
From: Daltry, Wayne E. [mailto:WDaltry@leegov.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 9:13 AM
To: Nancy Payton
Subject: RE: 11 point memo

[Here 'tis](#)

Good Afternoon Commissioners

Pursuant to the Board direction of Tuesday, May 16th, below is my summary/assessment of where we are regarding environmental issues that cover the area east of I-75, S of SR 82. Staffs of the various departments should be available Tuesday for any discussion of this matter.

Summary recommendation: Advocates of any particular component of environmental assessment whose issues aren't likely to be addressed by the activities below should address the LPA at their meetings of June 26th, July 24th, or August 28th, as appropriate, to ensure that the issue is covered by further amendments to the Lee Plan.

Summary of Environmental Initiatives in Estero Bay Watershed

There are several initiatives in place or underway that include the Estero Bay watershed, which encompasses all of the southern area designated the Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource area.

A. Lee County Comprehensive Plan Update: The Evaluation and Appraisal Report approved by the Board, and accepted without further challenge by DCA. The report stated the progress of the Master Mitigation Plan, the Groundwater Resources Study, the functioning of Conservation 2020, and County efforts in regard to The Bald Eagle, the Red Cockaded Woodpecker, the Woodstork, the Gopher Tortoise, the Panther, and the Black Bear. (There are also estuarine and marine species). It also acknowledges the efforts of Frogwatch and the annual Audubon Bird surveys as indicators of change in the system. The Plan update will also recognize and update information on wetlands and public open space within the County, which are land use categories separate and distinct from "DRGR." Any remedial actions needed from the reviews above will be included in the Plan Update or in subsequent implementation actions.

B. Lee Master Mitigation Plan (LMMP): The Master Mitigation Plan incorporates the activities of County government relevant to preservation, restoration, and mitigation results. The plan proposes no new policies but geographically depicts the lands and waters (public and private) wherein "Mitigation" activities can have the greatest results. It also acknowledges the relationships between land use change and the impacts on receiving waters, and how the County flowways can with improved management in strategic areas reverse deteriorating trends. This last is a key strategy for achieving pollution load reduction goals necessary to meet soon to be mandated TMDLs—Total maximum daily loads. Many of the lands identified through this plan are within the areas south of SR 82 and east of I-75.

C. Groundwater Resources and Mining Study (Separate from Bonita DRGR Study): This effort was completed in draft last June, and the information is in use in various regional programs. Peer review and public comments are being incorporated in a final draft. The report's modeling is being cross calibrated with a watershed/streamflow analysis (which was beyond contract scope) for its implications for forthcoming stormwater management rules. (SFWMD Rule for Best Management Practices for Southwest Florida). Staff review of the document indicates current land management strategies are appropriate, the mining component indicates that IF the lands identified in the LMMP (not a recommendation) were removed from mining reserves, there are adequate reserves to meet materials demand for the foreseeable future.

D. Southwest Florida Feasibility Study: The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan had a component for SWFlorida, to fill science and information gaps. The effort is led by USCOE and SFWMD. The Study has many components, but the key for the issue raised for the Estero Bay watershed east of I-75 is the Natural Systems Model (NSM) and its indicator species. From that effort, various alternatives are proposed to achieve the Study goals through land and water management means akin to those expressed in the LMMP. The team approach used in the NSM alternatives is that used with the LMMP, and many of the mapped areas are the same.

E. Estero Bay Symposium: A multi-party approach (FGCU, SWFRPC, CHNEP, SFWMD, Lee County, private participation) will be taken to assess natural resource changes in the years since the first State of the Bay report came out, following the "Arnold Committee" and the settlement of the FGCU siting lawsuits. This will occur in Spring 2007.

F. "Growth Management Regulation, Public Investment and Resource Implications for the Estero Bay Watershed": EPA is proposing to fund the Charlotte Harbor NEP and SWFRPC to see what the EPA can do to support the LMMP, with the outcome of expedited permits in the appropriate places. Lee County staff proposes some fiscal participation (\$25,000) to ensure the analysis assists in basin assessments that promote the expanded flowway restoration, land acquisition (or conservation easements), and permit mitigation activities of Public Works, Department of Community Development, County Lands, and Parks. This review incorporates the above

All these tasks, EXCEPT for adoption of the SWFFS by its very lengthy Federal progress should be complete before the I-75 Interchange assessment is due.

In addition to these efforts, there are:

(1) BMP Rule. A draft rule proposed through the South Florida Water Management District on best management practices for stormwater management. This rule is for Southwest Florida, including Estero Bay. Lee Staff has been participating in that rule development.

(2) Total Maximum Daily Load. (TMDL) The preliminary efforts on TMDL rule development by FDEP for Estero Bay and its watershed has been undertaken.

(3) Habitat mapping. Several years ago, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission released maps depicting habitat for a fairly long list of species, and these have been presented to Lee staff during the EAR process.

(4) CREW (Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) and Conservation 2020 Assessments. The various parcels under management or observation have habitat and wildlife assessments for some areas within the Estero basin.

(5) FGCU Assessments. Florida Gulf Coast University studies. The University has a number of environmental studies underway, that may be of relevance to this watershed. Some may be discussed at item E, the Estero Bay Symposium, above, but if a more complete list of studies underway or completed for the watershed is desired, staff can pursue it.

I will endeavor to answer any questions you may have on this subject.

Wayne Daltry, FAICP
Director, Smart Growth
239-335-2840
fx -335-2262

From: Nancy Payton [mailto:fwfnaples@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 8:57 AM
To: Daltry, Wayne E.
Subject: 11 point memo

Good morning, Wayne –
Thanks for the generous time you gave us yesterday.
I would appreciate an electronic copy of the 11 point memo you referenced several times during the meeting. Thanks, Nancy