

SUMMARY MINUTES
Watershed Management Policy Board
January 25, 2007 – LeRoy Collins Main Public Library Program Room A
2:00pm to 4:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

**Commissioner Thaell,
Chair**

At approximately 2:07 p.m. the meeting of the Watershed Management Policy Board was called to order by Chairman Cliff Thaell. Policy Board members in attendance included the Hon. Cliff Thaell, the Hon. Debbie Lightsey, Tom Kwadar, Andy Dzurick and Skip Cook. Technical Support Committee Members in attendance included Doug Frye, Joe Brown, John Buss, and Dr. Julie Harrington. Other staff in attendance included Michelle Bono, Shington Lamy, Theresa Heiker, Catherine Bray, John Cox, and John Kraynak.

II. Opening comments

**Commissioner Thaell -
Commissioner Lightsey,
Vice-Chair**

Chairman Thaell and Vice-Chair Lightsey each offered welcoming comments and thanked members of the audience for their interest in ensuring clean water in the community.

III. Approval of Minutes

Shington Lamy

Shington Lamy presented to the Policy Board members the minutes from December 6, 2006 meeting for their approval (Attachment #1). By a motion of Skip Cook, seconded by Tom Kwadar, the Policy Board approved the minutes of the December 6, 2006 meeting by unanimous vote.

IV. Watershed Champion Update

Michelle Bono

Michelle Bono presented a letter that had been distributed to community organizations on January 23, 2007 in regards to the Watershed Management Policy Board's Watershed Champion Award (Attachment #2). She stated that the letter had been mailed to 656 community organizations and emailed to 25 environmental organizations. Mrs. Bono also stated that an interactive application had established on the Policy Board's website at which residents could simply complete the application online. The interactive applications will be sent to Mr. Lamy for consideration by the Watershed TAC. Chairman Thaell stated it would be significant in the future to send Watershed Champions to workshops held by the State of Florida regarding water protection.

V. Watershed Technical Advisory Committee Follow-up **Joe Brown**

Joe Brown presented to the Policy Board the recommendation of the TAC in regards to participation in the Water Atlas (Attachment #3). Mr. Brown stated that the TAC recommended to the Policy Board that the County and City participate in the Water Atlas Program after conducting a cost analysis of the Water Atlas and operating an internal program. Mr. Brown stated that the Water Atlas costs are well defined and known while the cost of an internal program varies and incorporates a wide range estimate of start-up costs. In addition, he stated that the Water Atlas would incorporate information from the County and City as well as the Northwest Florida Management District (NWFMD), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and other sources.

Chairman ThaeLL inquired about whether springs would be included on the bioassessment data provided by the Water Atlas. Dr. Julie Harrington stated that the proposed configuration of a Leon County/City of Tallahassee Water Atlas program would not include such information but could be available in the future.

Mr. Brown stated that there has been a long standing cry by the community for a unified system where bioassessment data of the County and City could be accessed. The Water Atlas satisfies this community demand as well as the interlocal agreement signed by the County and City.

Tom Kwadar asked whether a program ran internally would include more information regarding bioassessment data collected by the County and City than a Water Atlas program. Mr. Brown stated that a Water Atlas would include the same amount of data collected by the local governments as well as data collected by the NFWFMD and FDEP.

Skip Cook inquired about the time frame of implementing a Water Atlas program. Dr. Harrington stated that it takes about a year, but a temporary site could be constructed immediately if the County and City chose to participate in the program. Mr. Cook stated that he would like the Policy Board to be presented with the minutes of the kickoff meeting by USF, the Water Atlas program and the TAC once it took place.

John Buss stated that the full amount of the Water Atlas start-up cost may not be incorporated into the mid-year budget that the Policy Board would submit to the County and City Commissions.

Mr. Cook moved that the Policy Board accept the recommendations of the TAC and begin working with the USF and the Water Atlas program in the next phase of participating in the Water Atlas. It was seconded by Mr. Kwadar and passed unanimously.

VI. Review of Regulatory and Fee Structure – Direction of Board John Buss

Mr. Buss stated that the TAC needed direction from the Policy Board in regards to the scope of work with reviewing the regulatory standards of the County and City. Commissioner Lightsey stated that the TAC should start reviewing the water standards of the County, City, and State. Mr. Buss also stated that the review regulatory standards would require the participation of the Growth Management Departments of the County and City. Commissioner ThaeLL mentioned that the legal department of the local governments should also be consulted in the review process. Mr. Buss stated that it was also important that the Planning Department be included in the discussion of the regulatory standards. Commissioner Lightsey stated the review process that the TAC will present is intended to help bring a common approach by the County and City.

After much discussion, the Policy Board directed staff to look at the County and City quality and flood control standards and discuss the differences of those standards. Staff was also directed to provide to the Policy Board a map of where stormwater standards overlap between the County and City. The Policy Board also requested that staff keep them abreast of major initiatives that the County and City may undertake regarding water protection.

VII. Discussion

Ms. Bono announced to the Policy Board that the first year of the Water Protection Initiative had been completed and that the chairmanship of the Policy Board would change with the next meeting. Commissioner Lightsey will assume the chairmanship, while Commissioner Thaell will serve as vice-chairman.

Commissioner Thaell asked if there were any projects that were taking place at the universities to incorporate student participation in water protection efforts. Dr. Harrington stated that Florida State University was currently working with the Karst Waters Institute.

VIII. Next Meeting

The Policy Board tentatively agreed to hold the next meeting in March. Staff will coordinate the date, time, and location.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:40pm