

Lake Belt Mitigation Committee

Meeting Summary

South Florida Water Management District
West Palm Beach, Florida

March 22, 2002

The following committee members were in attendance: **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); **Janet Llewellyn**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); **Jeff Rosenfeld**, (non-voting member), mining industry.

Others in attendance or participating by teleconference: John Adornato, Frank Bartolone; Paul Dumars; Bob Gray; Jeanne Hall; Howard Hayes; Jim Jackson; Blair Littlejohn; Tom McCracken; Majorie Moore; Alan Whitehouse

Call to Order

Janet Llewellyn called the teleconferenced meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 2/15/02 meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.

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

Ms. Llewellyn said that FDEP has issued all permits with the exception of Continental. Ownership and berm/water quality issues associated with Continental were discussed. Jean Evoy said MD-DERM would continue discussions on this issue and report back to the committee.

Bob Barron, USACE, said that currently, they are negotiating the monitoring of mitigation with applicants. New language describing monitoring the progress of mitigation plans will be presented to Col. May.

Jean Evoy reported that MD-DERM has issued the Tarmac renewal with the new template language. The agency is working on Florida Rock and Continental renewals. Ms. Evoy stated the challenge to the permit issued to White Rock goes to the Environmental Quality Control Board next month.

Timing on Expenditures by Committee

Ms. Llewellyn said that mitigation monies have not been spent because all permits have not been issued and additional delays may occur if federal permits are challenged.

Jean Evoy said that MD-DERM will begin water quality monitoring next month, however, the rock mining industry has stated that it will not participate in monitoring until all permits are received.

Jeff Rosenfeld stated that the rock mining industry would be willing to support expedited acquisition of land for mitigation once federal permits are issued.

The committee discussed accelerating expenditures for mitigation. Majorie Moore volunteered to be the contact for considering alternative sites for mitigation. Jean Evoy took the lead for looking at the Lake Belt area more carefully for mitigation possibilities. Bob Barron volunteered to assist with these efforts. Ms. Llewellyn suggested that initial information regarding alternatives for mitigation be distributed to the committee prior to the next meeting.

Status of Acquisition of Pennsuco Wetlands

Blair Littlejohn, SFWMD, explained the status of City National. He said that after July 2002, either side in the City National case can request mediation. After July 2003, the case will go to trial.

Littlejohn stated that there are 188 non-rock mining landowners in the Pennsuco and offers to purchase the lands have been made through The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Because most offers have been rejected, Littlejohn has asked TNC to revisit the landowners and determine how much money they would accept. He also said that he is trying to meet with the Miccosukees regarding their intentions for their 3 tracts of land at the south end of the Pennsuco.

The committee discussed the use of mitigation funds for management of parcels previously acquired.

Bonding of Mitigation Fee Revenue

Bonding was discussed as a revenue source for land purchases. Frank Bartolone, SFWMD, said that as per statute, funds held by the District may be bonded and used for Lake Belt mitigation purposes. He stated that because the revenue source has never been bonded, it may not be easy to sell in the market place.

Paul Dumars said that bonding mitigation monies would have no significant impact on the District's financial status due to the dedicated source of revenue, but that bonding would have to be approved by the SFWMD Governing Board and count as part of the District's total indebtedness. Dumars said District staff would analyze the costs of bonding \$50,000,000 and report back to the committee.

Next Steps: Committee Actions for 2002

Terrie Bates- prepare scenarios for mitigation on lands currently in public ownership

Majorie Moore and Jean Evoy- compile information on alternative locations for mitigation

Janet Llewellyn- report on land leases

Paul Dumas- report on bonding

Ms. Llewellyn asked that the above information be distributed to the committee by the end of April.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 10 at 9:00am.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.