



**MINUTES OF THE ESTERO BAY AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT**

**Held on February 14, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management was held on February 14, 2011 at FGCU’s Margaret S. Sugden Welcome Center in Fort Myers, Florida.

| <b>NAME</b>      | <b>ORGANIZATION</b>                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nora Demers      | RGMC                                 |
| Harry Gottlieb   | FMBCA                                |
| Win Everham      | FGCU                                 |
| Lisa Beever      | Charlotte Harbor NEP                 |
| Pete Quasius     | Audubon of SWF / Snook Foundation    |
| Jim Beever       | SWFRPC                               |
| Ellen Peterson   | Citizen Founder                      |
| Erin Rasnake     | FDEP – South District                |
| Ellen Peterson   | Citizen Founder                      |
| Erin Rasnake     | FDEP – South District                |
| Sarah Larsen     | FGCU                                 |
| Tom Babcock      | SWFRPC                               |
| John Curtis      | Johnson Engineering                  |
| Martha Simons    | City of Bonita Springs               |
| Brad Cornell     | Audubon of Florida                   |
| Laura Miller     | League of Women Voters of Lee County |
| Heather Stafford | FDEP Aquatic Preserves               |
| Jane McNear      | ECCL                                 |

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Agenda Item #2 – Attendance**

Attendance taken through the sign-in sheet.

### **Agenda Item # 3- FGCU Welcome**

Participants were welcomed by Dr. Nora Demers.

### **Agenda Item #4 – Additions, Deletions or Corrections**

None.

### **Agenda Item #6 – Presentation “Village with a Vision/2011” – Don Eslick, Estero Council Community Leaders**

Mr. Eslick presented this item. He reviewed what the organization has done in the last 10 years and the challenges the community faces. He explained that they are in the process of updating the community plan. The plan focuses on US 41 and Corkscrew Road and how to manage the commercial corridors. The ECCL is trying to coordinate outside the gate activities. The Community Planning Panel which is the Planning & Zoning Board and the Design Review Committee, both of which are made up of landscape architects, engineers and planners who interface at the Development Order level.

He addressed the issues of roads, parks, amphitheatre, mining and the DR/GR.

The ECCL had 85 people who testified against the mine. Each mine generates 3,000 round truck trips per day. The Port of Tampa could handle the limestone supply to the counties. Lee County is the second largest lime rock and aggregate supplier in the state. The ECCL has an attorney with three or four groups and the Conservancy trying to back up the state and county as relates to the legitimacy of the DRGR plan. The ECCL’s goal is to preserve the opportunity for the people to decide how they want to be governed

Discussion continued on the two mile buffer as it relates to incorporation.

Councilman McIntosh attends the meetings of the ECCL. Discussion ensued on having a member of ECCL on the ABM. Mr. Eslick stated that he might have someone who would be interested in serving on the board.

Dr. Demers said mentioned the university and we are talking about financial revenues for definition of the university community. What kind of progress is being made?Mr. Eslick stated that Councilman McIntosh serves on the foundation board and they are working to try to join Bonita, Estero and the university. The President is going to designate someone to work with us. A good working relationship is needed by the university with the community. It is important to have the DR/GR done right.

Dr. Everham asked about the northern boundary of Estero and its history.

Mr. Eslick explained the history.

Discussion ensued on landscaping developments and medians.

Mr. Eslick stated that the roadway landscape is governed by the county. They have an approved plant list and suggested contacting Pat Moore of the County transportation department.

Dr. Everham asked what kind of feedback he obtained.

Mr. Eslick said that they are getting educated and asked them to sign up for the Estero Development report. Approximately 100 people wanted to be informed. Reception has been good with a fair number of questions so they know who they are and what they do.

There was a discussion on authority of the ECCL.

There was a discussion on the feasibility study.

There was a discussion on the 951 extension and Mr. Eslick shared letter why they were opposed to it. The 2035 plan adopted by the MPO excludes the segment from Collier County line to Corkscrew Road in Lee County. A lot of it has expensive mitigation costs associated with it. The demographic and development projections indicated with 10 to 12 lanes on I-75 carried 30,000 to 80,000 vehicle trips per day. Without six laning of I-75, Three Oaks/Imperial would have 19,000 vehicles per day without tolls. On I-75 the two additional lanes which would be toll lanes were at about half capacity. CR 951 extension was clearly not needed.

Councilwoman Simons said there would be a documentary piece on CREW in April. You will be able to see how important it is to preserve this land. This would be an excellent tool for Mr. Eslick to use.

Mr. Beever announced that a quorum was now present.

**Agenda Item #5 – Minutes of January 10, 2011**

**MOTION BY MR. QUASIUS AND SECONDED BY MR. GOTTLIEB TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2011.**

Discussion ensued regarding the April, September, October and December minutes. April and December minutes were approved in January and should be reflected and included with the January minutes in the February minutes mail out..

**Agenda Item #7 – Officer elections**

Mr. Beever reported that the slate of officers was as follows: Paul O'Connor as Chair, Tom Babcock as Vice Chair and Sarah Larsen as Recording Secretary.

**MOTION BY DR. BEEVER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN SIMONS TO APPROVE THE SLATE.**

Councilman Babcock said he would encourage his successor to be a member of the ABM Committee.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item #8 – Pelican Landing/CPE Presentation**

Dr. Demers discussion on CPE Presentation which will be on two separate days. She stated it would not be possible to do this on a regular ABM meeting day. The opportunities for this would be tomorrow and next Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>). Mr. Beever said notice had been sent to every ABM member via e-mail.

Mr. Beever said that the project had been reduced and that seven rock groins are still proposed. The fill will go out from the beach across the inlet mouth and back to the beach. It is more likely the sand will get pushed downflow by the current.

Discussion ensued on the property line and the building and control line.

Mr. Beever reviewed a case that occurred in the Panhandle. Property boundary is your metes and bounds. Discussion continued.

Ms. Larsen said the Pelican Landing field trip response consisted of 9 for tomorrow and four for next Tuesday per the survey she had sent out.

**Agenda Item #9 – ABM Budget**

Mr. Beever presented this item. We have pledges for \$7,500 from three parties and have received \$5,000 in total. At this time, the WMD is proposing \$22,000 for the ABM, but we do not know if this is going to survive the budgeting process. The majority of the budget was placed into the Cela Tega activity. The Cela Tega and charette will take about 70% of the budget.

**MOTION BY COUNCILWOMAN SIMONS AND SECONDED BY MS. STAFFORD TO ACCEPT THE OUTLINE FOR THE ABM BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED WITH DR. BEEVER ABSTAINING.**

**Agenda Item #10 – Possible State Parks Closures: Estero Bay Preserve State Park & Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve**

Mr. Beever presented this item with input from Ms. Stafford on the proposed closures.

**MOTION BY DR. EVERHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN SIMONS TO DRAFT A LETTER IN SUPPORT FOR STAFFING OF THE WATERSHED AND AQUATIC PRESERVES WITH COPY TO TRUDI WILLIAMS.**

Mr. Beever said this letter would go the IAS for approval and then back to the ABM.

Discussion continued.

**MOTION AMENDED TO ADD THAT WE FINALIZE LETTER AT THE IAS MEETING NEXT WEEK. SECONDER AGREES.**

Discussion on obtaining data ensued.

**MS. STAFFORD AND MS. RASNAKE ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Agenda Item #11: Alico Road Widening East of I-75**

Ms. Larsen said it is an informational item.

**Agenda Item #12: Committee Reports and Scheduling**

- Cela Tega Planning – Dr. Everham gave brief report and stated that the topic would be the economic benefits of preserved lands. It was suggested to perhaps coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce to bring everyone together.

Dr. Demers said coordination among chambers might not be easy and that we should try to find a date in the fall at FGCU to host this meeting.

The Cela Tega meeting will be scheduled at the offices of SWFRPC on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

- Issues & Agenda Subcommittee – this meeting will be scheduled at the offices of SWFRPC on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Everham asked for any input on speakers for the Cela Tega to talk about ties between economic benefits and preserved lands.

Mr. Beever said last meeting talking about changing list of listed species in the state. He provided an updated report stating that the Lake Eustis pup fish, mangrove rivulus and the Florida tree snail would be removed as well as the Gopher frog in the amphibian list and the pine barrens treefrog.

Discussion ensued on reasons for removing these from the list.

**MOTION BY COUNCILWOMAN SIMONS AND SECONDED BY MS. PETERSON TO DRAFT A LETTER.**

Mr. Beever continued his report by stating that the alligator snapping turtle, Florida pine snake, Lower Keys Florida ribbon snake, Lower Keys red rat snake, the Lower Keys striped mud turtle and the Suwannee cooter, the brown pelican, the limpkin, snowy

egret and the white ibis as well as the eastern chipmunk, Florida back blear, Florida mouse and the Homosassa shrew would be removed. Mr. Beaver said he would draft a letter and bring back to the ABM after it goes through the IAS.

Dr. Everham said would like letter to also focus on the flaws in the process.

Discussion continued

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Demers said that with respect to the library databases that the FGCU librarian stated that the grant was for just one time and not a continuing effort. Additional funding would have to be obtained to continue this effort.

Mr. Beaver said he had started the process of letter effectiveness. He asked if any board members had any copies of final letters so that the list would be complete. Effectiveness is about 53% to back in 2007.

### **Agenda Item #13 – Emerging Issues**

Dr. Everham reviewed the FGCU Master Plan which will be drafted on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The first public meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. This should be able to be discussed at next IAS meeting. Dr. Everham will provide an update at the April ABM meeting.

Ms. Rasnake stated that the SFWMD is going to have environmental report out by March 1<sup>st</sup> and it doesn't have Estero Bay tributaries shown on it. She would forward the link to Ms. Larsen.

### **Agenda Item #14 – Announcements**

Ms. Larsen announced that the new member is John Curtis of Johnson Engineering.

Councilman Babcock said that he Green Resources Task Force had brochures on seagrasses and trying to distribute to those that it would be helpful to.

Ms. Stafford said she would like some for the Estero Bay Buddies. We have a Estero Bay Buddies annual meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Koreshan from 10 to 1 p.m. Bonita Springs Environmental Workshop is on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Beaver stated the Watershed Summit is March 30-31 at CHEC and the State of Phosphate Mining workshop is on March 28-29 at CHEC in Punta Gorda. The Shellfish Restoration Workshop is on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Ding Darling.

### **Agenda Item #15 – Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

**Agenda Item #16 – Next Meeting, Time, Place, Agenda Items**

March 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the SWFRPC offices.