

Caloosahatchee River Community Forum Interagency Coordination Meeting Summary

June 19, 2014

South Florida Water Management District
Lower West Coast Service Center
2301 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901

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

I. Overview

This document summarizes briefly the third interagency coordination meeting held with the key government parties (the “core group”), along with an expanded group of municipalities, counties, and water control districts (collectively called “key implementers”), involved in implementation efforts to improve the Caloosahatchee River’s health related to both water quality and quantity. This meeting served primarily to review the core group’s work thus far with the larger body of key implementers, including the list of projects under consideration, the evaluation criteria for prioritizing projects, and planning for the August Community Forum. Details of the conversation are captured primarily in the revised project matrix, which occupied the bulk of the meeting.

The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Patrick Field and Mr. Tushar Kansal from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI).¹

II. Action Items

For the Consensus Building Institute:

- Schedule September interagency/intergovernmental meeting.
- Revise agenda for August community forum to include presentation of completed projects, meeting objectives, and guidelines for small group discussions.
- Revise evaluation criteria as per details below.

For the South Florida Water Management District:

- Coordinate logistics for August community forum (invitations, speakers, public notice, etc.).
- Establish project website for Caloosahatchee River coordination process within

¹ The Consensus Building Institute (CBI) is a non-profit institution that works to improve the way leaders use negotiations to make organizational decisions, achieve agreements, and manage multiparty conflicts and planning efforts (www.cbuilding.org).

the existing SFWMD site.

- Schedule briefings explaining the process for key policy makers in different agencies and decision-making bodies.
- Create a map to display the locations of completed projects.
- Create a map to display the locations of proposed projects included in the matrix.
- Post approved meeting summaries from April and May Interagency meetings to website.
- Revise projects listing as per details below and by following up with meeting participants.
- Create a project list for which land acquisition would be necessary.

The Community Forum will be held on Friday, August 8, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

III. Introductions and Purpose of the Effort

After participants introduced themselves, Mr. Dan DeLisi of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) welcomed participants and provided background information about the effort. He explained that the current endeavor to bring together different agencies came out of an effort to develop a common vision as part of the development of the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan. He explained that stakeholders suggested that the Water Management District consider the full slate of projects to improve the watershed, how to prioritize them, and how to pool the resources needed to implement the prioritized projects. He also noted that different stakeholders have articulated a variety of different messages around management of the Caloosahatchee River watershed, and that it would be helpful to develop a common message to move forward with.

IV. Review of Projects

Meeting participants walked through a list of possible projects to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee watershed. Mr. Phil Flood of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) explained that most of the projects in the list came from the Watershed Protection Plan, the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), and from input provided by local governments. Review and discussion of the projects in the list constituted the bulk of the meeting. Participants briefly discussed the status and key details of each project. Based on input provided by meeting participants, the South Florida Water Management District will reorganize the project matrix by taking the following steps:

- Adding information regarding estimated project costs and funding sources;
- Adding information regarding the current phase of the project, such as conceptual, acquisition, design, and permitted;
- Adding information about the lead/implementing agency;
- Demarcating programmatic efforts, such as best management practices; and
- Adding information about the geographic scale of the project, such as local or regional.

The South Florida Water Management District will also create a map to display the locations of projects included in the matrix.

Meeting participants also discussed putting together a separate list of projects for which land acquisition would be necessary as the State Legislature has appropriated some funds for land acquisition in the next fiscal year.

V. Review of Evaluation Criteria

Meeting participants reviewed the evaluation criteria for projects previously developed by the Core Group. The criteria consisted of the following criteria: 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.

In response to input provided by meeting participants, CBI will revise the evaluation criteria to incorporate information about matching/leveraging funds (as a sub-criterion under the “implementation” category), and about sustainability (as a new criterion category, incorporating permanence or engineered life and adaptability).

VI. Review of Plans for First Community Forum

Meeting participants reviewed the draft agenda and an outreach list for the Community Forum. The Forum will begin with introductions from the coordinating agencies and ground rules, review of key findings from the 2013 Science Workshop, and discussion about the projects and evaluation criteria under consideration.

Meeting participants discussed the importance of keeping the Community Forum focused on implementable projects and setting aside for now discussions about policy issues that are broader and longer-term. In addition, participants suggested making a brief presentation of projects that have been completed in the watershed. They also suggested some additional people and organizations to add to the outreach list.

VII. Additional Topics of Discussion

A representative from a State agency requested assistance from the local government and water control district representatives in the room in explaining to senior management in his agency which constituencies the watershed work being discussed will benefit. Mr. Field, the facilitator, responded that the group has discussed the importance of briefing senior management of different bodies and elected leaders about the interagency group’s work and bringing them into the conversation in order to fully inform those individuals.

VIII. Adjournment

The parties concluded their discussions and adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Appendix A – Attendance

Name	Organization
Cookie Hester	Central County Water Control District
Larry Bennett	Central County Water Control District
Phil Aiuto	Charlotte County
Connie Jarvis	City of Cape Coral
Steve Neff	City of Cape Coral
Saeed Kazemi	City of Fort Myers
Vince Miller	City of Fort Myers
Ron Zimmerly	City of LaBelle
James Evans	City of Sanibel
Mike Cook	East County Water Control District
Wayne Smith	Flaghole, Henry Hilliard, Sugarland Drainage District
Pat McKenna	County Line Drainage District
Callie Walker	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Bonnie Wolff-Pelaez	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Beth Alvi (via phone)	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jon Iglehart	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Julie Neurohr	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Carl Spiro	Florida Department of Transportation
Missie Barletto	Glades County
Kelly O’Nan	Hendry County
Sommer Foster	Johnson-Prewitt & Associates
Kurt Harclerode	Lee County
Dan DeLisi	South Florida Water Management District
Phil Flood	South Florida Water Management District
Mitch Hutchcraft	South Florida Water Management District
Gary Ritter	South Florida Water Management District
Keith Laakkonen	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Lesley Bertolotti (via phone)	South Florida Water Management District
<i>Process Support:</i>	
Bennett Brooks (via phone)	Consensus Building Institute
Patrick Field	Consensus Building Institute
Tushar Kansal	Consensus Building Institute

