These invoices included: 1) two L-31N Phase 1 invoices totaling \$24,392.98, and 2) three Dade-Broward Levee Mulching invoices totaling \$60,097.31. Krista Sabin moved to accept the invoices, Eric Hughes seconded the motion. The motion to accept the invoices was approved by the Committee.

5. Pennsuco land acquisition – 30 acres – Ray Palmer

Ray Palmer discussed the proposed acquisition of 30 acres in the southern portion of the Pennsuco wetlands. It is anticipated that the land acquisition will be included on the September 2014 SFWMD Governing Board Agenda and a Motion was presented for the Committee to approve the funding for the land acquisition, as well as the associated acquisition, restoration, and long-term management costs for the properties (total cost - \$300,803). Craig Grossenbacher moved to approve the motion, Eric Hughes seconded the motion. The motion to fund the land acquisition/restoration/long-term management was approved by the Committee.

6. C-139 Annex Restoration Project – Marjorie Moore / Terrie Bates

Marjorie Moore provided an update on current activities at the C-139 Annex Restoration Project. These include ongoing clearing of citrus trees, preparation of the donor site for maidencane plantings, and submittal of permit applications for site prep work, as well as ongoing and proposed herbicidal treatments of 2,700 acres in the Phase 1 area, expansion of the donor site, and permitted site prep activities later this year.

Terrie Bates presented a motion to “Approve the expenditure of \$8 million of additional funding for the C-139 Annex Restoration Project. At an estimated cost of \$15,248 per WRAP credit, this expenditure authorizes the award of 524.7 WRAP credits (2,098.8 Pennsuco-equivalent mitigation acres) for 2014, subject to the final credit determination for the project.” It was discussed that this was the third annual payment and that the funding was front-loaded to provide enough funding for the restoration of the entire 14,100-acre project. The credit award is based on the WRAP scoring approved by the Committee, which has not yet been finalized through Corps and DEP permitting. Eric Hughes moved to approve the motion, Chris Klena seconded the motion. The motion to fund the C-139 Annex Restoration Project was approved by the Committee. Miami-Dade County voted against approval, all others were in favor.

7. L-31N Seepage Barrier Project – Tom MacVicar

Tom MacVicar made a presentation on the proposed additional 3 miles of the L-31N Seepage Barrier Project, which included a discussion of the WRAP scoring options, cost estimate, and updated monitoring plan.

The Corps stated that they could not support the 3 additional miles as a permit mitigation project, without a Mitigation Plan (which included hydrologic and vegetative performance

standards for the project) and an updated Monitoring Plan. Mitigation credits would not be released by the Corps until after the barrier was constructed and monitoring results demonstrated that the performance standards had been achieved. The Corps Jacksonville Geotechnical Group has completed an evaluation of the monitoring results from the initial 2-mile barrier and a copy would be distributed to Committee members. The Corps suggested that a technical meeting be held to help develop performance standards.

There was considerable discussion amongst Committee members on the existing near-wall monitoring results, and the difficulty of distinguishing hydrologic and vegetative effects further from the wall in terms of daily and seasonal operational and climatic variability. Discussions also included that 1) the primary original purpose of the project was to reduce seepage from Everglades National Park; 2) it had been recognized that the ability to attribute vegetative changes in the Park to the project was going to be very difficult; 3) the need to have further discussion about the risk factor in the WRAP scoring; 4) the support letter from the Department of Interior; and 5) the inability of the MDLPA to use mitigation dollars to fund a project where there was no guarantee of receiving mitigation credits.

It was decided that a follow-up Technical Workshop be noticed for July 30th and a Mitigation Committee meeting for August 15th to enable further discussion on the L-31N Seepage Barrier project.

8. Dade-Broward Levee Mulching Update – Tom MacVicar

Tom MacVicar stated that the 7.5-mile Dade-Broward Levee mulching project approved by the Committee in 2013 has been completed and showed some photos. The next step in the project is to do more detailed surveys of the levee in order to identify areas with potential surface water flow across the levee and develop an engineering design for repairing these areas in order to reduce flows out of the Pennsuco wetlands.

9. Next Meeting Dates

- a) Technical Workshop - Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 9:00 AM at the SFWMD
- b) Committee Meeting - Friday, August 15, 2014, 10:00 AM at the SFWMD

10. Meeting Adjourned