

SOUTH LEE COUNTY WATERSHED INITIATIVE (SLCWI)

MEETING NOTES

May 30, 2017

Attendees:

Josh Evans, Village of Estero
Peter Cangialosi, Estero Council of Community Leaders
John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper
Nora Demers, Florida Gulf Coast University
Don McCormick, Charlotte Soil & Water Conservation
Sean McCabe, Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Dan Delisi, Consultant for Lee County & City of Sanibel
Danielle LaMorte, Bonita Springs Utilities
Rick Brylanski, Hole Montes
Lee Flynn, AIM Engineering
Jennifer Hecker, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Sierra Strickland, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Jessica DeYoung, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Allison Conner, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Existing Studies that Identify Projects or Recommendations for SLCWI Area:

- Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) staff presented overview of projects and recommendations from several existing studies and asked for feedback from group on additional studies to include in formulating a master project list for SLCWI area.
- Suggested additional studies to include:
 - Long-term Ecological Monitoring Plan for Six Mile Cypress Basin
 - Smart Growth Committee - Lee Horizon 2035 Report has extensive community projects that may be relevant to the projects list
 - San Carlos Park 2008 Study by Boyle Engineering - Lee County project report may be useful for project recommendations
- Conservancy may have or be able to produce a master list of area approved and pending mining and development projects that overlap watershed projects in this area that would be useful to stakeholders to review
- These additional studies will be included in Google Doc Project List for stakeholders to access and update info. into - including project status and outstanding costs in need of funding, so a prioritized project list can be created by the group at the next meeting.

Cooperative Funding Program (CFP)

- CHNEP staff presented overview of South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Cooperative Funding Program process for potential application of funding to support regional watershed modeling of SLCWI area
- The Village of Estero's project can potentially increase cost-effectiveness of this by building off their modeling effort
- SLCWI stakeholders that could contribute to the required 50% cost share and reimburseable upfront costs would be Lee County, Bonita Springs, Estero, Conservancy, Audubon, and the Estero Council of Community Leaders.
- Other potential funders and stakeholders could be Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Collier County, Lehigh Acres, San Carlos Park, etc.

Regional Watershed Modeling

- This discussion was regarding whether to pursue and prepare a SFWMD CFP application for funding of a regional watershed model for the SLCWI area.
- Benefits include integrating existing and updated info. to create one comprehensive model that would allow county/cities in the SLCWI area to be better able and more proactive in assessing and evaluating info. they receive on forthcoming proposals, as well as them to have a more coordinated approach in dealing with restoration in that area.
- Modeling must include historical and current conditions, including water levels. Modeling should also include water quality modeling if possible – at least updated flows would help with pollution loading models and calculations
- Facilitation by a impartial technical expert would be important. Kevin Erwin could potentially be technical advisor.
- Existing DRGR backbone model could be used as foundation that would be built upon with finer grid cell size and updated information
- Should consider including surveying (maybe 30k?) into budget
- Might also want to include peer review for model
 - Need to decide if done by a separate effort or funded by us
- Would really need to reengage governmental stakeholders who are not in attendance
- FGCU could be an important new partner, especially considering they just received 15 million allocated for a new water resource planning building
- If CFP application for Watershed Modeling pursued, would need to:
 - Create pie chart infographic created of entire modeling cost (estimated 300k) and statement of rationale and benefits to provide to potential stakeholders.
 - Prepare application over summer for fall submission.

Next Step: Please review and help update water projects information in google docs by June meeting. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rKQP23zKdNKf8LUjpaVyMGrd_FEUbNswENE-Sr2llt/edit#gid=1728336115

Next meeting will be June 22nd, 10:00 am- Noon at the SFWMD Office, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers in the 1st Floor Conference Room