



South Florida Water Management District

Public Meeting to Discuss Regulatory Matters

November 18, 2015

10:00 a.m.

South Florida Water Management District - B-1 Auditorium
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
Maria Clemente, Bureau Chief, Water Use Bureau
Charles Walter, Regulatory Administrator, Orlando Service Center
Brad Cook, Section Leader, Fort Myers Service Center
Jesse Markle, Section Leader, Okeechobee Regulatory Office
Simon Sunderland, Section Leader, Water Use Bureau
Carlos De Rojas, Section Leader, Environmental Resource Permitting Bureau

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Trost at 10:08 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 four members of the public present at the District headquarters. There were no members of the public present at any of the service centers.

2. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Pending Final Action

Application 150126-17 Turkey Point Cooling Canal

Public Comment: Drew Martin (Sierra Club) commented regarding this project. Mr. Martin is concerned the drawdown may cause salinity problems in the bay.

3. Applications of Heightened Public Concern Not Complete

Application 150410-5 SR7 Extension from Okeechobee Blvd to North Lake Extension

Public Comment: Roger Sims (Holland & Knight special counsel to the City of West Palm Beach), commented that the city has concerns stemming from the current proposed location of the road being on the western edges of Grassy Waters Preserve. Mr. Sims commented on the fact that this preserve is a water supply for the city and is a pristine remnant of the Everglades that is highly esteemed by the city and several major agencies as well as home to endangered species like the Everglades snail kite. He is concerned that this project would cause impact to Grassy Waters. Mr. Sims is concerned that the current application has not seriously considered other options. Mr. Sims stated that the United States Environmental Protection Agency has recently announced it has determined that Grassy Water is an aquatic resource of national importance. The city is concerned with the effect that this project will have on the water quality, the habitat, and the species in Grassy Water by the approval of this application.

Public Comment: Claudia McKenna (consultant for the City of West Palm Beach), commented that the City of West Palm Beach has spent more than a decade protecting Grassy Water Preserve. The Grassy Water Preserve is a class one body of water that is not only a water supply but also a pristine remnant of the Everglades that serves as habitat for plants, birds and animal species that are important to Florida and includes both threatened and endangered species. Ms. McKenna reminded staff of previous applications that were withdrawn due to the cost to mitigate in similar situations. The City of West Palm Beach, Town of Palm Beach and Town of South Palm Beach are opposed to this application because of possible effects to the water supply and the habitat that they have worked so hard to create. Ms. McKenna additionally read comments from letters sent by the following agencies concerning this application: Army Corp of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife, and United States Environmental Protection Agency (copies of these letters have been filed with the application and can be viewed on-line.) Ms. McKenna asked the District to consider what these agencies are saying about the adverse impacts of the location of the road and requests that the District deny this application based on the findings.

Public Comment: Drew Martin is opposed to the permitting of this application. Mr. Martin commented that we should have an obligation to maintain these areas and protect them. Mr. Martin is concerned with the possible effects that addition light and sound will have on the wildlife in the area stating that any additional roads will add additional accumulative harmful impacts to the area. Mr. Martin stated that the highest priority should be drinking water and environmental protection. Mr. Martin also commented that this road will increase traffic not lower traffic.

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

Public Comment: Drew Martin opposes this project running through a state park.

Application 150728-3 Kanter 23-1

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding this project. Mr. Martin is opposed to this application.

Staff gave a brief explanation regarding the purpose of this application.

Application 080103-6 Town of Big Cypress

Public Comment: Drew Martin stated that the Sierra Club concurs with the statements made in the letter submitted by the South West Nature Conservancy concerning Collier County Projects.

Application 140327-7 Argo Manatee
Application 150604-14 Pelican March East
(Any ERP Project in Lee of Collier County)

Public Comment: Drew Martin is concerned with any project that impacts black bears, panthers, and wading bird habitats. Mr. Martin is concerned that surface water is damaged when any type of a wetland is removed.

Application 140902-5 Ocean Ridge Restoration Project

Public Comment: Drew Martin disagrees with the word “restoration” being in the title and asked that it be removed from this project’s name. Mr. Martin opposes this project.

Application 141009-9 Alton Tract B- Community Recreation & Fitness Facility

Public Comment: Drew Martin commented regarding this project. Mr. Martin is concerned with all the natural areas being removed.

Application 150528-3 FDOT SR7 Extension – Palm Beach County

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding this project.

Application 150922-3 All Aboard Florida North- South Rail Corridor Segment D09

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding this project. Mr. Martin is concerned with the possible harm this application may cause to Jonathan Dickenson Park.

Staff gave a brief explanation regarding the location of this application

4. Public Comment on other Pending Permit Applications

Application 011214-24 Kolter Development of the Grande at Palm Beach Gardens

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding this project.

Staff gave a brief explanation regarding this application

Application 151104-2 UTC Center for Intelligent Buildings

Public Comment: Drew Martin inquired regarding this project.

Staff gave a brief explanation regarding this application.

5. Public Comment on General Regulatory Issues

General Public Comment: Drew Martin is concerned that the disruption of natural soils, natural tree canopies, natural plants and wildlife will, at some point, disrupt the viability of these areas and effects the ability of natural areas to retain rain water which could cause flooding. He is concerned that the removal of these natural areas will disrupt the purpose they currently have of holding rain

water and allowing this water to seep into the aquifer.

Public General Comment: Drew Martin is concerned regarding any application related to surplus water in the Ag Reserve.

Public General Comment: Drew Martin requested to be notified regarding projects that effect mangroves.

Public General Comment: Drew Martin is concerned that in general, permits are allowing too much excavation for developments. Mr. Martin would like the permits to leave natural areas. Mr. Martin asked that nature areas for the wildlife and natural retention areas be left on the property instead of creating and depending on retention ponds.

Public General Comment: Drew Martin is concerned with the maintenance of water quality that may be affected by open spaces.

6. Adjourn

Staff reminded the attendees that information is available on line using ePermitting and training is available on using this webpage.

Staff is available to answer questions once the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.