



South Florida Water Management District

Public Meeting to Discuss Regulatory Matters

August 17, 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:

Robert M. Brown, Assistant Executive Director
Sharon M. Trost, Director, Regulation Division
Anthony Waterhouse, Assistant Division Director, Regulation Division
Maria C. Clemente, Bureau Chief, Water Use
Ricardo Valera, Regulatory Administrator, Lower West Coast Service Center
Hugo Carter, Supervisor, Martin/St. Lucie Service Center
Marc Ady, Supervisor, Orlando Service Center

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Executive Director Robert M. Brown at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Brown reviewed the purpose of the meeting and introduced staff at the service centers. There were no members of the public present at the Lower West Coast and Orlando Service Centers. There were three members of the public present at the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center and three members of the public present at District Headquarters in West Palm Beach.

2. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Pending Final Action

Application 070928-14 Canal Park Boat Launch

Public Comment: Gary Varnum representing the Port St. Lucie Anglers Club expressed support in favor of this application.

Public Comment: Paul Bender representing the Port St. Lucie Anglers Club expressed support in favor of this application.

Public Comment: Brad Keen representing the City of Port St. Lucie Parks and Recreation thanked staff for their efforts and requested this application be considered for approval.

Application 050330-10 Seacoast Utility Authority

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding the amount of water use.

Mr. Waterhouse responded that comments regarding this project expressed during the July Regulatory Public meeting were noted; Mr. Waterhouse contacted Palm Beach County and the project engineers and confirmed that the water use demands are not excessive. Staff also clarified the service location of this application.

3. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Not Complete

Application 101116-7 North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport

Public Comment: Kristin Bennett representing the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank expressed concern regarding Regulatory staff's determination that the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank is not suitable for applicants to request use to offset impacts to short hydro period wetlands although data has been submitted demonstrating that the Loxahatchee Mitigation is suitable.

Mr. Brown inquired regarding the status of a permit modification from the Department of Environmental Protection approving the use of the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank for hydro-period wetlands. Ms. Bennett responded that the permit modification approval is still pending.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding wetland mitigation.

Application 080103-6 Town of Big Cypress

Public Comment: Drew Martin representing the Sierra Club inquired regarding the status of this application. Mr. Drew expressed concern regarding wildlife and wetlands.

Mr. Brown responded that the applicant continues to work with other agencies regarding wildlife issues.

Application 081114-3 Facilities at Krome

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded that this application is for expansion of the penitentiary and the applicant has requested a time extension to respond to the District's request for additional information.

Application 070313-15 Village of Wellington

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding the possibility of salt water intrusion and impacts to the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge.

Staff responded that this application is a renewal for public water supply and possibility of salt water intrusion is not an issue in this area. Impacts to the Refuge are unknown; the District is waiting for a response to a request for additional information addressing this issue.

Application 071101-3 Charlotte County Babcock Ranch Water Supply

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding water use. Mr. Waterhouse clarified that this application is not for the use of the Babcock Ranch but rather public water supply for Charlotte County.

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

Application 060414-25 Parcels B, E and F – Wellington Country Place PUD

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding water elevations.

4. Public Comment on other Pending Permit Applications

There was no public comment regarding this item.

5. Public Comment on General Regulatory Issues

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concern regarding issuance of golf course variances during drought season and water conservation.

Staff responded the applicant must meet the District's criteria for approval of a variance; each variance expires in 60 days and applicants must not exceed their permitted allocation. Also the District continues to promote water conservation with other agencies and the public.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding issuance of golf course variances and the District's ability to monitor for compliance.

Staff responded that the District has a compliance program which provides routine monitoring and enforces any violations.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.