

SUMMARY MINUTES

Watershed Management Policy Board December 6, 2006 – Leon County Amtrak Station 2:30pm-4:30pm

I. Call to Order

*Commissioner Thaell,
Chair*

At approximately 2:33 p.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, Andy Dzurick and Skip Cook. Technical Support Committee Members in attendance included Doug Fry, Joe Brown, John Buss, and Dr. Julie Harrington. Other staff in attendance included Shington Lamy, Michelle Bono, 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. Chairman thanked members of the public for their attentiveness to the work of the Policy Board and water in our community.

III. Approval of Minutes

Shington Lamy

Shington Lamy provided Policy Board members with a brief overview of the minutes from the October 12, 2006 meeting (Attachment #1). By motion of Skip Cook, seconded by Tom Kwadar, the Policy Board approved the minutes of the October 12, 2006 meeting by unanimous vote.

IV. Bioassessment Data Report/Water Atlas

*John Buss/Joe Brown/
Julie Harrington*

The members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provided their thoughts on the benefits and concerns of participation in the Water Atlas program. The Policy Board was presented information on the potential cost of participating in the Water Atlas as well as correspondence among the TAC regarding the scope of work that would be needed on a Water Atlas website and testimonials from other participating local governments (Attachment #2).

Commissioner Lightsey stated that the cost for participation in the Water Atlas would have to be looked at in the context of other cost. She stated that it essential that a database is created as an educational tool for the public while providing data to policy makers and technical individuals.

Chairman Thaell stated that he was encouraged by services that the Water Atlas program would provide, but also stated that he would like to see the cost of participating in the program as part of a comprehensive budget.

Mr. Cook stated he supported the participation of the County and City in the Water Atlas program. He stated that the website would serve as an effective tool for public outreach and public information.

The Policy Board directed the TAC to refine the potential cost of operating a basic Water Atlas program as well as the cost of operating a similar program in-house.

V. Watershed Champion Award

Shington Lamy

Mr. Lamy presented to the Policy Board a draft application of the Watershed Champion Award (Attachment #3). He stated that the awards purpose is to recognize those in the community that have taken an active role in protecting our water. The award application would be available on the Policy Board's website, to neighborhood associations, and the public information offices of the City and County.

The application deadline was set for January 5, 2007. Commissioner Lightsey stated that the award is a tool to educate the public and should be broadened to include those in our community that have contributed to the protection of water in the community. Commissioner Lightsey was concern that the title of the award assumes that the recognition is restricted to those who have participated in the protection of watersheds. Commissioner Thaell stated he believed that the award's title was appropriate and would serve as a tool to bring awareness of the watershed initiative. Michelle Bono stated that the communication departments of the City and County would promote the award to the community.

The Policy Board discussed the process in which recipients of the award would be determined. The recipients of the award would be determined by the TAC and presented to the Policy Board. The Policy Board agreed that monetary rewards would not be appropriate for the award. The Policy Board also agreed that the deadline should be extended.

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 #4). The maps were separated by watershed basins to identify the locations of capital improvement projects. The map included capital projects that had been completed in the past five years and also the cost of each project. Mr. Lamy stated that the maps would be made available to the public on the Policy Board's website.

VII. Update on Watershed Signage

John Buss

Mr. Buss stated that there had been considerations to create to different signs to distinguish between watersheds in the County and City boundaries, but it was determined that it would not be feasible. Commissioner Lightsey agreed that the signs should be consistent. Mr. Buss spoke to FDOT and they stated that the signs would have to design under the FDOT uniformed standards.

Mr. Brown stated that the estimated cost of the signs would be \$35,000. He stated that ultimately they would FDOT approval and assistance in putting up the signs. Mr. Brown stated that contact with FDOT should occur once funds have been budgeted for signage.

VIII. Next Meeting

The Policy Board tentatively agreed to hold the next meeting the week of January 22nd. Staff will coordinate the date, time, and location.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30pm

