

Meeting Notes
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative
Water Working Group

Date: June 17, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Location: SFWMD Headquarters, B-2
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

1. Attendance and Introductions

Attendees: Mao-Li Chang (SFWMD), Tim Gray (FDEP), Julie Bishop (PBC ERM), Paul Davis (PBC ERM), Brian Gentry (PBC ERM), Dorothy Payne (USGS), Rod Braun (SFWMD), Zhiqiang Chen (SFWMD), Gregory Graves (SFWMD) and Detong Sun (SFWMD).

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

2. Objective and Plan

Dr. Miao-Li Chang handed out both the Loxahatchee River Decision Analysis Framework and a framework that Palm Beach County ERM revised in addition to central questions developed for the Loxahatchee River framework. The overall objectives for this meeting are to discuss the LWL Decision Analysis Framework and to make progress in identifying goals and objectives to populate the framework.

A discussion on water quality and the Pollution Prevention program area was held and it was determined that water quality issues will be covered in the Water Working Group.

The overall management goal was discussed at length and discussion revolved around the concepts of restoration, enhancement, conservation and protection of the LWL system and watershed. It was decided that “Protect and Enhance the LWL Ecosystem” best captured the management goal and that watershed issues will be captured in one of the management objectives. A central question to answer is: What do we want to protect and enhance? Answer: Faunal community and water quality surfaced as the main areas to protect. Another question surfaced: How do we define the LWL ecosystem? Answer; The estuary and watershed.

Management objectives were discussed next and identified as:

1. Minimize watershed impacts
2. Improve lagoon condition: abiotic
3. Protect and enhance lagoon resources: biotic (To be discussed in Habitat Working Group with linkage to Water Working Group)
4. Increase Awareness (Public Outreach Working Group)

Questions identified for Management Objective 1 - Minimize Watershed Impacts:

1. What are the impacts/discharges from the Central & Southern Flood Control Project?

2. What are the impacts of municipal storm sewers east of the Atlantic Ridge?
3. How do we quantify the effects of S155A?
4. How to minimize watershed impacts?
5. What are the impacts of the watershed?

The group went on to define additional research objectives under Minimize Watershed Impacts:

- a. Assess Current Status of Water Budget
- b. Quantify Watershed Loading
- c. Predict Response to Watershed Management Alternatives

Research Objectives under Improve Lagoon Condition are:

1. Characterize Water Quality
2. Evaluate Salinity Due to Flow and Sea Level Rise
3. Predict Lagoon Response

It was determined that a project description template will be sent out to participants to be completed at a date yet to be determined. This process will assist in determining the type of information needed to attain the research objectives as well as assist in developing an inventory. The group expressed that an outcome of this group should be to develop a science plan. This concept will be presented to the LWLI Executive Committee at the August 2009 meeting for consideration.

3. Action Items and Next Steps

- Send project description template to attendees. Attendees to begin populating the form and return to Rod Braun (rbraun@sfwmd.gov).
- Revise framework based on discussion and e-mail to attendees.
- Next meeting: Identify information needed to attain research objectives and schedule presentations regarding inventory of available information.
- Forward suggested agenda items to Rod Braun (rbraun@sfwmd.gov)

4. Meeting Adjourned