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PRESS CONTACT

Rebekah Harp
Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
239-338-2550 Ext. 217
rharp@swfrpc.org

Approval of the Stormwater Retrofit Resolution, Which Resulted in the Formation of the Lower West Coast Implementation Committee

FORT MYERS, FL – (March 30, 2009) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) announced that council approved the Stormwater Retrofit Resolution. The resolution provides specific management guidelines for stormwater in order to minimize the negative environmental effects in and on Southwest Florida lakes, canals, estuaries, interior wetlands, rivers and near shore waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

The resolution was approved during the January council meeting, which ultimately completed the fifth and final work area originally identified for the Lower West Coast Watershed Subcommittee. With this approval the work of the Subcommittee was finished and sunsetted.

Subsequently, the Council approved the formation of a new Subcommittee called the Lower West Coast Implementation Committee for the implementation phase of this regional water quality improvement effort. For the next year, this Subcommittee will be identifying ways that the approved resolutions can be implemented by each local governmental jurisdiction.

While stormwater management started as drainage and flood control in the region and added water quality and wetland protection late in the last century, stormwater management is further evolving to encompass sustainable development and the reduction of runoff from existing developments. Water quality issues impact all facets of the socio-economic system in Southwest Florida, from tourism to quality of life for the local population. The opportunity to meet these challenges lies in the fact that older development built prior to the introduction of current regulations and those developments whose stormwater management systems are in need of upgrading can also use sustainable design standards to minimize their impacts on the natural environment. Construction built to sustainable standards makes a minimum demand on future operational resources, such as energy and water supply.

For more information, please contact Mr. David Crawford at (239) 338-2550 or via email at dcrawford@swfrpc.org.