

MEETING
June 27, 2002

LSJR TAC

- Introduction—Jim Maher:
 - General remarks.
 - Introduction of attendees.
 - TMDL stakeholders meeting will be held on July 10.
 - An executive committee meeting will be held on July 11.
- General announcements—Larry Danek:
 - Tiffany Busby out on maternity leave.
 - Two meeting objectives for today:
 - Update of activities.
 - Review proposed project list for funding.
 - The TAC Web site lsjr.org is up.
 - The natural resources subcommittee met yesterday and is assembling an inventory of bio research.
- Group updates:
 - Stewards of the LSJR—Tom Fortson. Activities:
 - Mr. Fortson made a presentation to Clay City Utility Board.
 - Mr. Fortson made a presentation to Putnam County on state of the river and what is being done.
 - Don Loop met with JEA re: WWTF and reuse.
 - Mr. Fortson attended River Keeper's Board meeting.
 - Mr. Fortson has gained the support of Stewards and River Keepers boards to approve a long-term management plan.
 - Fred Calder, FDEP--Tallahassee—two announcements:
 - John Abendroth to represent FDEP—Tallahassee on the TAC.
 - Terry Pride to assist with coordination with TAC and policy committees.
 - River Summit—Jody Hopkins, Planning and Executive Committee:
 - Background on origin and purpose of the Summit.
 - 1997 River Summit—produced list of projects for legislative funding.
 - Original Summit Created “River Agenda,” produces the “River Report Card.”
 - Will hold a riverwide summit soon.
 - Discussion of project prioritization process.
 - 01/2003 is tentative date of the summit at Prime Osborn Center.
 - Discussion with Tom Fortson on how the riverwide summit will be composed and the plan objective developed.
- Jim Maher announcement:
 - Introduction of Alicia Simpson, Contracts Specialist for FDEP, and her role (904/807-3204).
- River Keeper (Mike Hollingsworth):
 - Focusing on bacteria research and monitoring.
 - Coordinates with responsible groups.
 - Provides information to the public.

- Coordinates with many bacterial monitoring programs.
- Sedimentation focus:
 - Investigates complaints.
 - Looking for prevention/restore opportunities.
- Discussion of the group (description), 455 members.
- TMDL stakeholders group—Jim Maher:
 - July meeting: John Hendrickson will be presenting the models, how they work.
 - August meeting: Public workshop:
 - Presentation of calibrated model.
 - Implementation scenarios to be modeled.
 - Discussion of the process to reach the TMDL due 12/2002.
 - TMDL Executive committee: 07/11/02 kickoff meeting, description of committee and group.
 - Will consist of executive level people who will take recommendations and outline how their groups will work to achieve goals.
 - Question from Tom Fortson re: committee makeup.
 - Question from Steve Swann: When is the committee to provide results, timeline?
 - Nonpoint sources will have reductions prescribed categorically.
 - Point sources individually through the permitting process.
 - More discussion with Tom Fortson.
- Mike Hartman (Stewards):
 - Producing river documentary discussing cause and remedy for pollution; for public information and education. Hopefully to increase public participation.
- Larry Danek introduction for bioassessment monitoring program.
- FDEP bioassessment methods (Steve Wolf):
 - He is Administrator for Central Biological lab in Tallahassee.
 - Presentation on FDEP Bioassessment Methods by Steve Wolf.
 - Question from Jack Dodge re: selection of methods.
 - John Hendrickson question regarding TMDL parameter change and bio effect.
 - Response: FDEP tends to focus on nutrients.
 - SJRWMD question re: methods—species/communities, indicator species. macros and submerged aquatic vegetation, periphytic nonmobile algae. These tend to be system unique.
 - Question from Jim Maher re: reference sites don't work for estuaries due to dynamics.
- Project evaluations—Introduction by Larry Danek:
 - Reading of Jack Dodge letter.
 - Review of evaluation sheet.
 - Review of prioritizing procedure.
 - Project types:
 - R = research.
 - M = monitoring.
 - C = construction/design.
 - Review of ranking worksheet—probably a 1-5 numerical ranking.
 - Will tally and then send back with results.
 - Mike Hartman—discussion on whether detail is sufficient for decision.

- Discussion on available funding.
- SJRWMD—Dean Campbell:
 - Discussion of process:
 - List goes to those who write requests.
 - Requests go to legislature.
 - Legislature sends list back.
 - Dean views this process as a way to ascertain “are we going in the right direction?” This provides feedback so decision makers can be informed. The vote does not matter. It is the input that is important. Project selection is determined by many things including the available budget. Our job: where does the focus need to be in our professional opinion?
 - Mr. Campbell’s summary will not go project by project.
 - Once the vote comes in, the results will be synthesized into a balanced plan by a select group. (Dean, Jim, etc.).
 - Other money sources will push projects.
 - Executive review will occur.
 - Another important consideration, “Where are we in a multi-year project?” and the completion of prerequisite projects.
 - Dean suggests doing this categorized by program, not project. “We have too much information.”
 - Brief project discussion:
 - Dean suggested e-mailing him questions so he can get the specific scientist to answer.
 - Question from Jack Dodge re: stormwater project. Does the money come from municipal, local, cost/sharing? Response: Both.
 - More project discussion by Dean.
 - Add city of Jacksonville stormwater monitoring plan implementation to list.
 - Mike Hartman—Should we look at invasive species in the river? Dean re: looking at some of these by District staff.
- FDEP—Jim Maher:
 - List is product of a brainstorming effort by the Northeast District.
 - No money listed on some projects due to lack of project scope. TAC can provide assistance if needed.
 - Discussion on need for bioassessment:
 - Jim defers to Steve Wolf for discussion of EPA Guidance Document on bioassessments.
 - Further discussions—Jim would like for coordination between Steve and Mike Hartman on developing biomonitoring plan.
 - Add Duval County septic tank enforcement program.
 - Add facilitator funding.
 - Add river documentary project from Stewards of the St. Johns.
 - Add sanitary sewer overflow program development. Jim Maher discusses with Alan Flood.
 - Discussion of FDEP projects:
 - Requesting JEA to look at feasibility of #63 for funding.
 - Alan Flood indicated that this has already been initiated. Some construction has been started.
 - Jim asking for #58. Mike and Dana (also Dept. of Health) for scope.

- Steve noted that FDEP is challenging EPA on enterococci as an indicator.
- Mike Hartman asked about epidemiological study on gastro-intestinal incidence.
- Alan asked Jim for a list of private WWTPs.
- To #61 add biological to the atlas per John Hendrickson.
- Dana Morton:
 - Discussion of projects.
 - Dana wants #11 to go now. This duplicates—Dana suggests it be put under FDEP/SJRWMD umbrella since they would be likely managing it.
 - #9—problems with previous work. Needs new RFP to continue.
- JEA—Alan Flood:
 - Have taken over United Water Systems.
 - WWTF connecting of private systems
 - “Pipe bursting” work.
 - Participating in septic tank phase out with vacuum sewer system.
 - Bionutrient removal work at the various WWTF (#12).
 - Discussion of listed projects.
 - Question from Jim Maher to Alan Flood: will there be plant upgrades required?
 - Response: Yes. They are working on developing the transmission network first.
- Clay County:
 - Discussion of projects.
 - Discussion on #4 by Mike Green.
 - Add reuse infrastructure program. Jim Maher indicated funding has been requested in previous years. \$1 mil/yr. (CCUA is the partner.)
- Larry Danek discussion of follow-up and closing:
 - How the revised lists will be processed and evaluated.
 - Add column to worksheet = continuation, yes or no.
 - Question from Mike Hollingsworth: Has USACE been consulted on projects?
 - Response: They have ecosystem restoration program.
 - Dean Campbell indicated they interact with USACE. The dredging projects will likely be run through USACE.
- The meeting was adjourned.