



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
RECREATIONAL ISSUES WORKSHOP
SFWMD, Building B1, Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL
August 17, 2009,
5:00 p.m.
MEETING SUMMARY**

ACTION:

The Recreation Issues Workshop participants present provided comments (summarized below in Item 4) to staff of the SFWMD and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) responsible for production of the Master Recreation Plan (MRP) component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS:

- Fishing on Stormwater Treatment Areas
- Catfish Creek Public Access Update

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions, David Lithgow, Chair

Chair Lithgow welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for self introductions.

Item 2: Recreation Issues:

1. DuPuis Recreation Area (DuPuis):
 - a. Stakeholder requests were made to:
 - i. Correct the current black and white equestrian trail map. SFWMD Staff (Staff) agreed to review and correct the trail map to color.
 - ii. Create an additional 25 mile loop on existing fire breaks. Staff had concerns over the level of existing trails and would need to further review this request with the DuPuis land manager.
 - iii. Run electric to the family campground area to support a campground host. Staff will follow-up with the DuPuis land manager on this request.

2. WCA-3A, South:
 - a. Stakeholder request to provide additional track access. Staff response was Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) would need to take the lead on this matter.

3. Lake Kissimmee and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL):
 - a. The Kissimmee River Valley Sportsman's Association thanked the District for supplying picnic tables and fire rings for the designated primitive campsites located in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.
 - b. Stakeholder request was to move the northern airboat boundary line. Staff responded that this line was agreed upon by the WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop, and approved as part of the SFWMD Governing Board resolution for the 2009-2010 hunting season. Staff agreed to revisit the request for the 2010-2011 season.

4. L-8 Canal:
 - a. Stakeholder thanked the Staff for moving forward with an agreement with FWC to provide access to the L-8 Canal adjacent to the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area (Corbett).

5. Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs):
 - a. Stakeholder request was to have a future meeting topic to discuss the expansion of fishing within the STAs.
 - b. Stakeholder request to have annual bird watching count not be in conflict with hunting. Staff stated that this would not be a conflict. Staff would need to follow-up and provide confirmation that vehicular access to appropriate STAs would be authorized.

6. C-23 and C-24 Canals (C23-24):
 - a. Stakeholder request to mow the C23/24 vacant land parking areas prior to the 2009-2010 hunt season. Staff agreed to follow through with that request.

Florida Airboat Association recognized SFWMD's Steve Coughlin and Division of Land Stewardship staff with a plaque for the District's cooperative work with the stakeholders in establishing the KCOL as a Managed Area.

Item 3: Kissimmee River Restoration Update, Dave Colangelo (SFWMD)

1. C-37 Canal:
 - a. Stakeholders requested that the adjacent fish camps be notified of the future widening of the C-37 canal and that users be provided access around construction for access to Lake Kissimmee and Lake Cypress.

2. S-65D Water Control Structure:
 - a. Stakeholder request was to provide an airboat crossing over the road for north/south access to the Kissimmee River.

3. Catfish Creek:

Request was made to provide an update on this project at a future meeting.

Item 4: Review of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Master Recreation Plan (MRP), Jerry Krenz (SFWMD); Shauna Allen and Paul Stevenson, USACE: SFWMD: Purpose of this item is to review comments received during commenting period and seek concurrence with SFWMD and USACE responses.

1. Ethnographic Study – ‘Gladesmen/Swamp Culture:

Comment – ‘Gladesmen Study causes an overarching change

Response – Study will be referenced by projects and will follow Federal guidance for NEPA Social Effects and Section 106 compliance

2. Impacts

Comment - How does MRP address impacts?

Response – Defines the resource assessment process for recreation used in the Project Implementation Report in conjunction with NEPA

3. Kissimmee Basin

Comment – Why is Kissimmee Basin, 3.1.5, described in plan

Response – The SCORP region for the Kissimmee River is partially in the CERP Okeechobee region

4. Graphic 5.4.1 Allapattah Wildlife Management Area:

Comment – Why is hunting shown on this chart as “partially suitable”?

Response – This graphic is a sample of works in progress. The final result is in chapter 8 and hunting is changed to a “potential activity”.

5. Chapter 4

Comment –Why is this chapter here because it appears all of these projects are not described?

Response –This is the base line describing each project’s concept in CERP. Projects can change then recreation could change.

6. SCORP and Gladesman Study

Comment –SCORP does not recognize Gladesman/Swamp Folk Culture.

Response – SCORP is an existing State of Florida (Department of Environmental Protection) plan that cannot be changed except during the planning cycle.

Discussion –Should request recognition in future SCORP documents.

8. Motor boating and Fishing

Comment – Does motor boating automatically include fishing?

Response – Motor boating does include fishing. We will change the map icon to motor boating/fishing and edit Section 5.1.2.2: Motor boating to add that fishing from the boat is a part of motor boating.

9. Report Card

Comment – Hunting should be split into 3 categories, big game, waterfowl and small game.

Response – Two categories:

- a. Upland hunting
- b. Waterfowl/alligator hunting

After discussion agreed on four categories:

1. Big Game (deer, hog and turkey)
2. Small game
3. Waterfowl
4. Alligator

10. Comment – Frogging should be an activity.

Response – We will add Frogging

11. Comment –Activities should have four categories of boats:

- a. Non-motorized,
- b. Motorized,
- c. Airboats,
- d. personal watercrafts

Response – three categories:

- a. Non- motorized boats
- b. Outboards
- c. Airboats

After discussion, consensus on three categories:

- a. Non- motorized boats
- b. Inboard/Outboard boats
- c. Airboats (report metric will measure acres of dispersed use before and after project).

12. Comment – Air boat trails should be added to Trails section

Response – Too problematic to determine which trails and measure them

13. Comment – Camping is not shown but campgrounds are. Need Camping as an activity

Response –Camping will be shown as an activity.

14. Fishing Habitat

Comment – Design projects to include fish habitat features.

Response – MRP not appropriate place for project design comments.

15. Properties Not Shown

Comment –Nine Gems and Cypress Creek properties are not shown.

Response – These lands are not yet official CERP lands. Will not show as CERP lands until the Project Implementation Report is completed.

MRP Timelines:

Chair – Formatting issues need to be addressed. It is not an easy document to navigate unless you know the document

Shauna Allen - Still need to complete the Ethnographic Study report. If you have any comments please send them in. Comments will be received for the next three weeks, and it will then be released for final public review probably mid to

late September. Comments from this group of stakeholders will be incorporated before it is released.

Item 5: Adjourn: 7:45 p.m.