



LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE (LWLI) HABITAT WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2010

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Mr. Dan Bates, Environmental Director, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM).

I. Attendance and Introductions

Dan Bates – ERM; Paul Davis - ERM; Julie Bishop - ERM; Eric Anderson – ERM; Alyssa Dodd – ERM; Harvey Rudolph – ERM; Millie Radzikhovsky – FDOT; Cynthia Plockelman – Audubon Society of the Everglades; Eric Reusch – ACOE; Pat Gostel – Public; Patti Gorman – SFWMD; Tim Gray – FDEP

II. New Business

Lake Worth Lagoon South Boat Tour – Dan Bates – PBC

- The boat tour is scheduled on February 24 - information will be provided in the near future.

III. Public/Private Partnership Sub-Group (Mangrove/Oyster Habitat) – Julie Bishop – PBC

Living Shoreline Workshop Date & Agenda – Julie Bishop - PBC

- The workshop is scheduled 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM on April 20 at the Clayton E. Hutchinson Agricultural Center, 559 N. Military Trail, WPB. (A draft agenda was distributed.) An overview of the agenda is referenced below.
- Workshop topics:
 - Ecological purpose, benefit and function of shoreline alternatives.
 - Examples of living shoreline projects in Florida.
 - Role of state and federal agencies in the permit process.
 - Funding opportunities and the cost of living shorelines as compared to hardened shorelines.
- Attendees:
 - Municipal representatives.
 - Coastal land managers.
 - Environmental scientists.
 - Developers and contractors.
 - Consultants.
 - Private landowners.
 - Environmental regulators.
 - Local planning and permitting staff.
- The finalized agenda will be available online at www.LWLI.org.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Status of SFWMD Projects in LWL Watershed – SFWMD

- Ms. Patti Gorman discussed the project status.
- Due to budget cuts, seagrass monitoring has been shifted to the ACOE who has a consultant to do the monitoring, but will not be under contract in time to do monitoring by February.

- In the meantime, monitoring is being done by in-house crews (December 2009 and February 2010 trips).
- If the consultant does come on-board, staff will work with them and train them during the February trip.
- The consultant did an excellent job with previous work on Caloosahatchee, Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie and Lake Worth Lagoon.
- A lengthy discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- SFWMD seagrass monitoring is in addition to the County's seagrass monitoring.
- Ms. Bishop advised that the County's transects are continuing.
- The County is trying to keep the aerial surveys on-schedule every five years.
- Ms. Gorman stated that ideally, staff is looking at having three different levels: 1) transect monitoring - provides the finest level; 2) quadzilla - provides medium level; and 3) aerial - provides a larger scale five-year level. As time progresses, this will continue to be reassessed.
- Ms. Gorman's role at the SFWMD has changed as she no longer works with RECOVER.
- She has taken over Mr. Rod Braun's position in Coastal Division.
- Mr. Greg Graves will be the RECOVER Team's northern estuary contact.
- She is in the process of becoming familiar with a variety of different issues and details of work being done over the last six years while she was in RECOVER.
- Ms. Gorman plans to make a much closer connection with what is going on at CERP than has been going on with the North Palm Beach project and also Indian River Lagoon.
- As part of the SFWMD reorganization, Mr. Sculley and the Service Center groups are key SFWMD team contacts.
- Further discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- Ms. Gorman advised that an estuarine subteam meeting was held recently that Ms. Chang attended. There were some issues regarding data included in the seagrass maps.
- A further lengthy discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- Mr. Gostel asked about the water quality monitoring for the County. This is the second full year of that effort.
- He asked when the information will be analyzed and an interim report will be prepared (assuming funding will be provided for another year).
- Ms. Gorman answered that as part of the systems status report, water quality analysis was included for all of the northern estuaries (LWL data was included). One of the biggest tasks that came out of this was to go ahead and take a closer look at the number of sites being monitored, and to do a more in-depth analysis on which ones are necessary to keep.
- This information will also be important as a backup when funding for the following years is being considered (recommendation of sites to keep).
- Further discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- Mr. Gostel asked about the watershed model development criteria and where the report is available for review.
- Ms. Bishop advised that the watershed delineation is being covered by the Water Group.
- Ms. Chang provided information at the last Water Group meeting.
- Mr. Davis advised that Water Group information is included on the LWLI website at: www.LWLI.org.

Status of Habitat Restoration Projects in LWL – Julie Bishop & Dan Bates - PBC

- A visual presentation was provided of current projects.

- Discussion/questions and answers occurred throughout the presentation.
- C-51 Sediment (Julie Bishop):
 - Pre-construction and post-construction - 100,000 cubic yards removed.
 - There has been about 13,500 cubic yards accretion in the sediment trap since 2007 construction.
 - Last monitoring was done in August 2009. The rate of accretion will be determined.
 - A report will be provided to SFWMD approximately September 2010.
- Ibis Isle (Dan Bates):
 - The first volunteer planting event was held on January 9.
 - The next planting event is scheduled on January 23.
 - Two additional planting events are tentatively planned on February 6 and 27.
- John's Island Oyster (Dan Bates):
 - Construction of first phase is complete.
 - Will be expanding in the second phase with creation of additional oyster reefs.
- South Cove (Dan Bates):
 - The County won the 120 Administrative Hearing.
 - The permit has been approved and is in-hand for work to begin in the near future.
 - ERM will coordinate with the City of West Palm Beach regarding basic issues.
 - Work will be done in phases.
 - Fill will be provided from other projects.
- Snook Islands FDOT and Public Use Facilities:
 - Staff is working with FDOT on the project.
 - Work includes the addition of a boardwalk, fishing pier, floating docks, kayak launch (for use by the public and water taxis) and an artificial reef.
 - Expansion of 99-year lease with the City.
- The County is considering an additional Snook-like enhancement project south of the bridge.
- A lengthy discussion occurred.

Oyster Outreach Project – Dan Bates - PBC

- The Lantana oyster reef restoration event was held on December 12, 2009.
- 161 volunteers assisted ERM staff.
- 1,400 netted bags were filled with 24 tons of fossilized shell.
- The filled bags were placed along the Lake Worth Lagoon shoreline.
- Approximately 1,800 square feet of reef were created.
- The reef will provide a hard surface for juvenile oyster to attach.
- Several other sites in the Lagoon are being considered for future projects.
- A lengthy discussion occurred.
- Ms. Alyssa Dodd thanked all the partners for their participation in this successful group effort. The partners included Town of Lantana; WPB Fishing Club; and members of the Public Outreach Working Group comprised of Fish & Wildlife Commission, SFWMD, Cooperative Extension Service and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Decision Analysis Framework – M-Li Chang - SFWMD

- Mr. Bates advised that Ms. M-Li Chang was unable to attend today's meeting to give an update.
- A brief discussion occurred.

- Ms. Bishop advised that staff has developed the Habitat component for inclusion in the overall Analysis Framework.
- The Habitat Group's component will be provided to the Water Resources Group who will complete the work.
- Ms. Chang has advised that once the components are put together, this data will be a precursor to the science plan.
- Ms. Cynthia Plockelman discussed her concerns regarding the Habitat Enhancement Ecosystem Component relative to Snook Islands. When Snook Islands were being populated with mangroves, she had requested that some sand areas be left open. There is virtually no area within the Lagoon for shore birds to rest. During the initial stages of Snook Islands, the area was full of birds. The mangrove component is rapidly taking over the majority of the area and the quantity of birds has decreased considerably. The mangroves also make it difficult for the Audubon Society to do monitoring for bird species in the area.
- Further discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- Mr. Bates advised that a summary of projects is located on the website: www.LWLI.org.

Member Issues – All

- Ms. Alyssa Dodd – LWL information is located on the website: www.LWLI.org.
- Ms. Dodd - the new LWL logo can be viewed on the website.
- Ms. Dodd – Ibis volunteer event is tomorrow, January 23. Parking will be available at Phipps Ocean Park.

IV. Next Meeting

- February 3, 2010 – LWLI Executive Committee Meeting at SFWMD (Update Executive Committee on Habitat WG Priorities).
- **April 23 or 30, 2010 (date to be confirmed) – Next LWLI Habitat Working Group Meeting.**
- National Audubon Society's LWL Sept. 2009 Bird Survey Results – Cynthia Plockelman.
- Action Items.

Action Items

- CERP update.
- A brief discussion occurred.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 AM by Mr. Bates.