

Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting Summary September 29, 2006

This was the third Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting. It was held at the Department of Transportation in Bartow, FL. Richard W. Cantrell opened the meeting at 9am.

Rick stated that the goal of the management plan is to address the adverse impacts in the Peace River basin and there will be a series of presentations to discuss the potential actions that the management plan may contain.

There was a discussion regarding the hand-outs that were provided. The first hand-out discussed the impacts that were examined in the study. The second hand-out detailed potential action items each agency (DEP, SWFWMD, and DACS) would pursue.

Rick went through the items listed on the chart. He added that two GIS graphics are being prepared for the next meeting to look at impacts caused by agriculture and mining in the Peace basin.

Roger Sims had concerns regarding the terms “less than adequate” and “historical failure” of stream reclamation that were used on the chart. He wanted to know what was the basis for these statements. He added that these were broad generalizations without all the facts and that reclamation has been litigated over the years and there is tremendous information regarding reclamation.

Rick stated that the failure of the reclamation is from today’s standards. The reclamation of these areas is not to the standards that the Department would insist on today. The historic reclamation practices are not adequate.

Jim Sampson had similar concerns. He stated that they are less than adequate in reference to today’s standards.

Tim King stated that there was lack of management rather than actual reclamation techniques used.

Susan Stephens stated that reclamation is done and nature needs to take its course.

Rick stated that the chart was not designed to lay blame on any industry, it is merely to list/recognize facts.

Tony Janicki stated that there was a lack of historical regulation.

Rick stated that there is a lack of historic regulation.

Charles Cook stated that we all share the blame.

Charles Fletcher stated that there are some things that need to be addressed regarding reclamation.

Don Ross stated that there were losses of streams. There is a lot of “why” for each of the impacts. When we look at historic stream restoration failure, we are looking at phosphate. Rick stated that under law, mitigation is based on functionality of the wetland and not the acreage impacted.

The second chart depicted potential action items by the agencies. We have listed any existing programs that are on-going programs that may address a cumulative impact. (TMDLs and MFLs)

Roger Sims suggested that an asterisk be placed under wetland impacts for Consumptive Use Permits.

Charles Cook wanted the management plan to address the artesian levels. He stated that it is not impossible to restore the artesian levels.

Ron Basso stated that the District is studying this issue in detail. There was a SWFWMD July 2003 report that looks specifically at the upper Peace basin. In order to restore Artesian flows, we need to reduce pumping by 60-80%. There are on-going SWFWMD projects to increase flows to the river.

Tom Myers does not know how the combining of the CRP and ERP address impacts.

Rick stated that the combining of these processes improves regulation and eliminates some bureaucracy.

Mike Britt wanted to know how the counties will coordinate land use planning.

Rick stated that the Department does not have statutory authority to do this. However, the management plan will be comprehensive for the Peace River basin as it relates to water resources. A special basin rule, which would be implemented by the District and the Department would address development, ERP, and DRI. It would address all impacts of government that address the ERP process and thus the potential out-growth of the area.

The PowerPoint presentations were next. (All PowerPoint presentations can be found on the Bureau’s website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/mines/prcis.htm>).

The first presentation was by Phil Coram, Chief of Bureau of Mine Reclamation. He presented the action plan of Fully Funding the Non-mandatory Land Reclamation Trust Fund.

The second presentation was by Bud Cates, Program Manager – Bureau of Mine Reclamation. He presented information regarding Upper Peace River/Saddle Creek Restoration Project.

The third presentation was by Mark Barcelo – SWFWMD. He presented information on the SWUCA.

The final presentation was by Bill Bartnick – DACS. He presented information regarding BMPs.

A presentation regarding the Mined Lands Research Center was to be presented by Dr. Ed Hanlon. However, since the meeting was running long, it was decided that his discussion be presented at the next Stakeholder meeting on October 24th at the Bartow SWFWMD office.

The meeting ended at 12:30pm.

Attendees:

Richard Cantrell – DEP
Phil Coram – DEP
Bud Cates - DEP
Kevin Claridge – DEP
Janine Callahan – DEP
Michelle Harmeling - DEP
Charles Cook – DEP
Casey Beavers – DEP
Michael Elswick – DEP
Rand Frahm- SWFWMD
Ron Basso – SWFWMD
Mark Barcelo - SWFWMD
Tony Janicki – Janicki Environmental
Susan Stephens – CF Industries
Steven Richardson – FIPR
Andy Neuhofer – Farm Bureau
Diana Youmans – Mosaic
Robert Taylor – Sierra Club
Jeff Spence – Polk County
Mike Britt – City of Winter Haven
Bill Bartnick – DACS
Frances Howell-Coleman – Sierra Club
Tom Myers – Mosaic
Roger Sims – Mosaic
Richard Ghent – CF Industries
Rob Birrenkott – Carey, O'Malley, Whitaker, and Manson
Charles Fletecher – de la Parte and Gilbert
Brittany Mayock – DACS
Tim King – FFWCC
Danon Moxley – FFWCC
Don Ross – EarthBalance
Mickey Lee – FED Inc.
Charles Geanangel – Audubon
John Ryan – Sarasota County
Nick Staszko – Hardee County
Scott Wuitschick – BCI
Jim Sampson – CH2M Hill
Ralph Montgomery – PBS&J
Marian Ryan – Sierra Club
Ed Hanlon – UF/IFAS
Cara Martin – Florida Farm Bureau