



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2009, 09:00 AM

North Collier Regional Park

15000 Livingston Road

Naples, Florida

MEETING SUMMARY

Members and Alternates Present:

Beverly Grady	Jim Reynolds
Ray Scott	James Humble
Al Calloway	James Harvey
James Murley	Raymond Smith
Sara Fain	Sally Robinson
Joan Lawrence	Ed Wright
Jennifer Conner	Kurt Harclerode
David Lithgow	Jeff An
Charles Shinn	D. Albrey Arrington
William "Chad" Kennedy	Kim Taplin
Paul Gray	Linda McCarthy
Bill Hammond	Todd Swingle
George Jones	Tommy Perry
Michael Harford	Larry Hilton
Joel Wasserman	Melissa Meeker

Item 1. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks - Shannon Estenoz, Chair:

Agenda Change Notice: Pursuant to Chapter 120, F.S., Chair Estenoz changed the published agenda for good cause shown and read the agenda change notice into the record. The following Agenda changes were made:

- Add a 15-minute Public Comment Period after Item 6.
- Delete Item 11 – South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFER TF) Land Acquisition Strategy Update by Theresa Woody, Sr. Policy Analyst, SFER Task Force staff.

Chair Estenoz said comments on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFER TF) Land Acquisition Strategy are due 9/8/09 and should be sent to Theresa Woody at tw Woody@sfrestore.org. The link to the SFER TF website will be posted on the WRAC website.

Chair Estenoz introduced SFWMD Governing Board Member Charles Dauray. Mr. Dauray commented on the history of the Naples area, including the discovery of human remains that were carbon dated to be more than 5,000 years old. He introduced Mr. John Sorey, Naples City Councilman.

Chair Estenoz mentioned the appointment of new SFWMD Governing Board member Kevin Powers as WRAC Vice-Chair. She welcomed and introduced the new WRAC members.

Chair Estenoz mentioned that two additional WRAC appointments will be recommended by Governing Board Chair Eric Buermann at the September 10 Governing Board meeting: Palm Beach County Commissioner Shelley Vana, and City of Naples Councilman John Sorey.

Chair Estenoz asked SFWMD Executive Director Carol Wehle to comment. Ms. Wehle said there are many policy issues to resolve regarding consumptive use and environmental resources permitting, now that Florida Senate Bill 2080 has become law. These policy issues need to be discussed so that the Governing Board can provide direction to staff. WRAC will be asked for suggestions to help move forward in that direction.

Ray Scott asked about "Member Issues" not appearing on the agenda. Chair Estenoz replied that it will continue as part the agenda but was not on this month because of a full agenda. She asked for any member comments.

Sara Fain – Announced the annual Everglades Coalition Conference. January 7-10, 2010 in Palm Beach Gardens; and, she congratulated the District on the court decision in the Certificates of Participation case.

David Lithgow, WRAC Recreation Issues Chair, said that last week the annual water fowl hunting permits were allocated – some 6,500 permits were allocated by the FWCC in 11 minutes. There are more consumers than slots available. When the SFWMD builds a Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) sporting groups have requested that the design include recreational access, and that where possible, the facilities be opened for recreational activities during construction.

Chair Estenoz asked if SFWMD staff could respond. WRAC Facilitator Rick Smith said that providing appropriate public access and recreational opportunities on SFWMD lands has been a top priority; however, those activities and access must be consistent with the purposes for which project lands were acquired.

Chair Estenoz – Recommend that the WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop continue to review appropriate uses and access for SFWMD lands, including the STAs. SFWMD staff and the Governing Board will evaluate how much recreation and access can be provided on SFWMD lands.

Chair Estenoz asked for a volunteer to present the WRAC report to the Governing Board. Sara Fain, National Parks and Conservation Association, volunteered.

Item 2. SFWMD Budget Briefing - Doug Bergstrom, Budget Director, Corporate Resources, SFWMD:

Doug Bergstrom summarized the proposed FY 2010 budget.

Charles Dauray (Chair, SFWMD Governing Board's Audit and Finance Committee) complimented Mr. Bergstrom on his presentation and work on the budget.

Discussion Included:

Beverly Grady - Florida Forever funds shown carried over from last year?

SFWMD: Florida Forever funds are carried over from prior years. The Legislature did not allocate new funding for Florida Forever.

Beverly Grady - Completion of the cost sharing agreement between the SFWMD and USACE is good news, however Picayune Strand project funding does not appear in the SFWMD budget. SFWMD: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the lead agency for that project and the funding for it does not come through the SFWMD budget. USACE: Funding for the project will be awarded at the end of the month.

Albrey Arrington - Alternate Water Supply (AWS) funding shows a \$3.7 million carryover from last year, but on the AWS expense side \$12.3 mil. is shown. SFWMD: That would be unspent prior year funding and includes SFWMD matching funds. Will any new projects be funded this year? SFWMD: Expect to see a "Request for Proposals" for new projects.

Ray Scott - Certificates of Participation (COPs) court ruling: \$650M shown in the budget for acquisition and transaction costs - are you able to issue COPs for the full \$650 and to recover the transaction costs?

Carol Wehle - It is standard operating procedure to include the issuance costs as part of the debt. Is the amount \$530 mil. or \$650 mil.?

Tom Olliff, SFWMD Assistant Executive Director - \$650 mil. is the upper limit but we won't likely need the full amount. It will depend on the actual issuance and insurance costs.

Jim Murley - Long term trends and impacts from reduction of ad valorem revenues and declining population growth: Long range planning in Florida has been predicated on steady growth in both population and revenues. Future predictions will impact all governmental entities. Is the District working with any other groups?

Carol Wehle - We are expecting another year of ad valorem decrease, then expect it to flatten. Ad valorem tax reform passed by the Legislature limits our ability to see additional revenue based on ad valorem or population growth (future growth is limited to increases in Average Annual Per Capita Income). After our ad valorem base hits bottom, it can only grow at about 2-3% a year. Any change in that mandate would be legislative. We have revenues in reserve for capital expenditures and have set aside funds to complete the projects we are recommending in the budget.

Charles Dauray - We are in abnormal times. Some parts of our District are experiencing a 90% reduction in ad valorem revenues.

Carol Wehle - We need to accept that things may not change. As projects are completed by the District and the USACE, a larger percentage of funds will be needed for operation and maintenance. This means less funding will be available for land acquisition and restoration. WRAC needs to look at these trends.

Jim Harvey - C-9 and C-11 basin projects? SFWMD: The USACE will take the lead on completing the Project Implementation Reports for these projects, and on construction. Project approval, however, will depend on time taken for the USACE re-evaluation report. Jim Harvey: No long term planning is being done.

Albrey Arrington - Need a presentation on projected revenues over 20-30 years matched to plans for acquisition of the U.S. Sugar Corporation lands, layout of project footprints, and the estimated costs to complete those projects.

Chair Estenoz – Great suggestion.

**Item 3. Recreation Issues Workshop Report - David Lithgow, WRAC
Recreation Issues Chair:**

David Lithgow presented the Recreation Issues Workshop report summarizing the 8/17/09 meeting.

Charles Dauray – The National Conservancy magazine had an article about the nationwide increase in waterfowl.

Kim Taplin, USACE – The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), Master Recreation Plan is still being reviewed. There have been many comments on the Ethnographic Study ('Gladesmen's Swamp Culture). Did the WRAC

Recreation Issues Workshop produce consensus on the Master Recreation Plan?

David Lithgow - Most spoke favorably on it. Participants commented that some areas did not qualify for historic site designation as part of the Ethnographic Study. Ms. Taplin indicated that the Master Recreation Plan schedule has been delayed to address these issues. The next meeting of the WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop will be October 19, at the Lower West Coast Service Center, Ft. Myers, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Item 4. SFWMD Lower West Coast (LWC) Update: Clarence Tears, Director, Big Cypress Basin Board, SFWMD:

Jim Reynolds – How much was the Marco Island residential assessment for the septic tanks removal and hooking up to central wastewater treatment? We are doing the same thing in the Keys. Clarence Tears – It was about \$16,000, but very flexible on payment: Residents can pay a lump sum, pay over 20 years, or when selling the residence.

Item 5. Four Corners Update - Jeff Kivett, Director, Everglades Engineering Dept., Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, SFWMD: (Temperince Morgan, River of Grass Project Liaison, SFWMD, presented for Jeff Kivett).

Public Comment: James English – The SFWMD spent thousands of dollars on a study. The proposed project is not going to solve the problem. Landowners and farmers are still going to be unhappy. There is a surface water management problem in this basin. Most of the problem is from the SFWMD issuing permits that do not comply with permitting criteria.

WRAC Discussion included:

Tommy Perry – The earlier studies called for a 200 foot-wide canal but did not recommend a water quality component which would need to be added to meet current standards. Opportunities exist to redirect water back to Spanish creek for rehydration and restoration, and there are SFWMD-owned lands in the area that could help. Landowners are willing to work with the SFWMD to resolve these problems.

Kurt Harclerode – Need to get this back on track. Has there been any coordination between the State and SFWMD regarding the possibility of use of some Babcock Ranch Preserve lands in the proposed solutions?

Carol Wehle – The next presentation by Ken Ammon will address related issues.. I agree this has been in the works a long time. It seems that when there appears to be a solution, we have opposition. We need agreement and a spirit of cooperation to move forward with improvements in the Four Corners area. In any project people need to compromise to move forward and unless that happens this project will not move forward.

James English – Can't think of anyone that disagrees with that; however, after the study was done there was a solution. What you are proposing to do is not the solution to the problem.

David Lithgow – FWC is currently rewriting the imperiled species rules. District attorneys need to be in tune with this so that restoration progress doesn't get held up.

Bill Hammond – The Four Corners problems have been around since before I was a Governing Board member. Most of the major problems came about in the "pre-permitting era". It is a very unique area. The Four Corners problems are county problems. As counties grew, development encroached on natural flow ways. Now that we are trying to restore the area, these problems have become very challenging. The conveyance improvements as currently planned will relieve flooding of properties to the east/northeast, but properties on the west side, will still be flood prone. We need to move the Phase I conveyance improvements forward, and at the same time create options that will relieve flooding on the west side.

Charles Dauray – What is the synchronicity with Babcock Ranchland and what we are trying to accomplish?

Bill Hammond – We need to move forward with the Phase I project. Then, in the next few weeks we hope to sit down with all of the stakeholders and discuss options – e.g. Total Maximum Daily Load mitigation, dispersed storage, etc. while recognizing the SFWMD budget limitations. We need to get people together to collaborate and resolve the issues.

Chair Estenoz – Thanks to Mr. Dauray for appointing Mr. Hammond to WRAC. It appears that this is a very large basin with many challenges and that in order to successfully address these problems several items need to move in tandem.

Item 6. Caloosahatchee Basin Issues: Minimum Flows and Levels, Prevention and Recovery Plan, and Water Reservation Updates - Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, SFWMD:

Chair Estenoz – Mr. English had previously submitted two public comment cards. Mr. English was recognized:

Public Comment:

James English – SFWMD permitting is the issue. These are permits issued by SFWMD, not prior to existence of the permitting process. A citrus permit issued by the District allows diversion of water back to the Caloosahatchee when the natural flow was to Fisheating Creek, and then to Lake Okeechobee. There are no culverts under SR 74 and during high rainfall, water runs overtops the road. The three-mile dike required five culverts and we told SFWMD at the time that it would not work. After it was implemented we met with the SFWMD pointing out

the continuing problems and were told that there were no problems in need of resolution.

Chair Estenoz – It is going to take a lot of work and more than one project to resolve.

Discussion included:

Ray Scott - The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) oversight provisions included in the WRDA, 2000 legislation intended to preserve the State of Florida's authority over water matters. It is not a true statement (as in the presentation) that Federal law requires the SFWMD to make water reservation allocations. The Federal process for implementing CERP projects requires that before the USACE can enter into a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the SFWMD must reserve or allocate water identified in a CERP Project Implementation Report. The WRDA, 2000 recognizes the exclusive authority of the State in that matter. Florida Statutes echo this recognition. There has been legitimate discussion about whether state law provisions require the SFWMD to reserve or allocate the water to be made available by a CERP project.

Chair Estenoz – There is an understanding that those are the requirements.

Ken Ammon - If we don't want to build a CERP project we don't have to reserve or allocate any water.

Ray Scott - The C-43 project is an example where the initial amount of water exceeded what will ultimately be available. This created technical and political issues about what will happen with the reservation over time. The discussion between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) with the SFWMD differs from what the USACE has communicated. We need more certainty about the amount of water that is going to be reserved.

Ken Ammon - An inaccurate letter written by a member of the senior USACE staff in Washington regarding the Florida water policy did not help clarify these matters. There is no specific requirement regarding "next added increment" allocation. It is done in a case by case basis. The USACE has agreed to clarify in the Chief's Reports a more general understanding about CERP requirements. The Governing Board will make the final decision about how much water is reserved and what alternatives are used.

Ray Scott - We need mutual understanding about how it all fits together and we need to proceed in a systematic way. The second concern is Picayune Strand and the federal requirement in WRDA regarding water made available by projects. The Picayune Strand project water reservation was within the law and the authority of the Governing Board. The discussion between FDACS and SFWMD was about the amount of water to be made available by this project. Because of the high interest in water reservations, we need to clarify the authorities and responsibilities for implementing reservations.

Chair Estenoz – CERP has its own language. We will provide a half-day briefing for new WRAC members on this. There should be no problem with overlapping statutory authorities as long as they are not inconsistent with one another. There is a question about accurately defining water made available by CERP projects, consistent with Federal authority.

Ray Scott - Our concern is about disagreement by the Federal government over reservations holding up projects. Need to have certainty and predictability.

Chair Estenoz – WRAC may need to air this out and provide recommendations to the SFWMD Governing Board and the SFER Task Force.

Charles Dauray – Have questioned where lies the flexibility. There are areas of flexibility: one is regulatory, another is results. They both have to be addressed by the Governing Board. What are the parameters of flexibility needed by the Board in order to make these decisions?

Ken Ammon – There are different parameters: science and the soundness of the science; resource protection, etc. Our science is independently peer reviewed. Alternatives are modeled - results are probability based but hopefully provide indicators that the proposed alternative will protect the environment. We use a combination of probability, science, modeling and accuracy of the modeling. A range of results are presented to the Governing Board and the Board then decides if the results are accurate or if more work needs to be done case by case.

Chair Estenoz – Recommend staff develop a briefing book and half day orientation session, for new WRAC members. Expect a phone from staff to schedule.

Item 6, Continued - Restricted Allocation Areas: Lake Okeechobee Service Area Water Availability Rule - Tom Colios, Section Leader, Water Use Regulation Division, SFWMD:

Public Comment:

Rae Ann Wesel – Thanked SFWMD staff and the WRAC for taking time to evaluate this issue of high importance to the Caloosahatchee. We are not meeting MFLs for the Caloosahatchee yet, and they have not been met for 5 years. There is a problem with the amount of water needed to meet the MFLs. It is not clear where the water will come from or how it will be earmarked. Also, how will it be enforced? Dry season releases by the USACE have been critical to maintaining proper salinity. The western section of the Caloosahatchee has algal blooms when there is not enough flow during the dry season. How do we get this water allocated for the downstream part of the system? The MFL recovery water for the Caloosahatchee is expected to come from the C-43 West Reservoir

John Cassani – The Caloosahatchee MFLs are in violation. There is a great concern with the consumptive use renewals. We want to know where the water is going to come from. Need to review the Lake Okeechobee Service Area 20-year permit renewals in this context.

Discussion included:

Ken Ammon – The C-43 West Reservoir will help meet Caloosahatchee Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) 90% of the time versus the current 40%, at above 150 cfs. This is a more appropriate MFL and we will need to revise the rule. The C-43 West Reservoir is the most effective tool to protect the estuaries through the dry season and to correct the exceedance issues. The CERP project implementation report recognized that the West Coast did not want to depend on Lake Okeechobee for water supply use and it was not good from a water quality point of view. The CERP was designed so that all of the elements would work together. Hopefully we can use the federal stimulus funding to help get projects underway and on schedule.

Paul Gray – The water reservations appear to make the users nervous because they are not getting enough water during drought conditions. After the storms of 2004 and 2005, we discharged enough water to tide to meet all Lake Okeechobee service area needs for six years and the following year we had one of the most severe droughts on record. 76% of the FY 2010 SFWMD Budget is for restoration and that means catching more water. Restoration will help manage ecosystems better by meeting water supply needs and recharging the aquifer.

Jennifer Conner – Is the C-43 water reservation report going to be done on time to be part of WRDA, 2010? Ken Ammon – WRDA can start without the reservation. We're aiming to begin rule development at the end of this year and expect it to be completed by the end of 2010.

Charles Shinn – “Shared adversity” needs to be across the board. We need to be careful with short term fixes. C-43 needs to move forward and be funded.

Sara Fain – C-43 is an important component of the River of Grass plan. Regional water availability rules are also important. When Miami went through their consumptive use permit renewal, actual water use was significantly reduced, and now they are below their use. They had to come up with many creative ideas. This could be applied here to benefit many different users.

Todd Swingle – Need improvements in the water reservations process. Water utilities need to focus on water conservation and be creative.

George Jones – IRL peer review process was excellent. 10-Mile Creek Reservoir is sitting empty and needs to be addressed by the SFWMD and the USACE.

Kim Taplin – 10 Mile Creek Reservoir has a design problem and cannot be operated at full capacity. The “Critical Projects” spending cap has been reached and we cannot spend more. We are preparing a “Post-Authorization Change Notice with corresponding National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) documentation and we are requesting funding. We will document the remedial needs for the 10-Mile Creek project. Then it will go to Congress for approval.

Melissa Meeker – Need discussion on water quality - it is a critical mission of the District.

Kurt Harclerode – Hope the water availability rule is a bridge to water reservations. For the C-43 project, the Chief’s Report is due in November. We hope that occurs so the project can be included in WRDA, 2010.

Beverly Grady – Caloosahatchee MFLs currently met 30% of the time; this should be 90% after C-43 is built. We have not received much information on the area west of Lake Okeechobee, north of the Caloosahatchee River. Need information on the Lake Okeechobee Service Area Consumptive User Permit renewals because the permits will impact the Caloosahatchee water reservation rule.

Ken Ammon – We will come back with a presentation on the consumptive uses.

Beverly Grady – What has been renewed and for what period of time? SFWMD, Tom Colios – More than 100 twenty-year irrigation permits have been renewed. A few hundred more remain to be done. Beverly Grady – Would like it quantified: Number completed; number remaining.

Chair Estenoz – We will bring that information back to WRAC. When the Lake Okeechobee Service Area rule was adopted the Governing Board committed to address and resolve the permitting issues. The compromise was that any additional water would be allocated by the Governing Board on a case by case basis. The Governing Board is committed to start implementing solutions.

Item 7. Working Lunch - 12:15 p.m.

Item 8. River of Grass Land Acquisition and Phase I Project Planning Updates - Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, SFWMD, and Temperince Morgan, River of Grass Project Liaison, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, SFWMD: Temperince Morgan presented an update about the River of Grass Project Planning Workshops.

Paul Gray - Lots of information provided. You let us actually put our ideas on paper and let us work it out performance and cost issues. It is clear that more land is needed for storage and treatment north of Lake Okeechobee.

Albrey Arrington – Water quality component: Do you have the ability to put a scale on the different designs to meet the expected water quality standards.
Temperince Morgan- We included a range of assumptions in all of the configurations. We will evaluate this in more detail during Phase II.

James Murley – Any other considerations for Phase II? There was a reference to sea level rise.

Temperince Morgan – We will take a strategic approach during Phase II on the effect of sea level rise and other issues.

Carol Wehle – We have a team working on this. There is not much information available about South Florida. When ready we will present it to WRAC. Issues we will need to address include: possible relocation of coastal pump stations, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands; and, based on studies by University of Miami Professor Wanless, the need to keep fresh water flows moving toward Florida Bay. The Governing Board is considering development of a capital improvement program to retrofit the Central and Southern Florida project to address sea level rise.

Jim Murley – On October 23 there will be four county policy summit on sea level rise.

Sara Fain – Was not involved in the Phase I Project Planning workshops, but heard great things about the process and the meetings. Glad you are moving forward with Phase II and hope to participate this time.

Item 9. Update: Proposed Revision to the Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals - Tracey Piccone, Chief Engineer, SFWMD:

Melissa Meeker – When will the citrus land portion of the U.S. Sugar acquisition be available and what is the expected timeframe on that?

Ken Ammon – We need to have flexibility when the funds are available for the design of this project.

Carol Wehle – When we presented to the Board, the C139 basin was a challenge. Regional projects are the most effective solution. The C-139 Basin study is helping us identify solutions. The farmers in the region want this project sooner than later.

Ken Ammon – The C-139 feasibility study is ongoing – need to make sure it is consistent with planning the River of Grass projects.

Charles Shinn – How much land is the citrus portion? Ken Ammon – 17,000 acres. Charles Shinn – What are the plans for removing the citrus? Are funds available? Ken Ammon -If there is no canker or greening, we will leave the trees on the land, if those problems are present, we will remove immediately.

Tom Olliff – On the C-43 Reservoir land we had a commitment to remove citrus trees by Labor Day. They are already working on it.

Tommy Perry – Need to think out of the box to resolve the C-139 basin issues.

Item 10. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: Update on Projects Eligible for Inclusion in Water Resources Development Act, 2010 -

Kimberley A. Taplin, Deputy Program Manager for Restoration, Southern Florida, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Discussion included:

Chair Estenoz asked about the schedule shown in the presentation for projects to be included in the WRDA, 2010 bill.

Kim Taplin – Normally it would be October of the year in which the bill is taken up. Dennis Duke, U.S. Department of the Interior – By March or April we need to have a package of what is going to be proposed. The bill is usually filed in the summer.

Chair Estenoz - The endorsed formal list will be submitted March or April. Any project that doesn't have a record of decision (ROD) is going to have to get to Congress some other way. Some are very concerned about USACE Headquarters review of an addendum package three days before Christmas and completion of a Chief's report two weeks later.

Kim Taplin – The C-43 project has been out there for a while. We don't expect many changes.

Sara Fain – It takes 60 days for OMB review. This one has less than 90 days.

Kim Taplin – Will check on this.

Jenny Conner – Will the C-43 Chief's Report show as pending so the project can be included in House version of the bill? Kim Taplin – Yes, we have accelerated the process to try to get it into WRDA, 2010.

Chair Estenoz – If it goes to Congress with a “Contingent Authorization” pending acceptance of the Chief's Report, how do you deal with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and Assistant Secretary of the Army reviews? Can the bill move through Congress without those?

Dennis Duke – Yes, it is just a matter of completing the record. It would be contingent upon an approved Chief's Report by December 31.

David Lithgow – Re: Kissimmee River Restoration: Last year we ran out of money so how will that be funded this year? USACE: We have stimulus funding for the C-37 canal widening.

Chair Estenoz - The WRDA, 2010 bill is an item this group should hear and discuss. Don't know how much controversy there will be and we may only be

able to discuss a few projects but we don't want to miss the window for WRDA, 2010.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Next WRAC meeting is scheduled for October 8, SFWMD Headquarters, B-1 Auditorium.
- WRAC Issues Workshop on Adaptive Protocols – September 17, B-1 Auditorium, SFWMD
- The SFER Task Force will meet September 30 – October 1 in Miami at Doral.
- WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee: September 30, at Indian River State College campus in Okeechobee City.

Ed Wright, USDA, Natural Resources and Conservation Service – Had a record year for funding Wetlands Reserve Program projects in Florida. We had 50 applications, we requested \$327 million for the program and have thus far received \$70 Million and expect up to another \$6 million this week. \$60 mil. of this is for South Florida projects. Farm rangeland protection will receive some \$1.5 mil., and the Grassland Reserve Program, \$1.6 mil.

Chair Estenoz – There will be a presentation about dispersed storage, including the Florida Ranchlands Environmental Services Project (FRESP) on September 30, and at WRAC on October 8.

Charles Dauray – At a recent meeting of the Isaac Walton League in South Dakota, I asked the attendees what was the common denominator we all shared? One was very relevant: As we spend billions for ecosystem restoration it is all for nothing if we don't control exotic, invasive species. He thanked David Lithgow for his work on Chandler Slough.

Rick Smith added that there is a WRAC Issues Workshop on Surplus Lands, November 16, 10-4:00 p.m., at SFWMD Headquarters in West Palm Beach. He also said the December 3 WRAC meeting would be a joint meeting with the Lake Okeechobee Committee on Key Largo. If possible, a site visit would be planned for December 2.

ACTION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

- **There were no action items on the agenda.**
- **Follow-Up:**
 - **Half-day briefing on Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) issues for new WRAC members**
 - **Revise the Caloosahatchee Minimum Flow and Levels rule.**

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS:

- **Consumptive Use and Environmental Resources Permitting Policy Issues**
- **Consumptive Use Permit Renewals: Lake Okeechobee Service Area**

- **Monthly Update on Projects to be included in Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), 2010.**
 - **Water Quality Issues**
 - **Long Term Trends and Impacts of Ad Valorem Revenue Reductions**
- CERP Water Reservations: State and Federal authorities/process**

Item 12. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.