

SOUTH MIAMI DADE WATERSHED STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Seven

April 25, 2002
12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Chamber South Conference Room
South Miami, Florida

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Chair Roger Carlton, who welcomed everyone and thanked member Jeff Flanagan for arranging to have Chamber South host this meeting and member Tim Williams, for arranging to have the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce sponsor the refreshments. Member Claudio Rosario, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, volunteered to sponsor refreshments at the May or June meeting.

Mr. Carlton then distributed an article for members' information and invited their reactions. Some discussion followed. (Exhibit A)

Members Present:

Roger Carlton, Chair
Richard Alger, South Florida Potato Growers Exchange
Linda Canzanelli, Biscayne National Park
Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade DERM
Jeffrey Flanagan, Chamber South
Lester Goldstein, Building Industry Representative
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
Lee Rawlinson, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning Department
Claudio Rosario, Florida Nurserymen and Grower's Association
Mike Shehadeh, City of Homestead
Charles Thibos, Tropical Everglades Visitor Association
Craig Wheeling, Miami Dade Farm Bureau
Dale Williams, Miami Dade Agricultural Practices Board
Tim Williams, Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce

AGENDA REVIEW/CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- ❖ To hear a report from the Chair on "At Large" Committee Members
- ❖ To review where we've been, where we are, and where we want to go
- ❖ To have an update on the RFP
- ❖ To have a presentation on the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative
- ❖ To have a presentation by the Economy Subgroup
- ❖ To continue to deepen our knowledge of each other

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

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the Agenda and directed members to an update of their member list as well as the list of relevant websites. Both of these items, as well as 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". Ms. Fleischer informed members there was a copy of the Report entitled "Down on the Farm: NAFTA's Seven-Years War on Farmers and Ranchers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico" available to them for loan. She reminded everyone present that the meeting would be followed by a social hour to which all observers were invited.

Mr. Carlton indicated that he would participate with the members of the Committee who represent the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding, to recommend the Selection Committee for the RFP process and would keep Committee members informed of the progress of this process. He encouraged all members to submit names of individuals they believe would appropriately represent the stakeholder interests on the Selection Committee. There was much discussion about how the Selection Committee process will proceed. All Selection Committee meetings will be in the Sunshine.

Mr. Hulsey directed the members to their packets for a copy of an edited version of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). He had reviewed the entire document and created this edited version, which contains the sections of the LMS, which affect the Watershed Study area, (Exhibit C).

TOUR UPDATE

The Facilitator advised members that only three suggestions for Tour sites had been made, therefore, it was decided that there would be no plans for a Tour at this time. Another Tour for the members would be arranged in the fall.

STATUS REPORT ON THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Mr. Hulsey, SFRPC, announced that the RFP was "on the street" and that the pre-proposal conference would take place April 29, 2002 at the South Florida Regional Planning Council offices in Hollywood, Florida.

Lee Rawlinson, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning, reminded members about the "Cone of Silence" required. No members should speak to any consultants regarding the Study or the RFP. All questions should be directed to Mr. Hulsey at the SFRPC.

Mr. Rawlinson also gave a short update on the Agriculture and Rural Area Study (Ag Study) process. His update was followed by a short report by the Ag Study Citizen's Advisory Committee Chair, member Craig Wheeling.

COMMITTEE PROGRESS AND OUTLOOK DISCUSSION

Members were directed to their packets for a List of "Accomplishments to Date", (Exhibit D). All items listed in bold type were actions taken directly by the Committee. Mr. Carlton commended them on the great amount of work they had done in a short time. Each of the staff members and the Facilitator congratulated the Committee on working so hard and accomplishing so much.

Mr. Carlton then asked the Committee what their thoughts and expectations were at this juncture. The comments received were:

1. We need to flesh out the Committee.
2. We need to finalize the Selection Committee for the RFP.
3. The Study itself needs to be completed by year's end so we need to discuss a realistic end date. (Note: it was decided this would be an agenda item for May 30, 2002 meeting).
4. What role does the Committee play as the RFP is deliberated on and consultants are chosen? (Note: this too will be on the May agenda).
5. The Selection Committee should represent a balance of interests.

Mr. Rawlinson gave a quick update on a new 3^d District Court of Appeals case, Miami Dade County vs. Omnipoint Holdings, Inc., which is affecting Miami Dade County Planning and Zoning and may have some impact on this process.

DISCOVER BISCAYNE BAY

Mr. Carlton introduced the first speaker of the day: Mr. James Murley, Director of the FAU/FIU Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems and former Co-Director of the Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative. Mr. Murley spoke about the Initiative and its successor projects and results. For more information on this topic, go to www.sfrestore.org/rrct/bbay/index.htm (Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team).

At the conclusion of Mr. Murley's presentation, the members took a short break.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Upon returning from break, Bill Dobson with the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department made a few announcements of upcoming events.

ECONOMY GROUP PRESENTATIONS

The Economy Group had arranged for two speakers to talk with the Committee on South Miami-Dade and the economy. The first speaker was Mr. Paul DiMare, President of Dimare Farms of Homestead, the largest grower of fresh-market tomatoes in the United States. He also grows peppers, cucumbers and squash. Mr. DiMare spoke on the current realities and economies of the farmer in south Miami-Dade.

The second speaker was Robert L. Epling, President of Community Bank of Homestead, Miami-Dade's largest independent bank.

Subsequent to the presentations, members engaged in discussion with the speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was then adjourned and a Social Hour followed.