

**SOUTH MIAMI DADE WATERSHED STUDY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
Meeting Fifteen**

September 25, 2003
1:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

CHAIR'S WELCOME/AGENDA REVIEW

The meeting was held at Chamber South in South Miami, Florida. Committee Members Jeff Flanagan and Richard Alger were thanked for sponsoring the facility and the refreshments.

Roger Carlton, Chair of the Committee, welcomed everyone. He made brief reference to the "kick off" public meetings which had taken place the previous two nights and stated that this topic would be discussed at length later in the meeting. He then turned the meeting over to the facilitator, Janice Fleischer.

Members Present:

Roger Carlton, Chair
Richard Alger, South Florida Potato Growers Exchange
Subrata Basu, Miami Dade County Planning and Zoning (not yet confirmed)
Linda Canzanelli, Biscayne National Park
Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade DERM
Jeffrey Flanagan, Chamber South
Dick Frost, Tropical Audubon Society
April Gromnicki, National Audubon Society
John Hall, Florida Engineering Society
Robert Johnson, Everglades National Park
William Losner, Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Reed Olszack, Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Board
Thomas MacVicar, Florida Lime and Avocado Committees
Blanca Mesa, Sierra Club
Lawrence Percival, Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations
Mike Shehadah, City of Homestead
Charles Thibos, Tropical Everglades Visitor Association
Julia Trevarthen, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Ms. Fleischer then reviewed the day's Agenda (Exhibit A).

Facilitator's note: An item which was inadvertently omitted from the last meeting's Report of Proceedings was an inquiry made by member April Gromnicki expressing her concern regarding the Committee's representative balance. Although there was not enough time in the Agenda to have a meaningful discussion on the subject, Ms. Gromnicki was assured that this matter would be considered by the Organizational Committee and brought back to the full group.

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.htm "Projects", then "The South Miami Dade Watershed Study Advisory Committee". Additionally see the Consultant website at www.southmiamidadewatershed.com.

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

John Hulsey, Project Manager, South Florida Regional Planning Council, delivered his monthly report (Exhibit B). Mr. Hulsey reported on work done by the Regional Planning Council to review draft public outreach materials in anticipation of the meetings for the general public, attendance at those meetings, and revisions to contract management procedures.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hulsey's report, committee members were asked if they had any comments, questions or observations. None were submitted. No members of the public commented when given the opportunity.

CONSULTANT REPORT

The meeting continued with a Report by the Consultant given by Eric Silva, Keith and Schnars. (Exhibit C). In addition, Mr. Silva delivered samples of the pamphlets being used for public information purposes (Exhibits D & E).

Subsequent to Mr. Silva's Report, the Committee had the following observations and comments:

1. We should post Watershed Advisory Committee (WSAC) meetings on website/link to SFRPC website from the Consultant website.
2. Mobile van-records are being kept on how many folks attended/visited the van
3. The Consultant had indicated that some County Commissioners were visited, were only those in the Study area visited?
4. All Commissioners are interested in tracking the project and should be kept informed- Mr. Basu indicated they will be given regular reports.
5. Put a column/piece in each Commissioner's newsletter.
6. Members suggest Consultant meets with all Commissioners because the Plan affects everyone, not just those in the area.
7. Level of flood protection issue-the Committee needs a presentation by Corps and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to address these concerns.
8. Concerns need to be put to rest whether or not flood protection is part of the scope of work of Consultant.
9. Materials prepared for Commissioners should be given to the Committee.

At this point in the meeting, Mike Shehadeh, City of Homestead, expressed great concern over the message being delivered to city officials by the Consultants. Mr. Shehadeh was not notified of the meeting at which the Consultant met with certain other of the City's Staff and Officials. Mr. Shehadeh acknowledged that his knowledge of the facts were based solely on what he was told as he was not present at the meeting. He was informed that the message of the Consultant focused solely on the health and sustainability of Biscayne Bay and there was no mention of the effects and concerns to municipalities like Homestead. Mr. Shehadeh was deeply disturbed by this message which was delivered to him and wanted to ensure the Committee was aware of this criticism and that it would be addressed in some way acceptable to Committee members. Some discussion ensued between the Consultants and the Committee addressing this matter. Mr. Carlton assured Mr. Shehadeh this would be discussed further with the Consultants to clarify the events.

Public comment was invited at the end of this session. Some matters were brought up that are reflected in the Public Comment section below. (Note: if a member of the public desires to have his/her comments reflected in these Reports of Proceedings, they must fill in a public comment card and hand it in at the end of the meeting. General comments by the public are not recorded.)

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK ON PUBLIC MEETINGS

The first two public meetings sponsored by the Consultant were held on September 23 at the John D. Campbell Agricultural Center near Homestead and on September 24 at the Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center in Kendall. Several Committee members were in attendance at these meetings. Committee members who had attended the “kick off” meetings were asked to make observations and comments regarding the meetings.

Comments from members on their observations at the public meetings by Consultant:

1. Many of the same faces we always see.
2. Level of interest is related to the proximity of the issues; these issues not close enough yet.
3. Start meetings on time, let the public know the format of the meeting.
4. Use your handout materials at zoning meetings; that may capture another audience.
5. Provide members with pamphlets to give out, make it “copy” friendly.
6. Try to have draft copies of public relations materials to Committee if possible so they can provide input. (note by another member: this could be an undue burden)
7. Materials and presentations to other organizations and new municipalities; Palmetto Bay as an example; Sierra Club meetings; Tropical Audubon; Urban Environment League.
8. Show natural resources more in the newsletter; the idea is Balance.
9. Look to do a reasonably priced mass produced piece that can be used by Committee members for their constituencies.
10. Address the question: “Why is this being done?” on the brochure-this will get people out
11. It is the responsibility of members of the Committee to keep their constituencies informed, not the responsibility of the Consultant. We need to do our job of informing our groups and keeping them abreast of the workings of the Committee.

At this point, the Committee took a short break.

PRESENTATION: STORM WATER AND SURFACE WATER MODELING

Bassam Moubayad, Chief, Stormwater Planning and Design Section, DERM, gave a presentation on the Stormwater Management Master Plan (Exhibit F). Following the presentation, Committee members made the following comments and observations:

1. Get information on North Canal dredging
2. How does the model relate to the Watershed Study-DERM offered the information from the model to the Consultant to use
3. Is density part of model’s equation?
4. Model used the UDB for 2015.
5. Does it take into consideration the aquifer and where the rain falls? Answer, this model is only stormwater.
6. Need to be proactive not reactive.

Mr. Carlton made a request of the members that if they feel their questions are not being adequately addressed with regard to any issue, please articulate their concerns in writing and submit it to the Project Manager, John Hulsey, for review and discussion at a subsequent meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting was then adjourned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

“I am concerned with the way information might be presented to the public and commissioners. Would like to see how it is presented-maybe posted on website.

Maybe be able to hear questions people/commissioners asked-to see where concerns lie. My concern is Commissioners need different framing. i.e. all some care about is flood protection, some care about increased development; some care about environment. I am worried because I don't like the newspaper article that was available last meeting so I have a concern on how information goes out. I want balance. The Homestead Member brought this to a head. This is exactly what I said above about framing... this could get us in trouble.”

Nancy Lee, Aventura

“Regarding the one sheet, 4 color flyer: arrange Box Task 2. I have seen these 3 scenarios worded differently. i.e. move development boundary. It says population but isn't land use also preserving the environment? I guess what is in this box troubles me because it is not inclusive. I don't know who framed this, but it seems one dimensional-based on growth only. Bay is not part of it; parks etc. only needs of population.”

Nancy Lee, Aventura

“1. Maintain committee balance as you embark on process of adding new members or replacements-balance of stakeholders must be a priority. 2. Allow committee members the opportunity review public “consumables” (posters, powerpoint, handouts, etc.) 3. Use less paper in meeting handouts, Meeting #15 public handouts first 3 pages were a meeting identifier and thanks to location and snack sponsor-all could have been on one page with last page on 2nd side.”

Cynthia Guerra, Tropical Audubon