

# **LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Summary**

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road, (B-2 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, EMD Training Room)

West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

This meeting was conducted as a teleconference call at (561) 682-6700

Meet-me number (866) 433-6299 - Meeting ID #1327

**Friday, August 23, 2013 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. Danielle Irwin, DEP (Teleconference)
- 3. Matt Davis, MD RER (Teleconference)
- 4. Leah Oberlin, USACE (Teleconference)
- 5. Samantha Rice, USACE (Alternate)
- 6. Bob Progulske, USFWS (Teleconference)
- 7. Anita Bain, SFWMD (Alternate)
- 8. Jeff Rosenfeld, MDLPA (ex-officio)

b) Other meeting attendees

- 1. Jesse VanEyck, SFWMD
- 2. Steve Coughlin, SFWMD
- 3. Joan Lawrence, DOI
- 4. Lourdes Elias, SFWMD
- 5. Ray Palmer, SFWMD
- 6. Bob Verrastro, SFWMD

7. Karen Estock, SFWMD
8. Steve Krupa, SFWMD
9. Cynthia Gefvert, SFWMD
10. Martha Musgrove, FWF
11. Tom MacVicar, MDLPA

c) Other teleconference attendees

1. Kerri Barsh, MDLPA
2. Howard Hayes, DEP
3. Bertha Goldenberg, MD WASD
4. June Mirecki, USACE
5. Alan Whitehouse, DEP
6. Terry Clark, Cardno-Entrix

3. Approval of Minutes

a) Meeting Minutes from May 31, 2013 were moved for acceptance by Leah Oberlin, second by Bob Progulske. Motion approved by the Committee with no corrections.

4. Opening Comments – None

5. Submittal of Invoices for Acceptance by LBMC – Jeff Rosenfeld

Jeff presented Marjorie Moore's spreadsheet summarizing the invoices for May through July to be accepted by the Committee. The L-31N invoice was for data retrieval and analysis for May and June. The Dade-Broward Levee Phase 1 invoices were for surveying, conceptual design, preliminary engineering, and model calibration for the updated Lake Belt groundwater modeling. Danielle Irwin moved to accept the invoices, Bob Progulske seconded the motion, and the Committee accepted the invoices.

## 6. C-139 Annex Restoration Project – Jesse VanEyck

Jesse summarized the status of the C-139 Annex restoration project. Development of a native vegetation nursery site and a detailed pre-design site assessment are ongoing. Restoration design is expected to begin in November 2013, with Phase 1 construction anticipated to start in July 2014. Phase 2 construction is anticipated to begin in 2018 when the lease on the remainder of the property expires. There was some discussion on permitting. It is expected that the Palm Beach Gardens Corps office and the West Palm Beach DEP office will review the project applications.

## 7. L-31N Seepage Project Monitoring Results Update – Tom MacVicar

Tom presented a summary of the L-31N Seepage Project monitoring results through the end of July 2013. The differences in the groundwater gradient in monitoring well pairs across the seepage barrier (compared to downstream control sites) seen during the 2012 wet season were reestablished once the marsh in ENP reflooded in June 2013. Seepage vs. gradient and local vs. regional gradient plots were shown, which indicated that data collected at the seepage barrier after construction were different than the pre-wall data. Pre- and post-wall data at a control site four miles south of Tamiami Trail showed no change suggesting that the differences at the seepage barrier were due to the barrier and not due to variability in climatic or hydraulic conditions. In summary, it was concluded that the preliminary monitoring data indicate that the barrier is influencing water levels and seepage from the Everglades National Park into the L-31N Canal and the measured changes are similar to the pre-wall modeling predictions. Additional data will be collected through the current wet season and will be presented at a future meeting.

## 8. Dade-Broward Levee Seepage Project – Jeff Rosenfeld

Jeff summarized the status of the Dade-Broward Levee Seepage Project. The initial surveying has been completed and preliminary engineering and updated Lake Belt groundwater modeling are ongoing. The initial surveying included 15 cross-sections across the levee, plus some limited detailed surveying. Additional gaps in the levee were identified, but much of the levee could not be seen because of the dense vegetation. It was recommended that the vegetation on 7.5 miles of the top of the levee be mulched in order to evaluate the existing gaps and develop a repair strategy for the levee.

An updated groundwater model combining the SFWMD sub-regional model and the USGS detailed stratigraphy in the Lake Belt area has been developed and calibrated. Preliminary modeling results suggest that filling the gaps in the levee could offset increased groundwater flow due to Phase 1 mining and a new control structure in the Wellfield Protection Canal to maintain higher water levels adjacent to the Pennsuco wetlands could offset increased groundwater flow due to Phase 2 mining. Additional groundwater flow benefits from the diversion of excess water in the L-30 Canal into the Pennsuco wetlands through a second new control structure could potentially offset mining proposed beyond the Phase 2 footprint.

After discussion, a motion was made to approve the mulching of the top of the Dade-Broward Levee and authorize the transfer of \$450,000 in the FY13 Lake Belt budget to the MDLPA escrow account. The project funding will be tracked as a separate account and excess funds will be transferred back to the Lake Belt Mitigation Fund after the mulching and follow-up surveying work are completed. It was discussed that SFWMD treatment of exotic vegetation at the levee and in the 1500' setback area immediately to the east has already been approved by the Committee. The motion was moved by Bob Progulske with a second by Samantha Rice. The motion was approved by the Committee.

#### 11. Next Meeting Date - Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 9:00 AM SFWMD

Proposed discussion items:

- a) 2013 funding for the C-139 Annex restoration project – Terrie Bates
- b) Pennsuco wetlands acquisition/appraisal – Ray Palmer
- c) L-31N Seepage Project Monitoring Results Update – Tom MacVicar

#### 12. Meeting Adjourned