

**LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE (LWLI) PUBLIC OUTREACH
2nd WORKING GROUP MEETING
MARCH 20, 2009 ~ 2:30 P.M.
PBC ERM, VISTA CENTER**

MEETING NOTES

Welcome:

Ginny Powell opened the meeting at 2:35 p.m. She recognized Lake Worth City Comm. Suzanne Mulvehill as an elected official and thanked her for coming.

Attendance & Introductions:

Suzanne Mulvehill, LW City Commissioner
Tricia Fitzpatrick - Lake Worth resident
Otto Spielbichler - US Coast Guard Aux 54
Amy Farrell - TBE Group
David Cox - TBE Group
Rene Varela -Lake Worth Resident
Hollis Langer - WPBF ABC Ch. 25
Alison Pruitt, Marine Industries
Thuy Shutt - Westgate CRA
Joanne Davis - 1000 Friends of Florida

AnEta Sewell - SFWMD
Lourdes Ferris - Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful
Jim Kelly - Lake Worth resident
ERM: Laura Thompson, Ginny Powell, Eric
Anderson, Scott Lynch, Samantha Corr-Flores, Julie
Bishop
Via teleconference:
Leigh-Ann Dawes – DEP
Chris Lockhart - Habitat Specialist, Inc.

Meeting Objectives:

The main goal of the meeting was to identify the 10 top project ideas to be submitted to the Executive Committee and to invite participants/agencies to take ownership of some of these projects.

Old Business:

Ginny Powell reviewed the working group's strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats as discussed at the previous meeting held on February 27, 2009.

New Business

Short Slide Presentation:

6 slides were presented: (a) Proposed LWLI logo for future identification/branding and the new web site, www.LWLI.org as of January 2009, (b) About the Initiative, (c) LWLI Executive Committee members, (d) Working group lead members, (e) LWL Management Plan and Public Outreach action plans, and (f) Proposed LWLI decision analysis framework chart.

Project Ideas for the Lake Worth Lagoon:

Project ideas submitted by members of the working group in advance of the meeting were printed out in poster format & taped to the wall. Meeting attendees briefly discussed each idea. A few new ideas were added and in some cases similar ideas were consolidated into one project idea. The project ideas are detailed below with willing partners identified in parentheses.

Citizen Volunteer Opportunities

1. Lagoon/Waterway Clean-ups
 - a. Great American Cleanup (GAC)/Earth Day - April 18 (ERM, Lagoon Keepers, DEP).
Note: KBPCB is the local sponsor of the GAC.
 - b. Countywide Waterway cleanup – International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) – Sept. 19 (MIA). Marine Industries will encourage boaters at the ramps to clean up the waterways and bring trash to one of 3 barge locations. Note: KPBCB is the local sponsor of the ICC.
 - c. ICC at So. Blvd. Causeway - Sept. 19 (KPBCB, DEP, ERM, Lagoon Keepers).
 - d. More discussion centered on: contacting municipalities/agencies to take control of collecting the trash, cleaning the storm drains regularly to prevent trash emptying into the lagoon, educating the public about trash in canals and organizing volunteers for removal. An issue was raised RE: freshwater discharge diverting to the west and how the discharges to the east bring a lot of trash into LWL. Ginny Powell noted that this topic should be covered in by the water working group.
 - e. Clean-up Westgate Day (Westgate CRA).
 - f. Underwater cleanups involving boaters and divers.
2. Volunteer Oyster Reef Restoration. (ERM, WPB Fishing Club)
3. Mangrove Collection & Planting Projects (ERM).
4. Storm Drain Placard Projects
 - a. ERM and DEP have worked with volunteers and municipalities in the past.
 - b. Neighborhood groups/volunteers can install the placards, need a coordinator.
5. Volunteer bird survey (likely co-sponsored with the Habitat Group/Audubon Society).
6. Volunteer fish survey (likely co-sponsored by the Habitat Group/WPB Fishing Club).
7. Participate in events with displays/brochures/volunteer sign-up sheets (Example: Coast Guard event on May 16th).

Events

1. Lake Worth Lagoon Day – consider one big event in lieu of many smaller events.
2. Eco Art Project in Westgate Central Lake – will incorporate an Eco Art component in to an ordinary storm water management project (Westgate CRA).
3. LWL information booth/kiosk (e.g. hands on games for kids) at “Celebrate Westgate” Annual Spring Festival on April 11 at the Beacon Center, Westgate Elementary. (Westgate CRA).
Comment was made to consider having LWL displays at non-traditional events to reach a more diverse population.
4. Lagoon Photography Contest – a suggestion was made to contact Palm Beach Post to sponsor a contest, create picture postcards with winning photos for giveaways.
5. LWL Fishing Contest

Education

1. Update/create new brochures: LWL brochure/Understanding Lake Worth Lagoon, Manatees, Sea Turtles, Storm Water (ERM/SFWMD).
2. LWL Boaters’ Guide (ERM, MIA and others).
3. LWL Science Symposium.
4. Power Point Presentation (ERM).
5. “Train-the-Trainer” workshops to increase the no. of people providing outreach (ERM).

6. LWL Speakers Bureau to make presentations to HOA, other groups (ERM/Pat Gostel + volunteers).
7. Inform boating public of LWL restoration projects, issues and concerns (MIA).
8. Educate Coast Guard Auxiliary on how to conduct patrols designed to safeguard LWL.
9. LWL E-news/LWLI.org website (ERM). Consider adding activities calendar to website.
10. Update LWL video/DVD to include recent habitat restoration projects/grant funded projects. Distribute on web, in schools, libraries and for public broadcast.
11. Educational initiatives/create materials, games, curriculum for elementary-aged children. Habitat Specialists created a video suitable for use on the web for schools, etc. – needs updating.
12. Produce public service announcements for TV broadcast, hotel infomercials.
13. Produce/sponsor a Capt. Hollis “Sea Time” Segment. (Ownership: WPBF Ch 25). Hollis Langer gave information on the upcoming Sea Time TV morning segments to air during commercial breaks highlighting boating safety, water sports activity and environmental education segments. These segments will run from May 4th through October 25, 2009.
14. Continuous play LWL videos at key locations/parks.
15. Create articles with web site links to projects and volunteer opportunities in Coastline Magazine (MIA).
16. Information on landscape best management practices to protect LWL/Expand on Florida Yards and Neighbors Program.

Enhance Public Use/Recreation

1. Increase public access to LWL via “pocket parks”. Tricia Fitzpatrick provided a map highlighting properties that should be pursued for acquisition (ERM, City of Lake Worth City).
2. Increase kayak and sailboat launch points.
3. Kayak tours of Snook Island (Sierra Club is already doing this).

Other

1. “Branding” the Lagoon/Create an identity/new logo/a concise outreach message (ERM). Change the mindset from ICW to LWL.
2. Review existing promotional materials/information/signs to replace ICW with LWL.
3. LWL info on light poles and bridges.
4. LWL roadway signage.
5. Sell Jim Barry design T-Shirts/money to be used to support outreach efforts.
6. “Greenprinting” through linked open spaces and reclaimed drainage areas replaced by Westgate Central Lake (Westgate CRA).

Project Voting

Each participant was provided 5 colored dots and invited to vote for the projects they deemed most important. Ginny Powell will tabulate the results and present to the Ex. Committee on April 2, and advise meeting participants of the selected projects by e-mail.

Next Meeting Date: TBA, will notify by email

The meeting was adjourned: 4:10 pm.