

SOUTH MIAMI DADE WATERSHED STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Twenty-seven

January 6, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME/CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was held at The Miami Dade Cooperative Extension Service Agricultural Center in Homestead, Florida.

Roger Carlton, Chair, was unable to attend the beginning of the meeting so Janice Fleischer, Facilitator opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She thanked the facility for their continued generosity in sponsoring the meetings every other month and thanked member, William Losner, for sponsoring breakfast for everyone.

Ms. Fleischer introduced a new prospective member to the Committee, Robert Yero, Park Manager, Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park who has been nominated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to replace Daniel Apt as their representative on the Committee. Mr. Yero was born and raised in South Florida and has a BS degree in Environmental Science from the University of Miami. Mr. Yero was welcomed to the Committee.

Members present:

Roger Carlton, Chair
Richard Alger, South Florida Potato Growers Exchange
Subrata Basu, Miami-Dade Planning and Zoning
Gerald Case, Florida Lime & Avocado Committee
Amy Condon, Trust for Public Land
Guillermina Damas, Member At Large
Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade DERM
Dick Frost, Tropical Audubon Society
April Gromnicki, National Audubon Society
Robert Johnson, Everglades National Park
Louise King, Redland Citizens' Association
William Losner, Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Carter McDowell, Building Industry Representative
Reed Olszack, Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Board
Lawrence Percival, Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations
Bonnie Roddenberry, Sunny South Acres Homeowner's Association
Jane Spurling, Florida Nurserymen and Grower's Association
Julia Trevarthen, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Robert Yero, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (unconfirmed)

In this and all future Reports, the number of Observers present will be noted. At this meeting, there were 19 Observers which includes 4 presenters.

AGENDA REVIEW/GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the Agenda for the day (Exhibit A) and reviewed the Committee's Meeting Guidelines and Observer Guidelines.

All Reports of Proceedings of the Committee, Discussion Guidelines and Committee related information, can be found on the SFRPC website at www.sfrpc.com/institute/watershed.htm.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

John Hulsey, Project Manager, delivered the Project Manager's Report. (Exhibit B) Along with the standard information regarding the status of the project, Mr. Hulsey informed the members about a modification to the map for Test Scenario Ib to account for the possibility of development in a constrained area. He also explained that the Gables-by-the Sea and Gables Estates areas were not included in the Study Area because they did not contribute to the drainage canal basins being modeled by XP-SWMM, and could not be modeled independently given the resources of the project.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: CERP ACCELER8

Jorge Marban, Ph.D. and Jorge Jaramillo, both of the South Florida Water Management District, gave a presentation on the status of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project and the newly announced CERP Acceler8 course of action. (Exhibit C)

Following the presentation, Dr. Marban and Mr. Jaramillo responded to questions from members. The following comments were recorded:

1. Who are the stakeholders in the Acceler8 project?
 - a. All public
 - b. All landowners should/will be notified
2. Purchasing of land for this project is happening now; all purchases currently are from willing sellers.
3. With regard to Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (BBCW):
 - a. Phase I should be completed by 2009
 - b. Phase II should be completed by 2015
 - c. \$15-20 million dollars is being spent in Phase I on design and construction
4. The C-111 Canal is in CERP but is also in the same location as another non-CERP project; how is Acceler8 linking with the non-CERP project?
 - a. All coordination is currently being done by Mr. Jaramillo's office
 - b. Note: there are two C-111 Canal projects, one is CERP and one is non-CERP, this question was directed at how the two are being coordinated with one another
5. There is an existing culvert that was capped off in previous years that will take the water under Old Cutler Road, in the area near the Deering Estate.
6. Concern was raised that BBCW is being "phased"; it was supposed to be one entire project.
7. With regard to the C-111 Project, it is important not to fill in near Barnes Sound until it is certain there won't be any overflow.
8. Acceler8 will not negatively impact this Study; it will in no way slow down this process.
9. Request that maps be made available on Acceler8 alternatives as they are developed.
10. The actual footprint of phases I and II will be known by April, 2005.

At this point in the meeting, the group took a short break.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND OPEN SPACE

Kevin Asher, Miami Dade County Parks and Recreation, Section Supervisor and Maria Nardi, Special Projects Administrator gave a presentation on Recreation Open Space. (Exhibit D)

Following the presentation, the following comments and questions were recorded:

1. Wayside Parks are abbreviated neighborhood parks. Their origin is in “borrow” pits as an example. Up to now, wayside parks have had low resource value.
2. Currently, there are approximately 4.5 acres of dog parks.
3. Comment that The Deering Estate is more a “social use” Park (for monetary value) rather than a public park. Response was:
 - a. Is both state and county owned
 - b. The County manages it
 - c. There are many diverse events happening there
4. South Dade acquisition concern is that a lot of Ag land is being used by recreational users without permission and illegally (ATV’s, Scooters)
 - a. Some areas south of Black Point have been reviewed for allowing these uses legally
5. Indoor boat storage is needed; are there any plans for them in Dade?

At the conclusion of the Parks presentation, Amy Condon, member of the Committee and Director of the Miami Office of the Trust for Public Land, gave a presentation on conservation easements (Exhibit E) as well as providing a copy of a sample Conservation Easement (Exhibit F).

After Ms. Condon’s presentation, the following was recorded:

1. How do you overcome the local zoning regulations?
 - a. The existing zoning helps determine the valuation of the property
 - b. To change the existing zoning would require action on the part of the local government
2. It is a lengthy process to do conservation easements, but it could give valuable tax benefits.
3. Who pays the Owner’s legal fees?
4. Will TPL look at what money is available from the new Miami Dade County Bond issue to acquire lands?
 - a. Dade County will be working closely with TPL on this issue.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)

Liz Abbott, former SFWMD Project Manager on this project, and current Lead Project Manager, SFWMD, Watershed Management Department’s Stormwater Management Division, presented information and background on the Technical Review Committee providing scientific peer review for the Watershed Study. (Exhibit G). There were no questions following Ms. Abbott’s presentation. Ms. Abbott will continue to attend and participate on the TRC although she is now in a new position with the water management district.

It was decided that Members will be sent emails announcing each of the TRC meetings so they are able to make arrangements to attend. Additionally, a list of TRC members will be sent to Committee members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this point in the meeting, public comment was invited.

Note: Public comment is not recorded. If anyone from the public desires to have his/her comments appear in the Report of Proceedings, they can submit their comments in writing on the comment cards provided at each meeting or email the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer (janice@flashresolutions.com) within the first week following the meeting.

The Committee then broke for a short lunch.

CONSULTANT PRESENTATION: TEST SCENARIO ASSESSMENT

Michael Davis, Vice President, Keith and Schnars, and Project Manager of the Watershed Study, along with Eric Silva, Keith and Schnars, Planning Director, gave a powerpoint presentation explaining the origin and purpose of the test scenarios to prepare the Committee for the assessment results for test scenarios 1& 2 which they will be reviewing at the February, 2005 meeting. (Exhibit H).

After the presentation, members asked the following:

1. Money for transit on Kendall Drive has now been delayed, how can/will this study impact this?
2. Is it possible, that, once the scenarios are complete, if they show that Kendall Drive is very important for the purposes of the study, that could change the priority or make a case for funds for transit to be put toward Kendall Drive?
3. Does this mean the modeling is done without the Kendall corridor transit?
4. The level of service (LOS) analysis will be affected.
5. We shouldn't be limited to the existing toolbox-this is a 50 year plan. Tools will change over the next 50 years.
6. Are seasonal fluctuations considered in population projections?
 - a. Yes
7. How much are projections regarding mass transit corridors taken into scenarios?
 - a. They are only considered if the corridor is already planned, not if it is just speculation
 - b. The preferred scenario will identify additional needs for transit corridors
8. How can you "mandate" increased densities in the future?
 - a. Remember this is just a test of the policies, not a change in the rules and regulations. Those changes would have to be made by the County Commission subsequent to reviewing the results of this study.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: DENSITY

Project Manager, John Hulsey, led the Committee through an exercise in density perceptions. (Exhibit G) The basic purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate to the members that perceptions about housing density often do not approach reality, that the infrastructure impacts of density can be measured and accommodated, and that quality of life and community character issues associated with higher densities have more to do with quality project design than actual dwelling units per acre. Several members commented on the positive benefit of this exercise.

MEMBER FORUM

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 26, 2004. Two meetings are being held in January to accommodate no meetings in November and December. Members should continue meeting with their constituencies to keep them informed and to gain their input.

At the February meeting (February 24, 2005, lunch and the second half of the day will be sponsored by the Dade County Farm Bureau and the Miami Dade County Cooperative Extension Service. A presentation on agriculture and economics will be given to the Committee in the afternoon.

The annual Agriculture Tour is coming up; members should be checking their emails for information for attending this event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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ADJOURN

The meeting was then adjourned.

MEMBER COMMENT CARDS:

“Meeting time: all members of the Committee must be made aware of the published starting time. Since I have been a member, it’s the same individuals who stroll in late-9:30 vs. 9:00 starting time. If you want the members to be on time then strongly suggest late members get here on time-also several committee members leave early-every meeting-if you want to schedule meetings at 10 or 10:30 to circumvent this, then do it, but solve it.”
-anonymous

OBSERVER COMMENT CARDS

“The updated AICUZ Study for Homestead Air Reserve Base was recently completed. For more information contact below.”

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IDEA PARKING LOT

No comments