

# **LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Summary**

South Florida Water Management District

3301 Gun Club Road, (B-1 2nd Floor East End)

West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

This meeting will be conducted as a teleconference

Meet-me number 850-410-8045 (Suncom 210-8045)

Friday, May 20, 2005 9:00 A.M.

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, SFWMD, Committee Vice Chair
    3. Matt Davis, Miami-Dade DERM (Teleconference)
    4. Veronica Fasselt, U.S. E.P.A
    5. Steve Lau, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (Teleconference)
    6. Leah Oberlin, Alternate COE
    7. Jeff Rosenfeld, Alternate MF&L (Non-voting)
  - b) Other meeting attendees
    1. Ray Palmer, SFWMD
    2. Marjorie Moore, SFWMD
    3. Lee Chitty, SFWMD Contractor
    4. Anita Bain, SFWMD
  - c) Teleconference attendees
    1. Howard Hayes, Alternate DEP
    2. Mike Spinelli, Miami-Dade DERM
    3. Bertha Goldenberg, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer
    4. Bill Pitt, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer
    5. Evan Skornick, SFWMD Miami SC

3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: (Janet Llewellyn)

- a) January 28, 2005 Committee Meeting: Minutes Approved with no changes.
- b) December 7, 2004 Model Lands Lift Subcommittee Minutes – Approved with no changes. (See additional discussion below)

4. a) *Identify original interagency team of economists to assist Corp with 3 year review*– Tracy Hurst (COE) had raised this issue at the last Committee meeting. Jeff Rosenfeld spoke with Tracy prior to the meeting and indicated that Tracy had transferred to the Corps' Tampa Office and would no longer be the Corps' reviewer for the Lake Belt permits. Tracy had indicated that she had completed a draft of the 3 year permit review, and no longer had an immediate need for the information. The permit review incorporated all of the different components of the Lake Belt permits, including whether the mitigation being obtained through the Committee was keeping up with the acres mined. Leah Oberlin, the new committee person representing the Corps, indicated she thought the release date of the report would be in October 2005.

Discussion was held concerning updating the formula originally used to determine the fee per ton. New costs could potentially be plugged into the existing formula, given there are no significant changes in the formula components, and a new cost per ton could be readily determined.

The District will develop updated land acquisition, restoration, and long-term management cost estimates for Pennsuco by the end of June. Marjorie stated that the restoration/long-term management cost estimates are complete. However, legal and appraisal have components that will need to be updated for the land acquisition estimate. Upon completing this estimate, Beth McCardle will distribute the information to the committee members for review.

Upon receiving the final numbers, Jeff will follow up with Bob Baron at the COE and prepare a written analysis for the September 30, 2005 Committee meeting. Jeff Rosenfeld will report back at the September meeting with an initial cut at recalculating the fee per ton. **Action #1**

Janet Llewellyn will provide copies of the appraisal reports on the Florida Rock land swap to Ruth Clements and Jeff Rosenfeld. **Action #2**

Terrie Bates will see that the SFWMD finalizes the Pennsuco cost estimates by June 30 and transmits this information to the Committee members via Beth McArdle's email distribution list. **Action #3**

Veronica Fasselt will contact the economist from EPA to determine if the current model would work, if new numbers were provided. **Action #4**

b) Model Lands Subcommittee Minutes – Jeff Rosenfeld recommended that the minutes from the December 7, 2004 Model Lands Meeting be presented to the committee for approval. Meeting notes approved.

c) Land Purchase Update – Janet Llewellyn reported that Bryan Diviney of DEP sent a land sale contract to Pete Schnieder at the District to finalize the land sale. Both individuals are leaving their respective agencies and Janet indicated that we need to be careful to make sure that the contract not gets lost in the processing system.

Terrie to check on the SFWMD side to make sure that the contract sent to Pete is being processed and a check is sent to State Lands for the purchase. **Action #5**

d) Pennsuco Land Acquisitions – Marjorie Moore discussed the current and projected costs of restoration and long term maintenance. At the present time, restoration and long term maintenance are costing about 53% of the original estimates and amounts collected. Marjorie credited this cost savings to providing a more effective and efficient method of aerial treatment to large tracts of melaleuca. Marjorie cautions however, this cost may rise as they move to smaller tracts which require ground crews to hack and squirt each tree. The District has identified 167 remaining privately-owned tracts in the Pennsuco totaling 1,509 acres (or approximately 9 acres/parcel).

Marjorie mentioned that at the April SFWMD Board meeting, the Board approved the purchase of two tracts of land within the Pennsuco totaling 180 acres for a cost of \$2.7 million. Each tract was appraised and purchased at \$15,000 per acre.

5. a) Approval of the January 28, 2005 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved with no changes.

b) Model Lands Subcommittee Field Note Summary – Jeff Rosenfeld summarized a document entitled Model Lands Field Notes, October 2004/January 2005. (An earlier version of this summary, which included only the October field trip, is attached to the December 7<sup>th</sup> Model Lands Meeting minutes approved in Item 4(b) above). This document summarized the subcommittee mitigation lift evaluation related to the use of the Model Lands as a potential alternative wetland mitigation area for the Lake Belt Trust fund. The subcommittee consisted of representatives from SFWMD, COE, EPA, DEP, DERM and the Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association.

Extensive discussion followed concerning the potential WRAP score that could be achieved in the Model Lands areas with different degrees of exotic infestation. The report findings represent the consensus of the subcommittee and are the basis for potential future mitigation activities in the Model Lands.

6. Review Financial Reports – Jeff Rosenfeld discussed Appendix C from the annual report. It has not been updated for current year receipts and is accurate at 12/31/04.

7. Next Meeting

Next full Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, September 30, 2005, 9:00 at SFWMD.

8. Public comment – None

9. As per Janet Llewellyn's request, Bill Pitt of Miami-Dade Water and Sewer provided background information about the benzene contamination recently detected in the Northwest Well Field. No committee action required.

10. Adjourn

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Action #1** – Jeff Rosenfeld to report back at the September 30, 2005 meeting with an initial cut at recalculating the fee per ton.

**Action #2** – Janet Llewellyn will provide copies of the appraisal reports on Florida Rock land swap to Ruth Clements and Jeff Rosenfeld.

**Action #3** – Terrie Bates will insure that the SFWMD finalizes the Pennsuco cost estimates by June 30, 2005 and transmits this information to the Committee members via Beth McArdle's email distribution list.

**Action #4** - Veronica Fasselt will contact the economist from EPA to determine if the current model would work, if new numbers were provided.

**Action #5** - Terrie Bates to confirm with SFWMD personnel making sure that the contract sent to Pete Schneider is being processed and a check is sent to State Lands for the land purchase.