

## **Caloosahatchee River Community Forum Interagency Coordination Meeting Summary**

May 16, 2014  
Lee County Public Works Building  
1500 Monroe Street, Ft. Myers, FL

**Attendees:** A list of meeting attendees can be found in Appendix A.

### **I. Overview**

This document summarizes briefly the second interagency coordination meeting held between the key government parties (the “core group”) involved in implementation efforts to improve the Caloosahatchee River’s health related to both water quality and quantity. This meeting served primarily to push forward with efforts to refine the process for working together and to review and categorize the projects that could be considered for funding. Hence, the details of the conversation are captured primarily in the revised project matrix.

### **II. Action Items**

*For the Consensus Building Institute:*

- Send out the “funding sources” document in Microsoft Word format.
- Revise the draft evaluation criteria.
- Create a draft agenda for June core group + project partners meeting.
- Create a draft meeting summary for the May 16 core group meeting.
- Create a draft meeting notice and agenda for the July/August stakeholder forum.
- Revise project list as per core group’s input and distribute to core group members.
- Revise process schedule.

*For the South Florida Water Management District:*

- Coordinate logistics for July/August stakeholder forum (setting date, invitations, public notice, etc.).
- Establish website for Caloosahatchee River coordination process.
- Schedule briefings explaining the process for key policy makers in different agencies and decision-making bodies.

*All core group agencies:*

- Review and update the “funding sources” document (once received from CBI).
- Send list of stakeholders to invite to Stakeholders Forum to Phil Flood, SFWMD.

The next interagency meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

### **III. Topics Discussed and Decided**

Meeting participants discussed the following issues and took the following actions:

- Meeting participants approved the updated Process Guidelines.
- A representative from the South Florida Water Management District reported that staff was working on developing the website for the Caloosahatchee interagency and stakeholder engagement process.
- After the Consensus Building Institute sends out the “funding sources” document in Microsoft Word format, agencies participating in core group meetings would update it.

Meeting participants discussed how the project prioritization process should incorporate diverse stakeholders, with the group agreeing that the core group would informally invite local governments and 298/special districts as needed. Meeting participants identified the following possible project partners:

- Fort Myers
- Fort Myers Beach
- Cape Coral
- Sanibel
- LaBelle
- Moore Have
- Clewiston
- Charlotte County
- Glades County
- Hendry County
- FDOT
- Water conservation districts

Meeting participants then discussed how to simplify the list of evaluation criteria for projects given that there were far too many to use practically and many were subsets of broader themes. Thus, the group narrowed the list of criteria to the following: nutrient removal or reduction, water storage, operational distribution and timing, implementation, regional impacts, and multiple benefits. Some of these criteria contain sub-criteria that help to define them.

Meeting participants then walked through a list of possible projects to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee watershed. This effort was the bulk of this meeting. Participants briefly discussed each project and categorized each as either: worthy of further consideration; in progress / already funded / completed; not under consideration because it requires regulatory action or is otherwise beyond the scope of the current process; or to be determined. Meeting participants also sought to group

together projects that deal with the same water feature or are otherwise related to one another. CBI and SFWMD agreed to take the input and revised the project matrices, particularly moving completed projects to a secondary list.

Meeting participants decided that the core group should vet projects against the defined evaluation criteria but that first the core group + project partners should together review projects as well. These project partners would be key implementers, ranging from other towns and counties to water districts. Meeting participants reviewed the process timeline and agreed to meet with a larger group of project partners/implementers in June and hold a stakeholder forum in late July or early August. The process of prioritizing projects among the core group would commence after the stakeholder forum. Given interest in ensuring decision makers are informed early and often, Dan DeLisi, SFWMD, offered to schedule briefings explaining the process for key policy makers in different agencies and decision-making bodies.

### **III. Adjournment**

The parties concluded their discussions and adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

## Appendix A – Attendance

Name	Organization
Callie Walker	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Bonnie Wolff-Pelaez	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Beth Alvi ( <i>via phone</i> )	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jennifer Carpenter	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jon Iglehart	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Kurt Harclerode	Lee County
Roland Ottolini	Lee County
Glen Salyer	Lee County
Lesley Bertolotti	South Florida Water Management District
Dan DeLisi ( <i>via phone</i> )	South Florida Water Management District
Phil Flood	South Florida Water Management District
Mitch Hutchcraft	South Florida Water Management District
<i>Process support:</i>	
Patrick Field	Consensus Building Institute
Tushar Kansal	Consensus Building Institute