

SOUTH MIAMI DADE WATERSHED STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Twelve

May 22, 2003
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

CHAIR'S WELCOME/AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting was held at the Dade County Farm Bureau headquarters in Homestead, Florida. Committee Member, David Friedrichs, representative on the Committee from the Farm Bureau, was thanked for sponsoring the day's refreshments and providing the facility.

Roger Carlton, Chair of the Committee welcomed everyone and opened the meeting by indicating he had several preliminary items to discuss in his opening statement. To begin, he acknowledged the need for a better understanding the Governor's decision to sign legislation, which could potentially have an impact on Everglades restoration. He indicated that the Committee would address this subject in the future if necessary, but at a time when the consequences and details of the Bill and its interpretation is established. One committee member suggested a presentation by a representative of the Miccosukee Tribe to hear their position with regard to this issue.

Mr. Carlton then asked Committee members to introduce themselves.

Members Present:

Roger Carlton, Chair
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
Jeffrey Flanagan, Chamber South
David Friedrichs, Dade County Farm Bureau
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
William Losner, Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Bennie Lovett, Florida City
Reed Olszack, Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Board
Blanca Mesa, Sierra Club
Lawrence Percival, Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations
Roy Phillips, At Large
Lee Rawlinson, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning Department
Bonnie Roddenberry, Sunny South Acres Homeowner's Association
Claudio Rosario, Florida Nurserymen & Grower's Association
Mike Shehadah, City of Homestead
Charles Thibos, Tropical Everglades Visitor Association
Julia Trevarthen, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Mr. Carlton then discussed the committee's attendance policy. He explained that the committee is moving into a crucial phase and it is very important that all stakeholder groups are represented at the table. Some representatives have not been attending either due to business constraints or illness. Mr. Carlton indicated that he will be sending a letter to those groups whose representatives have had multiple absences inquiring as to their ability to attend in the future and suggesting that the group may want to appoint another individual who would be better able to participate. Cindy Dwyer provided the committee with portion of the Code of Miami Dade County, which addresses committee member attendance (Exhibit A). As an entity of Miami Dade County, this committee must comply with those requirements.

In continuing the discussion regarding attendance, Mr. Carlton then explained to the committee that he had received a request from the Water and Sewer Department (WASD) to join the committee as an ex-officio (non-voting) member. He indicated, that, as Chair, he felt WASD would be an important contributor to the committee due to its involvement and contribution to the overall process. At this point, the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer, seeing a hand raised in the observer section, explained to the committee that the public comment policy was being modified to respond to the suggestions received from the observing public. In the future, public comment would be taken after each agenda item and prior to any final consensus ranking or vote. Ms. Fleischer then recognized Bill Dobson, Office of Miami Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, who supported the addition of WASD to the committee and the value it would bring. The committee consensus was to add WASD as an ex-officio member.

Mr. Carlton announced that within the next few months, the committee would have a presentation by a representative of the Agricultural Study Citizen's Advisory Committee. They are slated to complete their recommendations soon and would be asked to make a report to this committee. Member April Gromnicki suggested that the County might want to be a part of that presentation as well.

As a final announcement, Mr. Carlton informed the committee that they will be notified of the Kick Off meeting of the Watershed Study Plan by the consultants in plenty of time to allow them to arrange their calendars and attend. He strongly urged committee member attendance at that event.

Mr. Carlton then turned the meeting over to the Facilitator.

Prior to reviewing the meeting objectives and Agenda, Ms. Fleischer thanked the committee for the condolences she had received from members subsequent to the death of her Father.

The objectives of the meeting:

- To review the role of the Committee in its next phase
- To meet the Consultants
- To hear about Task 1 of the Consultant's contract
- To review a list of other ongoing studies
- To have a presentation on the Strategic Access Plan for Biscayne Bay

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

Ms. Fleischer then announced the date of the next committee meeting as June 26, 2003 and said she would notify members as soon as the location and times were set. She quickly reviewed the contents of the meeting packet and Discussion 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/intstitute.htm "Projects", then "The South Miami Dade Watershed Study Advisory Committee".

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE DURING PHASE III

John Hulsey, Project Manager, South Florida Regional Planning Council, gave a presentation on the responsibilities of the Consultant in Task 1. He directed the Committee members to the Scope of Services in their packets (Exhibit C), and, more specifically, to the Schedule at the end of the document. He presented the Committee with a brief description of each sub-task in Task 1, culminating in the important decisions on parameters and thresholds (sub-task 1.8) in approximately eight months. He explained that the Committee members would have multiple opportunities to review and comment on work products from the Consultant, Keith and Schnars, with the benefit of input from the Technical Review Committee. He spoke about the composition of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) of the Study and its role, as well as that of the Catanese Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, which will be managing the TRC process. Jean Scott at the Catanese Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions is collecting the names and contact numbers of people suitable to serve on the TRC for the South Miami-Dade Watershed Study. The TRC is expected to comprise about 15 individuals from varying backgrounds. The Advisory Committee was requested to help cast a broader net by considering people they've worked with in the past who may be qualified by providing their names, contact information, and some understanding of their backgrounds/expertise.

Areas of expertise needed fall into six overarching themes:

- 1) Preservation of the Bay- expertise needed: surface water modeling, marine biology
- 2) Balancing agriculture preservation/property rights- expertise needed: farm economics, land use law
- 3) Balancing economic growth/natural resource protection- expertise needed: economic modeling, wildlife habitat
- 4) Development impacts- expertise needed: cost/benefit analysis, infrastructure/capital improvement planning
- 5) Character of urban and rural development- expertise needed: urban and rural design
- 6) Resource-based tourism- expertise needed: tourism economics/planning

The individuals to be considered need to meet three criteria:

- 1) Know their subject/respect of peers
- 2) Objective and neutral/no financial stake in this Study
- 3) Constructive, collegial, consensus builders

This committee will be notified of all meetings of the TRC.

Member, Bill Losner, indicated he had aerial photos of the area showing over 14,000 houses, which he will provide, to the Committee.

Subsequent to Mr. Hulsey's presentation, the committee made the following comments:

1. Members of the TRC committee should sign a conflict of interest form
2. Send a list of consultant team members to this Committee
3. Ensure that the Watershed Committee members are informing their constituent groups after information is shared with them in meetings
4. TRC may need more than the 6 meetings called for
5. Need to figure out how homeowner groups can "get the word out". John Hulsey will speak with the Consultant and report out to the group
6. Will Watershed committee receive information packets that TRC receives

7. Concern over timetable in which consultants must work on Task 1- it may be too short for effective compilation of data
8. Post documents on a website and dates of meetings
9. Notices need to be in public locations to cover all the public, not just those with internet access
10. Press release with photos (visuals) by Chair (Roger Carlton) announcing the start of the plan
11. Explain all in "plain English" (laymen's terms)
12. Builder's Association can help identify and get the word out to communities

Mr. Hulse indicated that any suggested names for consideration on the TRC committee need to be in to him no later than June 16, 2003.

MEET THE CONSULTANTS/THE SCOPE OF WORK

Michael Davis, Vice President of the Consultant firm, Keith and Schnars, P.A., introduced himself and the staff who will be working on the Study. Mr. Davis then gave a presentation regarding the Team and its work plan. (Exhibit D)

At the conclusion of Mr. Davis's presentation, the floor was opened to committee members for questions and comments. They are reflected below:

1. Balance of interests is important
2. Make sure the consultant keeps constant change of area in mind and keep this committee informed
3. Aerial maps will always be several months behind

RELEVANT STUDIES- COMMITTEE INPUT

Eric Silva, Program Manager, Land Planning, Keith and Schnars, P.A. directed committee members to the packet of materials he had provided (see Exhibit E) for a list of relevant studies, which have been compiled by the Consultant. He asked committee members to review these lists and add to it if they see any projects, which are missing. Committee members were asked to have their input in no later than June 16, 2003.

At the meeting, the following suggestions were made:

1. Consultant should provide a map of the footprint of each study on the list
2. There are some periphery studies that will impact this area
3. Consider:
 - a. SEIS: Supplemental Environmental Impact Study for Homestead Air Reserve Base
 - b. Water Facilities Management Plan put out by Water and Sewer Department
 - c. South Florida Tropical Fruit Plan: email to request tropicalfruitgrowers@earthlink.net
 - d. Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

The committee took a short lunch break.

STRATEGIC ACCESS PLAN FOR BISCAYNE BAY- A PRESENTATION

Following lunch, Amy Condon, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land, gave the committee a presentation on the Strategic Access Plan for Biscayne Bay. She explained that their Phase I and II and now complete and Phase III, the input and writing of the Plan would begin. Ms. Condon reviewed some of the information the inventory revealed and responded to questions asked by the committee. For a copy of the powerpoint presentation, please see Exhibit F.

ADJOURN

The meeting was then adjourned.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Include the committee Mission/Vision statements along with each Agenda as a footer or header.