

# SOUTH LEE COUNTY WATERSHED INITIATIVE MEETING

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

South Florida Water Management District  
2301 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, FL

Additional materials available at <https://www.chnep.org/south-lee-co-watershed-initiative>

## Attendees

Kirk Martin- Water Science  
Sean McCabe- Conservancy  
Jennifer Hecker - CHNEP

Roland Ottolini- Lee County  
Ananta Nath – Collier County  
Liz Donley- CHNEP

Rick Orth- Collier County  
Sam Lee- Lee County  
Sierra Strickland - CHNEP

## CFP Grant Proposal Working Group:

- An overview from the discussions during the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting was presented; including the option on whether to expand modeling efforts based on the Estero model, or to conduct an independent regional model for this initiative.

## CFP Application:

- Application requirements were presented to the working group. Submitted applications are limited to a total of 25 pages, including all supporting documents.
- Successful applications generally contain projects that focus on water storage, water quality, and/or TMDL/BMAPs.
- The working group was in consensus for applying the project under a Stormwater Management Project application.
- Type of Project:
  - The project may fall into all available categories: Water Quality / Quantity Improvement, Infrastructure Improvement, Natural System Restoration, Storage, and Flood Protection.
  - Reasoning was provided for Natural System Restoration by default going together as restoration would concurrently improve water quality.
  - Infrastructure was chosen if project correlates with any FDOT projects as they relate to road, culvert, or recharge improvements.
- A list of any receiving waters is a requirement for the application. The working group discussion identified possibly citing Estero Bay, including rivers (i.e. Estero River), and listing single watersheds.
  - The Caloosahatchee River may be mentioned in the narrative portion of the application.
- Applicant: General favor was expressed by the working group on Lee County being the applicant. Lee County however has not committed to being able to do so at this point.
  - CHNEP, Estero, and Lehigh brought up as possible co-applicants. These entities could be listed out for ‘sub-awards’ as authorized representatives in the application. These are dependent up the co-applicants ability to legally conduct work outside of their boundaries.
- Funding: A 300K budget was decided by the working group to be lowered to 250K to match the CFP applications maximum funding price.

- New LiDAR technology necessitates re-evaluating a model (adding to the Estero modeling effort, which reaches up to Corkscrew. Land use is also being incorporated into the modeling process).
  - Previous SLCWI modeling team started focus on water quantity through flow restoration; then later added in the parameter of water quality.
  - Understanding the hydrology removes half of the burden in understanding water quality.
  - Stakeholder concern for merging modeling with construction as this may lead to funding the modeling, but may negatively affect the score of the entire project during the application process.
    - The focus should be on the watershed restoration aspect, not on the modeling portion.
  - Need to be concerned at “look-back expenditures” for matching funds.
    - Keeping in mind the timing of the construction funding, and the timing of funds committed.
    - LA-MSID may have match projects to submit that have phases still in need or funding for ‘shovel ready’ projects.
- Applicable projects / studies to use include the Estero flow-way study (may still be in the conceptual stages, i.e., ‘shovel ready’); and any Lee County DOT projects, as they would have hydrological / stormwater impacts.
- Corkscrew Corridor and Estero modeling effort as possible matches to list in the application.
- The working group discussed the possibility of framing the project as an extension to the feasibility study.
- Project name:
  - Suggested to be called the Estero Bay Watershed Initiative or the Corkscrew/Estero Watershed Initiative.

## Next Meeting

The next full meeting will be held in the same location at the South Florida Water Management District at TBD date.

## Action Items

### *SLCWI stakeholders and participants are asked to:*

- Input project updates and additional projects into master project spreadsheet at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rKQP23zKdNKf8LUjpaVyMGrd\\_FEUbNswENe-Sr2lltg/edit#gid=449973494](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rKQP23zKdNKf8LUjpaVyMGrd_FEUbNswENe-Sr2lltg/edit#gid=449973494)
- Prioritize SLCWI projects in [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIkPgVZmGF9g6sBLWc1ND7xh5GGtqgl6OakK5\\_QX\\_fu1STgw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIkPgVZmGF9g6sBLWc1ND7xh5GGtqgl6OakK5_QX_fu1STgw/viewform?usp=sf_link) form