

ADOPTED

**Myakka River Management Coordinating Council
Nature Center
Oscar Scherer State Park
1843 South Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida 34229**

**November 2, 2007
9:10 A.M. – 3:25 P.M.**

MINUTES

The meeting began at 9:10 a.m. Jono Miller explained the procedure and introductions were made.

Revision and approval of Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2007

Manon Lavoie moved for approval and Dianne Davies seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Report and discussion- Potential Expansion of the Wild and Scenic Designation

The revisions that were decided on October 5th were made and the draft of the report was posted online. One suggested change that was not made was the inclusion of a map showing the critical manatee habitat. Jono Miller and Stacia Hetrick decided not to include it because of the poor quality of the map. It does not have a title or a date.

Discussion followed regarding the map.

Bill Byle moved to include a map of the federally designated critical habitat for manatees. Greg Nowaski seconded.

Manon Lavoie volunteered to find a better map if possible. Discussion continued.

The Motion to include a map passed unanimously.

Stacia discussed the new language at the front of Chapter 4 which summarizes the chapter. She will be accurately numbering the pages before it is sent to the Legislature. On page 40 of Chapter 4, the word “published” will be changed to “filed.” There was no objection.

Discussion continued regarding including the letter from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program in the report.

Susan Hochuli recommended that the PowerPoint presentation that was given at the public hearings be included in the report. It was discussed adding it as an appendix.

Don Caillouette asked where the City of Venice should send their Resolution to support the extension. It was discussed that he should send it to the State and copy the Council.

ADOPTED

Susan Hochuli pointed out that the Charlotte County Resolution regarding the designation was not in the report. Stacia stated she did not receive the Resolution.

Andy Neuhofer moved that no comments that were received after the deadline be included. Greg Blanchard seconded.

Discussion continued.

The above Motion did not pass.

Manon Lavoie made a motion to include both the CHNEP letter and the Charlotte County Resolution in the Report. Don Caillouette seconded. The Motion passed. Two opposed.

Stacia gave a timeline for the report. Albert Gregory clarified by saying that the Legislation requires that the report be submitted to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor by January 1, 2008. DEP will receive the Council's Report as well as recommendations the Council makes and simply transmit it on behalf of the Council to those three.

Howard Berna stated that nowhere in the document has he seen the definition of the Myakka River Area.

Discussion continued.

Mary Jelks moved to send the report with the corrections discussed this morning to DEP for transmittal to the Governor and Legislature before January 1, 2008. Tom Williams seconded. Discussion occurred. The Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding Council membership and how representation on the Council was achieved.

Jono read a Motion which was drafted and viewed on an overhead screen as Motion 2: Myakka River Management Coordination Council awaits Manatee County's staff analysis of mechanisms currently in place that serve to protect the Myakka River and its basin in Manatee County and encourages land owners, local government and other Manatee County stake holders to identify any shortfall in protection and address those through strategies that emphasize incentives and property rights and avoid concerns about takings and increased public recreational use.

Discussion continued.

Stacia brought everyone up to date on the resolutions that the County Commissions have passed concerning the potential designation.

ADOPTED

Greg Blanchard explained that the Manatee County Board had directed staff to do the analysis mentioned in Motion 2. It is likely to be ready for the Board to receive in some form by next week. Greg offered to provide the Council with the text of the staff report by the next meeting.

Discussion continued.

Belinda Perry made a motion that the MRMCC endorses extending the Wild and Scenic River designation into Manatee County. Greg Nowaski seconded.

Discussion occurred.

Andy Neuhofer called a Question. Jono explained that would require two-thirds of the members voting to limit debate which Jono would advise against. This action failed. There were not enough members who voted for this.

Jono recommended voting against Belinda Perry's motion. He thinks this is not the time to be advocating extension into Manatee County. He personally feels that the County is interpreting legislation differently than he would in terms of water supply. People have made a number of assumptions about what the designation would mean in Manatee County but notwithstanding that he just doesn't think it's an opportune time to be pushing this issue.

Albert Gregory stated that when the Myakka River was designated in 1985 that action was taken as a result of direct public support and a widely perceived problem and the common perception that the wild & scenic designation was going to be a solution to a problem. People in Sarasota County supported it very willingly and very openly. His concern at this time if the designation goes forward either in Manatee County or Charlotte County is that the designation will be perceived by the public as being imposed on them. In his opinion that will set the tone for all time that wild and scenic rivers are bad.

Greg Nowaski thought a lot of the problems came from the regulations that were imposed by Sarasota County not by the wild and scenic designation. He believes people are mixing those two up to the point where Manatee County is afraid. He believes we must separate the two.

Phil Vets, property owner on the river, expressed his opinion to the Motion. He has gotten involved in this because when he first moved on the river this Council which was made up differently than it is made up now. It is his concern that because the makeup of the Council has changed, the Council would be remiss if it did not heed the conversation that has taken place both in Manatee, Charlotte and Sarasota counties. He believes the reason that there has been such an outcry against the designation is that somewhere along the line there was a disconnect. He wants to protect the river but he also wants to help fix the problem and ensure his rights and the property rights of everyone.

ADOPTED

Jono replied that the regulation of the uplands adjacent to the river area was specifically for Sarasota County to make the decisions on.

Discussion continued regarding property rights.

Daniel Brasswell, property owner in Port Charlotte. An outstanding point is that to sell this to any property owner anywhere you have to have a clear-cut viable plan. There is no way they could support this without a plan.

Hugh Taylor, property owner on river in Manatee County, heartily agrees with the previous two testimonies. He believes this Council would be doing itself a disservice if it supports the designation into Manatee County.

This Motion failed with three supporting it and three abstaining: Susan Hochuli, Terry Green and Charles Kovach.

Stacia explained that there was no plan in place in Sarasota County before the river was designated. The actual wording of the protections, including the River Rule and the establishment of a 220-foot protection zone, were not known before it was designated. That came afterwards as a result of a management plan that was about \$30,000 and took years, involved the Council's input and DEP's input. She believes a management plan will not be done in Manatee County unless it is designated wild and scenic.

Albert Gregory added that for the whole Myakka Wild and Scenic designation to exist, river protection will be developed working with citizens, the local governments, state agencies, agricultural interest, etc. If you bring the right people together in a group like this Council they can come up with protection that will achieve the purpose of protecting the river and also protect the interests of stakeholders.

Manon Lavoie made the following Motion: A letter be sent to Manatee Board of County Commissioners encouraging coordination between the Council, the BBC, Manatee County staff, Manatee County residents and other Manatee County stakeholders to come up with conservation solutions that are agreeable to all parties. Greg Nowaski seconded. Discussion took place. 11 were in favor and four opposed. The motion passed.

Tom Williams proposed another Motion: The MRMCC declines to endorse extending the Wild and Scenic Designation into Manatee County at this time. Tom Moralee seconded.

Discussion followed.

Albert Gregory proposed that Tom Williams's Motion be combined with Manon Lavoie's Motion to send a letter.

ADOPTED

Two opposed the motion. Dianne Davies and Charles Kovach abstained. The Motion was passed.

Marlene Guffey moved to combine the two motions as Albert Gregory suggested. Tom Moralee seconded it.

The Motion is as follows: Council declines to endorse the extension of the Florida Wild and Scenic River designation into Manatee County at this time. The Council shall send a letter to Manatee BCC encouraging coordination between the Council, the BBC, Manatee County staff, Manatee County residents and other Manatee County stakeholders to come up with conservation solutions that are agreeable to all parties. Charles Kovach, Susan Hochuli and Dianne Davies abstained. The Motion passed.

Greg Nowaski moved to recommend that this Council make no recommendation to endorse or support the extension of the designation within Charlotte County. Marlene Guffey seconded it. Discussion followed. Marlene Guffey withdrew her Second. Dianne Davies seconded it.

It was discussed that “**at this time**” be added to the end of the motion sentence.

Discussions continued.

Randy Roberson, property owner in Gulf Cove stated that motion #1: “the MRMCC declines to endorse extending the Wild and Scenic Designation into Charlotte County” was much stronger and satisfying than the present motion.

Al Benanatti, homeowner in Gulf Cove stated he was satisfied with the existing controls, and that they take care of the river too.

Dan Braswell, Port Charlotte. Manatee County has the possibilities of the river becoming badly polluted due to the phosphate and somewhat due to agriculture. In Sarasota County it is taken care of. In Charlotte County any development that can be done is there. This Act will have no affect on the pollution possibilities unless you eliminate the homeowners.

Six members supported the Motion. Motion fails.

Marlene Guffey made a Motion to accept the statement that follows: The MRMCC declines to endorse extending the Wild and Scenic Designation into Charlotte County at this time. Andy Neuhofer seconded. Discussion followed.

Tom Moralee stated he would prefer not to put “at this time” on the end. Jono concurred. Marlene accepted that.

The Motion now reads: The MRMCC declines to endorse extending the Wild and Scenic Designation into Charlotte County.

ADOPTED

Three members opposed the Motion, Charles Kovach, Dianne Davies and Susan Hochuli abstained. The Motion passed.

Jono discussed attrition. The Council has been working on reestablishing representation. Through attrition many homeowners have been lost. Jono suggested to end up with a total of four riverfront property representatives; one would be from above Snook Haven which is currently Marlene Guffey; one would be from between Snook Haven and US 41; one from the manufactured housing (Association of Myakka Communities) on the east side of the river south of US 41 and one from the subdivision that is on the west side.

Discussion included whether representatives should include seasonal owners, whether they could live on a canal. It was agreed that they could be seasonal and Jono had no problem with them living on a canal off the river.

Maran Hilgendorf moved to have five riverfront property owners represented on the Council. The Motion is as follows: Responding to attrition in representation, the Council requests support from DEP staff in filling a total of five voting riverfront resident seats on the Council, with a minimum of one from above Snook Haven (currently Marlene Guffey), one from between Snook Haven and US 41, one from the Association of Myakka Communities south of US 41 on the east side of the River and one from the west side of the River south of US 41. The Motion was seconded by Susan Hochuli.

Discussion followed.

Marlene Guffey explained that she wanted two from her area.

Discussion continued.

Maran Hilgendorf agreed to accept “preferably a minimum of one from above Snook Haven...”

The Motion now reads: Responding to attrition in representation, the Council requests support from DEP staff in filling a total of five voting riverfront resident seats on the Council, preferably with a minimum of one from above Snook Haven (currently Marlene Guffey), one from between Snook Haven and US 41, one from the Association of Myakka Communities south of US 41 on the east side of the River and one from the west side of the River south of US 41.

Ernie Estevez suggested we say a total of five “new” members so it wouldn’t be construed that it was intended to limit to five members total since we already have five members now.

Jono stated that there are several Council members that own property on the river, but we’ve lost people who actually reside on the river.

ADOPTED

Randy Roberson objected to the wording because it would limit membership to just people who lived on the river.

Maran Hilgendorf asked to take out “riverfront” and just say “five voting resident seats on the Council preferably riverfront residents with a minimum of one from Snook Haven.”

Jono felt it was important to say “riverfront” since most members of the Council are residents.

Marlene Guffey stated to leave “riverfront” since she felt homeowners on the river needed more representation.

Phil Vets explained that he believes a disservice will be done if the Council limits the number for membership. The rules need to be institutionalized in writing specifically so that there is a plan. If rules are institutionalized and the Council has the membership make-up which is the stakeholders as well as some of the government entities the Council will be able to pass a product that will be acceptable to everyone and possibly make Charlotte and Manatee counties feel better. He believes that membership should be 50% stakeholders for the purpose of protecting the River.

Jono and Council agreed that this Motion will take care of the present needs and when the needs change it can be changed again.

The Motion passed with ten in favor and five opposed.

Lunch Break at 12:28 P.M.

Council Meeting resumed at 1:05 P.M.

Manon Lavoie proposed that the issue of the number of membership representation on the Council be discussed again in order to clarify. She feels that citizen participation at least should be covered in the by-laws.

It was agreed that this subject would be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

McMahan and Associates-Isles of Athena interchange with I-75 – Michael Spitz.

His associates are in the process of developing a new interchange on I-75 in the City of North Port in Sarasota County. The location is in the northeast corner of North Port near to the boundary with Charlotte County, five miles northwest of King’s Highway and four miles southeast of Toledo Blade Blvd.

ADOPTED

There are eight federal requirements for an interchange that have to be reviewed. Everything they do is based on prediction because the development is not built. Their predictions do show that an interchange will be needed at the above-discussed location.

Greg Nowaski asked if this needed interchange was because of the way it is now or because of development.

Mike answered it was because of development in general.

The interchange is not currently in the Comprehensive Plan. They are working with the City of North Port to rectify that and it's unclear at this point how long that will take.

This is a very long and involved process. He would have to say a typical interchange takes 15 to 20 years from conception to completion. At this point they have gone through about 2/3 of the process for the IJR (Interchange Justification Report) approval only and they are well into their second year. They are currently working with FDOT and local authorities to review their draft and they will hopefully be submitting their final version of the IJR shortly.

If the Isles of Athena DRI does not happen the interchange won't be built is true to a point. They have a private development company that has put together a proposal for a development and is offering to build an interchange. The County analysis also includes an interchange in the general area.

Stacia stated that Jim Beaver sent his update on the Isles of Athena by email.

Other answered questions: the preliminary designs are covering an eight lane design. The study is based upon the physical constraints of the bridge and traffic volumes.

Opportunities for public input are at the North Port City Council. As far as the interchange itself that will commence when they get into the PD&E study which requires all the notifications. Mike will let Stacia know when that is.

It is planned to be a special taxing district to finance the bridge.

Stephanie Russo from FWC-Isles of Athena. FWC will be involved in the commenting of the development order. What Stephanie believes about the DRI process is that the applicant has decided that they feel they are sufficient enough and don't want to go through any more requests for additional information. The Regional Planning Council will decide whether they are sufficient or not. At that time agencies and public can still comment. FWC is not done commenting on the project.

The anticipated budget for the interchange is \$60-80 million. Stephanie stated that Isles of Athena and the two other projects can constitute almost 10,000 acres of undeveloped land being proposed for development.

ADOPTED

UPDATES

Sarasota County-Myakka Ordinance compilation update – Rachel Herman

The Myakka River Protection Zone ordinances are currently housed in four different codes: earth-moving, tree protection, land development and zoning. What Sarasota County is in the process of doing is combining all of those existing regulations into one comprehensive document. Their initial plan was to not change any of the public policy that's currently in place. The Board of County Commissioners has now directed staff to clarify on what's exempt in the 50-foot buffer.

Howard Berna passed out the draft document.

Comments on the draft can be sent by email or phone or fax. They will collect all the comments and then with the Board's direction they will take that information given to them last Wednesday and put that into a draft before a public workshop. Everyone on the Council will be invited to attend the public workshop (early December). Their public hearing is scheduled for January 23, 2008.

Stacia added that there were several things discussed at the Board meeting as far as bringing to the public hearings the ideas of making more items exempt within the buffer area. Stacia asked Rachel to elaborate on that.

Rachel responded that things that are relatively de minimis in their impact to natural resources such as possibly allowing the minor things like wading/kiddie pools, barbecue grills, etc. Things the code is presently silent on are not expressly prohibited, but they wanted to allow and elaborate on what could be permitted so that everyone is clear what is and isn't allowed. The Board is willing to get more clarification on what's prohibited and what is exempt and that will be elaborated on in the draft that goes to the public workshop.

Greg Nowaski asked about the removal of exotics.

Rachel responded that current policy is if you have nuisance and invasive plants you can take them out.

Marlene Guffey expressed concerns about property rights for property owners on small lots where the 220-foot protection zone encompasses their whole lot. Marlene asked the Council to let owners open this back up and either revise or repeal those ordinances that pertain to lots less than five acres.

Marlene made a Motion for this Council to ask the County Commissioners to revisit the four ordinances for property owners that are under five acres and to see if we can have some meetings with government and staff, property owners and concerned citizens.

ADOPTED

Michael Chouinard stated that Jon Thaxton and staff unanimously voted to look into repealing that.

Manon Lavoie seconded Marlene's Motion.

Howard Berna stated that this action is their intent for having public workshops, citizen communication, etc. It is something that they are in favor of. Their objective in putting all the rules under one umbrella is to make the rules livable.

Discussion on wording of Marlene's Motion occurred.

Marlene withdrew her previous Motion.

Marlene next moved that the Council either recommends or say they have no objection to supporting the changes of the Rules back to 2003 on property owners less than 5 acres.

Tom Moralee seconded Marlene's new Motion.

Discussion followed.

Jono tried to clarify that there may be plenty of problems with the Rules but it may be how it's been implemented and interpreted and communicated more than with how it was written. All the red and blue in the draft suggests that between the county staff and the county commission they will entertain changes.

Phil Vets stated he wanted to see the Pre-2003 Rules.

Rachel Herman stated she would come up with the pre-2003 rules if the Council suggested it.

Jono stated that one option would be for the Council to have a non-binding advisory opinion that it would be helpful if the County staff could show the four ordinances in question in 2003 and how they were changed.

Manon Lavoie suggested members go home and read the draft and come up with constructive suggestions at the next Council meeting.

Discussion continued.

Rachel Herman stated that this would consolidate the existing regulations and potentially change them.

Variances were discussed. Right now their board can grant a variance to a structure within the 50-foot buffer zone but no closer to the river than 25 feet.

ADOPTED

Marlene's Motion of the Council supporting or not objecting to changing the Rules back to pre-2003 failed.

Manon Lavoie moved that the Council postpone this issue until the January meeting prior to the County Commission meeting after everyone has read what the County has proposed and further discussions between County staff and the residents have taken place.

Greg Nowaski seconded.

Tom Moralee stated that he would be more in favor of working with a subcommittee of the Council to develop some regulations that they could put forth so the Board can approve it for the homeowners.

Discussion followed on the topic of a subcommittee.

Jono suggested that the Council could meet within the two weeks prior to the Board of County Commissioners and have the advantage of seeing what material is going to the Board. At that time they could take an action as a group or as individuals who felt strongly about material brought up and state their comments at the public hearing.

Discussion about whether to postpone the County's public hearing occurred. Jono indicated that he did not think it was a good idea to postpone it. Jono explained that the Council could be brought up to speed by a subcommittee and submit a report to the County with comments.

Jono continued saying the admission ticket for serving on the subcommittee is that folks in Marlene Guffey's neighborhood invite whoever from the Council that wants to look at the situation first hand.

Jono asked for volunteers for the subcommittee. The following members volunteered: Marlene Guffey, Tom Moralee, Belinda Perry, Jono Miller, Charles Kovach.

Jono asked Marlene to coordinate and they will pick a date.

Manon Lavoie asked to add to her Motion to hear the recommendation of the subcommittee. Rewording of her Motion is as follows: ***The Council postponed its decision for support to a Sarasota County ordinance until further review by the subcommittee.***

Marlene stated that she believed the Council did not need to be involved. It is only one small community where she lives that is concerned about the ordinances.

It was determined that no Motion was needed. Manon removed her Motion.

ADOPTED

Jono clarified that the next Council meeting would be held prior to the County Commission meeting. There will be a subcommittee with the above five members who will try to learn more about the issues the property owners have. They will have some sort of report or input prior to the next meeting.

Stacia volunteered to acquire the four ordinances in strike-through/underline format and the draft ordinance compilation document and email them to the Council and interested parties.

Sarasota County-Myakka River Protection Zone Update – Howard Berna

With regard to permitting and compliance along the river since the last Council meeting there has been three dock permits: one has been issued; two are still currently under review, one is just the addition of a boat lift to an existing dock, the other is a new dock being considered.

With regard to compliance, they have had four cases since Council meeting: one has been resolved, three still pending resolution. He does not have all the details. There is one variance application being considered in the Myakka River Protection Zone.

Sarasota County-Environmentally Sensitive Lands Update – Belinda Perry

There have been no acquisitions since August; however there is a potential contract that is going to the County Commission on November 27, 2007 for approximately eight acres in-holding within one of their existing sites in Rocky Ford that belongs to the Green family with a stipulation that they have agreed upon for first-right-of-refusal for another in-holding within that same site; should they decide to sell in the future.

Charlotte County Update – Bill Byle

After 10 years of local governments and environmental groups fighting the movement of phosphate mining down the Peace River and Myakka River watersheds, there are currently negotiations going on between Lee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties, the Water Authority and Mosaic Fertilizer to settle the last 10 years of battles.

Bill is here to tell the Council how that could impact the Myakka River. One can see the entire draft compact on the Charlotte County website. Summarizing: the phosphate industry is offering the Water Authority a piece of land somewhere between Manatee County and Desoto County, on mined or unmined land, large enough to build a 6 billion gallon reservoir. In exchange they would like the people who have been fighting them for the last six years in court (primarily Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota & the Water Authority) to agree to drop all ongoing litigation and agree not to object to anything that the phosphate companies do for the next 30 years.

They made some other concessions in this settlement agreement. One of those concessions important to this Council is that they have agreed to stay out of the 100-year

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floodplain of the Peace River and some of its major tributaries like Horse Creek, Payne's Creek and Charley Creek. The list does not include the Myakkahatchee Creek/Big Slough system.

In Hardee County, the largest mine is the 30,000-acre Pine Level/ Keys Tract Mine. A good bit of this mine, probably over approx. 30 sq. mi. of it, sits on the top of the headwaters of the Big Slough/Myakkahatchee Creek system which comes down into the Myakka River. The City of North Port gets half of this water from the Big Slough surface water system.

According the EPA Teneroc study, 40% of this land will end up as solid clay 80 feet thick. Bill Welling's study of the USGS helps one understand that making 20 square miles of this into solid clay is going to severely restrict if not totally impede the infiltration and recharge of the surficial aquifer. And it will also block any base flow during the dry season of water trying to get to this system.

According to the Teneroc study this land will qualify as a Superfund site because it has elevated levels of 14 radioactive materials and a dozen dangerous inorganics that are not suitable for drinking water. This is not a temporary impact of mining. The clay settling areas for thousands of years. The half life of radium 226 down to 222 is 1,800 years.

The reason the Peace River has gone dry five of the last six years is because of the impact of phosphate mining and clay settling areas on the base flow in the upper part of the river. It's not because we are in a dry spell. Expect that the same thing that has happened there can happen here. The impact here is that when the fresh water coming down the rivers is reduced the salinity will move up the river. Dr. Peebles', USF Marine Lab, studies says that when you reduce fresh water coming down the river the salinity wedge moves further up the river. As this happens the river gets smaller consequently causing a disproportionate reduction in the nursing grounds for the estuary.

Dr. Mary Jelks moved that the MRMCC recommends that the Lee County, Charlotte County and Sarasota County and the Manasota Regional Water Authority not agree to any settlement with the phosphate mining companies until a third party study is completed that ascertains whether or not any new mines will adversely impact the Myakka River or any of its major tributaries or contiguous wetlands. MRMCC also recommends that the settlement agreement also state no mining and/or replacement of clay settling areas will be allowed in the 100-year floodplain of the Myakkahatchee Creek-Big Slough Watershed. Jill Green seconded Mary's Motion.

Discussion occurred.

Diane Davies stated that one thing Bill stated in his presentation was not entirely agreeable to her agency. The Peace River does go dry every year. The Peace River doesn't go dry strictly due to the history of phosphate mining. The Peace River goes dry because the potentiometric surface of the Floridan Aquifer has been dropped. That reason is because of pumping in the aquifer. The phosphate industry, as well as

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agriculture, residential and commercial pump water from the aquifer. Phosphate in the past 15 years has improved their recirculation systems to the point where they are basically recycling 90% of their water.

Bill explained that Bill Llewellyn and USGS conclude that the clay settling areas are the primary cause of the loss of base flow to the Peace River. It has only been in the last five of the six years that this stretch of the Peace River above Ft. Meade has gone dry.

Bill stated that Llewellyn explained that the water going down the sink holes is not the reason there is no water going down the river. The river is wet in the upper and lower portion. There is a stretch in the middle where it is dry. That is because of the clay settling areas on each side of the river.

Susan Hochuli gave meeting information for those interested in the Phosphate Mining Compact.

Dr. Jelk's Motion passed with eleven in favor and 1 opposed. Dianne Davies, Greg Blanchard and Susan Hochuli abstained.

Stacia stated that the State and Local agreement between North Port, DEP, DCA for the management of the 220-foot Myakka River Protection Zone has been adopted by the North Port Commission. It is in the possession of Department of Community Affairs. After they sign it they will send it to DEP for final signatures.

SWFWMD Update – Diane Davies

Manasota Basin Board held its annual planning workshop on October 17, 2007 where they revised the priorities for funding. She has copies of a memo that she presented to this Council from Dianne to the Executive Deputy Director of the changes from FY08 priorities to FY09 priorities and the reasons why.

In FY08 the Myakka River Watershed by itself was one of the priorities. In FY09 the Board decided they wanted to broaden that. Since the Myakka River Watershed Initiative study had already begun they decided to strike the Myakka River Watershed and put in Watershed Management Program which would address the Myakka River Watershed.

Dianne discussed funding for the Peace River and Manasota Basins for the future. She also discussed reclaimed water fees.

Questions followed.

Dianne also discussed FEMA maps and the District Strategic Plan.

Department of Environmental Protection Update – Charles Kovach

ADOPTED

There was no presentation. Charles is the senior scientist in the Tampa office. He coordinates all of the regulatory programs and reports directly to the district director in that office.

Questions followed.

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Update – Stacia Hetrick for Maran Hilgendorf

The NEP calendar came out for next year. Two of the months feature the Myakka River. November 3rd is the Nature Festival put on the by NEP for free from 10:00-3:00 p.m. at the Charlotte County Sports Park. Additional details were on their website.

Myakka Wild and Scenic River Biologist's Report – Stacia Hetrick

A couple of permits are under review; a couple permits are issued. Renovation is going on, boat docks under construction.

Future projects DEP is planning on doing: An interpretive program is being set up at Snook Haven. They want to try to do educational interpretive programs at other locations. Also they will do an exotic plant removal day.

They have worked in the past with Sarasota County and the FWC on getting the abandoned crab traps removed on the river. They will continue to make this a priority. Legally they can't remove them from the river. FWC has to be there with them. So they have been working with FWC to get people out there who can remove them.

Speeding: every time they see someone speeding they do document it. If they can they stop them to let them know what the rules are. They are not law enforcement so they can't issue citations. The Council sent a letter for DEP recommending more law enforcement on the River. A letter was received back from DEP about that which was sympathetic but not promising.

John Chassey stated that there were still abandoned crab traps south of the I-75. Stacia added that there are at least 100 crab traps on the river. Our Rule does not regulate commercial fishing. This is a legal activity.

FDOT – Manon Lavoie

They are working on the I-75 project PD&E. They are hoping to be able to present in June depending on when the Council meets.

Susan Kinney hopes to give an update on the SR 72 resurfacing project at the next meeting.

ADOPTED

They will have their new five-year board program where they actually have all their projects for Sarasota, Manatee, and Charlotte County by January. The Public Comments end January 3rd, 2008. Manon will be able to provide copies if desired.

Meeting Dates

The next Council meeting was set for January 11, 2008; full session. April 11, 2008 was set for the following meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Ordinance Compilation, Sarasota County
FDOT: PD&E and S.R. 72 update
Report from Subcommittee
Council membership
Village K and River Rd. Office Park

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Neuhofer (Sar. Co. Farm Bureau)	Charles Kovach
Greg Blanchard	Terry Green
Diane Davies	Kevin Kemp
Susan Hochuli	Chuck Downs
Tom Williams	Dr. Mary Jelks
Bill Byle	Belinda Perry
Manon Lavoie	Don Caillouette
Tom Moralee	F. Gaines Finley
Jono Miller	Gregory Nowaski
Jill Green	Barbara Lenczewski (via phone)

INTERESTED PARTIES

Rachel Herman	Howard Berna
Phil Vets	Michael Chouinard
Dan Braswell	Randy Roberson
Bill Outerbridge	Robert Ohm
Bruce MacLeod	Valinda Subic
Albert Gregory	Kim Hermann
Hugh Taylor	Albert Beninati
Marlynn Beninati	Paul Mann
Stephanie Russo	Michael Spitz
Kathy Meaux	Rick Stander