

**Summary of Decisions and Action Items
May 19, 2010 LATT Meeting
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Land Acquisition Task Team
Wednesday, May 19, 2010
12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida
Building B-1; Bridge Conference Room 2A**

Read-ahead material posted at:

http://www.sfrestore.org/issueteams/latt/documents/handouts_latt.html

Attendees

John Outland	DEP
Theresa Woody	Task Force
Wanda Caffie-Simpson	SFWMD
Frank Razem	SFWMD
Sheryl Jones	DEP
Sally Jue	FNAI
Gary Cochran	FWC
David Gillings	Palm Beach County
Jim Muller	Muller and Associates, Inc

By Phone:

Marsha Bansee	Task Force
Cynthia Guerra	Miami-Dade County
Janet Gill	Miami-Dade County
Hansler Bealyer	USACE

Welcome/Introductions

John Outland welcomed the participants. Sylvia Pelizza, co-chair, could not participate because she was involved in oil-spill response actions. Introductions were made via round-robin.

Review first internal draft/writing

Theresa Woody led the team through a page-by-page review of the first draft of the 2010 Land Acquisition Strategy.

ISSUE: The dates and dollar amounts in the draft Strategy are from the 2009 document.

ACTION: Update all dates and dollar amounts in the Strategy. Theresa Woody will coordinate with team members to accomplish all the changes.

The broader actions/decisions in addition to specific numeric and text updates include:

ACTION: Determine what factor the USACE and OMB use to update land values. Currently SFWMD uses a 4% annual inflation factor in the Strategy when reporting estimated project land costs for projects with federal involvement. The desire is to use a consistent method among all the reports that the Task Force produces for Congress.

ACTION: Theresa Woody and Hansler Bealyer will coordinate with Karen Tippett and Wanda Caffie-Simpson to ensure a consistent inflation factor is used by all reporting agencies.

ISSUE: Some CERP projects do not have project profile sheets but do meet the definition of a nexus of federal involvement.

ACTION: Complete project profile sheets for the projects with federal involvement that did not have profile sheets in previous editions of the Strategy. This includes the:

- Miccosukee Water Management Plan
- Lakes Parks Restoration
- Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Reservation Water Conservation Plan
- West Miami-Dade Wastewater Reuse Pilot
- South Miami-Dade Reuse Pilot projects

DECISION; Theresa Woody, Jim Muller, Hansler Bealyer, Dave Gillings, Cynthia Guerra and representatives from the Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes will work to create these sheets for the 2010 Lands Strategy.

ISSUE: The CERP project profiles still state that the timeline for the projects is from the 2005 Master Implementation. The question was raised whether to use the Integrated Delivery Schedule dates in the 2010 update.

DECISION: Continue to use the 2005 Master Implementation Sequencing Plan to report on CERP project progress, rather than the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS), because the IDS is not comprehensive and does not provide a date for all projects.

ISSUE: There continues to be confusion on the reporting of federal grant dollars spent on a SFWMD project.

DECISION: Explain in the Strategy why some of the reported dollar amounts regarding federal involvement in restoration efforts do not agree. Explanations include appropriated vs. expended, direct cost of land vs. cost of all associated land acquisition activities, and different reporting cycles. Present information in such a way that it clarifies, rather than raising additional questions.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will coordinate with Marsha Bansee and Wanda Caffie-Simpson on this language and ensure that it is consistent with language used in the Strategic Plan.

ISSUE: The recent announcement of the Northern Everglades National Wildlife Refuge occurred outside the reporting period for the 2010 Lands Strategy.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will confer with Sylvia Pelizza on whether to include some text on the Northern Everglades National Wildlife Refuge currently under consideration.

ISSUE: The Rural Lands Stewardship Program has undergone changes during this reporting period.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will coordinate with Sheri Coven of the FL Dept. of Community Affairs on presentation of the Rural Land Stewardship Area Program text.

ISSUE: Surplus lands are an emerging issue that needs to be addressed in the 2010 update.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will coordinate the update the text on surplus land projects and accomplishments.

ISSUES: It is a content source of frustration to the team that we cannot quantify the achievements made towards achieving the Strategic Goals of the Task Force as there are no dates in those goals so the metrics can be quantified.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will continue to advocate for this within the Task Force office. Since the Task Force updated those goals in December of 2007, perhaps progress should be measured beginning January 2008.

ISSUE: The SFER map includes CERP projects that are not CERP or Expedited projects.

ACTION: Wanda Caffie-Simpson and Sally Jue will work together to update the Map Key in Appendix B to remove projects that are not CERP or Expedited Projects, such as Fakahatchee Strand and Ten Thousand Islands NWR.

ISSUE: Overlapping projects need to be separated in a manner that does not result in double counting of the acres and dollars.

ACTION: Sheryl Jones and Sally Jue will work together on the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update* table continue to combine overlapping projects under one project name. We will flag each project composed of overlapping projects with a footnote that directs the reader to a new 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.").

ACTION: Sally Jue will prepare a table related to the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update* table that lists which projects were combined in the *Natural Habitat* table. The second table will be included in the Land Acquisition Strategy in the same appendix as the *Natural Habitat* table. Team members will determine the amount of information to be provided for each component project.

ACTION: SFWMD will break out the natural lands projects into separate profiles; this will result in three additional project profiles from the District.

Review timeline for updating Strategy

ISSUE: The proposed timeline for updating the Lands Strategy has been provided to the team and needs to be vetted by the team. Theresa Woody lead the team through the proposed timeline to update 2010 benchmarks.

DECISION: The timeline for updating the Strategy will not be changed

FWC Conservation Planning Protocol

DISCUSSION: Gary Cochran from FWC provided a briefing to the team on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Conservation Planning Protocol. FWC has developed a new conservation planning protocol to develop optimal resource boundaries/optimal planning boundaries in their land management plans. In development for 10 years, the protocol uses information on natural and cultural resources, development, parcel size, proposed conservation land acquisition projects and other considerations to analyze the area surrounding lands managed by FWC. FWC uses the information to help guide their land acquisition activities. It is hoped that local governments and other agencies and organizations will find the results and approach useful in their conservation planning and other activities.

ACTION: The updated Strategy should include discussion of this activity.

Review data forms and instructions

SUMMARY: Jim Muller gave a brief recap of changes to the data forms and instructions for the Strategy. The main change is to clarify that counties are to report the amount of county funds expended on a project separate from funds from partners, regardless as to who actually spends the money. Funds from partners are reported in a separate place within the forms.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will provide the updated forms and instructions to LATT members to be used in providing information for the 2010 Strategy.

Recap of data discrepancies/pending issues

ISSUE:: A subgroup of the LATT has been addressing discrepancies in the Strategy related to the *Natural Habitat and Species Land Acquisition Update* table, spreadsheet information and GIS analyses. Subgroup meetings were held March 17 and April 27. Meeting summaries and related documents have been prepared or are being finalized and will be posted. Most of the issues have been resolved, and project size and acres acquired have been agreed to for most projects. The discrepancies were due to a number of factors and are explained and resolved in the summaries. One factor was existing conservation lands not owned by SFWMD that are within a CERP project boundary.

ACTION: Finish all discrepancies-related tasks agreed to by the sub-group. Make list of remaining issues and resolve those that can be done without the entire sub-group. For remaining issues, coordinate another subgroup meeting if needed, or address at July mapping meeting. The analysis that Sally Jue is preparing will greatly assist in accomplishing this task.

America's Great Outdoors

DISCUSSION: The Obama Administration has announced the "America's Great Outdoors Initiative". A report on the initiative is due November 15, 2010. As Greg May, Executive Director of the Task Force, considered reformulating the Land Acquisition Strategy, he noted that the Strategy seems to fall within the ideas put forth by the initiative.

Task team members discussed the idea for relating the Strategy to the Initiative. John Outland noted that the lands described in the Strategy are part of the green infrastructure, and provide many benefits in addition to the specific major purpose of each acquisition. He suggested we include a discussion of how the Strategy lands provide these benefits, and to describe how the Strategy fits in with the Great Outdoors Initiative. John suggested incorporating this information into the glossy summary of the Strategy (see below). He said we should emphasize the collaboration and coordination of Task Force members regarding land acquisition, a mosaic of efforts.

Members discussed the value of the Strategy's land acquisition map and how it illustrates the collaborative effort, and that it is a coordinated planning and acquisition effort, not just a coordinated reporting effort. It was recognized that the maps in the Strategy are very detailed, and that either a less-detailed map could be used in the summary, or a zoomed-in view of a portion of the map. The summary should also describe the leveraging of funds and the suite of tools being used. The roles of mitigation, land planning and easements should be included. The summary should start off focusing on the main reasons for the land acquisition, but describe how it provides broader benefits described in the Outdoors Initiative.

Ideas for reformatting Strategy

ISSUE: John Outland reported that he and Sylvia Pelizza discussed the Strategy format with Greg May, Executive Director of the Task Force. Greg May would like a short, glossy summary of the Strategy.

DECISION: Continue to produce the Land Acquisition Strategy in the same amount of detail as previous editions. This detailed information is used by many parties.

DECISION: Team members agreed to try and have a separate glossy-type summary this year for the Strategy, but acknowledged that it may require additional communication/design expertise.

ACTION: Using examples provided by Theresa Woody from the SFWMD and other sources, draft one or more summaries (brochure-style) of the Strategy. These products should present the critical elements of the Strategy in a public-friendly, attractive manner.

Crosswalk with other documents

ISSUE: The Task Force and the SFWMD produce a variety of reports related to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. Some information, especially numbers, presented in the reports appear to conflict with each other. The Land Acquisition Task Team previously discussed the desirability of a crosswalk document explaining the purpose of the different documents and explaining apparently conflicting information.

DECISION: A cross-walk between different documents related to the Restoration would be helpful for team members and the general public. It will be a stand-alone document, not included in the Strategy but available to all Strategy recipients.

ACTION: Prepare a cross-walk between different documents related to the Restoration, briefly describing each document, noting the document contact person, and publication cycle of the document. Clarify any known recurring questions/confusion between documents. The level of detail will be decided by participating team members. It was acknowledged that this task has been an on-going concern and may need to be initiated after the 2010 update is complete.

Next steps

John Outland summarized the next steps. The next meeting will be July 13 data scrub meeting with the full team meeting on July 14 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The meeting will be at the SFWMD.

ACTION: Send out the files used to complete last year's Strategy to team members. Team members are requested to update the files and return them to Theresa Woody by mid-June so that a second internal draft can be reviewed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Theresa Woody will distribute the 2009 Land Acquisition Strategy with CD to all team members.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.