

**MINUTES OF THE
REGIONAL WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Held on June 16, 2011**

Attendees:

Jim Beever	SWFRPC
David Crawford	SWFRPC
D. Dianne Davies	SWFWMD
Jon Iglehart	FDEP
Rae Ann Wessel	SCCF

Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

Mr. Beever called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Agenda Item #2 – Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes approved from April 21, 2011.

Agenda Item #3 – Review of Committee Activities

Mr. Beever said that staff has been continuing to implement the two main thrusts of the committee which was trying to implement two storm water resolutions with local governments and the local fertilizer ordinance assistance.

Agenda Item #4 – Continue the Storm water issues and possible corrective actions

Mr. Beever reported that in terms of activity on the storm water issues, staff had been working with Lee County and was in the process of putting together a grant application here which is going to be joint CHNEP, SWFRPC and Lee County to develop a functional assessment methodology to assess the water quality performance of wetland systems.

He reported that the idea is to look at these types of wetland systems that have been constructed already by Lee County and those which are currently in construction by Lee County for reducing nutrient loads in different systems. Mr. Beever reviewed the progress with respect to filter marshes on the Ten Mile Canal, Paddle Creek and Island Park which was half-funded by EPA and half by matches. The progress made in Sarasota and Collier County would also be looked at by staff (i.e. vegetation islands), along with putting together a performance model that consists of not only the wetland function, but the water quality function as well. With the assistance of an “A-team” of experts in water quality, parameters and measures are developed that are going to be used in the field. Staff would be asking for input from each agency as they felt it was important to use local folks in southwest Florida to make up the team.

Agenda Item #5 – Discuss current implementation of the Storm water Resolution in the North Port Gardens DRI

Mr. Beever reported that Lee County was trying to move ahead with changes of their basis for standards for BMPs for water quality. The City of North Port has worked with the development entitled “North Port Gardens”. Several of the recommendations that the Water Management District and staff had talked about in terms of LID have been already incorporated into the design.

Ms. Wessel asked whom this grant was with. Mr. Beever said it was with EPA and that it would have the cooperation of CHNEP, the SWFRPC and Lee County which will be a match. If others want to provide an in-kind match, the person serving on the “A” team can be a match to the grant.

Ms. Wessel asked if there would be a component to this where you look at what is happening in the soil, as she felt that one of the big pieces that was missing was understanding how different soil types can contribute or what role they play.

Mr. Beever said that this could be incorporated into the consideration. We are trying to do the rapid assessment procedure so that a person looking at the system visually could account for each of these things. Soil-type information that might come from the soil conservation service mapping could be utilized and is a resource that is easy to acquire rapidly. A full physical soil test where you do the bore, pull the core and read the soil may not be workable in a rapid assessment procedure.

Ms. Wessel said she was thinking in terms of classifying soils in the development process so that the soil type could contribute to the design in some fashion.

Mr. Beever said the team would make the consideration on this. Soils would be one of the parameters examined, but as to what we would measure and how it would come out in the rapid assessment, that is what would be found out in the study. Staff would be collecting data for water quality coming in the site and water quality going out of the site as it currently exists today.

Ms. Wessel said that this could then be a locally developed assessment of loading capacities or treatment capacities depending on what you find for wetland systems.

Mr. Beever said that it has that potential, but that initially, the proposals look at both load and concentration.

Mr. Iglehart asked if UMAM would basically be used.

Mr. Beever said that this would be a framework.

Mr. Iglehart asked if it would include the habitat component.

Mr. Beever said it would.

Mr. Iglehart said that the better the habitat, the worse it will be for water quality issues. In Naples last week, FDEP looked at Clam Bay TMDL’s nitrogen and phosphorus in Naples last week and they ran some calcs and found that it is impaired for fecal coliform bacteria. If 800 birds in a 3-day period use Clam Bay, that is the impairment right there. Mr. Beever said it is a piece of information that may show if we really have a man-caused TMDL.

Agenda Item #6 – Review Hacienda Lakes DRI resolutions implementation for fertilizer and stormwater

Mr. Beever stated that with regard to what is happening for Hacienda Lakes which is in the south district, there were not have a lot of the requirements with regards to fertilizer and storm water in it. It was part fertilizer in Collier County which hasn’t adopted a standard and the storm water was pretty much their standard storm water. We have recommended putting it into the DRI. Today, at the DRI review at the SWFRPC meeting, everyone would see those as recommended conditions for Hacienda Lakes.

Mr. Crawford discussed the overall plan.

Discussion continued on Hacienda Lakes and what types of things was staff trying to get them to do to implement with storm water.

Mr. Beever said basically they are going through treatment training and higher level of treatment, the buffers are in place, along with a number of the different grassy swales. It is not as big a development as it was at one time. It will have a high pervious surface ratio to their treatment system because about ¾ of the site was being put into a conservation easement and then being donated to the state to become part of the state forest. He stated that a positive side was that all the melaleuca will be gone.

Ms. Wessel asked if it was an easement or donation.

Mr. Beever said it would be a donation, but it is a long process as they have to conduct a hazardous review and the fact that there are six aboriginal sites that will go into state ownership, as well as a historical part associated with the donated areas.

Mr. Iglehart said that the state has to accept this which he was not sure if they would do so.

Discussion continued on the boundaries.

Mr. Beever said it is a two to three year process to clean up the property. Mr. Iglehart said that FDEP would be working on the cleanup. With regard to fertilizer, there has been a lot of activity in the intervening month. Charlotte County voted 3 to 2 to strengthen existing fertilizer ordinance to having standards which are much more in compliance with what the RPC had recommended. There will be a no-application period in the summer, a reduction in the amount of nitrogen application and slow release. In Collier County, they voted 3 to 2 to go forward with putting together an ordinance with stronger restrictions.

Discussion ensued on the Collier voting system.

Ms. Wessel stated that Manatee County voted for more strict standards.

Mr. Beever gave a report that they voted not to have the sale restrictions but to have all the strict standards.

Discussion ensued on sale of fertilizers in stores.

Agenda Item #7 – Discuss changing the RWC meeting frequency to quarterly due to staff cutbacks

Mr. Beever said due to the recent budget changes, it had been suggested to have the meetings quarterly unless there is a particular item that needs to be addressed. Under the current cutbacks, there would not be SWFRPC staff to work on DRI matters. Normally, he stated that he worked on the vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and the historical/archaeological sections. However, he also worked on affordable housing and water related issues (utilities, etc.)

Discussion continued on the budget cuts and staffing.

Mr. Beever said staff was funded in different ways. He stated that Vice-Mayor Denham would like meetings to be held quarterly. Ms. Wessel said that Vice-Mayor Denham wanted to narrow the scope and

really focus on storm water and possibly moving the meetings to be held quarterly unless something urgent came up.

Mr. Iglehart said that he found the meetings every productive and that they were willing to meet any schedule that the Chair wishes to make.

Mr. Beever said it was possible that there would not be a July meeting due to vacation schedules.

Ms. Wessel said that she believes the meetings should continue as they helped us extend the outreach. The septic maintenance and inspection issues came from this subcommittee. It was huge to say that the SWFRPC has endorsed unanimously these initiatives as they relate to what a local community can do, source controls and that they are addressing a problem which is well demonstrated.

Mr. Iglehart said that the committee has done a lot of work and continues to do a lot of work, so he asked if it would actually save money to go to a quarterly basis with staff having to spend much more time on e-mail and interacting with the individual members rather than having everyone assembled one hour before a regular meeting. It seems that there would be more monies expended to continue this committee's agenda in the same way we have been doing it on a quarterly basis.

Discussion continued on quarterly vs. monthly meetings.

Mr. Crawford said he would work with Vice-Mayor Denham on this.

Discussion ensued on SWF Water Management Districts and the appointment of a director. Ms. Davies said that they did not have an interim Director yet.

Discussion ensued on candidates for the Governing Board, DCA reviews and roles of agencies. Mr. Iglehart stated that the focus has been narrowed in these reviews.

Discussion on prevention of integration ensued.

Agenda Item #8 – Public Input

None.

Agenda Item #9 – Identify and Approve a Date for the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 21st at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.