

## LOWER WEST COAST WATERSHED SUBCOMMITTEE

Held on July 16, 2008

The meeting of the Lower West Coast Watershed Subcommittee was held on July 16, 2008 at the offices of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council at 1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Those present included:

Mayor Mick Denham	City of Sanibel
Rae Ann Wessel	SCCF
Jon Iglehart	Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Jim Beever	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
Carla Palmer	CP&A
Judy Ott	SWFRPC

### **Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

Mayor Denham called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### **Agenda Item #2 - Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2008**

The minutes of May 15, 2008 were approved.

Mayor Denham expressed his concern about whether utility directors are aware of what we are doing. He would like to be sure that they are aware and requested that staff send an advanced copy of the resolution to the utility directors, but that we have not yet approved it.

Mr. Beever said that contact had been made with utility directors regarding the wastewater resolution and had received phone calls from Marco, Collier County, Cape Coral, Lee County, Fort Myers and Sarasota. He also stated that no replies were received from the interior counties and that Mr. Crawford would have more details.

Mayor Denham suggested another follow-up.

Mr. Beever said that we can make contact with those that are responsible for stormwater management in the various jurisdictions.

Discussion continued.

Mayor Denham said that hopefully this will be presented at the next Regional Planning Council meeting.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Review of Committee Activities**

Mr. Beever said the draft included changes, as well as improvements to the definitions and that input from DEP has been incorporated.

Ms. Wessel said that the corrections with definitions were mainly with respect to readability. She had a question about what we are doing with agriculture.

Mr. Beever said that this will be addressed in regional conveyance, but not in this one or in retrofit.

Ms. Wessel asked about Phase 1 and 2, corps permits and statewide stormwater rule.

Mr. Beever said it was a regional effect that exceeds what the minimums that state is doing and would reduce amount of stormwater even before treatment issues.

Discussion ensued on MS 4 permits and it was reported that Sanibel was a co-permittee with Lee County.

Discussion on new redevelopment and improvements and if this was a significant step forward from where we are today ensued.

Mr. Beever said it depends on what each municipality adopts.

Discussion on keeping water onsite.

Mr. Beever said it is a vision of better way to do things.

Discussion ensued on DEP working with the RPC with respect to DRI's.

Mayor Denham said it is important for regional governments and asked if we could get a vote on this in August so that we can vote on this at the next meeting. Mr. Beever said would like to have this on after the consent agenda and suggested that Mayor Denham e-mail Mr. Heatherington regarding this matter.

Discussion ensued on single family homes.

Mr. Beever said that this stated this was for all projects (residential, commercial, multi-family and single-family homes)

It was suggested that the resolution should read "including, but not limited to, single-family homes, commercial and multi-family." The Water Management District does not permit single-family homes and DEP does issue permits, but only for wetland impacts.

Mr. Beever said this wording could be placed in front of Section 3 for all new development and redevelopment and in Section A before plans are drawn with respect to developers and homebuilders.

The committee suggested that since the Regional Planning Council covers the Water Management District as well, that in southwest Florida, we have to be careful that we don't connect pollutant laden water with groundwater.

Discussion on recharging groundwater and fertilizer resolution that reduces nitrogen fertilizer, pond design and the existing standards, vegetative strips and littoral borders ensued.

It was suggested by the committee that we might need to ask that be included in development plan review.

Mayor Denham said that the committee needs to start off with what we would like to do (best practice) and how we make sure people do it. He felt it was reasonable to take this to the local government by placing suggestions in front of them.

Mr. Beever said that each local government takes resolution and adopts by taking different approach and that as EAR's come in, they make recommended language changes to the comp plans.

Mayor Denham said any onsite wastewater treatment should be set forth in resolution.

Discussion about stormwater and use of rain barrel and retrofit projects ensued.

Mr. Beever stated that if condos are wanted on the riverfront, the local government can retrofit the area so that the stormwater can be managed.

Ms. Ott stated that with respect to vaults and filters that are structurally sound to go underneath a parking lot, there are plans that are available on how to build them.

Discussion ensued on collecting rainwater and effluent from gray water. The technology is there, but the populace has not been educated.

Ms. Wessel stated that it was important to design retention with proper systems as she had seen dikes that were expected to hold the water put in instead of a profile of horizontal buffers.

Mr. Beever said that it might be better to put the reserve capacity in the regional conveyance resolution.

Discussion ensued on disconnect in the system and not changing anything that is degrading the system.

Mr. Beever said that additions are doable but deletions are a little more difficult. He reported that he will create another draft and circulate it among the committee members.

Mayor Denham said that he was most concerned about preserving the balance.

Discussion ensued on the rules of DEP and how envisioned this going to the Regional Planning Council.

Mayor Denham said that he would provide a report to the Regional Planning Council stating that he would like them to consider the resolution. He asked the committee to come up with six keypoints that would help improve the water quality in the area.

Mayor Denham said that there should be a press release tying this activity to TDML.

Discussion ensued on the onsite resolution. The Onsite Wastewater Association presented white paper to a number of areas in the news media. It was noted by a committee member that this committee had been invited to write a guest opinion by next week. The Governor had approved

in the budget to do an inventory and cross-analysis of putting the state on pump-outs and inspections on existing septic systems.

The State of Florida has in place a permitting process for conventional to advanced wastewater treatment programs. The biggest problem is onsite systems don't have management system. Over 150,000 systems in Lee County and only 10,000 are under a management program. Systems need to be inventoried and put under some sort of a maintenance program.

Discussion ensued on inspection and pump out and on presenting to the developers.

Mr. Beaver talked about the upcoming DRI Workshop where there will be discussion of all the resolutions.

Mayor Denham said would like committee to have a response to my request that could be made to the Regional Planning Council. He stated that while he would like every city to adopt fertilizer resolution, that might not happen.

Discussion ensued on providing developer with the incentive to incorporate it.

Discussion ensued on education program that the resolution is available and for the people that are designing in the field that will be using it so that they will get CEU's. There is an organization that is working on funds to do a DVD for water quality improvements, stormwater and retrofit for homeowners associations.

Mayor Denham reported that Lee County has used the Sanibel DVD and is putting a DVD together for homeowners associations.

Mr. Beaver said that several thousands of dollars were spent on putting it together and that there is a need to find external funding sources.

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Identify and Approve a Date for the Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on August 21, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.