



## **SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 • (561) 686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045 • TDD (561) 697-2574  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680 • [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

### **LAND ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**PROJECT:** Lake Belt Mitigation  
**COUNTY:** Miami-Dade  
**DATE:** February 23, 2006  
**PURPOSE:** Interagency Lake Belt Committee Annual Report Acceptance

**HIGHLIGHTS:** This report provides a summary of the 2005 acquisition/mitigation activities in the South Dade Lake Belt area administered by the Interagency Lake Belt Mitigation Committee.

**CONSIDERATIONS:** The Lake Belt Mitigation Committee is an interagency committee authorized under Florida Statutes Section 373.4149 to oversee expenditures of the mitigation fee on each ton of lime rock and sand sold from the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt area. The interagency Lake Belt Committee comprises of representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection, South Florida Water Management District, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with the Rock Mining Coalition (non-voting member). The Lake Belt Committee is required to "annually prepare and submit to the Governing Board a report evaluating the mitigation costs and revenues generated by the mitigation fee" in accordance with Section 373.41492(9)(a), Florida Statutes.

The Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Annual Report for 2005 highlights the Committee's administration of the mitigation fee as well as the Committee's accomplishments for 2005. The Committee's administration of the mitigation fee included:

1. Transferring and approving expenditures and encumbrances totaling \$3,736,955;

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2. Adopting a Resolution supporting legislation proposed by the Rock-Mining Industry to substantially increase the mitigation fee paid per ton of lime rock mined. The industry supported increased mitigation fees are intended to ensure adequate funds are available to acquire the mitigation lands necessary to offset mining impacts. The proposed amendment to Section 373.41492, Florida Statutes, is as follows:
  - a. Increases the mitigation fees to:
    - 12 cents on January 1, 2007
    - 18 cents on January 1, 2008
    - 24 cents on January 1, 2009
  - b. Restarts the annual adjustment of the fee as provided in Section 373.41492, Florida Statutes, on January 1, 2010, using the base fee of 24 cents.
  - c. Adds funding from Miami-Dade County and the South Florida Water Management District as potential reimbursable mitigation funding sources in Section 373.41492(6)(a), Florida Statutes.
3. Accepting the South Florida Water Management District updated cost estimate for Pennsuco enhancement/long term management of \$1630/acre and approved the use of this cost estimate for mitigation activities in 2005.

Highlights of the Committee's accomplishments included:

1. Approved 320.9 mitigation acres through acquisition, enhancement, and long-term management of Pennsuco property acquired by the Division of State Lands through a land swap with Tarmac. The total Committee approved mitigation acres between 2002 and 2005 is 2,623.7, which has resulted in the acquisition, enhancement and long-term management of 936.5 acres in Pennsuco and the enhancement and long-term management of an additional 3,375.4 acres in Pennsuco.
2. Requested the South Florida Water Management District reinstate an aggressive willing seller program by contacting all remaining private land owners in the Pennsuco with an offer based on the recent appraisals.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**RECOMMENDATION:** A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District accepting the Interagency Lake Belt Mitigation Committee Annual Report for 2005.

Prepared by: Beth McArdle 2/22/06  
Beth McArdle, Administrative Assistant – Sr.  
Land Support Division  
Date

Reviewed by: John Dunnuck 2/22/06  
John Dunnuck, Department Director  
Land Management and Operations  
Date

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Mac'Kie, Assistant Deputy Executive Director  
CERP Staff  
Date

Reviewed by: John Dunnuck for 2/27/06  
Kenneth G. Ammon, P.E., Deputy Executive Director  
CERP Staff  
Date