



Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting

Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting Notes

June 28, 2010 ■ 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Attendees

Stan Bronson, Florida Earth Foundation
Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District
Anthony Cotter, GrayRobinson
Dr. Duane De Freese, AquaFiber Technologies Corporation
Stacie DeMonbrun, *myregion.org*
Christianne Ferraro, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Vivian Garfein, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Kirby Green, St. Johns River Water Management District
David Hoot, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Stephen Kintner
Shelley Lauten, *myregion.org*
Charles Lee, Audubon of Florida
Richard Levey, Lake Nona Property Holdings
Mark Loeb, ULI Central Florida
Stephen Miller, MillerSellen
Andrew Neff, Seminole County
James Payne, Deseret Ranch
Teresa Remudo-Fries, Orange County Utilities
Elaine Renick, Lake County Commission
James Sellen, VHB MillerSellen
John Shearer, Shearer Consulting, Inc.
Chris Sweazy, South Florida Water Management District
Rob Teegarden, OUC - The Reliable One
Diane Trees, University of Central Florida
Cecelia Weaver, South Florida Water Management District
Gregg Welstead, Lake County

Welcome/Call to Order – Shelley Lauten

Shelley welcomed Steering Committee members to the meeting and introduced Stacie DeMonbrun, a new member of the *myregion.org* team who will be assisting with coordination of Water Strategy events and projects.

Review of Briefing Book – Jim Sellen/Mark Loeb

Mark reported that the input received from Steering Committee members was extremely helpful. The comments will be incorporated into a final draft which will be circulated to Steering Committee members prior to the Water Workshop on July 15-16.

Committee members who would like a hardcopy version of the briefing book can obtain one by contacting Mark.



Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting

Jim noted that the technical assistance panel did an outstanding job putting the book together. Members of the panel are acknowledged in the book.

Regional Water Workshop – Jim Sellen/Mark Loeb

Agenda

Jim reviewed the following agenda for the workshop:

Wednesday, July 14th

- Out of town panelists arrive at hotel
- Dinner (NOTE: Following the meeting, Mark Loeb, Shelley Lauten and Charles Lee agreed that a mandatory Orientation Meeting/Dinner for panelists should be held on Wednesday evening to review the process for the Workshop and communicate panelist responsibilities.)

Thursday, July 15th

- Workshop Orientation, Presentations to Panel and Q&A, 8:30am - 12:00pm
 - Attendees: **OPEN** - Panelists and invited guests (around 40?)
 - Location: UCF Executive Center Auditorium
- Working Lunch, 12:00 - 1:30pm
 - Attendees: **OPEN** - Panelists and select representatives of Steering Committee
 - Location: UCF Executive Center Auditorium
 - Lunch provided for panelists and Steering Committee (not for audience members)
- Break, 1:30 - 2:00pm
- Work Session I: Initial Panel Deliberation on Best Practice Recommendations, 2:00 - 5:00pm
- Attendees: **CLOSED** – Panelists, Steering Committee, select *myregion* board members and select members of the Congress of Regional Leaders only
 - Location: UCF Executive Center Classroom
 - Dinner with Panelists, 6:00 - 7:30pm (location TBD)

Friday, July 16th

- Panelist Breakfast, 7:30 – 9:00am (Location TBD)
- Work Session II: Final Deliberation on Best Practice Recommendations, 8:30 - 11:30am
 - Attendees: **CLOSED** – Panelists, Steering Committee, select *myregion* board members and select members of the Congress of Regional Leaders only
 - Location: UCF Executive Center Classroom
- Interactive Panel Presentation of Best Practice Recommendations, 11:30am - 2:00pm
- Attendees: **CLOSED** – Panelists, Steering Committee, select *myregion* board members, select members of the Congress of Regional Leaders only and invited guests only (around 100?)
- Location: UCF Executive Center Auditorium
- Lunch provided

Presentations

The Workshop Orientation taking place on the morning of July 15th will be an opportunity for select Steering Committee members and invited presenters to provide an overview to the panelists so they will better understand our regional issues and current approaches.



Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting

Jim invited comments regarding what presentations should be made to the panelists. He reminded the Committee that conservation and alternative water sources are the big themes for the Workshop. Recommendations from the Committee included:

- Overview presentation from WMD as it relates to what is in the briefing book (Kirby Green?)
- Municipal utility
- Alternative water strategies (Desalination, Aquifer Storage and Recovery [Mark McNeil?])
- Economics of Water (Miek Burton? Rob Teegarden recommended an economist from the Public Utility Research Council at UF to speak about rates and competition)
- Cost of Water Conservation
- Agribusiness Management (Chuck Aller?)

It was suggested that the presentations focus on successful examples of what is going on in our region versus examples of new initiatives that are untested (such as desalination in Palm Coast).

Panelists/Panelist Role

The purpose of the workshop is to obtain information and recommendations from the expert panelists. The term "best practices" should not be interpreted to mean that a strategy has been selected and we are looking for best practices with respect to implementation. That is not what panelists will be asked to provide. Rather, they will be asked to provide a broad base list of recommendations for various strategies that the Steering Committee should explore.

Charles Lee suggested that it would be helpful if each panelist was provided with a one page template that outlines the format that will be used for the final product and frames the expectation.

Jim reviewed the list of panelists. They include:

- Richard Atwater, Inland Empire Utilities Agency (Regional Water Solutions)
- Dr. Pierce Jones, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) (Design and Development)
- Charles Lee, Audubon of Florida (Conservation and Environment)
- Mike Burton, Burton & Associates (Economics and Pricing)
- Chuck Aller, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (AgriBusiness)
- Beth Putnam, Southwest Florida Water Management District (Education and Outreach)
- Chuck Carden, Tampa Bay Water (Alternative Water Supply: Desalination)
- Jo Ann Jackson, Brown and Caldwell (Alternative Water Supply: Wastewater Reuse)
- Patrick Lehman, P.E., Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Alternative Water Supply: Surface Water Storage)
- Mark McNeal, P.G. ASRus, (Alternative Water Supply: Aquifer Storage and Recovery)
- Dr. Martin Wanielista, Stormwater Management Academy, College of Engineering and Computer Science, UCF (Alternative Water Supply: Stormwater Reuse)



Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting

There is a slot open. An invitation was extended to Sharon Megdal, director of water resources research center for University of Arizona and Grady Gammage. (Jim commented that ULI does not pay speakers/panelists.)

Moderator

Jim reported that Brian Teeple is unable to serve as moderator due to a schedule conflict. He requested recommendations from the Committee for potential candidates. The following individuals were suggested:

- Linda Shelley
- Henry Dean
- Jim Murley
- Lee Constantine
- John Heinkenson
- Rafael Montalvo
- John Delaney
- Clay Henderson

The AWRA meeting is taking place in the Keys on the same date which may prevent some invited speakers from attending.

It was suggested that we need to prepare the moderator in advance so he/she can keep the experts on track. It was also suggested that we prepare a list of questions for the moderator. The questions can be pulled from the survey.

Attendance/Invites

Steering Committee members are welcome to attend the entire workshop and are especially encouraged to attend the lunch presentation on July 16th. Shelley will send an email to all Steering Committee members to determine who is planning to attending the workshop.

The Committee discussed who should be invited to attend the workshop as a member of the audience. Shelley suggested that the most effective form of invitation is a personal invite from a steering committee member to someone they know. Every steering committee member was then encouraged to bring at least one guest to the open portion of the workshop.

Shelley has invited members of the Congress of Regional Leaders, *myregion.org's* Executive Board of Advisors as well as its Regional Boards of Advisors.

Mark reminded everyone that this is a seven county initiative and we should have representation from all seven counties.

Because part of the event will be open and part will be closed, Shelley recommended that we create two different email invitations, one for the public and one for invited guests.

With respect to attendance by elected officials, the Steering Committee is a non-political think tank. Therefore, we need to be careful in soliciting politicians to attend. Shelley suggested that



Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting

a legislator's time is not well spent during the consensus building process and it was suggested that we invite aides instead.

It was also suggested that we invite House and Senate staff directors for environmental agencies. Kirby will reach out to this audience.

The public will be invited to the open portions of the workshop, including the overview and presentations, because it is important for them to see that regional leaders are continuing to work on this issue. They will not attend the panelist deliberations. There was some concern about inviting guests to attend if they will not play a role in the workshop and will not have an opportunity to speak.

Because of the restricted attendance policy, it was decided that the event would not be publicized in advance.

Next Steps

Jim reviewed the next steps following the workshop:

- Steering committee reviews recommendations and determines which to adopt
- Professional writer drafts white paper
- Draft of white paper presented to the Congress of Regional Leaders (August)
- Congress of Regional Leaders comments go back to steering committee for consideration

Water Problem Statement

Shelley reported that she continues to share the water problem statement at every presentation she makes. The feedback she has received is that the statement is very succinct and well drafted.

Florida Earth Forum on Water Quality Issues – Stan Bronson

Stan reported that Florida Earth received a request to put together a forum on water quality and related issues facing Florida.

Program Agenda

- Keynote Bobby McCormick (professor from Clemson University)
- Panel regarding specific challenges
- Panel regarding creating a water ethic
- Lunch
- Case study of successes
- Solutions

Don Upton will moderate the event.



Regional Water Strategy Steering Committee Meeting

Logistics

October 14, 2010

8:30am-4:00pm

UCF Tradewinds Alumni Center

Certifications for continuing education for a variety of areas (Florida Bar, etc.)

Audience

Open

Oil Spill Update – Duane De Freese

Duane spent two weeks in Tallahassee working on coastal issues. Congress and the President will not make a ruling on the oil spill issue. The new atmosphere is concerning. Duane visited with all the national agencies for three days and there is growing federal control over state issues.

We are in a “grand experiment” with respect to the oil spill. We have never handled oil or dispersants at a depth of 5,000 feet and we have never had oil gushing at this rate. Louisiana and the northern gulf states are facing catastrophic impact on their estuaries.

The loop current has kept oil off shore for Florida. There will likely be a category 2 or 3 hurricane this week which will cause an eastward flow. The eddies have been keeping oil to north with unknown deep water flows (likely pushing to the south). Most of the coastal counties in Florida are developing plans for what to do if oil hits. We will likely see tar balls for a long time, as well as big plugs of oil.

The Florida DEP and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have worked well together on this disaster. We are ready to respond as it happens but it will be opportunistic and responsive. There is an extremely stringent control level over the cleanup that starts at the federal level due to hazardous material issues.

The Florida Institute of Oceanography requested \$50 million to support the science. BP has issued a check for \$10 million. There is evidence to suggest that there is water/oil chemistry in water off of Jacksonville. Refer to the Florida DEP website for updates.

Duane shared *myregion.org* info with NASA and NOAA and they were impressed with the statistics.

Closing – Shelley Lauten