

Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting Summary October 24, 2006

This was the fourth Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting. It was held at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Service Center in Bartow, FL. Richard W. Cantrell opened the meeting at 9am.

Rick Cantrell mentioned that the hand-outs provided, specifically, the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study impacts charts, would be discussed at the next stakeholder meeting in Wauchula, FL on November 9, 2006. All PowerPoint Presentations will be posted on the DEP website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/mines/prcis.htm>

Five topics were presented at the meeting:

1. Mined Lands Research Center
Edward Hanlon, Ph. D., University of Florida/IFAS
2. Predicted Change in Hydrologic Conditions along the Upper Peace River due to a reduction in Ground-Water Withdrawals
Ron Basso, Southwest Florida Water Management District
3. Effect of Karst Development on Peace River Flow
Ron Basso, Southwest Florida Water Management District
4. Total Maximum Daily Loads
Thomas Singleton, Department of Environmental Protection
5. Upper Peace River Watershed Management Program
Dawn Turner, Southwest Florida Water Management District

Dr. Edward Hanlon provided a brief description of the proposed Mined Land Research Center that was initially proposed by David Royal. This research center would address mined areas including clay settling areas. A follow-up document was also detailed. It described the site selection criteria for the research center. The “big picture” message was to “manage the land to manage the water.” As Florida’s population continues to grow and land continues to be developed for urban, agricultural, and industrial uses and our water resources become strained, it will be important to find innovative ways protect our water resources.

Ron Basso provided two PowerPoint presentations to discuss his topics. The first topic was the ground-water withdrawals on the Upper Peace. In order to restore flows the Kissingen Spring, a large reduction of ground-water pumping would be necessary.

Ron Basso’s second presentation was about Karst developments and their impact on flows in the Peace. The USGS is currently locating the Karst features in the basin. Once all these features are identified, it will be determined how they need to be handled.

Tom Singleton presented information about the Department’s TMDL program. A TMDL, as he explains is a “maximum amount of a given pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate and remain healthy.” These levels are currently on-going in the basin. He describes the process of how impaired waterbodies are identified. Ultimately, stakeholders of an impaired waterbody are gathered and encouraged to participate in the creation of a management plan to reduce pollutant loads. More information regarding the TMDL program can be found at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/index.htm>

Dawn Turner discussed the Upper Peace River Watershed Management Program. She described how the watershed management program was created for the upper Peace River.

The meeting ended at 12:30pm.

Attendees:

Richard Cantrell – DEP
Tom Singleton - DEP
Bud Cates – DEP
Orlando Rivera - DEP
Kevin Claridge – DEP
Janine Callahan – DEP
Michelle Harmeling - DEP
Marisa Rhian – DEP
Casey Beavers – DEP
Michael Elswick – DEP
Thu-Huong Clark - DEP
Ron Basso – SWFWMD
Tony Janicki – Janicki Environmental
Steven Richardson – FIPR
Diana Youmans – Mosaic
Duke Clem – Polk County
Mike Britt – City of Winter Haven
Tom Myers – Mosaic
Richard Ghent – CF Industries
Rob Birrenkott – Carey, O’Malley, Whitaker, and Manson
Charles Fletecher – de la Parte and Gilbert
Tim King – FFWCC
Don Ross – EarthBalance
John Ryan – Sarasota County
Nick Staszko – Hardee County
Jim Sampson – CH2M Hill
Ralph Montgomery – PBS&J
Ed Hanlon – UF/IFAS
Catherine Corbett – Charlotte Harbor NEP
Sam Stone - PRMRWSA
Cara Martin – Florida Farm Bureau
Josh Schmitz – WRA
Bill Byle – Charlotte County
Kelly Shoemaker – Charlotte County
David DeLoach – Ardaman & Associates