

Meeting Notes
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative
Water Working Group

Time: March 5, 2009, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Location: Palm Beach County – Conference Room 4E-12

Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management

2300 North Jog Road, 4th Floor

West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2743

1. Attendance and Introductions

Attendees: Miao-Li Chang (SFWMD), Beth Kacvinsky (SFWMD), Tim Gray (FDEP), Julie Bishop (PBC ERM), Alessandra Medri (PBC ERM), Paul Davis (PBC ERM), Brian Gentry (PBC ERM), Bonnie Finneran (PBC ERM), Alyssa Dodd (PBC ERM), Ginny Powell (PBC ERM), Edward Patino (USGS), Rod Braun (SFWMD), Zhiqiang Chen (SFWMD) and Gregory Graves (SFWMD).

Dr. Miao-Li Chang welcomed everyone present and called the meeting to order.

2. Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI)

Dr. Miao-Li Chang briefly reviewed purpose of LWLI and its major programs and individual program leads.

Ginny Powell commented that the Outreach Group will have an impact on water quality via waterway cleanups and storm drain placard projects.

3. Objective and Plan

Dr. Miao-Li Chang introduced the concept of Decision Analysis Framework and defined the overall objectives for this kick-off meeting: To discuss the LWL Decision Analysis Framework and reach a consensus of proposed frame work.

The Decision Analysis Framework has been widely used for water management plans in the District (e.g., Lake Okeechobee, Loxahatchee River). The framework starts with an overall management goal, defines management and research objectives, and drills down attributes and the information required to achieve the overall goal and objectives (see attachment). A development of a framework provides managers and scientists with a comprehensive view and a clear guideline of how major programs interact to reach an ultimate management goal. Thus, it is important from the very beginning to discuss the framework and come to an agreement upon it. The Decision Analysis framework is also used to guide the working team and define each team's objectives ensuring better coordination (eliminating duplicated effort) among four working teams. In the proposed framework, four management objectives are recommended. By defining the overall goal and management objectives, the four LWLI function area teams (Water, Habitat, Pollution Prevention and Outreach) will have more defined objectives and clear guidance on the recommendations for management actions.

After Miao-Li's presentation, detailed discussions occurred. Some discussions are listed as follows.

Paul Davis: How is the new decision framework consistent with the developed LWLI management plan?

Miao-Li: We understand that the LWLI management plan has been developed and we do not want to duplicate it. This decision framework is consistent with the management plan but provides the next step to achieve the management goals.

Alessandra Medri: There is no component of "management action or operation recommendation (such as a cost-effective way)" in the framework. Do we need to include this component?

Miao-Li: Yes, we did not include that component in the example but it falls under existing management objectives as outlined in the proposed framework and should be considered.

Julie Bishop: How is the framework related to the funding opportunities?

Miao-Li: The components of "information needed" will provide what information is critical and urgent to reach our management and research objectives. With this process, the justification for the management action is provided for executive managers' consideration of funding sources. Thus the framework provides important guidelines for defining specific funding opportunities.

Greg Graves: Target setting and performance measurements were discussed as well as the vision for biological communities such as fish and SAV.

Brian Gentry: How should we include those regulatory items such as NPDES, TMDL and water supply needs?

Group agreed upon adding such a component in an appropriate level (e.g., a new research objective) such as Protect and Enhance Lagoon Resources.

A discussion occurred regarding management recommendations and it was envisioned that these recommendations should be part of the framework. Palm Beach County staff provided an update on the Water Resources Initiative (WRI) and that this working group should be aware of the activities as it relates to the Water Working Group.

The group went through the action plans listed in management plan and lead agencies were identified for each of the action plans. The group decided to relate each action plan to the proposed framework with the proposed major programs.

4. Action Items and Next Steps

- Send presentation, proposed framework and meeting notes to participants.

- Attendees will send Rod Braun (rbraun@sfwmd.gov) comments on the proposed LWL decision analysis framework within 1 week (by March 13) and focus on populating management objectives, research objectives and attributes.
- Alessandra Medri will provide the connection between LWL Management Plan Action Plans and the proposed framework.
- Representatives from Habitat, Pollution Prevention and Outreach teams will report back to respective team Chairs to ensure good coordination among teams.
- It is proposed that the framework will be presented to the LWLI executive committee on April 2nd.

5. Meeting Adjourned