

LAKE BELT MITIGATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, (B-1, 2B Bridge Conference Room)
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

This meeting was conducted as a teleconference
Meet-me number (850)-245-5725; Suncom: 205-5725

Friday December 15, 2006

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. Anita Bain, Alternate SFWMD
 3. Matt Davis, Miami-Dade DERM
 4. Veronica Fasselt, U.S. E.P.A
 5. Tim King, Florida Fish & Wildlife (Teleconference)
 6. Howard Hayes, Alternate DEP (Teleconference)
 7. Leah Oberlin, Alternate COE
 8. Jeff Rosenfeld, MFL
 - b) Other meeting attendees
 1. Maura Merkal, SFWMD CERP
 2. Lee Chitty, Contractor SFWMD
 3. Marjorie Moore, SFWMD
 4. David Black, SFWMD
 5. Nilda Lutter, SFWMD
 6. Tom MacVicar, MFL
 7. Brad Duncan, SFWMD
 8. Dewey Worth, SFWMD
 9. Ron Peekesfok, SFWMD

10. Tom Jordan, TNC

c) Other teleconference attendees

1. Allen Whitehouse, DEP
2. Donna Fries, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer

3. Review and Approve minutes from 10/13/06 meeting – Janet Llewellyn

Minutes were reviewed with no changes. Motion made to approve minutes as presented.

4. Review Agenda /Action Items from 10/13/06 Meeting – Janet Llewellyn

a) DEP Invoice Status: Terrie Bates to present invoice from DEP for \$864,000, (State Lands land swap with Florida Rock), to the January SFWMD Governing Board meeting for payment approval.

b) Pennsuco Letter Status: Tom Jordan from The Nature Conservancy reported that 80 letters were sent to Pennsuco owners in September/October 2006 covering approximately 1,075 acres. A ten-acre parcel was under contract, the owners of another ten-acre parcel were uncertain and further information was expected in January, and the owners of a 3.5-acre parcel had requested a contract. The Committee requested that letters be sent out to all remaining owners. SFWMD will follow-up with formal request to the Nature Conservancy to send letters to the remaining Pennsuco owners. **Action Item 1**

c) 8.5 Square Mile Area COE Project Status – Leah Oberlin will follow-up with the CERP section of the Corps on the plans for restoration activities in the 8.5 Square Mile Area.

5. Other Mitigation Locations – Dewey Worth, SFWMD, discussed the multiple CERP projects planned for south Miami-Dade, including the C-111, Biscayne Bay, and L-31N projects. These projects all have restoration components, which are still in the planning stage. The Committee discussed how best to integrate potential District (with Lake Belt Mitigation Fund support) projects with the CERP projects, including a potential distinction between “planned” and “authorized” projects and the possibility of being able to proceed with earlier restoration on planned projects (due to the spread of invasive exotic vegetation) and being able to “upgrade” (or

supplement) the restoration component identified in authorized projects. Dewey also mentioned an area located between the Biscayne Bay and C-111 projects, which would be good to preserve but CERP is not able to purchase lands for conservation purposes outside of project boundaries. It was discussed that the Committee had already looked at wetlands during a field trip in that area, but there did not appear to be much opportunity for mitigation lift because of the good condition of the existing wetlands.

6. Mitigation Alternatives – Marjorie Moore, SFWMD, discussed the handouts distributed to the Committee on the different potential District restoration projects in which the Lake Belt Mitigation Fund could be utilized. She also summarized the 8.5 Square Mile field trip that some members of the Committee had attended in December and pointed out that there were opportunities for both exotic vegetation removal and vegetative/hydrologic improvements (through scrape-down of filled/disturbed areas) available in the project area.

7. Financial Reports / 2006 Mitigation – Jeff Rosenfeld, MFL, discussed the preliminary end-of-year estimates supplied by the District. The 2006 mitigation fee collections were approximately \$3.8 million (as compared to the \$2.8 million estimate in the permit tables). The 2006 interest still needed to be updated for the last 3 months, but was most likely going to be approximately \$400,000. The financial report will be finalized when the District updates the quarterly interest values and will be included in the draft Annual Report.

Jeff requested Committee approval for 2006 expenditures from the Mitigation Fund to pay for the land acquisition, restoration, and long-term management costs for the 180 Pennsuco acres purchased by the District in April 2005. The total cost would be \$17,027/acre or \$3,064,860. Marjorie Moore said that DERM had contributed \$730,000 and the Developer Fund \$92,607 towards the 180 acres. The remaining cost for the Lake Belt Mitigation Fund would therefore be \$2,242,253 or the equivalent of 131.7 mitigation acres (using the 17,027/acre cost).

Jeff also requested Committee approval for 2006 expenditures from the Mitigation Fund to pay for the land acquisition costs, restoration, and long-term management costs for the 10 Pennsuco

acres that the Nature Conservancy reported was under contract. The total cost for this parcel would be \$12,027/acre or \$120,270.

The motion to approve both expenditures was approved by the Committee.

8. Public comment – None.

9. Next Meeting Dates

1) Mitigation Options Specific (SEIS) January 12, 2007 at 9:00 AM (Cancelled)

2) LBMC full committee (SEIS discussions as agenda item) on February 16, 2007 at 9:00 AM.

10. Meeting Adjourned

Action Item Summary:

1. Barbara Katz - SFWMD to follow-up with formal request to the Nature Conservancy to send letters to the remaining Pennsuco owners.