

Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting Summary September 7, 2006

Richard W. Cantrell opened the meeting by announcing that this was the second stakeholder meeting.

Although the agenda listed the scheduling of the next meetings last, it was determined that it should be discussed first. The next meeting will be held on September 29th in Bartow at the Department of Transportation, the fourth meeting will also be held in Bartow but at the SWFWMD Bartow Service Center on October 24th, and the final stakeholder meeting will be held on November 9th at the Hardee County Health Department in Wauchula.

Rick proceeded to summarize the findings of the Cumulative Impact Study.

- Loss of 136,000 acres of wetlands in the basin
- A large shift of the land use has been from native to agriculture or development
- Cessation of spring flow
- Loss of clean water
- Loss of fishes
- Loss of approximately 77 miles of stream channel
- Mineralization in the southern portion of the basin by groundwater discharge due to irrigation

The PBS&J study is due in a month. The Department will have a document ready for review by the next meeting.

The Strawmen were then discussed.

Ground water withdrawals have resulted in decrease in baseflows. However, the amount of ground water withdrawal cannot be adjusted due to economic and political issues. The SWUCA program through SWFWMD is finding alternative water sources to reduce ground water withdrawals. SWFWMD is also implementing the MFLs. The management plan will discuss the continuation of the SWUCA and the MFL programs. SWFWMD is currently working on the Lake Hancock Project and the Clay Settling Areas (reservoir) Project. These two projects are to eventually augment the flows to the Peace River. The District is also working with the USGS to identify the locations of all the sink holes. All these projects are aimed to maintain flows in the Peace.

The Competing Applications concept was discussed. Although it is in the statutes, it has not been used.

Rob Rhodes did not want the concept to be discussed in the Management Plan. This goes beyond just the Peace Basin.

Marian Ryan thought that it would be useful in the watershed management plan.

Bill Byle was concerned with flows in the river. He stated that the surficial aquifer has not been studied in the basin. He wants to know how clay settling areas impact baseflow. Phil Coram suggested that the process of placing clay settling areas within the basin be codified.

Tony Janicki did not want any concepts to be thrown out until goals of the plan are determined. He suggests the Department find quantifiable objectives.

Don Ross discusses competing uses. He states that the statute has been in place since 1972.

Chip Fletcher states that the discussion of the competing uses is interesting but is not likely to change.

Bill Bartnick discusses that details of water quality is already in 40D-302.

Bill Byle wants more attention paid to landuses such as what types of landuses captures water flows.

Rick states that there are opportunities to reconnect areas in the Upper Peace River, specifically Non-Mandatory Lands. But, the Trust Fund is exhausted. Piney Point however has been sold and Mulberry is in the closing process.

Tom Myers suggest the re-evaluation of the Non-Mandatory Lands. Perhaps redo a ZW type study. Some ideas to help non mandatory lands get reclaimed may be to provide up-front funding for private land owners or allow different types of landuse.

Phil Coram states that there is no need to attract more applications. The Non-Mandatory program currently has a backlog of applications waiting to be funded. The problem is lack of funding available. And he believes an updated ZW report has been completed by the Non-Mandatory Section (Barbara Owens).

Rick mentions that funds are still going into the Trust Fund.

Tim King mentions that a conceptual reclamation plan be created for priority areas.

Rick Cantrell says the Department will bring the dollar amount needed to fully fund the program.

Susan Stephens just wanted to have noted that not everyone pays the severance tax.

A revision of the Integrated Habitat Network will be done. If the Department considers making the IHN a rule, it will be less flexible.

The Department will move forward with the “Cradle to Grave” concept for the regulation of phosphate.

The Department is considering a Special Basin Rule for the Peace basin.

Nicholas Staszko stated that rural counties still want to urbanize/develop but still find a balance.

Jim Sampson noted that today’s discussion focuses primarily on phosphate issues. How will the management plan address water quality and quantity, urbanization issues?

Rick Cantrell says that the Department does not intend to make changes to Chapter 380.

Chip Fletcher says that discussion of Chapter 380 should not be ruled out. It is an effective way of discussing or managing large projects in the Peace River basin.

Theresa Connor suggest that there be a promotion of low impact methods for urbanization and additional BMPs for agriculture activities.

Bill Bartnick says that new BMPs for citrus growers have been added in the Florida Administrative Code within the past two years.

Sam Stone wanted more discussion of the severance tax and CARL.

Rick Cantrell detailed the severance tax dollars and divided by percent where the money is allocated.

Jim Sampson stated that the Phosphate Industry has paid almost half a billion dollars in severance tax.

Rick Cantrell stated that the Peace basin should be a priority in using the CARL funds.

Ron Basso discussed the Integrated Water Model. It is scheduled to be completed in 2008. The Saddle Creek area is first on the list for the Peace basin.

Rick Cantrell states that the TMDL program will be discussed in the management plan. Someone from the TMDL staff will be attending the next meeting to provide additional details of the program.

Attendees:

Richard Cantrell – DEP
Phil Coram – DEP
Kevin Claridge – DEP
Janine Callahan – DEP
Casey Beavers – DEP
Thu-Huong Clark – DEP
Ron Basso – SWFWMD
Chancey Springstead – SWFWMD-
Ed Hanlon – UF/IFAS
Catherine Corbett – Charlotte Harbor NEP
Nick Staszko – Hardee County
Bill Bartnick – FDACS
Sue Reske – Sierra Club
Ralph Montgomery – PBS&J
Bill Byle – Charlotte County
Scott Wuitschick – BCI
Marcus Shackelford – Van Fleet Airport
Josh Schmitz – Water Resources Associates
Richard Ghent – CF Industries
Charles Fletcher – de La Parte & Gilbert
Tony Janicki – Janicki Environmental
Barbara Carlton – PRVCGA
Don Ross – EarthBalance
Ruth Bromberg – Sierra Club
Diana Youmans – Mosaic

Brian Sodt – CFRPC
Roger Sims – Holland & Knight/Mosaic
Rob Birrenkott – Carey, O'Malley, Whitaker & Manson
Jim Cooper – Protect Our Watersheds
Susan Stephens – Hopping Green & Sams/CF Industries
Marian Ryan – Sierra Club
Jim Sampson – CH2M Hill/CF Industries
Tim King – FFWCC
Sam Stone – PRMRWSA
Linda Weber – Mosaic