



LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE (LWLI) HABITAT WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2009

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Mr. Paul Davis, Environmental Manager, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM).

I. Attendance and Introductions

Paul Davis - ERM; Julie Bishop - ERM; Julie Mitchell – ERM; Eric Anderson – ERM; Alyssa Dodd – ERM; Ginny Powell – ERM; Millie Radzikhovsky – FDOT; Ricardo Zambrano – FWC; Lindsay Nester – FWC; Erin McDevitt – FWC; Tom Reinert – FWC-FWRI; Tim Gray – FDEP; Carole Marshall; Terry Brown – Commissioner/Town of Ocean Ridge; Bernie Eastman; John Lamb – City of Lake Worth; Michael Pisano – Town of Lake Park/Lake Park Marina; Tom Twyford – West Palm Beach Fishing Club; Sue Dingwell – Florida Native Plant Society; Sean Sculley – SFWMD; Eric Reusch – ACOE; Debbie DeVore – USFWS; Don Bergeron – Florida Native Plant Society; Josh (last name illegible) – Representative Joseph Abruzzo; Jennifer Smith – DEP

Overview

- Intent of the Habitat Working Group is to form partnerships to work more effectively together regarding LWL restoration.
- LWL Initiative is made up of key agencies including DEP, SFWMD, PBC and League of Cities.
- LWL Initiative has four working groups which include Habitat, Water, Public Outreach and Pollution Prevention.
- Working groups report to the LWLI Executive Committee.
- Blueprint for action is LWL Management Plan.
- LWLI Executive Committee's next-scheduled meeting is November 16, 2009 and meets on a quarterly basis.

○ Revised Agenda Items

- II. B. - moved to Old Business (Fisheries Monitoring Sub-Group Update – P. Davis – PBC).
- II. C. - moved to last item on agenda (Status of SFWMD Projects in LWL Watershed – Sean Sculley/SFWMD).
- II. F. – deleted (Bird Island Restoration – R. Patten – BIT).
- III.B. – deleted (Decision Analysis Framework – M-Li Chang – SFWMD).

II. New Business

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

LWL Management Plan Projects

- Progress has been made in identifying habitat projects to move forward (mangrove/oyster).
- Working with DEP permitting to determine how to permit work on a large scale.
- Many municipalities are located along the Lagoon; permission is needed from those municipalities to do work in their jurisdiction.
- Interested homeowners along LWL may also be involved.

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- Ms. Amanda Brahle, ERM, was recognized for putting together graphics for the presentation. Three potential mangrove planter projects were presented as examples: Currie Park, Bradley Park and Lake Avenue Bridge.
- League of Cities would be requested to assist in getting this information to the municipalities.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- ACOE and DEP will be working on the projects.
- Mr. Eric Reusch, ACOE, and Ms. Jennifer Smith, DEP, were introduced.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Backyard Mangroves – T. Twyford, WPBFC, and E. McDevitt, FWC

- WPB Fishing Club, in conjunction with FWC and various other entities, is focusing on backyard projects with homeowners/municipalities.
- Volunteers enlisted to collect seeds.
- Approximately 2,000 pods have been collected to date.
- Habitat WG to focus on larger projects.
- Making sure that participants understand their responsibilities such as trimming, etc.
- Looking at liability issues regarding working on private property.
- DEP does not allow mangroves to be removed once they are planted. If mangroves fail, they cannot be removed.
- Permitting issues and who applies (State or local agencies, or homeowner).
- Work cannot begin until issues are resolved.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Living Shorelines Workshop – D. Devore, USFWS

- Focus on identifying goals the group wishes to accomplish to create a workshop agenda/plan.
- Categories of living shorelines include low, medium and high energy environments.
- Permitting (how to obtain, what kind, etc.).
- Involve regulatory agencies that administer and comment on permits.
- Funding sources to be considered.
- Outreach component involving municipalities.
- Targeted groups include private landowners, consultants and local/municipal/state/federal governments.
- Attendance typically includes approximately 100 – 150 people.
- Ms. Bishop discussed having a subgroup meeting in December to develop a workshop agenda.

Status of Habitat Restoration Projects in LWL – Julie Bishop, PBC

- Ms. Bishop gave a slide presentation of current projects. Discussion/questions and answers occurred during the presentation.

Ibis Isle

- Ms. Julie Mitchell, Project Manager, and Mr. Bernie Eastman, Contractor/Eastman Aggregate Enterprises, were introduced. They have been actively working on the project since June of this year.
- A project video developed by the contractor, Eastman Aggregate Enterprises, was shown.
- The work involves capping muck sediments and is now two-thirds completed.

- A sand shooter is being used to place the sand, which allows it to be dispersed evenly to cap the muck.
- The project is presently budgeted for \$1.1 million and is being funded by PBC, SFWMD and DEP through the LWL Partnership Grant Program.
- The Town of Palm Beach is also a partner.
- Individuals who wish to visit the site are welcome to do so, through the ERM project manager.
- Eight acres of wetlands will be created.
- Planting will begin January 9, 2010, which will be the first volunteer planting project.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

John's Island Oyster

- Approximately 50% completed.
- Five acre oyster restoration project.
- Approximately 7,500 tons of rock to be placed.
- Extremely shallow water which makes it difficult to get materials to the location. Working around the tides.
- Completion is anticipated by year end.
- Project fact sheets are located on the website www.LWLI.org.

South Cove

- Mr. Eric Anderson, ERM Project Manager, was introduced.
- The project is moving along, though there have been some major challenges.
- DEP issued a Notice of Intent to permit the project, which was challenged by Trump Towers.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Funding Update – State and Federal - PBC

- Mr. Davis gave an update.
- There is a Federal application for \$2 million toward the LWL Partnership Grant Program.
- State funding was not received last year or this year toward the LWL Partnership Grant Program.
- Staff is in the process of updating an application in the event future funds become available.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Oyster Outreach Project – G. Powell, PBC

- Approval was received from the Town of Lantana to install the project at the Lantana Nature Preserve, and permits are pending.
- Bagging and deployment is scheduled for December 12.
- The Town of Lantana and WPB Fishing Club are on-board with the project.
- A trial bagging event was held on October 17.
- Further information and photos are located on the Volunteer webpage at www.LWLI.org.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Discussion of Outreach Items Not Included on the Agenda – G. Powell

- Creating a LWL identity.
- Logo and tagline (Lake Worth Lagoon Discover a Local Treasure) have been finalized; they can be viewed at www.LWLI.org.

- The logo and tagline will be presented at the LWL Executive Committee meeting on November 16 for adoption.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.
- The SFWMD was thanked for its assistance in incorporating the new logo into the website banner, project fact sheets, powerpoint presentations, etc.
- Ms. Dodd put together a partners' page to recognize everyone involved and actively engaged in the LWL initiative; the page will be located on the website and will be available in 2010.
- Speakers Bureau series is being put together; it will be located on the website and will be available in 2010.
- Speakers and speaker hosts are encouraged for upcoming speaking events.
- International Coastal Waterway Cleanup was held in September and was a success.
- ERM hosted several sites for the cleanup which included Munyon Island and Southern Boulevard causeway.
- Adopt-a-Spot Program is available through the Solid Waste Authority.
- SWA is very involved with ERM's Outreach Working Group and can assist with listing official cleanup sites and obtaining t-shirts and bags.
- PBC Waterway Guide is in the early stages of development and will expand the current LWL Boating and Angling Guide. FWC and Marine Industries Association have taken the lead in this regard.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Member Issues – All

- Munyon Island boat dock facility construction to begin on November 2.
- The project is expected to take eight months to complete.
- The original design will be used.

Status of SFWMD Projects in LWL Watershed – Sean Sculley, SFWMD

- The LWL Stormwater Loading project was completed on time last month.
- Three major features of this effort included:
 - Water quality analysis of land uses in the watershed
 - The information was looked at by basin within the watershed.
 - 19 years of data was reviewed.
 - Storm event monitoring
 - The consultant calculated event mean concentrations for various land uses within the basin.
 - Compilation – geo database of both land use, water quality statistics, and data for the period of record
 - Will be a good tool that will allow for further studies and pollutant tracking from the source to the Lagoon.
- Some preliminary loading estimates have been calculated. The information is being compiled in a summary report, as well as the original report provided by the contractor.
- The report will be forwarded to PBC shortly.
- Mr. Rod Braun has assumed a new responsibility and is now Director of the Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division at the SFWMD.
- Regarding scientific representation, Mr. Sculley was assured by his successor that SFWMD will have a scientist dedicated to this group and LWLI.
- Mr. Sculley will continue to serve as Mr. Rooney's alternate on the LWLI Executive Committee.

- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

III. Old Business

Monitoring Studies Update – P. Davis, PBC, & Discussion All Oyster Monitoring Project

- The annual report has been received and is being reviewed.
- The current contract allows for work to continue until June 2010.
- Looking closely to the report and comments will be made to assure that additional comparisons are done between what is going on in the LWL and other estuaries in the State.

Sediment Source Study

- Looking at not only restoring habitat within the Lagoon, but also looking at what the sources are bringing to the Lagoon.
- Study was done by FIT and work has been completed.
- The final report has been received and is being reviewed.
- Meetings will be held in the next several months where results will be discussed.
- Ms. Bishop stated that the report contains some of the best scientific reporting she has seen. The SFWMD is being asked to give their comments on the draft report; no comments have been received as of yet. Scientific staff needs to look at discharge data that CERP has put forth.

Sediment Characterization Study

- Looking at sediment types and depths at 12 existing and proposed capital restoration projects, similar to Snook Islands and Ibis Isles.
- Data is currently undergoing review, and should be finalized in the next couple of months.
- A second phase will look beyond areas targeted specifically for capital restoration.

Seagrass Monitoring

- Has been ongoing for nine years.
- 2009 Seagrass Monitoring Report is being reviewed.
- Mr. Eric Anderson, ERM project manager, stated that Johnson's Seagrass Recovery Team (managed by NOAA and FWRI) is very supportive of the project.
- The team is important in evaluating potential recovery of Johnson's Seagrass.
- Continuation of the study is re-evaluated every year.
- The SFWMD has done quadrat work.
- The SFWMD project continues for two years, and is through the CERP Recovery Program.

C-51 Sediment Trap

- Constructed at intersection just west of I-95.
- Monitoring to determine infilling.
- Collecting data; analysis not complete.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Monitoring continues.
- Core set of monitoring parameters.
- Have added in a couple of new salinity monitoring stations in vicinity of C-51.

Sea Turtle Monitoring

- Will be wrapping up sea turtle netting project in the LWL.
- There are no remaining funds.
- Will do analysis of the gut contents and blood to evaluate genetic makeup of the sea turtles that live in the LWL.

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- There are a lot more turtles than had been expected.
- The turtles are much sicker than expected; roughly 50-60% have been affected by fibropapilloma.

Manatee Surveys

- Surveys are continuing.
- Aerial surveys are being conducted every two weeks.
- The work will continue for another year.
- Manatee mortalities are at a record setting pace this year.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Mollusks

- Ms. Carole Marshall is working on a paper regarding mollusks in the LWL.
- There are over 520 mollusks that have been identified in the Peanut Island area, and an additional 100 between the Inlets.
- Trying to monitor the species, and asked for assistance in obtaining buckets of sediment.
- Mr. Davis will discuss this further after the meeting.

IV. Next Meeting

- November 16, 2009 – LWLI Executive Committee Meeting at SFWMD (Update Executive Committee on Habitat WG Priorities).
- **January 15, 2010 (tentative/to be confirmed) - LWLI Habitat Working Group Meeting.**
- National Audubon Society's LWL Sept. 2009 Bird Survey Results – Cynthia Plockelman.
- Action Items.

Additional Items Discussed

- Mr. Davis discussed the Artificial Reef & Estuarine Enhancement Committee, which is Board-appointed and works on similar projects as the LWLI Habitat WG. The next-scheduled meeting is 9:00 AM on November 5 at the West Palm Beach Fishing Club.
- Discussion/questions and answers occurred.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 AM by Mr. Davis.