

SUMMARY MINUTES

Watershed Management Policy Board

March 16, 2006 – County Health and Human Services Division Office (Amtrak Station)
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

**Commissioner Thaell,
Chair**

At approximately 8:07 a.m. the meeting was called to order by Chairman Cliff Thaell. Policy Board members in attendance included Hon. Cliff Thaell, Hon. Debbie Lightsey, Tom Kwadar, Skip Cook and Andy Dzurick. Technical Support Committee Members in attendance included Doug Frye, Joe Brown, John Buss, and Dr. Julie Harrington. Other staff in attendance included Ben Pingree, Michelle Bono, Jennie Khoen, Theresa Heiker, Blas Gomez, Tayo Fayemi and Craig Diamond.

II. Opening comments

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

Chairman Thaell and Vice-Chair Lightsey each offered welcoming comments and provided an overview of the meeting agenda (Attachment #1).

III. Approval of Minutes

Ben Pingree

Ben Pingree provided Policy Board members with a brief overview of the minutes from the January 26, 2006 meeting (Attachment #2). By motion of Skip Cook, seconded by Tom Kwadar, the Policy Board approved the minutes of the January 26, 2006 meeting by unanimous vote.

IV. Review of Public Education and Participation Plan

Michelle Bono

A. Existing Materials

B. Proposed new website (www.leoncountyfl.gov/wpi)

Michelle Bono presented the Policy Board with a review of a draft public education and participation plan that incorporated some of the following key themes:

- *Public Meetings would be important throughout Policy Board's review process,*
- *Staff was working on the design for watershed identification signs for major roadways around the community. Board members confirmed their intention that this would be signage identifying the 5 major watersheds targeted to increase public awareness about those watersheds and their protection. Ms. Bono indicated that budgeting for these signs could be an issue. The Policy Board requested that staff return to their June meeting with recommendations for new signs, their placement and their estimated costs.*
- *There are a significant number of educational materials on non-point source pollution. Ms. Bono shared some of those with the group and advised that she is collecting same.*
- *Staff is working with the Technical Committee to form a tailored education plan for lakeside residents on the various resources in each watershed.*
- *An annual report from the Policy Board will be prepared at the end of the year, likely for approval by the Policy Board at their February 2007 meeting.*
- *City and County staff have worked together to create a website for the Watershed Management Policy Board @ www.leoncountyfl.gov/wpi Ms. Khoen and Ms. Bono described how this website can be used as a public information tool.*

- *Commissioner ThaeLL discussed the need to get working on creating the annual Watershed Champion Award for those citizens, neighborhoods, and businesses that have helped reduce pollutants entering the watersheds or flood control. Ms. Bono indicated that staff would begin work on that initiative.*

V. **Review of Structural and Non-Structural Capital Projects** **John Buss/Joe Brown**
John Buss, Joe Brown, Blas Gomez and Theresa Heiker provided a highly detailed overview of City and County structural and non-structural stormwater capital improvement projects both during the last 10 years and that are ongoing. Staff prepared large maps showing a location of each of these projects as well as schedules detailing them (Attachment #3).

Policy Board members expressed their gratitude for the presentation and requested that staff also work with BluePrint 2000 and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (and others) to identify those capital improvement projects that those entities have underway. Members also discussed the high costs associated with these types of projects, that there usually was only so much public funding for stormwater projects that the public would normally support (when compared to transportation, public safety and other capital projects). Skip Cook suggested that for those public dollars that are spent, it is important to provide highly aesthetically pleasing stormwater facilities for the public's dollar. He noted the Blairstone Road Extension project's stormwater element as being a particularly strong example of what is good for further replication.

VI. Discussion

There was some general discussion related to all of the public information and capital improvement project information that had been presented during the meeting. Cliff ThaeLL and Debbie Lightsey suggested that it would be a good idea to work on each of these ideas further, and generate higher awareness of water quality issues, by having a bus tour of local facilities prior to the next scheduled meeting in June 2006. Staff agreed to schedule such a tour (now scheduled for May 18th from 9:00 a.m. to noon).

Board members recommended that staff overlay the City and County maps as a tool to further analyze where the community's area of need are. Such a tool would give policy-makers the ability to see where all planned projects were, broken down by watershed basin, and could then make more informed decisions on where the needs for further improvement were. City and County stormwater management staff agreed to coordinate on the creation of such maps.

VII. Next Meeting (June 2006 – Date/Location TBD)

The Policy Board agreed to schedule the next meeting for sometime in June (date still to be determined) to take up the next review of the following subjects:

- *Existing water quality and bioassessment data and*
- *Initial identification of areas for additional research*

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman ThaeLL at 10:05 a.m. after no-one from the public requested to speak on any business before the Policy Board.