

SUMMARY MINUTES

Watershed Management Policy Board
October 12, 2006 – LeRoy Collins Main Public Library Program Room A
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

**Commissioner Thaell,
Chair**

At approximately 10:15 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, 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 Ben Pingree, Shington Lamy, Theresa Heiker, Blas Gomez, Craig Diamond, and John Kraynak.

II. Opening comments

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

Chairman Thaell and Vice-Chair Lightsey each offered welcoming comments and allowed for introductions from staff and members of the audience.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ben Pingree

Ben Pingree provided Policy Board members with a brief overview of the minutes from the March 16, 2006 meeting (Attachment #1). By motion of Skip Cook, seconded by Tom Kwadar, the Policy Board approved the minutes of the March 16, 2006 meeting by unanimous vote.

IV. Website Update/Citizen Participation Initiative

Shington Lamy

- A. Overview of Website Modifications
- B. Proposed new website (www.protectyourwater.org)

Shington Lamy presented the Policy Board with an update of modifications and improvements that have been made to the Watershed Management Policy Board website that would assist in facilitation of public education to the community. The following key points were presented:

- *The announcement of Policy Board meetings on the website,*
- *Public access to minutes of past meetings*
- *Public education on watershed importance and citizen participation,*
- *Maps have been provided on the website illustrating to the public where each basin in Leon County is located as well as identification of the City and County stormwater projects. Staff will continue to update this section of the website,*
- *Photos of lakes and ponds in County and City have been placed on the website to identify each location,*
- *Staff has secured a new link for the website at www.protectyourwater.org to better advertise to citizens the purpose of the Policy Board and the website.*

V. Update on Watershed Signage

John Buss

John Buss presented to the Policy Board an update on the watershed signage development. Mr. Buss stated that the signs would let citizens know when they were entering into a watershed area. Mr. Buss displayed a map and images of where the signs would be placed around the community. Commissioner Thaell and Commissioner Lightsey suggested that the signs read

“Lake Jackson Watershed” instead of “Lake Jackson Drainage Basin”. Commissioner Lightsey also suggested that the signs be more attractive to the public eye. Commissioner Thaell suggested that the signs be unique to encourage watershed awareness to the community. Mr. Buss stated that staff could look into aesthetic signs but this may not be allowable due to criteria for road signs in the Uniform Manual for Traffic Control Devices. FDOT in particular will probably not agree to custom signs.

Information on the cost of design, location, and permitting of the sign was distributed by Mr. Buss (Attachment #2). Mr. Buss recommended that the Policy Board direct the Technical Support Staff to work with FDOT with the signage concept regarding design, planning, permitting, and coordination, then provide a budget that would be presented to each respective Commission. Commissioner Lightsey suggested that a one to two page report be presented to each Commission on the progress of the Watershed Management Policy Board and subsequently a budget request for signage should be presented. Mr. Pingree suggested that a budget for the signage could be submitted with the annual report that would be presented at each respective Commission in February 2007.

Commissioner Thaell stated that a comprehensive budget should be presented to each Commission with the annual report. Commissioner Thaell directed County staff to provide briefings to newly elected County Commissioners on the Watershed Management Policy Board and provide an interim report on the Watershed Management Policy Board to the County Commission.

VI. Comprehensive County/City CIP Map by Major Basins Joe Brown

Joe Brown presented comprehensive maps that included City, County and Blueprint 2000 stormwater capital improvement projects (Attachment #3). The maps were separated by watershed basins to identify the locations of capital improvement projects. Mr. Brown suggested the maps display projects that have been completed in the past 5 years. Mr. Pingree stated that the maps would be available on the website. Commissioner Lightsey suggested that the map include project cost information.

The Policy Board directed staff to also make available on the maps or on the website the cost of each project in the past 5 years as well as projects that has been completed in the past 5 years.

VII. City/County Water Quality and Bioassessment Data Report John Buss/Joe Brown

- A. City Water Quality and Bioassessment Data Effort
- B. County Water Quality and Bioassessment Data Effort
- C. Water Atlas

Mr. Buss and Mr. Brown each presented to the Policy Board the City and County data on water quality and Bioassessment. Mr. Buss stated that the City and County separately house in their respective websites scientific information on those sites that are monitored. He presented a slide presentation of a mock-up of a simple internet web site that spatially located each monitoring site in relation to water features and a community map. He demonstrated how data, pictures, and narrative summaries and graphs from each site could be accessed by the public or staff by clicking on the mapped monitoring sites. Mr. Buss suggested that access to City and County

data could be facilitated fairly easily by using such a map portal on the opening page of the site. It would show all the sites and when a person clicked on a site, it would access either the City or County data depending on which government operates that particular site. This avoids the necessity of standardizing all the City and County monitoring data, which would be a difficult task because the monitoring objectives are frequently different. Mr. Buss suggested that a water quality link could be created on the WMPB website that would open up the map of the monitoring sites. Mr. Buss stated that this information could be made available with staff participation since the City and County currently perform these activities. Commissioner Lightsey suggested that sites that are monitored by the City and County should be identified on the WMPB website. She also stated that the tropic state index is the most useful tool that spurs public education and should be part of the monitoring site information. Mr. Buss advised the narrative summaries include the TSI and one of the graphs is the historical trend of that value.

Mr. Brown stated that the City monitoring is quarterly and the County monitoring is monthly in overlapping sites. He stated that the County currently has a website that displays the County and City monitoring sites that could be incorporated into the WMPB website.

Dr. Julie Harrington presented information on Water Atlas (Attachment #4). Currently seven counties in the state are using the site to display information to the public about their watershed initiatives along with data on water quality. Dr. Harrington stated that the creator, Jim Griffin, would be in Tallahassee, November 13th -14th for the Seven Hills Regional User Group for GIS (SHRUGG) Conference.

The high cost estimate for Water Atlas is \$50,000 for start-up and \$50,000 for yearly maintenance. The cost for to the City and County would be less since both entities currently provide watershed information on their website. Staff explained the cost benefit of utilizing such a service. Water Atlas could be used by the average individual and scientist to determine the water quality in the community. The Water Atlas site could also bring opportunities of grants and other external funding from other levels of government.

The policy Board directed staff to further analyze the cost benefits of Water Atlas and to seek external funding for WMPB.

VIII. Discussion

The Policy Board discussed the proposed revised timeline of the WMPB for 2006 (Attachment #5). Mr. Buss suggested that only an introductory session regarding County and City regulatory and fee structures could be presented at the next meeting due to time constraint.

Mr. Pingree suggested and the Policy Board concurred that the November meeting serve as a review and update session of today's meeting and other pertinent information. A subsequent meeting will be held in January. Mr. Brown stated that the Technical Support Staff will meet before the end of the year to discuss the regulatory and fee structure systems.

The Policy Board directed staff to identify other local governments that are attempting or have created standards based on basins and/or watersheds. Commissioner Lightsey stated that the long-term goal is to identify standards by basins not political geography.

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.

Mr. Cook stated that staff should receive general policy direction and have the ability to provide options and recommendations to the Policy Board. Mr. Tom Kwadar encouraged the continued work between the County and City to develop uniform standards for our waters.

IX. Next Meeting

The Policy Board directed staff to coordinate the next meeting with Jim Griffin of Water Atlas and the SHRUGG Conference to incorporate a presentation to the Policy Board (mid-November).

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Thaell at 11:57a.m.