

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

March 7, 2002  
Miami Dade Water and Sewer Department  
Douglas Building  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Report of Proceedings**

**WELCOME**

The meeting was opened by Chair Roger Carlton, who welcomed everyone and thanked Maria Valdes, Miami Dade Water and Sewer, for arranging to have the Department host this meeting. Mr. Carlton thanked Committee Member Louise King, Redland Citizens' Association, for sponsoring the food for the day. Member Tim Williams, Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, volunteered to sponsor the refreshments for the next meeting.

Members Present:

Roger Carlton, Chair  
Ivonne Alexander, Miami Dade AgriCouncil  
Daniel Apt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Maribel Balbin, South Florida Water Management District  
Carlos Espinosa, Miami Dade DERM  
Jeffrey Flanagan, Chamber South  
Dick Frost, Tropical Audubon Society  
Lester Goldstein, Building Industry Representative  
John Hall, Florida Engineering Society  
Louise King, Redland Citizens' Association  
Bennie Lovett, Florida City  
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  
Julia Trevarthen, South Florida Regional Planning Council  
Craig Wheeling, Miami Dade Farm Bureau

**AGENDA REVIEW, DISCUSSION GUIDELINES**

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

- ❖ To hear member reactions to the Tour
- ❖ To have a presentation on Storm Water Management and Local Mitigation Strategies
- ❖ To have an update on the working schedule of the Committee (including RFP)
- ❖ To allow time for the Environment and Economy Subgroups to organize and work on their presentations for the next meeting

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

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the Agenda, went over the contents of the Members' packets for the day (Exhibits B & C) and announced that there would be a time for Public Comment immediately after lunch.

Cindy Dwyer, Miami Dade Planning and Zoning, and staff to the Committee, handed out a Biscayne National Park notice on the "Discovery Series Lectures" which can be found at [www.nps.gov/bisc](http://www.nps.gov/bisc), then click on "Activity Calendar".

Mr. Carlton indicated he would like future meetings to continue moving around the Study Area so all members have an opportunity to experience the region.

Member Maribel Balbin, South Florida Water Management District, announced she would be leaving the area and would be replaced on the Committee by the new Miami Dade/Broward Service Center Director, Humberto Alonso. Everyone wished her well.

### **MEMBER REACTIONS TO THE TOUR**

The Facilitator asked Members to give their reactions/comments on the Tour they took of the study area on February 8, 2002. Comments follow:

1. Good to see the area/valuable experience
2. Good to see what was in the area
3. Didn't know the roads interconnected
4. Covered a lot of ground-diversity of things seen very interesting
5. Enlightening-saw things never seen before/could see much transition in agriculture
6. Wish we had stopped for milkshakes!
7. Even those who lived in the area saw things that they did not know or had never seen
8. Good to go back and remind ourselves about the area
9. Staff stated they learned much
10. Biscayne National Park a great starting point, had never been there before
11. Would like to see more on the mechanics of how things work (where does water go when it flows/rains, etc.)
12. Would like to take a trip to a water treatment plant/sewer plant
13. Homestead water facility volunteered to provide a tour of their facility
14. What is on the north end of the study area that would make good tour sites

Mr. Carlton, Chair, asked Members if they would like another Tour. He suggested the Committee could select 5-6 specific sites. Ms. Fleischer asked Members to email suggestions for tour sites to her. The sites which have been suggested as of the date of this Report (April 15, 2002) are:

### **FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS FOR SECOND FIELD TRIP FROM MEMBERS:**

A boat trip out into Biscayne Bay to see why this body of water is so important to protect. We could tour the grass flats (from a distance-we don't want to get stuck), and we could tour the reef.

A tour of Agriculture in particular. There used to be a tour out of the Farmers Market in Florida City that took you out to the fields and then onto the packing house to see the whole harvest process.

Everglades National Park, although the Everglades is not part of the Biscayne watershed, it is part of this entire South Florida Ecosystem.

### **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

Michael Gambino, CFM, Section Supervisor, Water Management Division of Miami Dade County Environmental Resources Management, made a presentation to the Committee on storm water management and Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS). (Exhibit D)

Members were given an opportunity to ask Mr. Gambino questions and make comment on his presentation:

1. Agriculture was not mentioned in the presentation except at the end/ it needs a higher profile
2. Cleaning out [storm water runoffs] more often/ possibly make it a community effort with help from Miami Dade County DERM
3. Mitigation didn't work with Agriculture, many trees/crops were lost
4. What is the infrastructure that is being put into place?
5. We need to understand the model-how is it built, how does it work, etc.?
6. Should be aware of Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program
7. Is FEMA the sole source of financing for the Local Mitigation Strategy?
8. Important to coordinate all efforts that are going on in the County
9. Mitigation is more than just drainage

Members suggested action items as a result of this discussion:

1. Get copies of the LMS that pertain to the Watershed Area (Note: The full LMS is a very large document which is amended once a year)
2. Bring together a list of all ongoing studies/make sure not to limit options from other studies
3. Members would like another presentation on Basins.

The Chair asked for a briefing on the Ag Study to ensure it doesn't impact this study's work or vice versa.

Committee Members took a break for Lunch.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Upon returning from lunch, Chair Carlton asked if any of the Observers had signed up to make Public Comment. No one had requested to be heard.

### **WORK SCHEDULE UPDATE**

John Hulsey, SFRPC Project Manager and staff to the Committee gave an update on the Phase II Work Schedule for the Study.

**PHASE II TIMELINE**  
**03/07/02**

<b><u>Task:</u></b>	<b><u>Expected Completion:</u></b>
RFP Release	March
Pre-proposal Conference	March/April
Proposals Due	May
Evaluation/Selection Process	June
Proposer Selection Announced	July
Contract Negotiations	undetermined
Start Work Date	undetermined

The Chair was asked who had been selected to serve on the Selection Committee for consultant selection. Mr. Carlton responded that he had not yet chosen the members of the Selection Committee but that certain criteria would be used in making his selections:

- Keeping the Committee a manageable size
- Ensuring diversity
- Assuring those selected have some level of knowledge and expertise of /in the area
- Assuring that those selected can commit the time necessary to perform their duties

Mr. Carlton strongly advised Members not to discuss anything with any potential Consultants; although he recognized that many Advisory Committee Members wear other “hats” and could have contact with Consultants with regard to other matters.

The Chair also confirmed that he is the media contact for the Committee.

At this point, Jorge S. Rodriguez, P.E., Assistant Director-Water, Miami Dade Water and Sewer, came to welcome the group to the facility. He had been involved in meetings out of the office until this time.

**SUBGROUP WORK ON PRESENTATIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Members involved in the Economics and Environment Subgroups were then given the remainder of the meeting time to plan their presentations for the next meeting, April 25, 2002. Everyone was reminded to fill in their Evaluations prior to leaving for the day.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As several members of the Environmental Group were absent, it was decided they would not meet. The Economy Group met and when they concluded their deliberations, the meeting was adjourned.