

**To:** Attendees

**From:** HDR Engineering, Inc.

**Date:** July 5, 2003

**Subject:** Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project – Public Workshop,  
Monday, June 23, 2003.

**Attendees:** See attached

**Handouts:**

- Meeting Agenda (attached)
- Lake Okeechobee Protection Program
- CERP Fact Sheet: Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, August 2002
- CERP Fact Sheet: Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project, June 2003

**Presentations:**

- Overview and Status of LOW Project
- Alternative Development
- Public Private Partnership

A Public Workshop for The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project was conducted at the Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium in Okeechobee, Florida. The meeting was held on Monday, June 23, 2003 from 6:30PM to 7:30PM.

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS – Stuart McLean (USACE)**

Stuart welcomed all guests and introduced the meeting agenda. He described the purpose of the workshop, which was to update the public on the recent activities and strategies since the last workshop, which was held almost a year ago. He explained how the meeting would proceed and introduced the key project personnel and identified their responsibilities.

**OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF LOW PROJECT – Lewis Hornung (SFWMD)**

Lewis presented the following:

- The purpose of the LOWP, that it is associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP).

- An overview of all ongoing CERP projects, mentioning that they could be reviewed in more detail via the CERP website.
- The LOW Project objectives, which are to improve water quality, to store surface water, and to increase/enhance wetland habitat.
- The four major project components, a map that displayed the study area, the study area map, and its various features and costs.
- A discussion of the general project roles, covering who was involved (i.e. USACE, SFWMD, Contractors, US Fish and Wildlife, USGS) and what their duties were.
- A sketch that showed the progress of CERP Project Development, beginning in 2000 and going up to and just beyond 2013.
- The watershed assessment report project schedule, which began in January of 2002 and ended in July of 2003.
- What has been done thus far and what is expected to happen in the future.
- He provided the public with the watershed assessment report website and noted that anyone can view this information at any time.
- The Project Implementation Report project schedule, which began in January 2002 and will end in January of 2006. He said that so far everything was going as expected and that they were staying “on track.” He noted that things might be slightly off, but that catching up relatively quickly and getting back to the schedule would be no problem.

Lewis ended his talk by briefly mentioning other projects occurring within the watershed, such as the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan, CERP Critical Projects, and various other funded projects in the watershed.

### **ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT- Chuck Sinclair (HDR)**

Chuck presented the following:

- A discussion of the Alternative Development process including the brainstorming that occurred from March 2003 to June 2003, which resulted in the development of four watershed areas delineated for the project’s focus.
- The group’s formulation of a land suitability model, and what features and areas this model involved, going over the sites identified during the brainstorming session and the particular inflow points selected for each depicted site.
- A brief display of the Storage and Treatment Calculation Worksheet (STCW) and discussion of how the calculations were performed.
- A description of the current project status and what the next step would be, which is to look at the different combinations and screening

criteria involved with the STCW, and then begin to narrow things down.

He concluded by discussing the future steps in the planning process through 2005.

### **PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP – Lewis Hornung (SFWMD)**

Lewis presented the following:

- A discussion on the overall goal of the Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- How PPP is integrated into the project planning, and how this would occur between June and October of 2003.
- A discussion on PPP alternatives, mentioning that they will be given equal consideration with other alternatives.
- An example of how things would go if anyone from the public presented ideas or suggestions that they would like to propose.
- The schedule for proposals, mentioning that now is the best time to get them in but that they can also be submitted at a later date if necessary.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Representatives of the Palm Beach Hunt Club asked about recreational opportunities that would be provided by the LOW Project. Lewis responded that the project would be looking at recreational options in the watershed; in fact, one of the project's evaluation criteria is focused on recreational uses. Benefits of increased recreational opportunities would likely extend beyond the project study area.

No other comments were received from the public.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project  
Public Workshop**

**Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium  
700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida**

**June 23, 2003  
6:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- *Welcome*
- *Purpose of Workshop*
- *Introduction of Key Project Staff*

**Overview and Status of LOW Project**

- *Overview of CERP Program*
- *Overview of Project*
- *Project Schedule*
- *Other Relevant Information*

**Alternative Development**

- *Description of Alternative Development Process*
- *Current Status*
- *Next Steps in Planning Process*

**Public Private Partnership**

- *Opportunities for Local Landowners*
- *Process and Schedule*

**Public Comment**

- *Register at Sign-In*
- *5-Minute Limit per Commenter*

**Adjourn**

- *Staff will be available for additional discussion and Questions and Answers after adjournment.*

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Public Workshop**

**Okeechobee Freshman Campus Auditorium  
700 SW 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida**

**June 23, 2003  
6:00 p.m.**

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone #</b>
Missi Barletto	SFWMD, Okeechobee	(863) 462-5260, x 3006
Christine Bruske	COE, Jacksonville	(904) 232-1185
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Chuck Sinclair	HDR	(561) 686-7513
Anwar Khan	EA Engineering	(305) 819-2212
Tina Roberts	EA Engineering	(305) 819-2212
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John Rushing	HDR	
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Lisa Kreiger	SFWMD	(863) 462-5260 x 3026
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