

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

January 29, 2004
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME/CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was held at the South District Wastewater Treatment Plant in Homestead, Florida. Member Agency, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, sponsored breakfast and lunch.

Members Present:

Roger Carlton, Chair
Ivonne Alexander, Miami-Dade AgriCouncil
Richard Alger, South Florida Potato Growers Exchange
Humberto Alonso, SFWMD
Daniel Apt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Subrata Basu, Miami-Dade DP&Z (prospective member)
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
Louise King, Redland Citizens' Association
William Losner, Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Bennie Lovett, Florida City
Blanca Mesa, Sierra Club
Howard Nelson, Building Industry Representative (prospective member)
Reed Olszack, Miami-Dade Agricultural Practices Board
Lawrence Percival, Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations
Bonnie Roddenberry, Sunny South Homeowner's Association
Jorge Rodriguez, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department (prospective member)
Charles Thibos, Tropical Everglades Visitor Association
Julia Trevarthen, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Roger Carlton, Chair, welcomed everyone. Mr. Carlton had several announcements:

1. With regard to materials generated or delivered at meetings of the Watershed Committee, other than regular packet materials: if anyone wishes to have copies of the materials or to see the results of Member Comments, Observer Comments, the best procedure is to make a request of John Hulsey in writing or by email. Making copies of member Evaluations or Comments at the meeting is not an appropriate action. Members and Observers have been assured that their commentary will remain anonymous if they request and anonymity cannot be assured if copies are produced at meetings.

2. Several members have made requests regarding specific language to be included in the Consultant's Final Report. While it is appropriate to make these requests, it is premature to discuss them at this time. When the Final Report is drafted, the Committee will have ample opportunity to make specific suggestions for additions and edits.

3. The following organizations are being considered to fill the two "at Large" member slots which are currently vacant:

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Urban Land Institute (ULI)
- The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Following Mr. Carlton's announcements, he requested Member comments on the "at Large" organizations. Members made the following comments:

- 1) All well known and respected.
 - ULI not environmental
 - Nature Conservancy and TPL environmental but same
 - WWF same as many existing members
 - Would like to see ULI
- 2) Nature Conservancy and WWF preferred by environmental members
- 3) TPL a better fit for this group
WWF may not have anyone here
- 4) Would like to see more agricultural members on group – agriculture is greatly impacted
- 5) Get someone who is from the area
- 6) TPL not really environmental advocate
ULI is planning
- 7) Nature Conservancy good addition
ULI – good for planning, this group could use planning
- 8) ULI is a good balance for this group – planning and would look holistically
TPL good for second group – make communities more liveable – doing a lot of work here in South Florida
- 9) ULI – nice blend of planning and market-based approach
TPL and Nature Conservancy – good fits – very cognizant of participants

Suggestions for others from the Members:

1. League of Cities (consider northern end of study area)
2. Sports people/recreational users
3. Academic
 - a. FAU-Department of Urban & Regional Planning
 - b. University of Miami – Planning
 - c. Agriculture – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Office of Water Policy
4. Concerned Citizens, Farmers & Nurserymen
5. (IFAS) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Agricultural Extension
6. Tropical Fruit Growers
7. Nursery Growers
8. Issue is really attendance and representation

Mr. Carlton thanked the members for their input and said he would proceed with the appointments.

AGENDA REVIEW/GUIDELINES

Janice Fleischer, Facilitator reviewed the day's Agenda (Exhibit A) and the contents of the meeting packets. She then reviewed the Meeting Guidelines which have been modified to include Guidelines for Observers (Exhibit B). She noted that the Agenda included a time for Members to bring up matters they wish to have discussed at future meetings, an item that will regularly appear on all Agendas.

In closing this section of the day's Agenda, Ms. Fleischer reminded Members that meetings are scheduled for the fourth (4th) Thursday of each month unless there is a conflict. She also encouraged Members to complete their Evaluation Forms at the end of each meeting as an important tool in keeping a pulse on how the Committee feels about its progress. As a last item, Ms. Fleischer mentioned that the Watershed Website was receiving an increasing number of "hits" whenever the Committee was asked to review and comment on documents. She indicated that this showed that the Website is an asset to the Committee.

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.

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES-FINALIZATION

Mr. Carlton introduced this portion of the meeting by explaining that the decision making procedure of the Committee had been "interim" procedures and that we needed to formalize those procedures. The Committee has been using a Consensus Decision Making process since its inception but those rules were never formally adopted. There has been some discussion and question as to whether this Committee desires to continue on a consensus basis or if some other method for making decisions should be considered (i.e. majority vote). Mr. Carlton indicated that the Organizational Committee had met and discussed this at length and, although the final decision is the Committee's to make, the Organizational Committee recommends adopting the current "Interim Consensus Rules" as Final. In detail, the recommendations were:

1. The Committee uses a voting system only when consensus cannot be reached in a reasonable amount of time.
2. Consensus is defined as everyone having at least 3 fingers showing when a ranking is called.
3. No meeting will be held unless a quorum of 50% plus one of the voting members are present.
4. If a vote is required, 2/3 of those voting members present at the meeting or a majority of voting members (whichever is greater) shall be necessary to pass an item.

An extremely lengthy and detailed discussion by the Members followed. Some comments made by Members were:

- 1) From beginning consensus is important – let's not weaken process
- 2) We are advisory – advice may not be accepted if not given a large portion of group – keep consensus
- 3) Use 75% of voting members present with no consensus discussion
- 4) Consensus relies on everyone being heard – no tyranny of majority
- 5) Consensus works as a process for a unified discussion
suggestion –use 2/3 of entire voting membership if consensus cannot be reached
- 6) 75% entire voting membership– want as many as possible
- 7) 75 or 80% of voting members in attendance
- 8) We need to allow enough time to really discuss any issues that are harder to get to consensus
- 9) 80% of voting members present (w/ minimum of 50% of total members should be used if consensus cannot be reached

A decision was reached quickly on continuing a consensus based decision-making process; however, consensus could not be reached on what voting percentages were necessary should the Committee be unable to reach consensus. The suggestion was made that, in the event consensus cannot be reached, 80% of voting members present at a meeting be required to pass any item with a minimum of 50% plus one of the entire voting membership (Voting membership is defined as those members who have been confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners as voting members). This was voted on and was passed unanimously by the voting members present. The newly adopted Consensus Rules are attached as Exhibit C.

TROPICAL AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Committee member, Dick Frost, Tropical Audubon Society representative, made a short presentation regarding the Consultant's Scope of Work. Mr. Richard Grosso, not in attendance, had sent Mr. Hulsey, as project manager, a letter indicating suggested amendments to the Scope of Services. Mr. Frost stated that, while the responses to most of the issues raised by Mr. Grosso were adequate, he pointed out, that in the opinion of the Tropical Audubon Society, a potential flaw in the Scope of Services exists regarding the land use scenarios (Sub-task 2.2). He stated that it was understood that the current Scope is designed to review the range of planning possibilities, but that every scenario assumes that accommodation of future projected population is required. Mr. Frost reminded the Committee that neither Future Land Use Policy 3E in the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan nor the Committee's own Vision Statement or Goals and Objectives require the accommodation of projected population growth. He suggested that the parties to the Scope of Services add or amend a scenario that specifically does not accommodate population growth, but is based on meeting environmental restoration objectives.

Mr. Hulsey explained the position of the Project Management Team as stated in his response (Exhibit D). A request was made that both Mr. Grosso's letter and Mr. Hulsey's response be made available to Committee members via e-mail. Mr. Carlton suggested that Tropical Audubon be given an opportunity to make a more formal presentation on the Committee's next agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair, Roger Carlton, called for public comment. There was none.

The Committee then adjourned for lunch.

CONSULTANT REPORT-SUBTASK 1.8

The Consultant, Keith and Schnars, gave a short Powerpoint presentation on Sub-task 1.8: Parameters and Thresholds for consideration by the Committee (Exhibit E).

Committee Members were given the definition of a Parameter (WHAT is to be measured to achieve the Study's goals) and a Threshold (HOW to measure the Parameters chosen). Members were asked to consider the issue categories proposed by the Consultant: Land Use, Natural Systems, Infrastructure, Employment and Economy, Community Character and Water Resources and brainstorm parameters for each category. To assist the Committee in this exercise, the parameters suggested by the Consultant were displayed for each Category. Committee members were then asked to review the results of this brainstorming exercise and put checkmarks by the parameters they felt were most important. The Tables below reflect the following data:

1. Each category is shown
2. Parameters suggested by the Consultant appears in Blue

3. Parameters generated by the Committee appear in purple
4. By each parameter is the tally of the number of checks it received

TABLES OF PARAMETERS

Infrastructure:

Parameter	# of vs
Solid Waste	2
Recycling program	2
Transportation	2
4 lane Krome Avenue	1
6-lane Krome Avenue	
Roads (east-west)	1
Additional highway east of US 1 in South Dade	2
Air Quality	1
Mass transportation	4
Elevated mass transit on a 6-laned Krome Avenue	
Transit	
Efficient and encouraged use of transportation corridors	1
Mobility (time and cost)	
Pedestrian infrastructure (e.g. walkways, shade)	3
Educational Standard	1
Top-graded schools	2
Schools	1
Potable Water	2
Sewers	1
Investigate use of French drains and their impact on environment	1
No septic tanks allowed for schools, churches, commercial areas	1
Require hook-up to sewers of churches, businesses and schools	2
Do not change to more dense land zoning classifications unless there are water hook-up requirements, no intensity without water	1
Sewer treatment for marinas and boats	2
Extend sewer and water south of Homestead Air Force Base	
Flood protection	1
Use more grass parking, keep pavement to a minimum (use less asphalt)	2
Xeriscaping	3
Mulching program	5
Grey water initiatives and pilot projects	1

Natural Systems

Buffer & Protect Natural Systems from Impacts of Adjacent Land Uses	4
Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat	3
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	3
Spatial Extent of Ecologically Intact Communities	3
Connectivity of Natural Communities	4
Canopy cover level	3
Controlled access for enjoyment	2
Places where you can view the night sky without light pollution	3
Acres of protected natural communities	4
Acres protected from development	3
Acres of habitat for native species	4
Habitat area	4
Upland habitat	3
Habitat function	5
Acres of protected wetland	3
Spatial extent of wetlands	6
Healthy coastal wetlands adjacent to the Bay	4
Seagrass	4
Species diversity	2
Macroinvertebrates	2
Number of resident dolphins in Bay	2
Number of manatees in the Bay and canals	3
Seaturtles nesting success	3
Bird nesting success	4
Wading bird populations	3
Healthy fish nursery (using mangrove environment)	5

Water Resources

Groundwater Supply	2
Water supply to meet goals and objectives	2
Surface water supply to meet goals and objectives	1
Water supply to meet goals and objectives - supply Everglades, rain, ocean, aquifer (existing)	1
Return commercial rock pits to County for management	3
Water quantity	3
Groundwater quality	5
Allow septic tanks in west Dade to allow for recharge	1
Agricultural credit for water recharge to aquifer	
Agricultural credit for water use efficiency (e.g. low volume systems)	4

Credits for water recycling and conservation (e.g. low volume toilets)	5
Grey water initiatives and pilot projects	3
Re-use of treated water	3
Recycling of waste water for irrigation of lawns and golf courses	2
Types of water (drinking/potable; less good quality water for lawns and golf courses)	2
Saltwater intrusion	1
Desalination plants for long term drinkable water supply	1
Freshwater Flows & Distribution	4
Healthy reef ecosystem (not impaired by lack of fresh water flow or land-based pollution)	1
Groundwater flow to Biscayne National Park	2
Surface water flow to Biscayne National Park	4
Sufficient water for a healthy estuarine Bay	1
Provide water supply distribution systems in areas being threatened by salt intrusion	1
Supply of water from Everglades, rain, ocean and aquifer	2
Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) - Development	4
No flooding	2
Water table should not be held too high so flood protection can be maintained	1
Water Quality:	3
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	3
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	3
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	3
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	3
Nitrogen Species (TN, NO₂, NO₃, TKN and NH₃)	3
Phosphorous Species (Total & Orthophosphate)	3
Metals (Cadmium, Copper, Lead & Zinc)	
Standards should not seriously impact agriculture sustainability	1
Water quality EPOCs	4
Floatables/trash	3
Hydrocarbons	3
Pesticides	3
Saltwater intrusion	2
Salinity	3
Conductivity	3
Coliforms	4
Fish kills	1
pH	2
Percentage coral reef decline	4
Dissolved oxygen	2
Chlorophyll	2

Clean up toxic waste sites	2
Mercury	3
Keep cruise and other ships from polluting by dumping waste; 1) enforcement; 2) technology change	1
Industrial/agricultural pollutants	4
Contaminated sediments	4

Land Use

Parks & Recreation	1
Better use of land fill sites (e.g. park, golf course, ski slope)	5
Open space	3
Parks - open space	3
If agriculture is not viable over long term, who will maintain open space?	
Public and Non-public greenspace	4
Ratio of developed land to undeveloped land	
Urban Centers	4
Population density	1
Densities (east of US 1; between US 1 and Turnpike; west of Turnpike)	3
Urban boundary carrying capacity	3
Impervious surface area	3
Total percentage of impervious surfaces	4
Pervious vs. impervious area	1
No industrial land use in recharge areas of wellfields	4
Protect Biscayne Bay	3
Agricultural liaison position at County Manager's/Mayor's level	
Multi-use facilities combined into a "Community Plan" (example: library, public meeting facility, schools, playgrounds, regional theme parks)	
More industrial zoning under flight path of HAFB	
Architectural design criteria	
Banks, grocery stores near expressways	1

Employment and Economy

Employment Mix	1
Diversity of jobs to allow countercycle stability	4
Role of Agriculture in Study Area Economy	1
Agricultural acreage	
Wages	2
Location of Housing	1
Housing Affordability	1
Housing for agricultural laborers	1

Mix of housing, affordable to high-priced	1
Housing costs	5
Ecotourism opportunities	5
Restoration projects (e.g. CERP)	2

Community Character

Rural Community Character	1
Agricultural acreage	4
Light pollution	1
Community government	
Encourage small businesses	
Riding trails	1
Biking trails	3
Bike trails	1
Walking trails (to main community destinations)	
More traditional neighborhood development (TND)	
Community center	
Urban beautification	3
Population density	1
Historic Preservation	
Way to keep community from deteriorating	1
Historic landscapes	

The results of this exercise will be reviewed by the Project Management Team who will make recommendations and adjustments to be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting. The Committee will then begin to review and refine Parameters and discuss Thresholds.

PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORT

The meeting was turned over to the Project Manager, John Hulsey for his Project Manager’s Report (Exhibit F). Mr. Hulsey reported on activities taken to move the Study forward. He reminded members of the procedures for requesting information from the Consultants. He then updated them on requests he had received from Committee members for further discussion: 1) changes to the Scope of Services were discussed earlier in the day, 2) Gables-by-the-Sea and 3) Burger King Site issues were of an immediate nature to be decided before the Study could reach any conclusions. The latter two issues had other processes in which members could make comments. The Member Forum on the agenda would be the opportunity to raise these issues and for members to inform each other of other meetings within which the issues may be resolved. Mr. Hulsey concluded by updating members as to the status of the Study.

MEMBER OPEN FORUM

The Member “Open Forum” is a new agenda item which will appear as a regular agenda item. The purpose of the open forum is to allow members to express concerns not addressed during the meeting, to make any announcements, to request time on future agendas for specific discussions and for any other item a Member wishes to bring to the attention of the group as a whole. Items raised by Members will appear in these Reports with the exception of announcements of events which will have passed by the time these Reports are published.

- 1) Biscayne National Park’s General Management Plan is currently on their website or call headquarters 305-230-1144

- 2) Members should receive something in writing on Watershed Plan milestones
- 3) Coordination of this Committee with the work of the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team (BBRRCT) – have Consultants be aware of BBRRCT work and attempt to coordinate

Mr. Carlton suggested that the final work product of each Task of the Plan be brought to the Committee for acceptance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Carlton called for public comment prior to the meeting being adjourned.

Ms. Fleischer thanked members for their participation and asked them to turn in their Evaluation Forms.

ADJOURN

The meeting was then adjourned.

MEMBER COMMENTS (CARDS) RECEIVED:

*“The consultant’s presentations are very, very important and they should, no, must be first on the agenda”
Linda Canzanelli, Biscayne National Park Superintendent*

*“Tough meeting in the A.M., but we got through it. Good work. We need the threshold process to be based on our own thoughts plus the technical committee. The process cannot be entirely separate.”
Anonymous*

*“Need to streamline meetings. I fear you will lose your quorum more frequently in future meetings. Front load agenda with necessary and critical items first”
Reed Olszack, Miami Dade Agricultural Practices Board*

*“Please schedule a presentation on saltwater intrusion issues – the science behind the water table and sea level and the impact of CERCLA projects on those levels. Consultants should assemble an inventory of homes and businesses which depend on wells for potable water.”
Anonymous*

*“Good and timely discussion on consensus!!”
Anonymous*

OBSERVER COMMENTS (CARDS) RECEIVED:

“Re: Sub-Task 1.8 (p 7): Will the study include, at any point, the incorporated areas (i.e. the existing cities which have their own CDMPs)? and the cities in planning stages? - Janet Launcelott

IDEA PARKING LOT COMMENTS:

Handouts should be 2-sided.