

South Lee County Watershed Initiative Notes

6/21/2018

South Lee County Clean and Snag Project

- Spring, Oak, Leitner, Estero, Halfway Creek, etc. are now part of a maintenance agreement that will be finalized in next couple months

Lee County Surface Water Management Plan

- Goal is to provide greater flood protection, though they will look at other issues including water quality
- Using MIKESHE MIKE11 for large regional modeling and study and then Estero model and others to patch together and incorporate
- Focus will be surficial flows and levels
- Will model some local projects such as GS-10

Bonita Springs Flood Reduction Plan Update (see presentation)

- Flooding from Irma showed modern stormwater system capacity was exceeded
- Multiple solutions including removing impediments, replacing undersized culverts, restoring connections and flowways, increasing storage and treatment including purchase of undeveloped lands, change of levels in Kehl Canal, better stormwater retention and treatment standards enacted locally, requiring 50% loss structures to elevate when rebuilding as well as to incorporate emergency sluice gates, enacting stormwater utility fee, completing CREW, creating voluntary seller buyout floodplain restoration, doing a climate change adaptation plan and a city-wide comp watershed master plan.

Estero Stormwater Master Plan Update (see presentation)

- Multiple project goals addressing stormwater quality and quantity
- Boundary of study goes north of Estero almost to Alico Road

- Using ICPR model (not modeling groundwater)
- Some results/findings should be available by the next meeting to share

Willows as Hydrological Indicators (see presentation)

- Corkscrew has a 60-year dataset, which from they have been able to correlate hydrologic changes affecting vegetation in Corkscrew Marsh
- Marsh changing from grasses to willows has increased evapotranspiration, shortening the length of inundation in the marsh
- Land management to remove exotics and nuisance vegetation like willow can improve hydrology, using mechanical removal where prescribed fire is not feasible

Funding Opportunities and Next Steps (see presentation)

- CHNEP prepared with assistance of partners, a funding proposal for regional modeling to compliment that of Estero and Lee County's in order to get a complete regional picture of current water conditions, natural system needs, and what potential restoration opportunities exist for improving water management to meet human and environmental objectives (see SFWMD funding proposal).
 - *Partners supporting the funding proposal were requested to write letters of support to send to the SFWMD ED, ccing West Coast SFWMD Governing Board members by July 20, 2018.*
- Future Meeting Presentation Topic Suggestions
 - New Collier County Stormwater Utility
 - Trends in Sea Level Rise
 - Economic Valuation/Ecosystem Service Info.
 - Water Quality Presentation
 - Existing Sarasota Stormwater Utility
 - Conservation 2020's Reorientation to Water Projects