



South Florida Water Management District

Public Meeting to Discuss Regulatory Matters

February 15, 2012

10:00 a.m.

South Florida Water Management District – 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
Anita Bain, Bureau Chief, Environmental Resource Permitting
Maria C. Clemente, Bureau Chief, Water Use
Brian Tilles, Bureau Chief, Environmental Resource Compliance
Ricardo Valera, Regulatory Administrator, Lower West Coast Service Center
Marc Ady, Supervisor, Orlando Service Center
Hugo Carter, Supervisor, Okeechobee 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 requested that discussion be kept to regulatory issues. Mr. Brown introduced Regulation Division Director Sharon Trost. Ms. Trost introduced staff. There were two members of the public present in West Palm Beach. There was one member of the public present at the Lower West Coast Service Center. No members of the public were present in the Okeechobee or Orlando Service Centers. Eight members of the public viewed the meeting on the web.

2. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Pending Final Action

Application 050330-10 Seacoast Utility Authority

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding water use and discharges associated with this application. Additionally, Ms. Larson expressed concern with the acreage for the nearby Scripps Florida Phase II/Briger project (Application 120130-22).

Staff responded that the District has specific guidelines that must be followed when reviewing a consumptive use permit. Staff also clarified that the application for the

nearby Scripps Florida Phase II/Briger project (Application 120130-22) is for a permit extension associated with Senate Bill 2156; the acreage has not changed.

Public Comment: Drew Martin, representing the Sierra Club, expressed concern regarding water resource impacts to the nearby Briger property and other wetlands.

Staff responded that a majority of impacts to wetlands have occurred due to other surrounding activities not associated with the permit.

Application 100323-16 Wellington Countryplace PUD Parcel B, Pod E & Pod F

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired about the status of the application.

Staff responded that this application is on waiver pending issuance of the Environmental Resource Permit.

3. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Not Complete

Application 080103-6 Town of Big Cypress

Public Comment: Amber Crooks, representing the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, expressed concerns regarding impacts to water resources, environmentally sensitive lands and endangered species. Ms. Crooks also recommended that the District deny the application without prejudice or request the applicant to withdraw the application.

Staff responded that they have spoken with the applicant's attorney and a response is pending.

Public Comment: Drew Martin concurred with Ms. Crooks's comments and expressed concerns regarding impacts to water resources, environmentally sensitive lands and endangered species.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concerns regarding wetland impacts.

Application 090107-1 Crosstown Parkway Extension (Bridge over North Fork)

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to wetlands and bird habitat.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concerns regarding wetland impacts.

Application 100202-2 SR 997/Krome Avenue from SW 8th St. to Okeechobee Rd.

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to the Everglades National Park and wildlife habitat, as well as potential flooding in nearby areas.

4. Public Comment on other Pending Permit Applications

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired about several pending projects, including Bird Drive Basin, Miami-Dade 836 Extension, and the SR 7/Grassy Waters Preserve.

Staff responded that the District has not received applications for these projects.

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired about a new informal wetland determination application (120201-9) for Lion Country Safari

Staff responded that the purpose of the new informal wetland determination for Lion Country Safari is to verify wetlands.

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired about the conceptual approval modification application (110419-11) for the North Springs Improvement District-Wedge Property.

Staff responded that the conceptual approval modification was approved on February 13, 2012. The project is the area that was previously within Palm Beach County, but is now in Broward County and is being incorporated into the North Springs Improvement District.

5. Public Comment on General Regulatory Issues

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired about the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) and expressed concern regarding the overall loss of state wetlands.

Staff will provide a copy of the latest UMAM presentation to Mr. Martin.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed concern regarding mitigation and loss of wetlands

6. Adjourn

Mr. Brown informed everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further questions or public comments, Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.