

Lower St Johns Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Meeting Summary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Northeast District Office
Jacksonville, FL
August 19, 2004

Attendees

Cindy Cospers, FDEP-Watershed Management
Tiffany Busby, Independent Consultant/St Johns River Alliance
Bob Gamble, City of Green Cove Springs
Chuck Iley, Clay County
Gretchen Ehlinger, FWC-FIM
Dean Campbell, SJRWMD
Mike Kelter, Legacy Civil
Mary Policastro, Clay County Utility Authority
Dean Dobberfuhl, SRJWMD
Jeff Martin, FDEP
Mike Thomas, COJ/RESO
Dana Morton, COJ/RESO
John Abendroth, FDEP
Scott Turner, DCHD
Jeremy Tyler, FDEP
Jeremy RiCharde, FDEP
Mike Hartman, UNF
Mike Hollingsworth, USACE
Forrest Penny, Dept of Navy (NS Mayport)
John Hendrickson, SRJWMD
Jim Maher, FDEP
Felicia Boyd, SJRWMD/WAV
Betsy Deuerling, City of Jacksonville-EQD
Alan Obaigbena, FDOT
Kraig McLane, SJRWMD

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 10:12 am. Jim Maher, Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the Northeast District office of the Department of Environmental Protection. Everyone introduced themselves.

Meeting summary from May 20, 2004

Jim Maher asked if there were any comments on the May meeting summary. Cindy Cospers gave Tiffany Busby some written notes with some minor corrections. There were no other comments.

Update on Natural Resources Subcommittee—Fisheries Data Meeting

Jim Maher asked the group how we can pursue the big picture of biological assessment and evaluating whether our management efforts are successful. John Abendroth noted

that the State is focusing on water quality improvements, but less on the biological evaluations. Mike Hartman commented that each river section—freshwater, estuarine, and marine—needs to be evaluated separately. Dana Morton agreed that all three need biological assessment. Dr. Hartman noted that the citizens really are interested in and care about the biological assessment from a quality control standpoint. Dr. Hartman suggested holding a symposium to review the biological information and needs, possibly at the University of North Florida. The symposium could be devoted to the biology and citizen information. We might seek Sea Grant or other funding to support it. The CAC also needs to have access to the technical goals that have been developed.

After discussion, it was decided that the Natural Resources Subcommittee would be the best group to work through these ideas. Make sure Mike Hartman is included in any of these meetings. The Subcommittee should discuss both specific project ideas to further biological assessment as well as the symposium idea.

Discussion of Special Legislative Funding Projects

Tiffany Busby led the group through a discussion of the projects that were submitted and met the State criteria. The members reviewed the *Natural Resource Goals* that were developed in September 2002 as well as the TAC's *Technical Priorities* that were adopted in June 2003. Two spreadsheets detailing the fiscal year 2006 projects were distributed in advance of the meeting. One list described the "restoration tools" projects that are research orientated and the other listed the point and nonpoint pollution reduction projects. The group discussed each list separately. An initial ranking was done by the TAC chairs for discussion purposes, with the TAC members asked to amend this initial priority list. A brief verbal description of each project was given by a representative of the lead organization, if they were present. Then the projects were ranked.

A list of the final project rankings recommended by the TAC is provided in a separate spreadsheet attached to this meeting summary. Those rankings were reached by consensus and were recommended to the St Johns River Alliance and St Johns River Water Management District for submittal to the Legislature, based on their technical merit.

Technical Updates and Announcements

Tiffany Busby noted that the St Johns River Alliance Board of Directors met on July 28, 2004 and planned to meet again in September 2004. The Board held a workshop to develop their goals and priority items, including the development of a restoration plan in one to two years. It is envisioned that the workshop results will become part of the organization's strategic plan. Ms. Busby also noted that each County represented on the Board has been asked to provide funding to support the Alliance, with a fund-raising goal of \$150,000. The funding will be used to hire a permanent Executive Director. Ms. Busby is acting as the temporary Executive Director through the end of September through a contract with the Water Management District. A job announcement had been sent to the TAC; the application deadline is September 13, 2004. Please distribute it to those who might be interested in the position.

Upcoming Alliance Meetings: Planning & Management Committee, September 1 at 10 am in Bunnell; Board of Directors, September 8 from 10 am to 3 pm in DeLand; Lower Basin CAC, September 22 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Trout Creek Park; For Upper Basin TAC information, contact Hector Herrera at the Water Management District; For Middle Basin TAC information, contact Mary Brabham at the Water Management District.

Jeremy RiCharde gave the TMDL status report. A TMDL Stakeholders Meeting is planned for September 30th. Mr. RiCharde also noted that a consent order had been signed with JEA and copies were available to those who were interested.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2004 at Jacksonville University from 10 am to 2 pm. Lucy Sonnenberg will be the chair and host.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.

Meeting summary prepared by Tiffany Busby. Please contact her at busbytl@bellsouth.net for comments or TAC information.