

SOUTH MIAMI DADE WATERSHED STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting II

September 26, 2001
South Dade Government Center
Conference Room 203
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Committee Chairperson Roger Carlton who thanked everyone for coming and thanked Audubon of Florida for assisting in the sponsoring of the refreshments for the day. Mr. Carlton asked that all present observe a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives or family members and friends in the attacks on the World Trade Center September 11, 2001.

Chairperson Carlton then turned the meeting over to the meeting Facilitator, Janice M. Fleischer, of the South Florida Regional Planning Council Institute for Community Collaboration.

AGENDA REVIEW, DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the meeting Objectives and Agenda for the day. The Objectives were:

- To continue to learn about one another
- To learn about the Florida Government in the Sunshine Act requirements
- To begin to understand and develop the group's meeting guidelines and protocol
- To learn about other current related projects and their status
- To review who is missing from the table
- To develop a Vision Statement

A copy of the Objectives and Agenda are attached as Exhibit A.

To begin, Ms. Fleischer pointed out that all members had been provided new binders for the safekeeping of all documents they receive at each meeting, including packet materials and Reports of Proceedings. The binder provided contains a list of members and staff (which would be kept current); relevant statutes and rules, Sunshine Law requirements, a map of the boundaries to be studied and packet and report materials for the July meeting. Packet materials for this meeting were provided 3-hole punched so they could easily be incorporated into the new binders. She explained that subsequent materials would be prepared similarly. Members will be responsible for bringing their binders to meetings.

She then reviewed the discussion guidelines that had been used at the first meeting in July as well as encouraging any visitors to make use of the Comment Cards and Idea Parking Lot.

She directed members to their packets for a list of websites containing Reports that had been referred to at the last meeting (Exhibit B).

As a last housekeeping matter, the Facilitator explained that refreshments were not part of the contract and the Committee would have to rely on sponsors for food. She asked if anyone was interested in assisting in this matter. Mike Richardson, Vice President, Government Relations and Marketing, First National Bank of South Florida, volunteered to provide refreshments for the next meeting.

Cindy Dwyer, Miami-Dade Planning and Zoning, Staff Member to the Committee, then asked the Members to indicate their preference of a date to attend a Tour of the Watershed Area. It was decided October 26, 2001 would be the date for a full day tour of the area. Details would be provided as soon as possible.

INTRODUCTIONS

As the Committee had gained some new members since the last meeting, each committee member was asked to introduce him/herself and tell one personal thing about him/herself.

Observers were invited to introduce themselves as well.

Members present:

Roger M. Carlton, Chair
Ivonne Alexander
Richard Alger
Maribel Balbin
Linda Canzanelli
Carlos Espinosa
Jeffrey Flanagan
Dick Frost
April H. Gromnicki
John Hall
Louise King
Bennie Lovett
Tom MacVicar
Blanca Mesa
Lee Rawlinson
Claudio Rosario
Mike Shehadeh
Charles Thibos
Julia Trevarthen
Craig Wheeling
Dale Williams

Observers present:

Armando I. Perez, CDM
Ken Gold
Nem Gomez, CH2M Hill
Mike Richardson, First National Bank of South Florida
Daniel Apt, Florida DEP
Bill Dobson, Miami Dade Water and Sewer

Fernando Miralles, CDM

“SUNSHINE LAW 101”

The Facilitator introduced Jay Williams, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, who gave a presentation on the Florida Sunshine Law. A document containing a summary of the relevant sunshine requirements is contained in the member binders.

CONSENSUS AND COLLABORATION OVERVIEW

Ms. Fleischer explained the differences in decision-making processes to the members. She talked about the benefits of a collaborative process (Exhibit C) and introduced “Interim Consensus Rules” that will be used for the next few meetings; members will ultimately decide whether they want to continue using that process for decision-making. (See Exhibit D)

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this point in the meeting, Chairperson Carlton called on visiting individuals who had asked to speak to the Committee.

The Facilitator announced a short break.

IDENTIFICATION OF CORE VALUES

The Facilitator explained to the members that they would be listing values and deciding on their “top five”. Ms. Fleischer then displayed the definition of a “value” to the members. A “value” is: “*a principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile or desirable*”. Members were asked to brainstorm what they think are the values that should be considered as they proceed in their deliberations on the watershed study. After listing the values, the Facilitator led the group in combining values that might be related. After the combinations were finalized, she gave each member five sticky dots and instructed them to place a dot next to the five values they felt were most important. The results of the initial listing, combinations and numbers of dots placed by each is reflected in the table below:

ITEM/COMBINATION	DOTS
Sustainability/Balance of growth and environment	15
Property rights/Values	14
Environmental Protection (made up of: Ecological Restoration, Clean air and water, and Wetlands protection)	13
Economic well being/job creation	10
Flood protection	8
Planned development/Controlling urban sprawl and turnpike construction	8
National parks	5
Education	5
Balancing the water	5
Morality/Honesty/Integrity	4
Community/People	3
Diverse agriculture	3
Intelligent development	3

Quality of life	2
Freedom and rights	2
Security	1
Protection of endangered species	1
Tolerance/Respect for others	1
Open space	1
Fund mandates	1
Transportation	0
Consensus	0
Diversity in plants and animals	0
Realism	0
Future	0
Service	0
Recreation	0

Because the fifth and sixth value each received 8 votes, the members decided to adopt 6 top values instead of five. These were designated the group’s “Core” values and are:

Sustainability/Balance of growth and environment
Property rights/Values
Environmental Protection (made up of: Ecological Restoration, Clean air and water, and Wetlands protection)
Economic well being/job creation
Flood protection
Planned development/Controlling urban sprawl and turnpike construction

Ms. Fleischer explained that the remaining items would not be lost as they would all be listed and contained in this Report. The comment was also made that some items did not receive votes because it was thought they were not “values” according to the definition and would be considered at future meetings in other ways.

RELATED PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Chairperson Carlton introduced Colonel Terrence “Rock” Salt, Executive Director, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Taskforce (Bio: Exhibit E) who spoke to the members about related projects in the federal and state system. Col. Salt brought the following information with him which was provided to the members:

- Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team-Draft Charter (Exhibit F)
- Biscayne Bay Related Projects list (Exhibit G)
- “FY 1999-2000 Biennial Report” (contact Col. Salt’s office for copy, see below)
- “Coordinating Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem” (contact Col. Salt’s office for copy, see below)

Col. Salt gave members the following information about the Ecosystem Restoration Taskforce:

The Website: www.sfrestore.org
Phone: 305-348-1665
Cheryl Duckworth: Assistant to the Colonel

The Facilitator then adjourned the meeting for lunch.

REVIEW OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Members were asked to consider who might still be missing from the Committee. Cindy Dwyer explained that in order for the Committee to add members, it will be necessary to amend the existing Ordinance establishing the Committee. The Facilitator reviewed the roles of the members as stated in the Ordinance. Two items were presented to the members: 1) who should be voting and non-voting members of the Committee; and 2) who is missing from the Committee.

Using the consensus method introduced at the beginning of the day, members decided the Voting Members would be:

Miami Dade AgriCouncil
Miami Dade Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board
Tropical Everglades Visitor Association
Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce
Chamber South
Florida Engineering Society
Homestead Air Base Developer
National Audubon Society
Tropical Audubon Society
Sierra Club Miami Group
Biscayne National Park
Everglades National Park
City of Homestead
City of Florida City
South Florida Potato Growers Exchange
Miami Dade Farm Bureau
Florida Lime and Avocado Committees
Redland Citizen's Association (CC14)
Florida Nurserymen and Grower's Association
At-Large Chairperson
Building Industry Organization*
Citizens' Organization in CC 11/12**
Citizens' Organization in CC 13/15**
2 at-large members recommended by the Chair*

And Nonvoting Members would be:

Miami Dade Department of Planning and Zoning
South Florida Water Management District
South Florida Regional Planning Council
Miami Dade DERM
Florida Department of Environmental Protection*

*indicates a new committee addition

**indicates replacements for specific organizations that could not participate in the process

Lee Rawlinson, Committee Representative from Miami Dade Planning and Zoning asked permission to put a “place holder” on the County Commission agenda for an application to amend the January 2002 completion date for the Watershed Plan stipulated in the Comprehensive Development Master Plan Land Use Policy 3E. Further, Committee members noted they liked the consensus methods used and pointed out that the existing Ordinance calls for decisions by a simple majority while the process proposed by the Facilitator requires a “super majority”. It was decided the Chairperson Carlton would sign a Resolution changing decision making to super majority if votes are needed.

VISION STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Each Committee member was given a Vision Statement Worksheet (Exhibit H). Members were asked to spend a few minutes thinking through the answers to the questions posed on the Worksheet. The members were then divided into 3 groups (this was accomplished by having the members count off 1,2,3 and then joining the group with the same number) and asked to work through the Worksheet with their group and develop a Vision Statement. As the time was getting late, it was decided to show the members the Vision Statements which were drafted by each group, but not try to combine them into one statement at this meeting. The Facilitator and SFRPC Staff Member, John Hulsey, will draft a proposed Vision Statement after reviewing the results from the 3 groups. This proposed Vision will be presented to the members at the November meeting for their wordsmithing and finalizing. The statements drafted were:

Group 1

Viable, model, communities with strong identities and lots of open space including diverse agriculture established on foundations that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and in a framework which ensures sustainability of a sustainable Biscayne Bay and Everglades National Park.

Group 2

South Dade is a vibrant community, blending a healthy economy and environment. Agriculture will be smaller and more intensive. Small, clean industry has moved into the area, drawn by the plentiful labor supply. Well managed national parks and recreational facilities enhances community life and the tourism industry.

Group 3

South Miami-Dade has a viable economy and outstanding quality of life that are based on its natural wonders, economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture, tourism, and other compatible enterprises (e.g., high tech, research, resource-based), water management and land uses support a healthy environment and thriving agriculture, and new urban development is focused in the existing urban corridor with an eye toward preserving the historic quality and rural character with a strong sense of local community and stewardship.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Carlton ended the meeting with some closing thoughts and thanked all the members. Ms. Fleischer reminded the members to complete their evaluations and turn them in before they left.

The meeting was then adjourned.

IDEA PARKING LOT AND OTHER COMMENTS RECEIVED

Presentation from Cheryl Ulrich or Doris Marlin on South Dade Projects.

All cities in the study area should be represented on the Committee- i.e. Pinecrest, Coral Gables