

**LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE (LWLI) PUBLIC OUTREACH WORKING GROUP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 @ 10:30 A.M.
VISTA CENTER**

MEETING NOTES

Welcome:

Ginny opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance.

Attendance:

Ginny Powell – ERM, Alyssa Dodd – ERM, Pat Gostel – Citizen, Geoff Wilson, Florida Paddling Trails, Capt. Barry Brimacombe – West Palm Beach Fishing Club, Greg Reynolds – Lagoon Keepers, Otto Spielbichler and Betty Underwood – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Alyssa Freeman – Marine Industries, Leigh Ann Dawes – DEP, Lourdes Ferris, Keep PBC Beautiful, Joanna Aiken – SWA, Capt. Danny Barrow - WPB Fishing Club, AnEta Sewell – SFWMD, Sergio Piedra – PBC Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Bob Ganger – FCFP, Bill Schall – PBC Cooperative Extension, Joe Martino - Citizen, Sue Dingwell – Florida Native Plant, Kathy Vaughn – Peanut Island & FWC Monofilament Recovery program, Thuy Shutt – Westgate-Belvedere CRA, Eric Anderson - ERM

Meeting Objectives:

Today's meeting will continue to identify actions to increase our clean-ups in and around the Lake Worth Lagoon. We have efforts that are on-going, but would like to expand those efforts or better organize them. We have 6 action teams meeting in smaller groups and working on the implementation of various projects. We will be getting an update from these groups later in the meeting. Their decisions will be brought back to this larger group for approval.

Housekeeping:

Making the national news headlines recently, and also on the David Letterman's show, was a report on the Lake Worth Lagoon "Muck Monster" sighted close to channel markers 9 & 10. This mystery creature, yet to be identified, has not surfaced and is not known if it will be seen again. The meeting was shown a video of this news report. The Lagoon Keepers first sighted this creature and took the video on its movement. Greg Reynolds also passed around an artist rendering of a T-Shirt (I am not the muck monster!) designed for the Lake Worth Lagoon.

There was an executive committee meeting on August 6th. We submitted our report addressing the various action teams and all the activities, our website, working on a curriculum guide. The Executive Committee was very supportive and excited about all the outreach programs and activities.

Lagoon/Watershed Cleanups:

Lourdes Ferris briefly spoke about the Great American Cleanup which is in April and the International Coastal Cleanup in September 19. Any group who wants to assist in this event can contact her at Keep PB Beautiful. Kathy Vaughn mentioned that there was a big Cleanup banner left on Peanut Island by the Port which she would move to a more appropriate area to draw attention to the cleanup activities in the Lagoon. The port had previously sponsored Peanut Island cleanup, but unfortunately this year they could not participate. In response to a question about sponsors, Lourdes explained

that financial sponsors get put on their T-Shirts. Others are put on banners, flyers etc. Some financial sponsors will also host sites for their employees to participate.

Joanna Aiken, SWA, will also work with any group on their Adopt-a-Spot program. They prefer group commitment for at least 4 times per year and provide cleanup materials. Greg Reynolds also gave an overview of the Lagoon Keepers mission: to remove debris, trash and derelict vessels from the Lagoon waterway. These 3 groups will play a major role in cleanups in the Lagoon and are fairly well established. The primary focus today is to identify actions to increase cleanups in other locations of the lagoon.

FWC Monofilament Lines Recovery & Recycling Program – Kathy Vaughn, Volunteer Coordinator, spoke about the recycling program in PB County. To date there are 71 locations from Jupiter to Boca Raton, plus 100 collection spots. The recycled material (single lines and spools, not braided) is deposited in a monofilament cylinder. Volunteers collect this material and packaged it for shipment to Iowa where it is recycled. If you have locations that would be a good candidate for such a collection site, or interested in volunteering, please contact her at her e-mail kvaughn@pbcgov.org. Christy Hudak (FWC) and Kathy will go out and inspect the location, but will need a volunteer there to collect the items and mail the box. Some site only mail items once or twice per year depending on how busy they are. A Jupiter High School student has volunteered to collect/input the data as her senior year project.

Discussions on identifying some actions to increase cleanup activities on the Lake Worth Lagoon.

- a) We have the 2 main cleanups – Great American Cleanup and International Coastal Cleanup. We also have a couple groups that have started with the Adopt-a-Spot program and are committed to cleanup 4 times per year. They are: Lake Worth Kiwanis – Snook Island, Greg Reynolds, Lagoon Keepers who have adopted the L.W. Lagoon in P.B. County, and Riviera Beach Maritime Academy - Munyon Island. We also have individuals such as Geoff Wilson, Fl. Paddling Trails and Joel Martino who have gone out to Munyon Island & Little Munyon and do cleanup on their own or other small groups.

Joanna Aiken, SWA, shared with the meeting an inquiry she received from a resident at Lake Clarke Shores regarding waterway cleanup and invasive plant removal. The Town will participate in the ICC alternate date of October 3rd. Also a detective who is working on closing down a homeless camp wanted to know about the removal of accumulated garbage. These projects may need the coordinated efforts of other agencies and volunteers to get this job done, i.e. garbage from the camp may have to be removed and taken to the dump via boats. Ginny felt it was in our best interest to get involved in the trash removal from Lake Clarke Shores as it can get into the C51 canal. Most of the Lagoon trash and debris comes from inland canals. Another benefit for Agencies adopt-a-spot volunteers is that the charge can be waived for disposal of their cleanups. Kathy Vaughn spoke about the boaters that dump beer bottles and cans on Peanut Island and the need to recycle this trash. She asked for a recycled bin on the island. SWA has some recycled buckets that could be given to boaters, but their needs to be some boater education done. She will also check if there is a recycle bin at Phil Foster Park ramp. Ginny proposed to involve the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Power Squadron to assist with boater education; they could hand out LWL brochures with

an insert that asks them to pack their trash and hand out recycle bags for them to place their cans/bottles and take it and take the trash with them and not leave it on the island.

A suggestion was also made to install a dumpster across the street from the SFWMD building (C-51 Control Structure?). This area has the C51 canal that attracts the homeless and the accumulation of trash. The trash collection there will have to be done by boat. AnEta Sewell commented that the District's field station does some cleanup at this location.

Discussions ensued on creating a map of the different areas/sites that identifies what groups are involved in cleanup activities. A similar map was created at the SFWMD showing their control structures where trash gets trapped and removed. The Ocean Conservancy also had a map of all the cleanup sites for the ICC. This data was put on an interactive website so people could type in their address and it would show different cleanup sites for that area. At the last meeting this idea was suggested that maybe we could adopt this interactive tool for use here in Palm Beach County. Technology can assist with giving us a pictorial view of the all the sites and Adopt-a-Site groups, but we do need site coordinator volunteers to take leadership roles in many other areas not yet assigned. This idea was considered a useful tool and Alyssa will send out the Ocean Conservancy link for the group to review.

Additional Action Team Updates:

- a) Creating a Lake Worth Lagoon Identity: Ginny updated meeting attendees about the Palm Beach Post's involvement in doing a project with ERM at a cost. They provided some draft logos, but the consensus of our team was that it had merit, but was not quite "on the mark". They would charge us if we wanted them to continue with the ones they drafted. At this point we wanted everyone to know of what was used previously: The Loving LWL logo which Alyssa has used for her Powerpoint presentation and the old logo used on boaters guide brochures over the years with a picture of a mangrove saying "Lake Worth Lagoon - a Lake Worth Saving." She asked for feedback from the group via e-mail. We will take those comments, the action team will meet again to see if we can work to create a template for logo/tagline for our publications.
- b) Speakers Bureau: Pat Gostel has taken a leading role and at this point his team is still collecting information and it is a work in progress. Hopefully by the end of the year he would have a list of speakers, topics and materials that can be utilized in the future. A copy of his team report is included in the handouts. Once finalized, the list of speakers and topics will be posted on the LWLI.org website.
- c) School Curriculum: Alyssa was part of the recent curriculum team meeting with 10 persons attending. This group provided feedback on the 1998 LWL curriculum that was developed for elementary, middle and high school students. An update team report is included in your handouts. But overall the team felt that the content was there but it needed to be updated, repackaged in a way that was more relevant to teachers today. Our ultimate goal is to work with the School District as they update some school curriculum and integrate these changes and students get this information during their science class instructions. We also highlighted many resources we would need to meet our vision of this new curriculum. At this point we are making contact with the School District and hope we will get positive feedback from them.

- d) Community Relations: Alyssa encouraged everyone to make use of our E-News and she would be happy to link to lagoon related events, programs and news from LWLI partners. Currently she has links to the International Coastal Cleanup, articles from the PB Post on the Muck Monster. She will also be adding a “Partners” page to recognize everyone who has been involved in the initiative. She also mentioned that Lake Worth Commissioner Susan Mulvehill mentioned the Florida Saltwater Paddling Trails some trails related to our LW Lagoon and another trails just added. She wanted to highlight that fact.
- e) Volunteer Habitat Restoration Projects: Ginny said that ERM is in the process of collecting and planting 60,000 red mangrove seeds for 2 projects in the Lake Worth Lagoon: the South Cove and Ibis Isle projects. For the oyster reef project we are going to use volunteers to bag fossilized shells and put those out in the lagoon. The location is Town of Lantana Nature Preserve. Permit approval is being sought. We are targeting October for bagging. The Fishing Club will be involved in the deployment, hopefully very early to mid November.
- f) Other Efforts: Ginny met with the Marine Industries Association on the boaters guide. More volunteers are needed to serve on an action team to work on the guide. City of Lake Worth is working on the issue of pocket parks to include them on their Comprehensive plans. Eco Art - West gate CRA is already taking the lead on project tied in on their storm water system. We could work with them on signage.

Next meeting suggested for mid-October using the computer to schedule date and time.

Next agenda items – Further discussion on the boaters guide.

List of ways the individuals can use our waterways. This would be useful tool not only for the citizens, but for visitors.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

/vrb