

Big Cypress Watersheds Restoration Coordination Team

Friday, January 22, 2010 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Big Cypress Basin Water Management District Office, Naples

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome/Call to Order

- ◆ Megan Andresen called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Big Cypress Basin office.
- ◆ Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. Introduction of Members

Mike Savarese, FGCU
Mike Bauer, City of Naples
Ed Hanlon, UF/IFAS
Mike Bush, Audubon
Nick Casalanguida, CDES/Trans
Mac Hatcher, Collier County
Molly Meadows, SFWMD
Daryl Thomas, USFWS
Alicia Abbott, Collier County
Ron Wallace, City of Naples
Shane Collier, FWC-FWRI
John Aquilino, Conservancy SWFL
Eduardo Patino, USGS

Lars Soderquist, USGS
Jennifer Nelson, DEP
Alicia Campanella, DEP
Ananta Nath, BCB SFWMD
Bob Sobczak, NPS
Paul Mattausch, Collier County
Bob Middleton, City of Naples
Jennifer Hecker, Conservancy SWFL
Rhonda Haag, DEP
Brandy Otero, CC Stormwater
Jerry Kurtz, Collier County
Clarence Tears, BCB SFWMD
Megan Andresen, FGCU/BCW-RCT

3. Big Cypress Basin 10 Year Strategic Plan – Clarence Tears

- ◆ Clarence presented the Big Cypress Basin Water Management District 10 year Strategic Plan Draft, including the project priorities and goals of the BCB.
- ◆ Multiple projects were discussed, along with their potential success indicators. Clarence asked the group to provide feedback on the project priorities and success indicators. Projects include:
 - Lake Trafford – dredge, remove material, native species restoration
 - Camp Key Strand – critical habitat and sheet flow restoration
 - Henderson Creek Diversion – rehydrate Henderson Creek area
 - Belle Meade Rehydration – rehydrate area and reduce flow to Naples Bay
 - Barron River Restoration – restore sheet flow
 - Okaloacoochee Slough Flowway Enhancement – restore native vegetation
 - Miller Canal – increase flow to S. Golden Gate, reduce flow to Naples Bay
 - Multiple Canal Improvements – reduce over-drainage, protect water resource
 - Multiple Structure Modifications – create environmentally effective flow conditions
- ◆ Overall goals for the BCB 10 year plan include improving ground water storage, water quality, and sheet flow, and reducing point source discharges.
- ◆ A timeline for the 10 year strategic plan was discussed:
 - February, 2010: Receive Board Input

- March-April 2010: Draft Strategic Plan
- May 2010: Present Plan with budget presented for 2011
- ◆ The BCW-RCT is invited to share their opinions and ideas on the 10 year strategic plan at the BCB Board Meeting on February 26th, 2010. The meeting will be held at North Collier Regional Park from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ *Please note that the old BCB 5 year plan is located on the BCB website.

4. Identification and Prioritization of Restoration Science Needs – Mike Savarese

- ◆ Mike led the group in listing and prioritizing regional restoration science needs. These restoration science needs can be used to pair graduate students at FGCU with funds and research opportunities. They can also be utilized for discussion of the BCB 10 Year Strategic Plan project priorities.
- ◆ Each RCT member was allotted two restoration science needs questions to add to the master list. Fourteen agencies were represented and twenty restoration science needs were listed.
- ◆ A straw poll was taken to prioritize the list. Each member voted for their top three choices.
- ◆ Restoration science needs list results:

- **Estuarine effects of Picayune Strand restoration?**

Author: Mike Savarese; Votes: 10

- **Effects of sea level rise on the ecology and geomorphology of freshwater to brackish water marshes in southwest Florida and the commensurate effects of restoration?**

Author: Mike Savarese; Votes: 5

- **Effects of agriculture-based ecological services on water quality improvement, carbon sequestration and water storage?**

Author: Ed Hanlon; Votes: 1

- **Are suspended sediments part of the pre-alteration state of southwest Florida estuaries?**

Author: Mike Bauer; Votes: 3

- **Effectiveness of small filter marshes, littoral plantings, and floating islands on pollution load reduction?**

Author: Mike Bauer; Votes: 8

- **New technologies (laminar flows, algal turf scrubbers, etc.) and their effects on nutrient load reduction?**

Author: Daryl Thomas; Votes: 2

- **Assessment of the impact of Picayune Strand Restoration project on the manatee refugia of the Port of the Islands marina, and measures to protect/enhance the habitat**

Author: Ananta Nath; Votes: 4

- **Can we predict the effects on manatees by Route 29/Barron River Canal restoration? [Requires describing manatee use there.]**

Author: Daryl Thomas; Votes: 1

- **Quantification of flow required for optimum salinity distribution in Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR).**

Author: Ananta Nath; Votes: 0

- **Delineation of the groundwater/salinity interface.**

Author: Eduardo Patino; Votes: 1

- **Empirically test the “pulsed flow” concept used on agriculture lands.**

Author: Ed Hanlon; Votes: 0

- **How are natural lakes and stormwater managed ponds stratified in southwest Florida, and what are the implications?**

Author: Jennifer Hecker; Votes: 2

- **Ecological impacts of using uplands and short hydroperiod wetlands for storm water disposal?**

Author: Jennifer Hecker; Votes: 2

- **What is the relationship between watershed area and filter marsh size/design features?**

Author: Jerry Kurtz; Votes: 1

- **Can aquatic biology be used to evaluate adverse impacts from nutrients in primary, secondary or tertiary canals?**

Author: Mac Hatcher; Votes: 8

- **Can we develop a “condition index” for rapid assessment of southwest Florida estuaries?**

Author: Jennifer Nelson; Votes: 4

- **The effects of off-road vehicle usage on landscape and subsequent trail recovery?**

Author: Bob Sobczak; Votes: 1

- **What potential do conservation practices have on reducing water resource demands?**

Author: Bob Sobczak; Votes: 2

- **What effects does canal design have on perpetuating invasive exotic species?**

Author: Mike Bush; Votes: 1

- **How are our natural resources (park facilities, conservation lands, etc.) used? (over vs. under-utilized)**

Author: Bob Sobczak; Votes: 1

- ◆ Authors were asked to send Megan a brief description of their restoration science need through email as soon as possible.
- ◆ RCT members were asked to talk to their respective agencies to determine if funding may be available for graduate student research pertaining to any of the restoration science needs listed and to send that information along to Megan.

5. Set Next Meeting Date and Adjourn meeting

- ◆ The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Next Meeting: Friday, April 23rd, 2010 – Rookery Bay, Naples (tentative location)**

6. Earthquake Haiti Photo Presentation – Ed Hanlon

- ◆ Ed was working in Haiti when the devastating earthquake hit in January. He was able to help people out of his hotel before it collapsed and he and his friend set up a make-shift medical center, with what little supplies they had, to save the lives of many injured Haitians.
- ◆ Ed presented some photos and told his story. Thank you, Ed, for sharing your experience with us. We are happy you made it home safely.