

Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting Summary December 12, 2006

This was the sixth Peace River Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting. It was held at the Polk County Extension Service in Bartow, Florida. Richard W. Cantrell opened the meeting at 9am.

The draft of the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study was posted on the Department's FTP site on Thursday, December 7, 2006 so that the stakeholders would have the opportunity to review the document and provide comments at the meeting. Copies of the draft study were available during the meeting.

The draft of the Management Plan will be posted on the Department's FTP site in January.

Comments regarding the introduction of the study were taken.

Kristy Patel wanted to make clear that all public comments written and verbal will be incorporated into the study.

Rick Cantrell re-affirmed that all comments would not be edited and would be incorporated in the Study and the Management Plan. It is important that statements in the document are accurate so that they will not be misconstrued. He mentioned that the study will be completed before Christmas. Any comments should be submitted by December 22nd since the management plan is due to the Legislature by January 31, 2007.

Bill Byle wanted transportation issues to be discussed in the study's introduction.

Tony Janicki mentioned that there needs to be a distinction between climate change and climate variability. There was agreement for use of the term climate variability.

Bill Byle wanted the amount of impervious surfaces to be documented because it may be quite significant. However, Ralph Montgomery said that it was not calculated, but urban areas were calculated. Rick Cantrell stated that the management plan will address impervious surfaces. Jim Sampson points out that there is still debate regarding the imperviousness of clay settling areas.

Bill Byle wanted the scope of the study to be expanded to include federal regulations. Rick Cantrell mentioned that the legislation that directed this study did not allow for that. The regulatory review focused only on state law.

Chapter 2 was then discussed.

Ralph Montgomery explained the purpose of this section was to describe the four stressors which are urban development, agriculture, mining and climate.

Rand Frahm mentioned that there is no recognition of the state's current regulation to address the stressors. Rick Cantrell stated that statements regarding state regulation may be best in the introduction.

Mike Britt stated that the management plan has an obligation to look at future programs to protect water resources, specifically, the impacts of urbanization. He states that this is possible through a special basin rule. Rick Cantrell stated that the Department does not have rule making authority at this time to create a special basin rule. However, the management plan will propose a special basin rule be created for the Peace basin.

Marian Ryan stated that the urbanization issue can be addressed at the level of local government.

Tony Janicki stated that their needs to be recognition of the value of the Peace River to the state. Rick Cantrell stated that the management plan addresses this issue.

Tom Myers wants specifics regarding waste water discharges

Marian Ryan wanted information on phosphate discharges or gypsum stack spills.

Charles Fletcher made a comment regarding 10% mining.

Tony Janicki mentioned that non point sources were discussed but point sources were excluded. He suggests that point sources be included.

Tom Myers mentioned that all discharges need to be mentioned, not just the phosphate industry.

Mike Britt wanted to know what the number of acres of future mining impacts would be in the basin. Richard Cantrell stated that the Department can only provide a number using current mine applications. The Department only determines what could be mined and not what will be mined.

Tony Janicki wanted mention of consumptive use and stormwater run-off.

Bill Byle mentioned that there is no information regarding urban development.

Regulatory effectiveness was then discussed.

Rand Frahm mentioned that paragraph 2 of the section is actually referring to SWUCA I and not the most recent version.

Jim Sampson stated that economic costs should be included.

Roger Sims mentions that there is no presumption of public water supply over other uses. The District staff agreed to this comment. There may be other uses for the water supply.

Susan Stephens mentioned that there needs to be a discussion of the impacts of removing water for public use.

The Non Mandatory program was discussed. Phil Coram is to make recommendations regarding the Non Mandatory Lands Reclamation Trust Fund.

The combining of ERP and CRP was discussed. It would be prudent to determine the ultimate land use. This effort would have to be in concert with local government. The concept of offsite mitigation was discussed.

Chip Fletcher suggested that there be an audit of released wetlands to determine if they are successful.

Jim Sampson mentioned that the reconnectivity of Non Mandatory lands is important. District staff discussed that there is an on-going Upper Peace River Initiative. Ardaman and Associates are conducting the study.

Tony Janicki mentioned that land use mapping methods have not been revealed to stakeholders.

During the meeting, it was determined that other documents would be posted on the FTP site for stakeholder review: Fish data, water budget and regulatory sections. Stakeholder determined that the entire section and not just a summary was needed to comment on the study.

The meeting ended at 3:30PM.

Attendees:

Richard Cantrell – DEP
Phil Coram- DEP
Bud Cates – DEP
Kevin Claridge – DEP
Janine Callahan – DEP
Michelle Harmeling – DEP
Casey Beavers - DEP
Ron Basso – SWFWMD
Rand Frahm – SWFWMD
Marty Kelly - SWFWMD
Ed Hanlon – UF/IFAS
Tom Myers – Mosaic
Mike Britt – City of Winter Haven
John Duneger - Consultant
Jim Sampson – CH2M Hill
Susan Stephens – Hopping, Green and Sams/CFI
Linda Weber - Mosaic
Roger Sims – Holland & Knight/Mosaic
Rob Birrenkott – Carey, O'Malley, Whitaker, and Manson
Sam Stone - PRMRWSA
Marian Ryan – Sierra Club
Richard Ghent – CF Industries
Cara Martin – Florida Farm Bureau
Bill Byle – Charlotte County
Tim King – FFWCC
Christy Patel – Polk County
Tony Janicki – Janicki Environmental

Catherine Corbett _CHNEP
West Palmer – Hardee County
Charles Fletecher – de La Parte and Gilbert
Nick Staszko – Hardee County
Ralph Montgomery – PBS&J