



South Florida Water Management District

Public Meeting to Discuss Regulatory Matters

June 15, 2011

10:00 a.m.

South Florida Water Management District - B-1 Storch Room
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEETING MINUTES

Staff Present:

Melissa L. Meeker, Executive Director
Robert M. Brown, Assistant Executive Director
Sharon M. Trost, Director, Regulation Division
Anthony Waterhouse, Assistant Division Director, Regulation Division
Anita Bain, Environmental Resource Permitting Bureau
Maria C. Clemente, Water Use Bureau
Phil Flood, Lower West Coast Service Center
Ricardo Valera, Lower West Coast Service Center
Jayne Bergstrom, Martin/St. Lucie Service Center
Don Loving, Martin/St. Lucie Service Center
Ed Yaun, Regulatory, Orlando Service Center

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Melissa Meeker at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Brown introduced staff at the service centers. There were no members of the public present at the Lower West Coast, Orlando or Martin/St. Lucie Service Centers. There were nine members of the public present at District Headquarters in West Palm Beach.

2. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Pending Final Action

Application 100202-2 SR 997/Krome Avenue from SW 8th Street to Okeechobee Road

Public Comment: John Planechar representing Florida Department of Transportation expressed the need for this project to alleviate heavy commercial traffic within this area. The applicant has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and State and Federal Wildlife regarding wetland impacts and is working on a mitigation plan and restoration of the C-110 canal facility.

Public Comment: Drew Martin representing the Sierra Club inquired if the widening of the road will result in more development to this area and if this extension is part of the Turkey Point project. Mr. Martin also inquired regarding wetland impacts.

Staff responded that this project is not part of the Turkey Point road expansion, its location is north of Tamiami Road between Okeechobee and SW 8th street. There will be direct and secondary wetland impacts. However, the applicant will fill in the C-110 Canal to supplement the ditch plugs that are already in place. This will be done to restore the hydrology of the wetlands in the area and is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). This portion of the plan is not currently funded.

Application 101203-7 Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport Expansion

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding wetland impacts and if there will be any impacts to the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park.

Staff responded that this project will impact approximately 17 acres of mangrove and Brazilian pepper wetlands, mitigation will be purchased from the West Lake Park. There will be no impacts to the State Park.

3. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Not Complete

Application 080103-6 Town of Big Cypress

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concern regarding wetland impacts and wildlife habitat.

Staff responded that the applicant is participating in a panther study with the wildlife agencies and property owners. The applicant will be submitting an update on the study.

Application 100126-5 Hacienda Lakes

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding wetland impacts and wildlife habitat.

Staff responded that this project is north of the Picayune Strand. This application has been significantly modified from its original plan and includes a larger portion of wetland preservation.

4. Public Comment on other Pending Permit Applications

Application 110505-15 Arrigo Dodge – Quick Lube

Public Comment: Rosa Duando inquired if the permitting review process includes a review on water quality potentially draining into the C-51.

Staff will provide follow-up information to Ms. Durando.

Application 110504-3 Lake Harbour Quarry

Public Comment: Rosa Durando requested clarification regarding this application.

Staff responded that this application is for a transfer of the permit to a new owner.

Application 110505-6 South County Regional Park Regional Pit

Public Comment: Rosa Durando requested clarification regarding this application.

Staff responded that this application is in the early stages of review and follow-up information would be provided to Ms. Durando.

5. Public Comment on General Regulatory Issues

Public Comment: Rosa Durando expressed concern regarding Permit 50-09230-W for Bethesda West Hospital.

Staff responded that this project is for dewatering and all dewatering will be retained on-site.

Public Comment: Rosa Durando expressed concern regarding dewatering permits that will affect the water table aquifer and consequently affect the agriculture of the surrounding areas.

Staff responded that the appropriateness of dewatering within a drought will be reviewed. Also in some cases of prolonged construction, dewatering might not take place for a year or two after permit issuance.

Public Comment: Rosa Durando requested clarification if polo fields are considered agricultural or recreational use and if these are subject to existing water shortage orders.

Staff responded that a polo field is considered recreational use; the existing water shortage orders do not include recreational use due to public health and safety issues.

Public Comment: Rosa Durando inquired if the District is providing comments regarding the potential exchange of sites between the FPL and Everglades National Park.

Staff responded that the District is providing comments.

Public Comment: Rosa Durando expressed concern of flooding in Stormwater Treatment Area 1 East.

Ms. Meeker responded that the operations of the storm water treatment area are regulated for water quality treatment. Ms. Meeker clarified the process of regulating the water levels and the definition of "flooding". Staff will provide follow up information to Ms. Durando.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding a newspaper article on the purchase of a pit from Palm Beach Aggregates.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding the Seminole Pratt Whitney Road due to a number of retention pond and the potential for flooding.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding the amount of water use in Palm Beach County.

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concern regarding the purchase of another pit from Palm Beach Aggregates and the water quality of the L-8 reservoir.

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concern regarding water use in Palm Beach County.

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding the amount of water use permits the District has issued to the West County Energy Center.

Staff will provide this information to Ms. Larson

6. Adjourn

Ms. Meeker adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.