



South Florida Water Management District

Public Meeting to Discuss Regulatory Matters

April 15, 2015

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:

Sharon M. Trost, Director, Regulation Division
Anthony Waterhouse, Assistant Director, Regulation Division
Charles Walter, Regulatory Administrator, Orlando Service Center
Melissa Roberts, Regulatory Administrator, Lower West Coast Service Center
Thomas Colios, Section Leader, Water Use Bureau
Barbara Conmy, Section Leader, Environmental Resource Permitting Bureau
Robert Hopper, Lead Environmental Analyst, Environmental Resource Permitting Bureau
Jeff Collier, Senior Attorney, Practice Leader, Office of Counsel

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Trost at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Trost reviewed the purpose and requested all comments be regarding regulatory issues and introduced staff at headquarters and the service centers. There were eight members of the public present at the District Headquarters and one member of the public present at the Lower West Coast Service Center. There were no members of the public present at the other service centers.

2. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Pending Final Action

No Items discussed.

3. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Not Complete

Application 141120-2 Minto West

Public Comment: Alan Ballweg commented regarding the most recent letter sent to the applicant requesting additional information. Mr. Ballweg is concerned with possible

contaminants that may be in the area. He requested that an independent expert be sent to evaluate the possible risk to public health and endangered species. Mr. Ballweg is concerned that endangered wildlife species may have been missed in the previous evaluation.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed opposition to the issuance of this application. Ms. Larson is concerned with regards to contaminants that had been left by the previous owner's impact to the surrounding lands.

Application 140902-5 Ocean Ridge Restoration Project

Public Comment: Robert Sloat is opposed to the project. He is concerned with the impact to the existing wildlife and aesthetics of the area.

Public Comment: Bob Nemea, (representing Wellington Arms Condominiums), is opposed to the project. He is concerned with the impact to the existing wildlife and aesthetics of the area.

Public Comment: Drew Martin, (Sierra Club), opposes the project. Mr. Martin inquired with regards to Mangrove removal on the project. Mr. Martin is concerned with the impact to the environment and wildlife.

Staff explained that mangrove removal is requested in the application. Staff also explained when mangrove and sea grass impacts are allowed if permitting criteria is met and appropriate mitigation is done. It was also mentioned that a mitigation plan was not submitted with the application and explained that the application is currently under review.

Application 080103-6 Town of Big Cypress

Public Comment: Amber Crooks on behalf of the Conservancy of South West Florida, concerned with the impact to the wetlands and wildlife corridor. Concerned that the project footprint and the lands directly outside of the project are utilized by wetland dependent species including the Florida Panther - the area is 90% primary zone panther habitat. Ms. Crooks asked staff to please review their previous proposals to minimize these impacts during the review process. Ms. Crooks also asked that the District examine the potential indirect, direct and cumulative effect of the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HPC) to matters related to the District's mission. She also asked that the District provide input to the HPC and attend upcoming scoping meetings.

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed support to Amber Crooks' comments on the project. Mr. Martin is concerned with the wildlife impact that may occur especially related to the Florida Panther.

Application 120622-9 Eden Oak

Public Comment: Amber Crooks opposes this project and asks that the application be denied. Her concern is for the possible impacts to coastal wetlands and wildlife dependent on these wetlands. Ms. Crooks listed other agencies that are considering denial of this project within their jurisdiction.

Application 150126-17 Turkey Point Cooling Canal Augmentation

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed opposition to the issuance of this application. Ms. Larson is concerned with future maintenance of the site.

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding the use of excess water that is requested for use in the application. Mr. Martin also inquired regarding the monitoring for this water.

Staff responded with a brief explanation of the applications request for excess water and explained the District would be monitoring the water levels.

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

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding the application status.

Staff responded the application is still not complete.

**Application 131119-5 NPBCID Unit 2 C Phase 1
131216-7 NPBCID Unit 2 C Neighborhood 1**

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed opposition to the issuance of this application. Ms. Larson's concerns are with the wetlands being impacted. She is also concerned with the future of this project in relation to changes of the original project purpose.

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding the current status of this application and what construction has occurred. Mr. Martin expressed concern with the changes to the originally stated purpose.

Staff explained the current status of the project including previously approved construction phases.

4. Public Comment on other Pending Permit Applications

Application 140613-7 Loxahatchee Reserve

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150325-6 UAZ 310 Water Improvements

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 140904-5 Palm Beach Aggregates Sand/Limestone Facility

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150327-14 Triple H Ranch

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150330-10 Pond 2 & 3 – SR 70 E (FDOT)

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150330-2 USACE Culvert 16 Groin Construction

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150317-3 Babcock Ranch Community Utility Site

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150320-19 LVSL Shop Irrigation

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 150317-4 Place at Dania Beach

Public Comment: Alex Larson inquired regarding this application.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

Application 141020-12 Corkscrew Crossing

Public Comment: Amber Crooks commented regarding this application. Ms. Crooks is concerned with impacts to the wetlands and wildlife in the area. Ms. Crooks asked that additional footage to the preservation be considered to protect the wildlife corridor. She also requested that the project be listed as Heightened Public Concern.

(Ms. Crooks submitted documentation to be added to the application file.)

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concern over the possible impacts to the black bears, panthers, and wading birds in the area. Mr. Martin is also concerned with any impact to wetlands and requests that the wildlife corridor be functional in the area.

Staff responded with a brief summary of the application.

5. Public Comment on General Regulatory Issues

Wetland Determination Application 150112-13 Avenir

Public Comment: Drew Martin expressed concern with regards to the impacts to the flow ways.

Public Comment: Alex Larson expressed opposition to these types of permits. Ms. Larson commented regarding the eradication of evasive species. Ms. Larson expressed concern on how these determinations are made.

Public Comment: Drew Martin is concerned with how wetlands are being determined. Mr. Martin expressed concern with regards to the impacts to the flow ways.

Black Bears and human wildlife conflicts

Public Comment: Amber Crooks commented regarding discussion occurring with Florida Fish and Wildlife to address human/ wildlife conflicts.

Mangroves

Public Comment: Drew Martin is against the removal of existing mangroves and request that all projects requesting the remove of mangroves be marked as Heightened Public Concern.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.