

## SUMMARY MINUTES

### Watershed Management Policy Board

May 22, 2008 – Leon County Main Library  
10:00 am

#### I. Call to Order

*Cliff Thaeil,  
Chair*

*Chairman Cliff Thaeil called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. Policy Board members in attendance included Commissioner Debbie Lightsey, Tom Kwader, Andy Dzurik, and Skip Cook. Technical Support Committee Members in attendance included Joe Brown, Doug Fry, Dr. Julie Harrington, and Blas Gomez who sat in for John Buss. County/City staff assigned to the Policy Board included Shington Lamy and Michelle Bono.*

#### II. Approval of February 19, 2008

*Shington Lamy*

*Shington Lamy presented to the Policy Board the minutes from the February 19, 2008 meeting (Attachment #1). By a motion of Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Andy Dzurick, the Policy Board unanimously approved the minutes.*

#### III. Annual Report

*Blas Gomez/Michelle Bono*

*Michelle Bono gave a brief overview of the Watershed Management Policy Board 2007 Annual Report (Attachment #2). Mrs. Bono stated that once approved by the Policy Board, the Annual Report would be presented to the City and County Commissions. Commissioner Lightsey suggested that the minutes not be attached to the Annual Report when it is presented to the City and County Commissions. Skip Cook suggested that the conclusion and recommendation be included as part of an executive summary near the front of the Annual Report. By a motion of Tom Kwader and second by Skip Cook the Policy Board unanimously approved the 2007 Annual Report with comments, suggestions, and edits.*

#### IV. Project Updates

##### Joint Tallahassee-Leon-Wakulla Meeting

*Brian Weibler of the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department provided a brief synopsis of the Tallahassee-Leon-Wakulla meeting on spring protection and getting coordination between the three governments. Mr. Weibler stated that the Mayor has requested that a similar meeting be held with Gadsden and Jefferson Counties.*

##### Water Atlas

*Greg Mauldin of the Tallahassee-Leon County GIS Department provided a brief update on the progress of the Tallahassee-Leon County Water Atlas (Attachment #3). Mr. Mauldin reported that the Water Atlas is currently in the development stage and is anticipated to meet its launch date of August 30, 2008. Water quality data of the City and*

*County have been included as well as data from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD). In addition, photographs have been submitted for the website.*

*Chairman Thaell inquired about advertisement of the website to the public. Mr. Lamy mentioned that a full presentation of the website would be presented to the Policy Board at its next meeting. Mrs. Bono suggested that the Policy Board assist staff in getting local environmental organization to provide a link on their websites to the Water Atlas once it is available to the public. Mr. Mauldin mentioned that the Water Atlas website would be linked to the GIS website.*

*Commissioner Lightsey suggested that the website include a counter to track the number of times the Water Atlas is visited. Chairman Thaell recommended that the Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities hold workshops on the Water Atlas in order to increase the number of local governments that participate in the program. Mr. Cook suggested that presentations of the Water Atlas be made to local groups to introduce the community to the program.*

*Commissioner Lightsey recommended that DEP or the water management districts look into funding a statewide Water Atlas program. Doug Fry state that he would suggest the idea to his Assistant Division Director.*

*Several members expressed disappointment that the Water Atlas would not provide a groundwater component. The Policy Board encouraged staff to work with USF to include a groundwater component in the future, once the Water Atlas program is available to the public.*

#### Watershed Signs

*Joe Brown gave a brief update on staff's discussion with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the design and installation of the Watershed Signs. Although originally interested in the idea of placing watershed signs on state road, the TAC recently learned that agency rules prohibit such action. As a result Mr. Brown presented additional options that may be available for the establishment of the watershed signs.*

*Suggested options included placing signs at the local parks and boat landings, running a series of ads in the Tallahassee Democrat about each affected Watershed, and expanding the City and County marker inlet programs to include the establishment of inlets on the five affected watershed.*

*Commissioner Lightsey suggested that the technical staff attempt a final time to convince FDOT to allow for the placement of the watershed signs on state roads; however if not successful, explore the idea of placing such signs at local area parks.*

## **V. Budget**

### **Lamy**

*Mr. Lamy presented the proposed FY09 Budget of the Watershed Management Policy Board (Attachment #4). The budget included no new funding but instead recommended*

*that the City and County continue to fund the Water Atlas program and carry forward the funds that were allocated for the establishment of the watershed signs during FY08 into FY09. By a motion of Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Dzurik the Policy Board unanimously approved the budget.*

**VI. 2007 Watershed Champion Award**

**Lamy/Bono**

*Ms. Bono stated that letters would be sent to mid-week to environmental group announcing that the Policy Board is seeking nomination for the 2007 Watershed Champion Award. Mr. Lamy stated that staff would determine the winner(s) and presented at the next Policy Board meeting. The Policy Board suggested that letters be sent to landscaping companies, local nurseries, garden clubs, homebuilders, realtors, the Tallahassee-Leon County Chamber of Commerce. The nominations would be open to individuals, organizations, or projects.*

**VII. Legislative Update**

**Lamy**

*Mr. Lamy provided the Policy Board with brief recap of the 2008 Legislative Session and water issues that were addressed (Attachment #5). Mr. Lamy stated that the legislation that would have required local governments to adopt a model fertilizer ordinance failed. The County and City are each currently working on its own local fertilizer ordinances.*

*Mr. Lamy also mentioned that the County and City worked closely with Senator Lawson to defeat a bill that would have retroactively preempted counties ability to enforce wetland regulation on agricultural lands and preempt local governments to impose stormwater assessment and fees on agricultural lands. Chairman Thaell suggested that the Policy Board letter send a letter to Senator Lawson thanking him for his work on defeating the bill.*

**VIII. Other Issues**

*Chairman Thaell requested that staff provide an update on DEP's statewide stormwater rules adoption.*

*Mr. Kwader stressed the importance that staff work with USF on including a groundwater component to the Water Atlas website. The Policy Board suggested that NFWFMD be approached about providing funding to include the groundwater component. Also the Policy Board requested that staff bring back alternatives for mechanisms of providing groundwater information to the public.*

*Commissioner Lightsey suggested that the Policy Board examine whether it should take steps to finalize or suspend its work in light of the current budget climate and the efforts of DEP to establish a statewide stormwater policy. It was moved that the issue be include on the agenda of the next Policy Board meeting.*

**VIII. Adjourn**

*The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Thaell, Chairman, at 11:55 a.m.*