

Meeting Summary

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Task Team

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

South Florida Water Management District Headquarters (SFWMD)

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL

Building B-1 3A Bridge Conference Room

Call in number: 1-888-808-6959; conference code 0661984#

Attendees

John Outland	FDEP	By Phone: Marsha Bansee	Task Force
Sylvia Pelizza	USFWS	Gary Cochran	FWC
Sheryl Jones	FDEP		
Theresa Woody	Task Force		
Jim Muller	Muller and Associates		
Jude Muse	SFWMD		
Frank Razem	SFWMD		
Wanda Caffie-Simpson	SFWMD		
Joni Warner	SFWMD		

Welcome and Introductions

John Outland introduced himself and the new co-chair, Sylvia Pelizza. Sylvia is the manager at the ARM Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The rest of the meeting participants in the room and on the phone introduced themselves. Jude Muse will be taking over most of Frank Razem's LATT duties.

ACTION: Theresa Woody to make sure that Jude Muse is added to the regular email list for the Land Acquisition Task Team (LATT).

2009 Benchmarks

Theresa Woody reviewed the Land Acquisition Strategy (LAS) benchmarks previously distributed to the LATT. A sub-team of the LATT held a conference call on April 22. The 2009 LAS is planned to be presented to the Task Force at its scheduled September 23 meeting. No changes were made to the benchmarks.

Wanda Caffie-Simpson said there will be some revisions to Florida Forever projects covered in the LAS that typically are pretty stable. Various projects and boundaries were discussed, including:

- CREW – A modification to the CREW boundary will be presented to the SFWMD board; Wanda assumes the boundary will change
- Picayune Strand – SFWMD has made a boundary modification Picayune Strand to remove N parcels (small parcels) – need a new project boundary – only about 1% change.
- Southern Golden Gate Estates (SGGE) - John Outland is using a larger SGGE project boundary – SGGE plus. It includes additional lands. Wanda discussed SGGE boundaries that now included FDOT lands that should not be part of the

project. Frank Razem said a boundary map for this CERP project is available on the web, and was updated a couple of months ago. DEP is doing acquisition in the SGGE plus project boundary – including Fakahatchee and Belle Meade.

- Jim Muller pointed out that the 2006 Natural Lands and Species table (Appendix D) showed state as well as federal land acquisition acres and dollars for the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge but the 2008 table attributes all acquisition for that project to the federal government.

ACTION: John Outland and Wanda Caffie-Simpson are to coordinate on establishing the SGGE/SGGE plus project boundary

ACTION: Wanda Caffie-Simpson needs to validate the Broward County WPA and C-111 spreader canal project bounds

ACTION: Sylvia Pelizza will look at federal vs. state ownership for Refuge and will also review the remaining lands to be acquired. She will also check land acquisition information regarding state vs. federal actions and make sure that the Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition table in Appendix D and the footnote for that table agree with the circumstances.

Charter revision/ membership

Theresa Woody reviewed the charter membership and noted some changes to the formal LATT membership as well as other contacts that regularly provide information.

ACTION: Revise the online LATT membership list and the LATT email contact list to show (some revisions already made):

- Sylvia Pelizza, Co-Chair, USFWS
- Martin County – Jim Sherman will continue to be listed as the official contact; Gary Roderick will replace Chuck Barrowclough as the day-to-day contact
- Osceola County – Sherry Burroughs will replace Randy Mathews as the official contact; Debbie Geer will continue to be an additional staff contact
- Hendry County - Sarah Catala is the new contact

Task Force Goals and Objectives

Theresa Woody reported that the Task Force Goals and Objectives were revised by the Task Force in December 2007. Minor changes were made to Goals 1 and 2. The main edits were made to Goal 3.

ACTION: Objective 3a3 text in the LATT-posted goals and objectives is incomplete; Marsha Bansee will check the original document and provide the complete text; Theresa Woody will then repost the goals and objectives.

There was a discussion about how often various reports were updated. The Integrated Financial Plan (IFP) is updated annually and uses data from the LAS. The report to Congress is only required every other year. On off-years when no Congressional update is required, the project sheets are still updated and posted.

Review April 22 conference call Issues & Questions

Jim Muller reviewed the issues from the LAS sub-team's April 22 conference call. Additional information and needed actions were discussed for some issues covered in that call.

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

- OPE CERP projects - Wanda Simpson will provide contact information to Theresa Woody for the OPE CERP projects that are not currently addressed in the LATT. Jim Muller will become involved in quality control for OPE CERP project profiles, since in previous years information on these projects was used in quality control of the project profile summary table.
- Picayune Strand/SGGE – The March 31 CERP master reflects the 11 acres that still remain to be acquired. John Outland and Wanda will coordinate on component names for the SGGE plus parcels that DEP is pursuing.
- Mitigation lands – Concern was expressed about double counting mitigation lands (those lands acquired with mitigation funds) and lands on the LAS Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition table. A footnote may be required to state that some overlap may occur between the mitigation lands and other lands (especially CREW and Pennsuco). Jim Muller will check to see how these lands were addressed in the mitigation section of the 2008 LAS.
- Amendment 4 lands – Gary Cochran inquired how Amendment 4 lands for conservation purposes would be handled. Since no lands will be addressed through this mechanism before the current LAS's data deadline of June 30, 2009, it was decided to monitor the situation and plan how to address these lands in the 2010 version of the LAS. The 2009 LAS will describe Amendment 4 and its newly-passed implementing legislation and mention this as a new mechanism for protecting environmental lands.
- Federal conservation easements – Sylvia Pelizza will check on the existence of USFWS conservation easements (including for panther mitigation) in S Florida and will provide contact information. Theresa Woody will contact George Dennis, FWS Vero Beach, to see if he can speak about FWS conservation easements at the July LATT meeting. Theresa will also see if Dennis has data we can use for the LAS (coordinate with Sally Jue/FNAI). There was a question as to whether Army Corps mitigation lands are included in the LAS.
- Other conservation easements – Jim Muller will review the LAS to see if additional land trusts should be listed in the LAS appendix.
- Florida Communities Trust (FCT) summary table – Jim Muller will compile a preliminary list of ecosystem restoration-related FCT projects from the existing county program summary tables (in Excel; to be provided by Theresa Woody). Jim will also review the need for a footnote concerning double-counting of acres.
- Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank – Jim Muller will coordinate with Sally Jue and Theresa Woody about the reporting of this acreage, which should not be in the mitigation lands section because the lands were not acquired with mitigation funds. Jim will ensure that the acres are reported in the proper place.
- Acreage changes, especially for Goal 2, reflected in different LAS editions may not be due to land acquisitions or sales – Jim Muller will draft language for LAS page 7, 8 to explain that differences in acreages between different LAS editions may be due a refined reporting technique and not necessarily the acquisition or

disposition of lands (e.g., Wanda refined the SFWMD numbers for the Habitat and Species table to only include natural habitat lands, not construction lands; initiation of reporting mitigation lands). This may be covered by a statement in the preface rather than in the body of the report.

Data forms and revisions

Jim Muller recapped changes to data forms and instructions (see summary provided as read-ahead). Most of the changes relate to changing dates on the forms.

Review first draft/assignments

Theresa Woody coordinated a brief discussion of several aspects of the first draft of the 2009 LAS.

ACTION: The term “expedited” includes all Acceler8 projects and additional projects. Joni Warner will work with Theresa Woody to address this in the LAS text.

DECISION: A glossary term for “expedited” will not be included in the LAS unless SFWMD provides a definition prior to publication of the LAS.

ACTION: The list of expedited projects in the LAS will be updated to conform to the list of projects on the SFWMD “expedited” web page.

DECISION: A list and brief description, including reporting cycle, of the most important South Florida Ecosystem Restoration documents would be helpful to staff and the public.

ACTION: Theresa Woody and Jim Muller will check with Abby Murphy for a list of the most important restoration documents and information for each including reporting cycles, a general description, URLs for each report, and a contact name for report production.

DECISION: Further discussion of the draft LAS text was deferred so that LATT members could view the U.S. Sugar lands vote pending before the SFWMD. The draft will be reviewed in detail on a conference call from 1-2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21.

Natural Lands Report follow-up

ACTION – Theresa Woody will put a placeholder in the LAS text for an update on the Natural Lands Report.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Logistics-next meeting

A conference call will be held 1-2 p.m. on Thursday, May 21 to review the draft text of the LAS.

The next meeting of the full Task Team will be Thursday, July 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in West Palm Beach. The major topic will be a review of the second draft of the LAS. A

subgroup will meet to discuss mapping issues and other topics from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on July 8 in West Palm Beach.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.