

# **LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Summary/Model Lands Tour**

South Florida Water Management District

Homestead, FL

March 30, 2004 - 9:00 a.m.

### **1. Call to Order**

- a) Terrie Bates began the meeting began at 9:00 AM. All participants introduced themselves.

### **2. Opening Comments / Attendees**

#### **a) Committee Members**

- a. Terrie Bates, SFWMD, Committee Vice Chair
- b. Mike Spinelli, Alternate, Miami-Dade County DERM
- c. Howard Hayes, DEP
- d. Connie Ramsey, Alternate, COE
- e. Veronica Fasselt, U.S. E.P.A.
- f. Jeff Rosenfeld, Alternate MF&L (Non-voting)

#### **b) Other meeting attendees**

- a. Ruth Clements, SFWMD
- b. Beth McArdle, SFWMD
- c. Marjorie Moore, SFWMD
- d. Anita Bain, SFWMD
- e. Allen Whitehouse, DEP
- f. Clint Oakley, MDWASD
- g. Jim Goldasich, JJG&A
- h. Ed Cronyn, SFWMD
- i. Liz Abbott, SFWMD
- j. Matt Davis, SFWMD
- k. Paul Kruger, ACOE

3. Introduction to Tour (Terrie Bates) – Terrie explained the reason for this field meeting. The Lakebelt Committee is looking for cost effective alternatives for mitigation. One of the suggestions was there are number of projects that the District needs to complete in the south Miami-Dade area from a land acquisition standpoint, particularly the Model Lands area. She explained that Matt's tour will assist in giving the committee an idea of the value we thought it might have from a mitigation standpoint, acquisition as well as restoration opportunity.
4. Terrie handed the meeting over the Matt Davis of South Florida Water Management District who discussed information about the area and what the tour would consist of – specifically from an acquisition standpoint.
5. Discussion of Lake Belt/Model Lands Area (Matt Davis) - Matt presented a map titled Model Land Boundary (**Attachment #1**). There are actually two projects in the Model Land area. East of US 1 and the Southern Glades Addition Wildlife Program west of US 1. It is a 50/50 partnership w/Dade County to purchase and manage these areas. He explained how there are 2 projects in the area in CERP that are directly affected; any property being used under CERP gets most of the attention for acquisition. Others are on hold. Terrie asked about the US 1 – Card Sound Road area – the southeast areas are either purchased by District or by the County.

Matt discussed a red area on the map (west of US 1) which is the forested wetland – there is dense exotic vegetation, mostly Brazilian pepper and shoe pepper *Artesia*. The amount of vegetation can get up to 3800 plants per acre in this area.

Another opportunity that Matt will show is east of Everglades Park in the Aerojet area. There's a 5 to 6 mile road that the District is looking into removing in order to reconnect the wetlands. Along side of this area is the C-111 Spreader Canal project component.

Matt pointed out the farm field area, part of the Frog Pond project, that is being leased by farmers; it's owned by SFMWD. It's managed by Fish and Wildlife Commission from us. There are opportunities for restoration in the farm fields as well.

After discussion of the handouts, Matt told the group that the tour will consist of the Aerojet facilities area to look at the benefit of removing the road and industrial facilities and then the

forested wetland area to the north to look at the benefit from removing exotics. This concluded Matt's presentation.

6. **MOTION by Terrie Bates:** To reschedule the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting date. (Terrie Bates) Terrie discussed the opinion on whether the April 16<sup>th</sup> date should be held, or postponed a later date, since there was no real time sensitive item on the agenda. One outstanding item is Greg Roger's audit memorandum discussion. Greg is no longer with the audit's office; but we'll look at rescheduling for July to review the information.

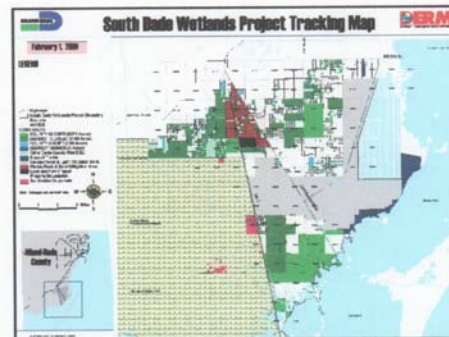
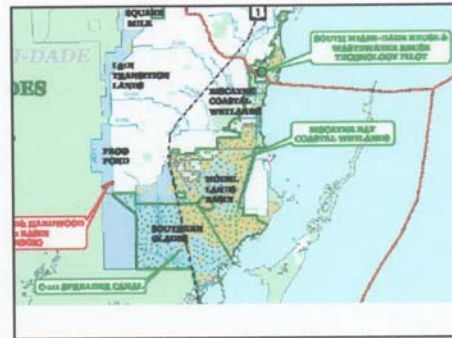
- a). Motion passed unanimously. Beth McArdle will check everyone's calendar and reschedule the next committee meeting for July.

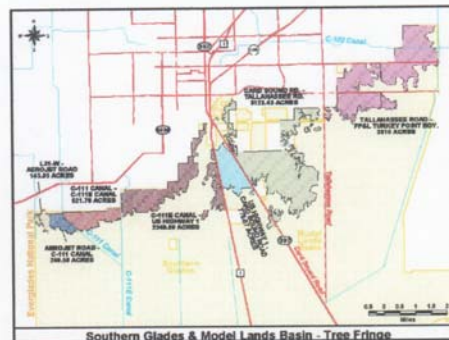
7. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00; the tour concluded at 1:30 PM.

8. Adjourn

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Action #1** – Beth will reschedule the next Committee meeting to be held in July.





## Attachment 1