

LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road, (B-1, 2B Bridge Conference Room)

West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

This meeting was conducted as a teleconference

Meet-me number (866)-433-6299 Meeting ID #4119

Friday, February 8, 2008

1. Call to Order by Janet Llewellyn
 - a) Meeting began at 9:00 AM.
2. Opening Comments / Attendees
 - a) Committee Members
 1. Janet Llewellyn, DEP Committee Chair (Teleconference)
 2. Terrie Bates, Vice Chair SFWMD
 3. Veronica Fasselt, U.S. E.P.A
 4. Tori White, USACE (Teleconference)
 5. Matt Davis, DERM (Teleconference)
 6. Jeff Rosenfeld, MFL
 7. Tim King, Florida Fish & Wildlife (Teleconference)
 - b) Other meeting attendees
 1. Anita Bain, Alternate SFWMD
 2. Leah Oberlin, Alternate USACE
 3. Lee Chitty, Contractor SFWMD
 4. Marjorie Moore, SFWMD
 5. Barbara Katz, SFWMD
 6. Susan Brown, SFWMD
 7. Tom MacVicar, MFL
 8. David Black, SFWMD
 9. Paul Linton, SFWMD
 10. Maura Merkal, SFWMD CERP

11. Dewey Worth, SFWMD

c) Other teleconference attendees

1. Donna Fries, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer
2. Howard Hayes, Alternate DEP
3. Jason Smith, SFWMD Miami

3. Review and Approve minutes from 11/30/07 meeting – J. Llewellyn

Minutes were reviewed and amended. Amendment to minutes to include a reference to the discussion of miner owned lands within Pennsuco. Motion to pass minutes, as amended, was approved.

4. Items added to Agenda – J. Llewellyn

- 1) Agriculture Uses of Land Other than Mining – Matt Davis
- 2) Question concerning the Miners Annual Report – Veronica Fasselt
- 3) Preauthorization of land purchases from willing sellers within Pennsuco – Terri Bates

5. Potential SFWMD Mitigation Projects – David Black

David discussed the proposed restoration of Parcel #1 of the Southern Glades. David presented a copy of a power point presentation and discussed mitigation options for this land. The proposed long-term mitigation plan is to scrape the northern 240 acres of the project to remove exotic vegetation and improve hydrological conditions; and to remove exotic vegetation only (no scraping) from an additional 100 acres in the southern portion of the project. A near term option may be hand treating the exotic vegetation in the southern portion of the project first. Another near-term option is to clear access paths into the northern area, in order to take soil depth measurements, and prepare more accurate cost estimates for scraping and more extensive restoration. Dewey Worth discussed a possible conflict with the restoration of this parcel and the uncertain location for a future additional spreader canal for the C-111 canal. Dewey estimates a decision is most likely at least two years away. **Action 1:** David will report back to the committee with a recommendation and the costs of the different near-term mitigation options.

6. Update on 8.5 Square Mile Area – Paul Linton

Paul Linton of SFWMD provided an update on the 8.5 Square Mile Area. He said that there is about 550 acres with extensive exotic vegetation (due to rock plowed soils) on the west side of the protective levee. The District would like to restore those areas by scraping the rock plowed soils, which will remove the exotic vegetation and potentially improve the hydrology. He indicated that the District and Corps are close to an agreement on restoration responsibilities, with the Corps responsible for removing exotic vegetation and the District responsible for the long-term maintenance. Since the scraping would also remove the exotic vegetation, the District was going to discuss with the Corps about the possibility of not working on the rock plowed areas and instead doing other activities within the area. The District was working up cost estimates for scraping and soil disposal and Paul will come back to the next Committee meeting to further discuss the project. **Action 2:** Paul will report back to the committee on estimated costs and scheduling for doing the restoration.

7. Mitigation Scoring - It was decided that updated WRAP scores needed to be developed for both potential mitigation projects by the District and the 3 permitting agencies for the Lake Belt (Corps, DEP, and DERM). **Action 3:** Leah Oberlin (USACE) will schedule a field visit to develop WRAP scores for the 8.5 Square Mile area and Parcel #1 in the Southern Glades. The participants may include: Matt Davis (DERM); Alan Whitehouse (DEP); Tom Lodge & Jeff Rosenfeld (MFL); Ron Peekstok, Paul Linton, Marjorie Moore, & David Black (SFWMD).

8. Uses of Land Other Than Mining – Matt Davis

Matt discussed a recently received request for a mining permit extension. This is an example of a situation where interim agricultural activities could result in potential wetland impacts in areas where mining activities have been approved. Tom MacVicar will discuss the land use and proposed mining schedule with the property owner and report back to Matt concerning the request for an extension of the mining permit.

9. Review Draft of 2007 LBMC Annual Report – Terrie Bates

Janet Llewellyn indicated that she had not had a chance to review the Annual Report and Matt indicated he had not received the draft report. Terrie gave an over view of the report and changes were suggested by Terri and Leah Oberlin. These changes will be incorporated into the

report and committee members who did not have the opportunity to review the report, will be forwarded a copy for their comments, edits and corrections by February 22, 2008. Any changes will be forwarded to Lee Chitty to include in the report. If no major or substantive changes are recommended, the report is approved and scheduled for inclusion in the SFWMD March Governing Board agenda. **Action #4** – Marjorie Moore will provide a map of the Pennsuco private land ownership and acreage for inclusion in the Annual Report.

10. Questions Concerning Miners 2007 Annual Report – Veronica Fasselt

Veronica discussed a possible impact which appeared to be outside the permit boundary based upon a photograph in the miners' annual report.

11. Public comment – None.

12. Next Meeting Dates

Friday, May 2, 2008, 9:00 AM at SFWMD

13. Meeting Adjourned

Action Item Summary:

1. **Action 1:** David will report back to the committee with a recommendation and the costs of the different near-term mitigation options.

2. **Action 2:** Paul will report back to the committee on estimated costs and scheduling for doing the restoration.

3. **Action 3:** Leah Oberlin (USACE) will schedule a field visit to develop WRAP scores for the 8.5 Square Mile area and Parcel #1 in the Southern Glades. The participants may include: Matt Davis (DERM); Alan Whitehouse (DEP); Tom Lodge & Jeff Rosenfeld (MFL); Ron Peekstok, Paul Linton, Marjorie Moore, & David Black (SFWMD).

4. **Action 4** – Marjorie Moore will provide a map of the Pennsuco private land ownership and acreage for inclusion in the Annual Report.