

# **LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

South Florida Water Management District Miami Service Center

172-A West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida

**November 16, 2000**

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Terrie Bates, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); Jean Evoy (alt.), Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM); Janet Llewellyn, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Paul Larsen (non-voting member), mining industry.

## **1. Call to Order**

Terrie Bates called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the initial meeting of the interagency Lake Belt Mitigation Committee.

## **2. Opening Comments**

Ms. Bates commented that the SFWMD took the lead in calling the initial meeting given the SFWMD's role with the Lake Belt Committee. She stated that the role of the Committee is both unique and innovative. When the Florida Legislature established the Lake Belt mitigation plan as part of state law it imposed a fee on the sale of all limestone and related products. It is the role and responsibility of this Committee to oversee the expenditure of those funds to offset the wetland impacts from the mining. While other mitigation projects have been large in scale, that this is the first time in the state in which the regulatory and environmental agencies will have such latitude of responsibility in directing the expenditure of those funds over the five decades of the Lake Belt Plan's implementation.

## **3. Overview of Committee Responsibilities**

Jim Jackson, SFWMD, provided the Committee members with a handout that contained the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan, section 373.41492, Florida Statutes and summarized the committee's responsibilities.

## **4. Open Meeting Requirements**

Frank Bartolone, SFWMD, distributed a handout with a summary of the Code of Ethics contained in chapter 112, F.S. The Committee was subject to "Government in the Sunshine" requirements and all meetings of the Committee would be publicly noticed in the Florida Administrative Weekly.

## **5. Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

The Committee unanimously approved a motion to request each agency or organization listed in the statute as being on the Committee to provide a letter designating the official member and alternative to serve on the Committee. Jean Evoy indicated that she would be an alternate for Carlos Espinosa.

Terrie Bates nominated Janet Llewellyn to serve as Committee Chair. The motion was unanimously approved. Janet Llewellyn nominated Terrie Bates to serve as Committee Vice-Chair. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **6. Consideration of Participation by Federal Agencies**

The Committee discussed the importance of coordinating the permitting and mitigation activities at the federal, state, and local levels. Terrie Bates made a motion to formally invite the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Environmental Protection Agency, and the Fish and Wildlife Service to become voting members of the Committee and to designate in writing a representative and alternate to serve on the Committee. The motion was unanimously approved. The Committee acknowledged the attendance of Brice McKoy, who indicated that he would be the USACE alternate to the Committee.

Jean Evoy, made a motion that the Committee adopt Robert's Rules of Order to govern the Committee's procedures. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **7. Status of Rockmining Mitigation Funds**

Jim Jackson reported that to date \$2,039,708.57 had been deposited into the Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund by the Florida Department of revenue. He explained the procedures used by the rockmining companies and the state.

## **8. Revenue Projection Reconciliation**

Frank Bernardino, SFWMD, discussed the importance of verifying that the actual revenue and expenditures are consistent with the projections upon which the legislature based the mitigation fee. He distributed a table with the original projections.

## **9. Presentation on Non-mining Mitigation in Pennsuco**

Marjorie Moore, SFWMD, distributed handouts including a map and photographs and discussed the mitigation work that the SFWMD is currently performing in the Pennsuco wetlands to offset the impacts from non-mining activities. This work would be expanded into additional areas of the Pennsuco wetlands for mitigating the mining impacts when authorized by the Committee.

## **10. Mitigation Priority Area**

Jim Jackson discussed the mitigation recommendations contained in the Lake Belt Phase I Plan that was accepted by the legislature. He informed the Committee that while several options were referenced in the Plan, the cost upon which the mitigation fee was based assumed that the mitigation would be in the Pennsuco wetlands. He

stated that no motion was being requested at this time to conduct any mitigation for rockmining impacts.

#### **11. Committee's 2000 Annual Report**

Jim Jackson briefed the Committee on the legislative requirement that annual reports be submitted to the SFWMD Governing Board. The Committee discussed the contents of the annual reports. Once funds began to be expended, the reports should contain information on new acres mined, cost per acre for mitigation, and acreage mitigated. The Committee also discussed using photographs from the annual overflights and other information already submitted to the County.

#### **12. Next Meeting**

The Committee decided to hold the next meeting by teleconference on Friday, January 12, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. (note: the time was changed to 1:00 p.m. due to conflicts)

#### **13. Public Comments**

Doug Bruce stated that it was his impression that the legislature intended for the Committee to take the longer-term view (i.e. 10 years) of costs, not annual

14. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.