

MINUTES OF THE COLLIER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Naples, Florida, June 10, 2016

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Watershed Improvement Program Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 1:00 PM in a REGULAR SESSION at the Growth Management Department Building, Room 609/610 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples, FL 34104 with the following persons present:

Chairman: Jocelyn Nageon De Lestang  
Vice Chairman: Dennis Vasey  
Gregg Strakaluse  
Chadd Chustz (Excused)  
Brent Bachelder  
Jeff Carter  
(Vacancy)

ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Kurtz, Stormwater Planning – Staff Liaison  
Gary McAlpin, Director, Coastal Zone Management  
Gino Santabarbara, Stormwater Planning  
Tabitha Stadler, Stormwater Planning

*Any persons in need of the verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the audio recording from the Collier County Growth Management Department –Contact Mr. Evy Ybaceta at 239-252-2400.*

1. **Call to order**

*The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm and a quorum was established.*

2. **Approval of Agenda – Committee Action Requested**

*Mr. De Lestang moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Strakaluse. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.*

3. **Approval of Minutes – Committee Action Requested**

*Mr. Vasey moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2016 meeting subject to the following change: Page 2, Item 4. B. Staff Announcements – from “...through data analysis and input from Stakeholders and the public) ..,” to ... **through data analysis and input from the public).**”  
*Second by Mr. De Lestang. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.**

4. **Staff Announcements – Jerry Kurtz, Collier County Government**

- Introduce new staff member Gino Santabarbara  
**Mr. Kurtz** introduced **Gino Santabarbara**, Principal Planner, Stormwater Planning. Mr. Santabarbara previously served in the Collier County Community and Human Services Division and has experience working with committees.

5. **Workshop Discussion Session – Tabitha Stadler, Collier County**

**a. Immokalee/Lake Trafford Area Recommendations Discussion**

*Jerry Kurtz and Tabitha Stadler, Collier County*

**Ms. Stadler** provided an over view of the days Agenda and goals highlighting:

- Excerpts from the May 6, 2016 Power Point Presentations consolidated Committee’s tasks into three categories: *A. Review data (and point out gaps), B. Identify priority issues and C. Encourage solutions, partnerships and good models through collaboration.* A Master Plan recommendation on regional watershed management will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the end of the term.
- A “*Recommendations Analysis from Speaker Presentations*” prepared by Collier County Stormwater Planning Staff was distributed to the Committee summarizing priority issues, challenges and existing strategies to improve watershed functionality and issues for the Immokalee/Lake Trafford Area.
- **Mr. Vasey** reviewed the recommendations and suggested creation of a “watershed case file” addressing social, biological and physical conditions. He requested Staff distribute the document to the Committee for review at the July meeting.  
**Staff will consider this recommendation.**
- **Mr. De Lestang** requested Staff condense the *Speaker Presentation* comments and outline key issues to address in the final report including:
  - TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) issues, remedial actions needed and associated costs.



- Selection of projects to comprehensively address issues.
- Identify constraints such as land acquisition and agency permitting.
- Formulate resolutions for the issues identified.
- Develop a document which is compatible and consistent with the County watershed management plan.

During Committee discussion it was noted the document should:

- Address public input and specific projects and programs to address water quality and flooding issues.
- Identify funding strategies and opportunities for projects.
- Identify the means it can support the work of Dr. Shukla, University of Florida.
- Identify hydrological issues including water quality, quantity and flow and a format for use by the County should be established.
- Provide advisory comments for consideration.
- Identify concepts, strategies and needs for Immokalee watershed and link principals to stormwater master plan.
- Recommendations to update the Stormwater Master Plan.

*Discussion also suggested Staff compile a condensed list of bullet points from the public speaker presentations at the May 6, 2016 meeting for their review and gather input from the Committee to guide future discussions. **Staff will consider this suggestion.***

**Ms. Stadler** provided direction recommending panel members email items for review at the July meeting and noted future meetings will address more urban areas including:

- Creating a list of current and future projects.
- Identifying projects, (i.e. currently four, for Immokalee).
- Compiling a list of specific recommendations.

#### **Public Comment**

**Nancy Payton, Florida Wildlife Federation**, suggested the County acknowledge and the Committee incorporate *private restoration efforts with private funding taking place in Camp Keais Strand* to the “*Summary of existing strategies to improve watershed functionality and issues*” noting the project contributes to the value, health and longevity of watersheds.

***The Committee agreed to consider incorporation of privately funded efforts into their recommendations.***

#### **b. Restore Update**

*Gary McAlpin, Collier County Coastal Zone Management*

**Mr. McAlpin** presented a power point presentation on the Collier County Comprehensive Watershed Improvement Plan initiated nine months ago and integration of the RESTORE Comprehensive Management Plan highlighting

- The purpose of the presentation is to share the status of the project and secure an agreement from the Committee to present the Collier County Comprehensive Watershed Improvement Plan to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and secure their approval to move forward to the RESTORE Council.

- The project's conceptual program is complete; design phase is at 15%.
- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have endorsed the project citing modifications to be addressed during design development.
- Discussions with Forestry and FWC regarding roads and access resulted in a decision to not allow hard top roads due to impacts on imperiled species.
- Meetings have been held with other organizations as well as four months of workshops.
- The program required to be submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) by September 16, 2016.

### **Proposed Project**

The goals and objectives include:

- Diversion of inflows out of Golden Gate Community when sufficient water is available (June – October) with no impacts to upstream water users.
- Diversion into historic flowway to south.
- Spreader canal to increase area of Rookery Bay's watershed to receive inflows.
- Protective of adding too much inflow to Rookery Bay watershed.
- Avoids impact to the Picayune Strand Restoration Project (PSTP).
- Consistency with Latest Management Plan for Picayune Strand State Forest.

### **Project by Area**

Project areas include Area A (Northern Flowway); Area B (I-75 Canals Plan); Area C (South Belle Meade); Area D (Sabal Palm Road) and Area E (Six L's/US 41 Plan) and components are based on previous study concepts and tailored to meet project-specific goal. Projects have been vetted in terms of feasibility and permit ability and coordinated with local agencies, NGOs and other interested parties. Projects are consistent with the RESTORE Comprehensive Management Plan.

### **Critical Issues Being Addressed**

- Additional Flows to Rookery Bay.
- South Belle Meade Property Evaluation (TDR program).
- Preventing impacts to ecology and hydrology.
- Bypassing flow through and around the Six L's Agricultural lands.

During Committee discussion recommended the report address the following items:

1. How will the State water reservation system program affect the Watershed Improvement Program?
2. The implications for the anticipated rise in sea level?
3. Ecological issues.
4. The proximity of the CERF project to the plan.
5. The canal schematics should be updated.
7. Integrating the City of Naples Oyster Reef project into the plan.

***Mr. McAlpin will research the areas of concern and report his findings to the Committee noting the plan is flexible and can be altered or modified in the future.***



***Mr. Vasey motioned that the Collier County Watershed Improvement Program Committee has reviewed the Collier County Comprehensive Watershed Improvement Plan and recommends the Florida Department of Environmental Protection endorse the project and submit it to the RESTORE Council for funding consideration. Second by Mr. Carter. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.***

**c. Horsepen Strand Conservation Area Phase I Final Report (July 2008)**

*Kamila Diddle, Collier County Pollution Control*

**Ms. Diddle** presented a PowerPoint Presentation recapping the historical chronology from the 1950's to 2008 (Phase I) HSCA Feasibility Study highlighting the following:

- The project was managed by the Collier Soil and Water Conservation District with the objective of reconnecting HSCA to provide stormwater treatment, flood protection, water quality treatment and habitat restoration for Northern Golden Gate Estates (NGGE) stormwater management function and hydration, rehydration of historic wetlands and evaluate the potential for a local mitigation banking opportunity.
- Golden Gate Estates was at 35 – 40% buildout at the time of Phase I.
- Summary conclusions of the HSCA Phase I study were:
  - The first clear visual of where the actual flowway was historically.
  - Identified areas that could hold additional water.
  - Wetland B (North Belle Meade) greatest opportunity to provide a regional resource.
  - Reported an overall loss of wetlands from 1940 to 2007 (about 11%).
  - Wetlands north of 10th Ave SE showed decreased water volumes with the south region showing increasing trends.
  - 22 land types identified and mapped.

The Committee noted groundwater implications were not a part of the Phase I project.

**d. Northern Golden Gate Estates Flow-way Restoration Project (May 9, 2013)**

*Project Manager Jerry Kurtz, Collier County Stormwater Planning*

**Mr. Kurtz** presented a PowerPoint of Phase II which was funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), managed by Collier County Stormwater and completed in May 2013 highlighting:

- The project's scope included enhancing the database developed in Phase I, model development and calibration, alternative analysis and recommendations
- Wetlands were identified and conceptual plans developed for additional culvert installations and flow diversion from the Golden Gate canal into North Belle Meade.
- 42 equalizing culverts were installed by the Road and Bridge Maintenance Department within existing road right of ways.
- The study is a true restoration effort on a large scale and may be a consideration for RESTORE funding.
- Ongoing discussions includes the possible implementation of strategies on how to connect low lying lands in GGE, establishment of Transfer Development rights (TDR's), creation of a mitigation area and the concept of public/private partnerships.

The Committee noted the presentations are for information purposes and there are not specific recommendations in the studies.

**e. Floodplain Impact Verification Study in Golden Gate Estates**

*County Engineer Jack McKenna, Collier County Engineering & Natural Resources*

Mr. McKenna's PowerPoint presentation noted Golden Gate Estates was designated by FEMA as a "flood plain" in 2012 and was selected for the study as it has the greatest potential for buildout and high potential for impact due to limited water management systems.

Purpose of the Study

- Quantify potential impacts of future development in Golden Gate Estates on the existing Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in 2012.
- Determine solutions to mitigate potential issues.
- Meet Flood Insurance requirements.
- Minimize negative impacts; maximize positive impacts to the watershed.
- Project area at time of study had 2400 home sites; projected home lots at build out 23,735.

Future Implications

- Allowed amount of fill affects the predicted BFE (more fill = greater change to BFE).
- Considerations for watershed management plan.
- Requirements for size/condition of buildable lots.
- Transferable fill rights.

The following was noted during Committee discussions:

- The standard applied in the study was for a 100 year storm event.
- There is a regulation for impervious areas; impervious surface area over a certain amount requires on site storage.
- Single family homes are required to create storm water management system that retains or detains certain amounts of water.
- The model needs to be rerun for development and improvements that have occurred since 2008 and consider items such as how elevating the base flood elevations will be addressed.

**6. Member and Citizen Comments**

None

**7. Old Business**

None

**8. New Business**

Ms. Stadler informed the Committee the links to the Power Point Presentations are on the Collier County web site and noted the Golden Gate area requires retro fitting as it is not built to modern standards and flood concerns; flow way and habitat preservation should be addressed.

**9. Set or announce next meeting date**

The next meeting date is July 8, 2016 from 9 AM – 12 PM.

June 10, 2016

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 4:20 PM.

**COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE**



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**Chairman, Jocelyn Nageon De Lestang**

These Minutes were approved by the Committee on June 8, 2016 as presented , or as amended .

