



Agenda
Legislative Subcommittee
Wednesday October 15, 2008
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
South Florida Water Management District
1st Floor Meeting Room

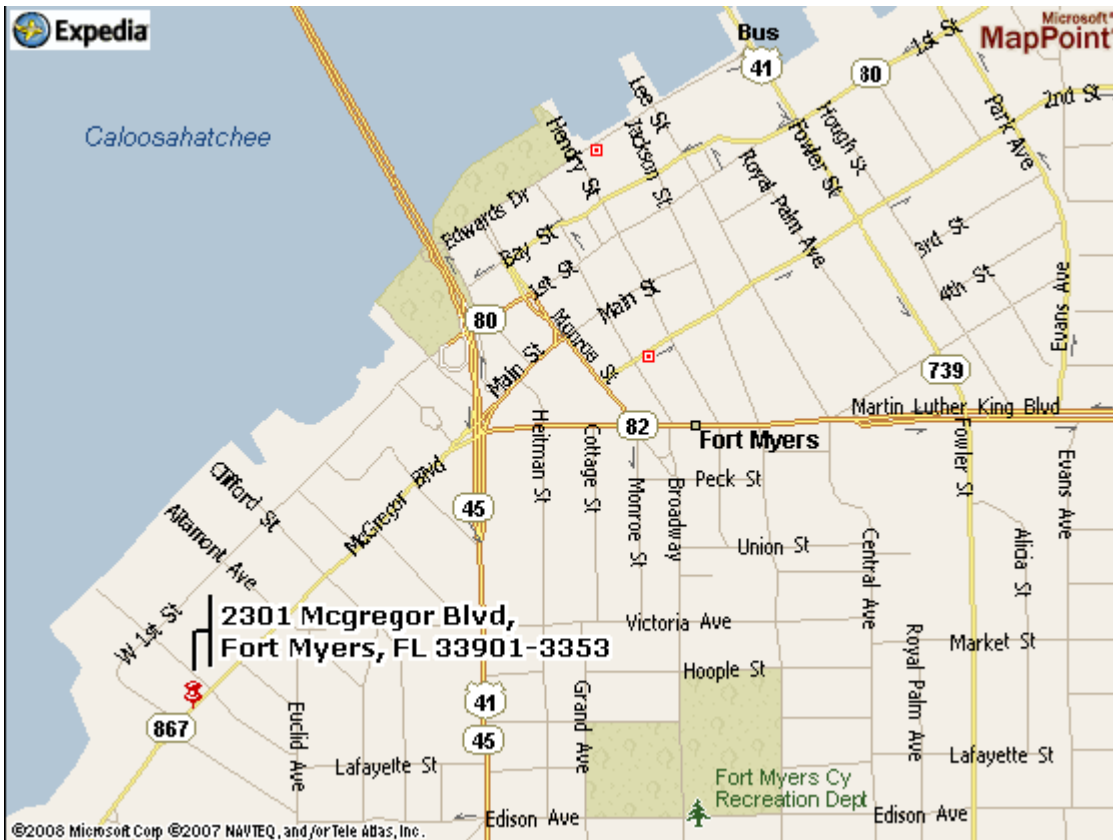
Fort Myers

1. Organizational Matters – Liz Donley
2. Call to Order
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Agenda Items and Deletions
5. Local Legislative Issues – Liz Donley
6. Federal Legislative Issues – Liz Donley
7. Legislative Agenda Update and Revision – Liz Donley
8. Agenda Items for next meeting
9. Member's Comments
10. Staff Comments
11. Public Comment
12. Next Meeting's Topics, Location and Date
13. Adjourn

MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Two or more members of the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee, Peace River Basin Management Working Group, or Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council may be in attendance, and may discuss matters that could come before the respective body.

Directions to:
South Florida Water Management District
Lower West Coast Regional Service Center
2301 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: (239) 338-2929



From the North

From I – 75:

Take I-75 South to Exit 158 – Tucker’s Grade, CR 762.
Turn Right (west) onto Tucker’s Grade.
At the only traffic signal, turn Left (south) onto US 41.
Continue south across the Caloosahatchee River.
At the first traffic signal after the river, turn Right (west) onto Victoria Avenue.
At the next traffic signal make a left onto McGregor Blvd.
Make a left on Lafayette St., and immediate right into the SFWMD parking lot; it is a white 2 story building.

From the South

From I – 75:

I-75 North to Exit 138 - Immokalee Rd / Hwy 82 (West).
Turn left onto Immokalee Rd / Hwy 82 (West).
Remain on Immokalee Rd / Hwy 82 (West) as it becomes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (approximately 4.0 miles).
Cross under US 41 and remain on the road as it becomes McGregor Boulevard.
Continue on McGregor Blvd.
Make a left turn on Lafayette St., and immediate right into the SFWMD parking lot; it is a white 2 story building .

5. LOCAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

a) Vessel Registration Voluntary Contribution

Staff has been in discussions with the Tampa Bay NEP about strategies for establishing stable funding for the all four Florida NEPs on a statewide basis. Discussions have included capturing EPA enforcement fines, requesting line item funding in the state budget, and voluntary donations via “check boxes” on vessel registration forms. This funding mechanism is at no additional cost to the State.

Staff is reexploring the procedure for submitting a bill to amend the appropriate Florida Statute to add the option of voluntary donation to the Florida NEPs as an option on the vessel registration forms.

Recommendation: No action required currently. CHNEP may request letters of support from partners prior to 2009 Florida Legislative Session.

Attachment: Revenues by Fee Codes, 7/2006 – 6/2007
Revenues by Fee Codes, 7/2007 – 6/2008

b) 2009 Florida Legislative Session – Important Dates:

- November 18, 2008 Organizational meeting
- March 3, 2009 First day of session
- ????? Local Delegation Meetings
- ????? Community Budget Information Requests (CBIR) due to local delegation
- March 3, 2009 Final day for filing bills

6. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Request for Directed Funding for Charlotte Harbor NEP

Background

On June 14, 2008, CHNEP staff participated in a meeting with U.S. Congressman Tim Mahoney to discuss options for increasing funding to improve the water quality and natural environment of Charlotte Harbor. The meeting concluded with CHNEP staff and the Congressman's staff agreeing to work together to prepare a legislative package seeking Federal funding for Charlotte Harbor no later than January 2009.

The Management Committee, TAC and CAC recommended the following motion:

Legislative Subcommittee and CHNEP staff to work with Representative Mahoney's staff to explore increased Federal funding to Charlotte Harbor, through NMS designation, supplemental funding to the CHNEP or other legislative means.

The Management Committee further recommended that consideration of NMS designation include a review of restrictions, enforcement, boundary issues, and the kinds of projects that can or cannot be funded with this mechanism.

The Policy Subcommittee directed staff to more fully explore the effect of NMS designation on the Charlotte Harbor Study Area and report back for consideration in November.

Recommendation:

Subcommittee members assist staff in developing language for earmark request (302(b) allocation) and conducting additional research into the effect of National Marine Sanctuary status.

Attachments:

Excerpt from U.S. House Rules regarding earmarks
Example of prior, successful earmark request
National Marine Sanctuaries Act

