

Summary of Decisions and Action Items
South Florida Land Conservation Task Team
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Conference Call
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Call-in number 1-888-808-6959; conference code

Attendees

John Outland	DEP
Sylvia Pelizza	USFWS
Theresa Woody	Task Force
Wanda Caffie Simpson	SFWMD
Sheryl Jones	DEP
Sally Jue	FNAI
Sarah Catala	Hendry County
Jim Muller	Muller and Associates, Inc

Welcome/Introductions

John Outland and Sylvia Pelizza welcomed the participants and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Meeting summaries and March 15, 17 meetings

Jim Muller asked for any comments on the March 15 and 17 meeting summaries. No changes were offered.

Issue: What level of detail is needed in the meeting summaries?

Jim Muller asked what level of detail is needed in our meeting summaries. The summaries are intended to indicate decisions made at the meeting and list actions needed, but are also intended to provide a record should the same or similar issues arise in the future; we don't want to re-hash issues resolved previously. On the other hand, we don't want the summaries to be too detailed. Participants indicated that they liked the "decision" and "action" format of the summaries.

DECISION: Produce meeting summaries with a medium level of details. Participants may provide Theresa and Jim with additional details they would like included in the summaries.

The March 15 and 17 meetings were discussed. These meetings were mainly to discuss discrepancies between tabular data and GIS analyses brought to light by the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update* table (produced by Sheryl Jones/DEP) and Sally Jue's (FNAI) GIS analyses. Data for SFWMD projects in the table are usually provided by Wanda Caffie-Simpson. Project sizes on Sheryl's table are determined by GIS. Some of the GIS data layers and labeling are being re-worked as a result of these meetings.

ACTION: Frank is re-working the WCA coverage to address an issue with the Wildlife Management Area.

ACTION: For the North Fork St. Lucie project, SFWMD will add another component regarding publicly-owned lands not acquired for the project. A letter of agreement is needed if these lands will be used for SFWMD-project purposes.

ACTION: For the North Fork St. Lucie project, additional work is needed to resolve the Savannas State Park and other acreages.

ACTION: Related to the March 15 and 17 meetings, Sally will add one or two columns to her comparison spreadsheet, indicating the agreed-upon acreages and perhaps a few notes on the discussion. Sheryl will continue to include notes on her table regarding the sources of data; this includes notes that Wanda sends with SFWMD data.

ACTION: Jim Muller will coordinate scheduling of another conference call within the next week between Wanda, Sally, Frank and Jim to resolve additional discrepancies between numbers from the Natural Habitat table and those generated from GIS coverage by Sally.

Selected Land Acquisition Strategy issues and recommended resolutions

Estimated Project Requirement/Cost of Remaining Acres

Issue: The “Estimated Project Requirements” table within the project profile sheet could be confusing because (in the 2009 Land Acquisition Strategy) these costs for 2010-2014 do not necessarily total the “Cost of Remaining Acres.” This would happen if the land acquisition phase of a project extends beyond 2014, or if a project would be complete by 2014 but the person completing the cost projections does not include a projection for each year through 2014.

Suggested resolution: The last year column can be converted to “Other (or Additional) Future Years”, and the “Cost of Remaining Acres” can be the sum of the four separate years and the “Other Future Years.”

Wanda said that SFWMD only fills out all the future year values if the District has land acquisition options in place.

DECISION: Follow the suggested resolution, that the last year column be converted to “Additional Future Years”, and the “Cost of Remaining Acres” can be the sum of the four separate years and the “Additional Future Years.”

ACTION: Jim Muller will revise the project profile form and instructions to reflect the decision and circulate to Task Team members.

Expended by County to Date

Issue: For the county program project summary table, there is ambiguity for the “Expended by County to Date” column regarding land acquisition funds contributed by the local program vs. land acquisition funds from all sources spent by the local program

Suggested resolution – Revise the county program project summary table and instructions to read “County Funds Expended to Date” and include the explanation that funds from other sources spent by the County (e.g., Florida Communities Trust) would be in the “Total Expended to Date” column.

DECISION: Follow the suggested resolution to revise the county program project summary table and instructions to read “County Funds Expended to Date” and include the explanation that funds from other sources spent by the County would be in the “Total Expended to Date” column.

ACTION: Jim Muller will revise the county program project summary table and instructions to reflect the decision and circulate to Task Team members.

Overlapping project lands

Issue: How should overlapping project lands and lands protected through multiple funding sources be reported in such a way as to provide credit to all partners, to avoid double-counting acres, and to have project acreages reported in the LAS match up with those acreages reported in other documents, especially SFER-related documents.

Suggested resolution: The issue is mainly related to the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update* table. Earlier this year the Land Acquisition Task Team decided to not include the same land in more than one project. Overlapping projects are to be given one project name, the project acreage will be the total acreage of the combined project, and a note following the project name or a footnote will indicate which projects are included in the

composite project. This avoids the double-counting, but does not address the comparison of project acres and expenditures in the *Lands Strategy* with those in other documents.

DECISION: Continue to combine overlapping projects under one project name the Natural Habitat table and include an explanatory footnote(s).

ACTION: Sally will continue to calculate project size for overlapping projects listed on the Natural Habitat table.

ACTION: Prepare an additional table that lists which projects were combined. Flag each project composed of overlapping projects with a footnote on the Natural Habitat table that directs the reader to the table that lists the component projects for each combined project (e.g., "This project is composed of two or more projects. Table X lists the component projects of each combined project."). The second table will be included in the Land Acquisition Strategy in the same appendix as the Natural Habitat table.

Land Acquisition Strategy Format

Issue: Will the present format of the Strategy be retained or is substantial re-formatting desired?

Discussion: Theresa Woody said that Task Force Executive Director Greg May is interested in presenting the *Land Acquisition Strategy* in a different, more appealing format, with each year's accomplishments brought to the forefront. Theresa previously provided as potential examples the *Long Island Sound Biennial Report* and examples of SFWMD-produced summaries. Team members discussed potential formats, frequency of production, available graphics assistance and other factors. Participants agreed that the current level of detail in the report is helpful for the original purpose of the report, initiated in response to the GAO report regarding the need for a plan for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration land acquisition. Many partners use the information in the Strategy to look for partnership opportunities and to coordinate land acquisition efforts.

The point was made that significant land acquisition does not necessarily occur each year, but that the annual overview of all accomplishments and the opportunity for information-sharing between partners is important. This report is the broadest view of conservation and restoration land acquisition for the region. The participants agreed that more information is needed from Greg May regarding his vision for the report.

DECISION and ACTION: John Outland and Sylvia Pelizza, as team co-chairs, will talk with Greg May to elucidate his vision for the *Land Acquisition Strategy*, including intended audience(s) and how the Strategy will be used. Sylvia and John will report back to the team at the next LATT meeting.

Logistics – next meeting

John Outland stated that the next LATT meeting will be Wednesday, May 19, in West Palm Beach at the SFWMD office.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 pm.