

**Peace River Basin Resource Management Plan
Stakeholder Meeting Summary
May 11, 2007**

This was the seventh Peace River Basin Resource Management Plan Stakeholder Meeting. It was held at the Hardee County Extension Service in Wauchula, Florida. Richard W. Cantrell opened the meeting at 9am.

Rick stated that the department has fulfilled its obligation as to the submittal of the resource management plan to the legislature. The department is now making a commitment to move forward with the implementation of the plan.

The management plan details a Peace River Coordinating Committee. This however will be determined by Governor Crist. Mr. Cantrell envisions that this committee may be composed of state agencies, local government and interests groups that have been participants in the Peace River Management Plan stakeholder meetings. However, if the committee is not appointed, the stakeholders group will take the place of the committee. This is necessary to ensure that a public forum for discussion is maintained while the management plan actions are being implemented.

Don Ross of EarthBalance presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the findings of the Peace River Cumulative Impact Study. This presentation can be found on the DEP FTP site at <ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/minerec/peacriver/>. (It is anticipated that this will later be posted to the Management Plan website at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/mines/pr_rmp.htm.)

John Ryan of Sarasota County asked whether it would be beneficial to go back beyond 1940.

Rick responded saying that the 1940's map obtained already shows the basin to be in a natural state.

Tom Myers of Mosaic was concerned with the land use mapping. He stated that Mosaic's review of the GIS layers showed that areas reclaimed were still being shown as mined.

Frank Kirkland, a Bowling Green citizen was concerned with the level of mineralization in the basin. He wondered if this was attributable to phosphate mining.

Rick clarified to Mr. Kirkland that the mineralization comes from well water that is subsequently discharged.

Wayne Daltry of Lee County asked whether an analysis of recharge was done in the study.

Ralph Montgomery of PBS&J explained that recharge was not analyzed in the study.

Bill Byle commented on the loss of flows in the river. He wondered whether clay settling areas have an impact on the surficial aquifer.

Ron Basso of SWFWMD discussed base flow in the basin.

After a ten minute break, Rick began to discuss the management plan.

Rick stated that the only items that will be discussed today are where the department is the lead agency. He started with the Peace River Coordinating Committee. He feels that this is the best way approach the issues identified in the resource management plan. It would allow for the involvement of agencies, local governments and interest groups. The department is currently looking at the Suwannee River Coordinating Committee as a potential model for the committee for the Peace River.

Don Ross suggested that there are numerous models to follow: county by county, Charlotte Harbor NEP, or interest group. He sees the committee as a group to advise the Department's secretary and not necessarily hold agencies accountable.

Rick thought that the interest group model may be best for this basin.

John Ryan of Sarasota county suggested that a real structure needed to be decided upon. He is concerned that with so many interest groups in the basin, there will not be a consensus. He suggested a minority report be included.

Ralph Montgomery felt that the Charlotte Harbor NEP model would be best. In addition, he stated that the management plan did not detail quantifiable objectives.

Doug Durbin of BRA commented on Charlotte Harbor NEP's model and overall process.

At the end of the committee discussion, it was determined that most stakeholders felt that an interest based model would be best.

Rick wanted to focus the group's attention to the other management plan's actions.

The Environmental Resource Permit and Conceptual Reclamation Plan process for phosphate needs to be combined.

The department will be auditing wetlands on a mine by mine basis.

The department will be meeting with SWFWMD to discuss how the ERP process can be improved.

The department will look at lands within the basin that should be acquired for protection of resources.

The date and location of the next meeting was not discussed. Attendees were asked to contact Thu-Huong Clark regarding CDs of the Study or the Management Plan. They were also asked to send comments and questions to Bud Cates.

The meeting ended at 12:00 pm.

Attendees:

Richard Cantrell – DEP
Bud Cates – DEP
Kevin Claridge – DEP
Janine Callahan – DEP
Elijah Fleishauer - DEP
Michelle Harmeling – DEP
Thu-Huong Clark
Ron Basso – SWFWMD
Noel Marton - FDACS
Tim King – FFWCC
Ed Hanlon – UF/IFAS
Ralph Montgomery – PBS&J
Steven Richardson - FIPR
Don Ross- EarthBalance
Tom Myers – Mosaic
Jim Sampson – CFI
Susan Stephens –CFI
Roger Sims –Mosaic
Marian Ryan – Sierra Club
Richard Ghent – CF Industries
Cara Martin – Florida Farm Bureau
Bill Byle – Charlotte County
Kim Hermann – Charlotte County
Lisa Beever - CHNEP
Charles Fletcher – de La Parte and Gilbert/Charlotte County
Nick Staszko – Hardee County
Mark Kuyawa – AbTech Industries, Inc.
Don McClellan – Bowling Green
Wayne Daltry – Lee County BOCC
Duke Clem – Polk County
Doug Durbin – BRA
Michael Kelly – The Herald Advocate
Greg Martin – Charlotte Sun
Tom Palmer – The Ledger
Vicki Dean – Herald Tribune
Brian Pohl – Hardee County Mining Dept.
David Royal – Clear Springs
Rich Mistretta – Mosaic
Carl Saunders – Hardee County
Mike Coates – PR Manasota Regional Water Supply
Frank Kirkland – Bowling Green
Neal Parker, Sr – Manatee County
Sue Reske – Sierra Club
John Ryan – Sarasota County
Jim Cooper – Protect Our Watersheds
Keith Hackett – Janicki Environmental
Steve Lawrence – Charlotte County
Nick Kazaras – Lakeland