

Lake Belt Mitigation Committee

Meeting Summary

South Florida Water Management District
West Palm Beach, Florida

February 15, 2002

The following committee members were in attendance by telephone or in person:

Terrie Bates, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); **Bob Barron**, (USACE); **Jean Evoy** (alt.), Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM); **Veronica Fasselt**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA); **Linda Ferrell** (alt.), USFWS; **Janet Llewellyn**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); **Jeff Rosenfeld**, (non-voting member), mining industry.

Call to Order

Janet Llewellyn called the teleconferenced meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed the committee.

Opening Comments

Llewellyn said that the purpose of the meeting was to approve the *Draft Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Annual Report for 2001*, update committee members on the status of permits for rock mining, and discuss the future work of the committee

Organizational Issues

Jim Jackson announced changes in the committee membership. Due to the death of Paul Larsen, Jeff Rosenfeld and Tom MacVicar will represent the rock mining industry. Linda Ferrell said Jeff Weller will represent USFWS. Veronica Fasselt (USEPA) stated that she would serve as the main committee member with Richard Harvey as alternate. Jim Jackson requested letters or e-mails confirming these changes to committee representation.

Minutes of the January 12, 2001 meeting were unanimously approved.

Committee's 2001 Annual Report

The committee reviewed and made corrections to the *Draft Annual Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Annual Report for 2001*. The report was accepted as amended. It will be included as a consent item at the March Governing Board meeting. Jim Jackson said he would e-mail the revised report to the committee

Status of Rock Mining Permits- FDEP, USACE, MD-DERM

Janet Llewellyn, FDEP, reviewed the e-mail, "DEP Permit Status Update." She said that several permits have received both an intent to issue and a variance for dissolved oxygen levels in the lower levels of lakes. The variance will allow the lakes to be reconnected to the landscape without construction of berms.

A state permit and variance was issued to Tarmac. Janet Llewellyn said that because there was no administrative challenge to the permit/variance, it appears that state permits will not be challenged

The state permit template and importance of the three year review process for permits within the NW Dade County wellfield area were discussed.

Bob Barron, USACE said that the Corps is handling permits as a package and that intents will be issued soon. Barron said extensive comments are being received.

Jean Evoy, MD-DERM said the department is working on several permit renewals and extensions and only one new permit application has been received.

Status of Acquisition of the Pennsuco Wetlands

Blair LittleJohn, SFWMD reported that a few parcels within the Pennsuco wetlands have been purchased. He referred to the map "Ownership Status of Pennsuco Wetlands, Feb. 14, 2002". LittleJohn discussed the inverse case and quick take process involved in the 1250 acre City National parcel. He explained that 2 million dollars from the non-rock mining mitigation fund was deposited in the registry of the court for the parcel. The case does not have to be tried until rock mining or other monies become available to pay the final verdict.

Blair LittleJohn said that other 5-10 acre parcels have been purchased and paid for with non-rock mining mitigation money. No other monies are being spent for acquisition.

The spending of non-rock mining mitigation monies for purchasing the Pennsuco was discussed. Jim Jackson said that the committee may need to readdress their decision to not spend rock mining mitigation money until permits are issued

The bonding of mitigation properties was discussed. It was recommended that bonding be addressed in a separate session.

Bob Barron informed the committee that the federal government settled the long-standing lawsuit with Florida Rock and has purchased 1,570 acres from the company. The land will be dedicated to future CERP mitigation needs.

Adjourn

Due to an interruption of the telephone line, the meeting adjourned at 11:36am.