



South Florida Water Management District

Public Meeting to Discuss Regulatory Matters

April 18, 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

Tom Colios, Water Use Supervisor

Ricardo Valera, Regulatory Administrator, Lower West Coast Service Center

Marc Ady, Supervisor, Orlando Service Center

Benita Whalen, Director, Agricultural Water Programs

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Executive Director Robert M. Brown at 10:06 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 five members of the public present in West Palm Beach. No members of the public were present in the Lower West Coast, Okeechobee or Orlando Service Centers. 33 members of the public viewed the meeting on the web.

2. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Pending Final Action

No Comment

3. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Not Complete

No Comment

4. Public Comment on other Pending Permit Applications

Application 120410-5 Florida Ranch Enterprises

Public Comment: Rosa Durando inquired about the type of application.

Staff responded that this application is for a renewal of an existing Everglades Works of the District permit.

Application 120411-13 Palm Beach International Airport

Public Comment: Rosa Durando expressed concerns regarding the receiving body and asked if the C-51 rule standards are still in effect.

Staff responded that PBIA has evaluated their plan based on the C-51 rule criteria which is still in effect.

Application 120411-12 Urania C Stable - Lots 30 & 31, Grand Prix Farms

Public Comment: Rosa Durando inquired about discharge into the receiving body.

Staff responded that the incorrect receiving body is listed on the application; staff will correct the information.

Application 110505-6 Boca Pit

Public Comment: Rosa Durando inquired about the application and expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to water quality. She also requested a copy of the staff report.

Staff responded that this is a water use renewal application and all water is retained onsite. Staff will provide a copy of the staff report.

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired about the excavation depth and potential impacts to the Refuge.

Staff responded that this is a renewal application for dewatering. The depth is 17 feet below land surface which is typical for golf course lakes

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired about the excavation depth and also commented on the possibility of aquifer contamination.

Staff responded that 17 feet below land surface is fairly typical depth of lakes. The surficial aquifer is approximately 200 feet thick in the area.

Application 120412-2 Beach Curve Road Drainage Improvements

Public Comment: Rosa Durando inquired about the type of application.

Staff responded this is a dewatering application.

Application 120323-11 East Shore Water Control District

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired about the application type and associated acreage.

Staff responded that this application is for a renewal of an existing Everglades Works of the District permit.

Applications 120328-12, 120328-13, 120328-16, 120328-21 Hand Farm

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired about the type and quantity of applications.

Staff responded that these applications are permit ownership transfer requests to list the correct owners on the permits.

Application 120323-3 Main Farm

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired about the type of application.

Staff responded that this application is for a renewal of an existing Everglades Works of the District permit.

Application 120307-9 Hobe Sound Club

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired about the status of the application, permit criteria and wetland impacts.

Staff commented that this is a renewal of an existing water use permit. The same permit criteria must be met during a renewal process as when applying for a new permit. In addition, the project must be in compliance. Regarding the wetland impacts, this is reviewed through the ERP program and applicant must offset wetland functions. Staff also stated that the next time a UMAM training session is offered by the District, an invitation will be extended to Mr. Martin.

Application 990129-8 Mirasol Recharge Pump Facility

Public Comment: Rosa Durando inquired about the waiver for this application.

Staff responded that a waiver is requested by the applicant and suspends the permitting time clock. The application has been in-house for 13 years.

5. Public Comment on General Regulatory Issues

Public Comment: Alex Larson commented on Army Corps of Engineer projects (SAJ 2011-03094 and SAJ 2012-00491). Ms. Larson stated that the deadlines to submit comments for these projects are April 21, 2012 and April 30, 2012. She has asked that staff follow these projects closely and include comments before the respective deadlines.

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired about the factors determining a project of Heightened Public Concern (HPC).

Staff responded that a project may be deemed Heightened Public Concern due to significant public interest or project location.

Application 120130-22 Scripps Phase II / Briger

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

Staff commented that the application was for an extension related to Senate Bill 2156. The extension was approved in February.

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding Best Management Practices, Everglades Works of the District permits and the associated review process.

Staff commented that prior to issuing an Everglades Works of the District permit, stringent criteria must be met. Best Management Practices are outlined in Chapter Rules 40E-61 and 40E-63. In addition, extensive reporting is required, staff inspections are completed, and detailed evaluations are conducted making sure projects are in compliance.

Public Comment: Carol Strick expressed general concerns and opposition to the following projects due to potential environmental impacts: Scripps, Peanut Island, Hendry County FPL proposed project, Meyer Academy proposed school project, and manmade lakes.

Public Comment: Edward Strick expressed general concern regarding conservation, habitat and water quality. In addition, Mr. Strick expressed his opposition on any major projects being proposed that would cause environmental impacts.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Brown informed everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further questions or public comments, Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.