

March 7, 2017

MINUTES OF THE COLLIER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Naples, Florida, March 7, 2017

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 9:00 AM in a REGULAR SESSION at the Growth Management Department Building, Room 609/610 2800 N. Horseshoe Drive, Naples, FL with the following persons present:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Tabitha Stadler, Stormwater Planning
Kris Van Lengen, Community Planning Manager
Alex Sulecki, Coordinator, Conservation Collier
Liz Gosselin, 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

Chairman Nageon De Lestang called the meeting to order at 9:05am and a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Agenda – Committee action requested

Mr. Vasey moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Mr. Carter. Carried unanimously 5 - 0.

3. Approval of Minutes – Committee action requested

Chairman Nageon De Lestang moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2017 meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Chustz. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

4. Staff Announcements - Jerry Kurtz, Staff Liaison

Ms. Stadler reported Jerry Kurtz and Mr. Strakaluse had to attend a workshop between the City of Naples and the Board of County Commissioner's and could not be present for the meeting today.

5. Workshop/Discussion Session

a. Overview of Naples Bay Watershed Area - Dr. Stephanie Molloy, Natural Resources Manager, City of Naples

Dr. Molloy presented the PowerPoint "Naples Bay, Florida" dated March 7, 2017 highlighting:

- The City of Naples controls the watershed of Naples Bay within its City limits which was originally 60 square miles.
- The major impact on the bay was development of the Golden Gate Main Canal which increased the area of the water shed and directed increased water flows from outside the city into the bay.
- The development of the canal increased the watershed to approximately 135 square miles and the entire area was no longer controlled by the City of Naples.
- Development also has had an impact as the City of Naples has 28 stormwater lakes, some of which drain in to the bay.
- These changes have created negative impacts to the Gordon River and/or the bay which include decreased salinity levels, stratification due to freshwater sitting on top of saltwater during the rainy season, an approximate 90 percent reduction in oyster beds and mangroves, etc.
- Other negative impacts include the increasing level of elements such as Iron and Copper which has led to the waters being classified as "Impaired" by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Recent water quality testing indicates increasing presence of other elements including Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Chlorophyll A (a marker for algae) which are anticipated to reach the "impairment" level in the near future.
- The sources of the impairments include:
 - Fertilizer runoff.
 - Pet waste.
 - Lack of septic tank maintenance.

- Use of reclaimed water.
- Freshwater flows in the system.
- Soaps and detergents from outdoor car washing and other similar activities.
- The City is undertaking the following initiatives to address the issue:
 - Street sweeping.
 - Stormwater lake maintenance.
 - Encouraging Best Management Practices such as use of grass swales or filter basins, rain gardens, pervious brick pavers, etc.
 - Updating their stormwater master plan.
 - Completing improvements to the Cove outfalls.
 - Installing man made “floating islands” in stormwater ponds which naturally improve water quality by removing nutrients.
 - Updating the fertilizer ordinance.

The following was noted under Committee discussion:

- The Soil and Water Conservation District has been studying “floating islands” for approximately 7 years and could provide valuable data on the topic.
- It would be beneficial to determine if any data is available for the salinity level in the system during the 1960’s.
- Of the two issues impacting the system, water quality versus the water quantity, water quality issues would be easier to improve through treatment activities as opposed to water quantity which would require reducing the current volume of water that enters the system.
- The introduction of impairments such as copper are more related to the City stormwater lakes than the canal inflows.

The Committee noted it would be practical also hear presentations on the status of other related City undertakings such as a stormwater utility, the beach outfall project and the Aquifer Storage Recovery wells.

b. City of Marco Island Draft Stormwater Ordinance Discussion - All

Mr. Chustz provided an update on the Draft Ordinance noting:

- The Ordinance is being prepared to address a FDEP permit requirement.
- It is in its second year of development and targets Best Management Practices for existing single family homes, development not regulated by the South Florida Water Management District, etc.
- The City Council reviewed the first draft of the document on March 6, 2017.
- A major issue raised by residents at the meeting was water quality concerns in the City, however it was noted the ordinance is intended to address stormwater management practices.
- He encouraged the Committee to provide comments now or in the future on the Ordinance so they may be considered by Staff as the plan is finalized.

The Committee noted:

1. *Consideration should be given to ensuring the language, where appropriate is more specific and provides clear direction on the items.*

2. *It would be beneficial to contact Mr. Strakaluse for input based on the City of Naples ordinances and how they have approached similar issues facing the City of Marco Island.*

c. Discussion: Inclusion of Golden Gate Estates Area Wetlands, including Conservation Collier Acquisition Areas, into TDR Program – All

Ms. Stadler and Mr. Van Lengen noted the item was continued from the last meeting.

Ms. Stadler queried if the Committee desires to support the initiative in the Rural Fringe Mixed Use District Study for changes in the County's TDR program as they may be consistent with the goals of the Committee. The concept being considered involves the use of TDR's for acquisition of lands in Conservation Collier's multi parcel project areas (or other incentive based programs for land acquisition).

Ms. Stadler displayed a draft motion previously discussed by the Committee (V1) at the last meeting and a revised draft motion (V2):

V1 - A motion supporting the use of the TDR program to acquire select parcels in Golden Gate Estates, such as Winchester Head, Red Maple Swamp, and Horsepen Strand, as a watershed management strategy to reduce density and preserve wetlands for storage and filtration, subject to analysis by appropriate experts and the BCC.

V2 - VIIA motion supporting the use of the TDR program to acquire parcels in Golden Gate Estates, that were previously identified by Conservation Collier, such as Winchester Head, Red Maple Swamp, and Horsepen Strand, as a watershed management strategy to reduce density and preserve wetlands for storage and filtration.

Mr. Van Lengen proposed two new motions for consideration:

1. *The Committee finds the use of TDR or other incentive based programs for acquisition of select wetlands parcels in Golden Gate Estates consistent with the CWIP goals for improving floodplains, surface hydrology, aquifer recharge and the connectivity of watersheds.*
2. *The Committee finds Winchester Head, Red Maple Swamp and Horsepen Strand are suitable priority areas for County acquisition through purchase or incentive based programs in furtherance of CWIP goals.*

Committee discussion occurred noting they support the concept but are a "technical" based group and any endorsement should be of a "global" nature, not a specific policy related item. They do not want to limit the consideration of land acquisitions to Conservation Collier parcels as other lands in Big Cypress Basin should be identified and evaluated for their potential in improving water quality and/or providing a water storage benefit.

Mr. Vasey moved to find the use of a TDR or other incentive based program for acquisition of select parcels with hydrologic value, including but not limited to Winchester Head, Red Maple Swamp and Horsepen Strand as consistent with CWIP goals in improving the floodplain, surface hydrology, aquifer recharge and connectivity of the watershed. **Second by Mr. Chustz. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.**

Ms. Sulecki noted:

- Winchester Head and Red Maple swamp are already deemed “multi parcel” projects by the County.
- Horsepen Strand is not currently identified as “multi parcel” project and needs to be “nominated” by someone in the public.
- The acquisition process does incorporate an environmental quality evaluation through a scoring system to ensure they provide an environmental benefit to the County.

6. Member and Citizen Comments

Mr. Vasey provide an article titled “*California rains put spotlight on atmospheric rivers: Forecasts of moisture conduits could aid water managers*” for information purposes.

Chairman Nageon De Lestang noted there has been a recent resurgence of interest in deep water injection wells and requested Staff arrange a presentation on the item.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

1. Regional Coastal Resilience Grant Program 2017 Application.

Mr. Nageon De Lestang reported the Board of County Commissioners endorsed the Grant applications and requested the Committee also endorse the applications.

Mr. Vasey moved to endorse the Resolution supporting an application by the South Florida Water Management District to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management for a Coastal Resilience Grant to develop and implement a comprehensive approach for resilience with respect to flooding and other impacts of coastal storms in the presence of sea level rise within Collier County. Second by Chairman De Lestang. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.

9. Set or announce next meeting date

To be determined

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by the order of the Chair at 11:20AM.

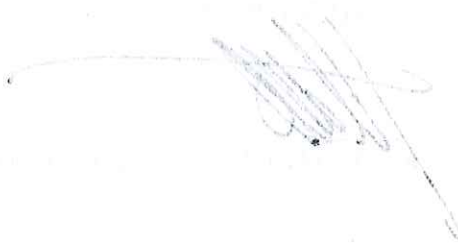
**COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE**



Chairman, Jocelyn Nageon De Lestang

March 7, 2017

These Minutes were approved by the Committee on 4/7/17, as presented ✓, or as amended _____.

A handwritten signature or scribble in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, somewhat chaotic lines.