

SOUTH MIAMI DADE WATERSHED STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Eight

May 30, 2002
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Homestead Sports Complex
Homestead, Florida

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Chair Roger Carlton, who welcomed everyone and thanked member Mike Shehadah, for arranging to have the City of Homestead host this meeting. He informed the Committee that he is still considering potential candidates for the two “at large” members who he will appoint.

Mr. Carlton asked if any members had comments regarding their pre-meeting tour of the Homestead Waste Water Treatment Plant. Other than thanking the City for making the Tour possible, no further comments were forthcoming.

Members Present:

Roger Carlton, Chair
Ivonne Alexander, Miami Dade AgriCouncil
Richard Alger, South Florida Potato Growers Exchange
Humberto P. Alonso, Jr., South Florida Water Management District
Daniel Apt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Linda Canzanelli, Biscayne National Park
Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade DERM
Dick Frost, Tropical Audubon Society
April Gromnicki, National Audubon Society
John Hall, Florida Engineering Society
Robert Johnson, Everglades National Park
Louise King, Redland Citizens' Association
Bennie Lovett, Florida City
Blanca Mesa, Sierra Club
Lawrence Percival, Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations
Mike Shehadah, City of Homestead
Dale Williams, Miami Dade Agricultural Practices Board

AGENDA REVIEW/CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the meeting Objectives and Agenda for the day. The Objectives were:

- ❖ To learn more about environmental issues in the study area by Environmental Subgroup
- ❖ To discuss qualities of Selection Committee membership
- ❖ To update Committee roles and responsibilities

A copy of the Objectives and Agenda are attached as Exhibit A.

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the Agenda and directed members to an update of their member list as well as the list of relevant websites. She informed members that the Watershed Project website was receiving more "hits" than any other South Florida Regional Planning Council individual site. In April, 2002, the Watershed Study received 251 "hits" and, as of May 22, it had received 151. (It should be noted that a "hit" does not indicate only outside attempts to see the site; therefore, actual inquiry hits are somewhat lower than the numbers reflect).

All Reports of Proceedings of the Committee, can be found on the SFRPC website at www.sfrpc.com, then go to "The Institute", then "Projects", then "The South Miami Dade Watershed Study Advisory Committee".

ENVIRONMENTAL SUBGROUP PRESENTATION

The Facilitator turned the meeting over to members Robert Johnson and Linda Canzanelli to lead the Environmental Subgroup Presentations. Presentations were made by:

Robert Johnson, Everglades National Park and Committee member (Exhibit B)
Joe Serafy, National Marine Fisheries Services, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Exhibit C)
April Gromnicki, National Audubon Society (Exhibit D)

Following the presentations, members had a discussion and the following comments were noted:

1. How do we avoid spikes in water levels in order to achieve balance between economy, environment and the community?
2. We need to find a way to connect scientific information with political forces.
3. Although the overall cost to restore the Everglades is small, the cost to certain groups can be devastating.

The group then took a short break.

SELECTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chair Roger Carlton explained the Selection Committee makeup to the members. There will be seven (7) members on the Selection Committee: one representative of each of the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding for Preparation of the Watershed Plan (South Florida Regional Planning Council, Miami Dade County and the South Florida Water Management District); one representative from each of the three issue areas identified by the Watershed Committee (environment, economy, and community); and the Chair, Mr. Carlton. The three issue area representatives will not be Watershed Committee members. In addition, the Comprehensive Development Master Plan requires that at least two of the representatives be former members of the Biscayne National Park "Land Bank Trust" Working Group.

Committee members commented that in the selection process it is important to define what is/is not in conflict with regard to the issues to be studied.

Mr. Carlton then encouraged the members to consider diversity and suggest names for consideration on the Selection Committee. The following names were suggested:

Pat Wade-Redlands Citizen's Association
Geoff Knights-Redlands Citizen's Association
Juanita Green-Everglades Coalition

Tom Kirby-Dade County Farm Bureau
Barbara Hank
Dave Friedrichs-Executive Director, Dade County Farm Bureau
Colleen Boggs
Quentin Hedgepeth
Otis Wallace-Florida City
Arturo DeLeon
Rev. Clinton Terry-President Southeast Ministers Alliance
Dr. Roy Phillips-Miami Dade Community College
Sylvester Jackson-Florida City
Bob Epling
Mary Finley-Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Noble Hendrix
Bill Losner-First National Bank
Alan Farago-Sierra Club
Lloyd Miller-Redland Citizen's Association
Barbara Lange-Friends of the Everglades
Carol Rist
Dennis Olle-Tropical Audubon Society

The final selection will be made by Carolyn Dekle, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council.

COMMITTEE PURPOSES REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Cindy Dwyer, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning, gave a presentation (Exhibit E) to review the purposes and responsibilities of the Committee. Additionally, Ms. Fleischer reminded the Committee of their accomplishments to date:

- Issues and Challenges Identified
- Core Values Identified
- Missing Stakeholders Identified
- Designation of Voting and Non-Voting Members
- Vision Statement
- Issues and Challenges Categorized
- Goals and Objectives for Consultants Identified
- Tasks for Consultants Refined
- Request For Proposals Issued
- Ongoing presentations/building of knowledge base

In considering their timeline and responsibilities, the Committee was asked whether they would like to meet over the summer or adjourn until the fall. It was decided to try to meet one time over the summer, in late July or mid August, when the Selection Committee would have neared completion of their task and could report to the Watershed Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, a committee member made the suggestion that the Vision Statement of the Committee be included at the top of all future Agendas. The meeting was then adjourned.