

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Acme Basin B Discharge

Public Workshop Agenda

November 19, 2003

6:30 PM

Wellington Community Center

12165 W. Forest Hill Blvd.

Wellington, Florida 33414

November 19, 2003 6:30 PM until 9:00 PM

1. Informal Review and Discussion of the Acme Basin B Discharge Project
2. Introductions and CERP Overview Jerry Grubb, USACE
3. Planning Process Overview Keith Jones, USACE
4. Acme Basin B Project (Overview of Alternatives) Keith Jones, USACE
5. Public Comment Public

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP):
Acme Basin B Discharge Project
Public Workshop Summary

November 19, 2003

6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

To: SFWMD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
From: Keith and Schnars, P.A. Consultant Team
Subject: Acme Basin B Discharge Project Public Workshop
Handouts: Project Fact Sheet
Public Workshop Comment Sheet

The Acme Basin B Discharge Project (ABBDP) Public Workshop was held November 19, 2003 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at the Wellington Community Center, 12165 W Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, Florida 33414.

During the first hour of the workshop, the ABBDP project team members used fourteen (14) project overview boards on the ABBDP to conduct one-on-one explanations of the project.

INTRODUCTIONS

Jerry Grubb, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Manager, welcomed the public workshop attendees. This was the second public workshop for the ABBDP. Kathy Collins, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Project Manager and Keith Jones (USACE) Engineering Lead for the ABBDP Project Delivery Team (PDT), were also introduced.

CERP OVERVIEW

Jerry Grubb presented a brief overview of the CERP. This presentation included the background and history of the CERP, as well as information on the various components. ABBDP is part of the 68 projects in the CERP (note: some of the original 68 projects have since been combined to form a total of 55 projects).

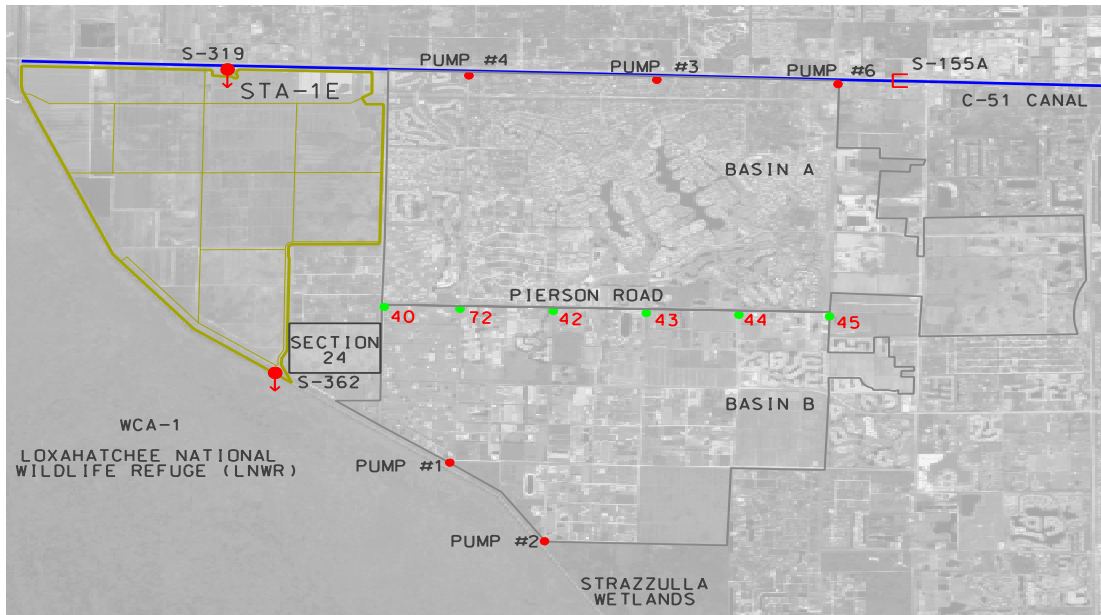
FORMULATION PROCESS

Jerry Grubb discussed the Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) schedule and the USACE planning process, general CERP requirements and project-specific requirements for the ABBDP. System-wide and local objectives were discussed and it was noted that several previous studies of ABBDP were reviewed in the plan formulation and screening of

alternatives. These include the Central and South Florida Comprehensive Review Study (Yellow Book), the Basin Specific Feasibility Study and hydraulic modeling conducted by Mock and Roos Associates for the Village of Wellington.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Keith Jones presented an overview of the ABBDP study area. A map is shown below:



The Village of Wellington Acme Improvement District is composed of 2 hydrologic basins: Basin A and Basin B. Presently, Basin B discharges into the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge) via pump stations 1 and 2. The current peak permitted removal rate is 491 cfs. The ADDBP must match this water discharge threshold to monitor existing levels of flood protection. Furthermore, the Everglades Forever Act requires that all discharges entering an Everglades Protection Area (including the Refuge) to contain <10 ppb of phosphorous.

After a review and screening of 21 alternatives, there are three remaining alternatives and a “future without project” alternative for evaluation being examined within the Project Implementation Report (PIR). The future without project will pump water north into the C-51 canal and discharge flows east into the Lake Worth Lagoon. This would remove 32,000 acre-feet of water per year from the Refuge. The three remaining ABBDP alternatives are:

- **Alternative 1** provides a plan that routes Basin B stormwater through the C-1 canal for conveyance to C-51 where it would be pumped into STA-1E and discharged into the Refuge. Section 24 is a 410-acre area that would be

developed into a wetland. This design would contain approximately 153 acres of uplands, 223 acres of littoral zones, and 34 acres of deep fish refugia zones that would permanently contain water (even in drought conditions). The wetland would have the capability to temporarily store stormwater in order to attenuate flood stage durations in Acme Basin B. During peak flood events, up to 4 feet of flood storage would be pumped into Section 24. During these peak events, it would take 2.5 days to reduce water stages back to operational conditions within the Village of Wellington canal system.

- **Alternative 2** routes water from Basin B to Basin A (via six culverts located on Pierson Road) into the C-51 canal to be pumped into STA-1E and discharged into the Refuge, using an existing permitted pump capacity. An additional 85 cfs pump must be added to maintain the 491 cfs removal rate. As in Alternative 1, Section 24 would be constructed as a wetland/natural area with temporary flood storage.
- **Alternative 3** is a combination of Alternative 1 and 2. Stormwater would be routed north through the C-1 canal and through Basin A into the C-51 canal and be pumped into STA-1E before discharging into the Refuge. As in Alternatives 1 and 2, Section 24 would be constructed as a created wetland/natural area with temporary flood storage.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM OPEN QUESTION/ANSWER FORUM

1. Question: What is the future plan for pumps #1 and #2?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: For the purpose of the ABBDP, it is assumed pumps 1 and 2 would not be operational for discharge of Basin B runoff to the Refuge. However, pump #2 would remain available to supplement the Village of Wellington water supply and maintenance of canal elevations during dry periods under an existing consumptive use permit.

2. Question: Would the maintenance of canals at 12 feet cause seepage from the Refuge (elevation 15 feet)?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: Seepage was addressed in the Basin Specific Feasibility Study and it was determined implementation of the ABBDP would not have a seepage impact on the Refuge.

3. Question: Do you have phosphorous goals for Section 24?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: No goal has been identified, however, there would be water quality benefits derived by temporarily storing water in Section 24.

- 4. Question: Can you convert CFS to GPM? The agricultural sector is more familiar with this unit of measure.**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: 1 cfs = 448.8 gpm.

- 5. Question: Would it be faster to pump Basin B flows from C-1 into C-51 and then into STA 1-E?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: Yes. This is the flow route for Alternative 1. However, no water is moved through Basin A as the Pierson Road culverts are closed. All water is moved through C-1. The evaluation of Alternative 1 would determine whether it would be better to pump all water directly into the STA-1E distribution cell or indirectly via the C-51 canal and pump 319. A survey is required to determine the conveyance improvements needed for the C-1 canal to discharge 491 cfs into the C-51.

- 6. Question: Mathematical models are experimental, however, life is not. What is your contingency plan?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The selected plan would be supported by the best available information.

- 7. Question: Due to the increased spatial extent of the distribution cell and optimization design change to submerged aquatic vegetation, are there larger evaporation and transpiration losses observed in STA-1E?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: This answer needs to be researched by the STA-1E project team and would be addressed in the final modeling and monitoring report for the STA-1E project.

- 8. Question: Are canal/culvert improvements required with the optimized plan (Alternative 3)?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The hydraulic model would determine if canal conveyance improvements are required.

- 9. Question: Will all flows from Basin B and A be routed through Section 24 for pre-treatment?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: According to the Basin Specific Feasibility Study even without Section 24, water quality targets can be met. Large rainfall runoff events can be pumped into Section 24 for pre-treatment to further reduce loads.

- 10. Question: If you put 4 feet of water in Section 24 (operational elevation 12 feet), would it have an affect on the 230 acres of residential land in the southern portion of Section 24?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: ABBDP cannot impact the level of service in any adjacent areas. Section 24 would be excavated to create a berm that would protect the adjacent lands.

11. Question: Would there be too much muck in the Section 24 soils to support the wetland design?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: A geotechnical investigation will be performed to support development of the detailed design.

12. Question: If the Village of Wellington can access water from WCA-1, why can't Rustic Ranches?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The Village of Wellington has a consumptive use permit for pump #2. This is a regulatory permitting issue, and therefore, outside of the scope of ABBDP.

13. Question: Why do the ABBDP alternatives not consider routing Basin B flows north in Basin A on the east of the C-1 canal in the vicinity of the Wellington Green Mall?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: This potentially could be looked at in the vicinity of pump station #6.

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM COMMENT SHEETS

1. Comment: The project overview boards provided a very informative description of the Acme Basin B stormwater system, the proposed alternatives, and the process of developing the alternatives. I was expecting more of a verbal presentation, but the presentation boards were informative on their own.

2. Question: Would the perimeter areas of Section 24 be available as a place for safe equestrian trail riding?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: Outdoor recreation can be considered in the final plan.

3. Question: SFWMD has installed electric water pumps at the northwest corner of Rustic Ranches for discharge into STA-1E. What will be the quality of water for irrigation or coming into Rustic Ranches?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The affect of STA-1E operations on Rustic Ranches is not part of the ABBDP. However, the STA-1E project team would be able to address this issue.

- 4. Question: Alternative 1 will pollute Rustic Ranches. Section 24, which borders us on the south, and will be used to clean phosphorous from Basin B. Partially cleansed water will flow north up the C-1. It will pass us on its path north to the C-51. We are Rustic Ranches on the west and there are four (4) developments on the east as it heads north. They will also experience a change in odor and contaminants. When this water gets to the C-51 it will move west into the STA-1E. Rustic Ranches irrigation pump will include more phosphorous and contaminant because of the Section 24 water. It will not be cleaned at all. The ABBDP would pollute us. What is your solution?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The ABBDP cannot affect adjacent communities. While the affect of STA-1E operations on Rustic Ranches is outside the scope of the ABBDP, the STA 1-E project team would be able to address this issue.

- 5. Comment: Glad to see that Strazzula marsh and dike proposal was not discussed as still being a possible alternative.**
- 6. Question: Expressed concern on the operation of pumps #1 and #2 in the selected plan. What will the future hold?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The ABBDP PIR will clearly state the assumption of pumps # 1 and #2 not being operational under the future with project condition.

- 7. Question: Elevation changes for Section 24 relative to adjacent lands, i.e., will there be seepage issues? What would the affect on adjacent lands be from above ground storage?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: Section 24 has an operational elevation of 12 feet and any impacts on seepage are not expected to be significant.

- 8. Question: What is the phosphorous loading in Section 24? Will you monitor the phosphorous load of flows entering STA-1E?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The Basin Specific Feasibility Study indicates that STA-1E can handle the phosphorous loads from the ABBDP. The ABBDP would therefore not include monitoring water quality entering STA-1E.

- 9. Question: Would there be crossover problems between STA-1E and STA-1W with added flows? Is there sufficient spatial extent to handle flows?**

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The Basin Specific Feasibility Study indicates that STA-1E can handle the phosphorous loads in flows from the ABBDP.

10. Question: What is the phosphorous loading in Section 24? Will you monitor the phosphorous load of flows entering the STA-1E?

Response by the ABBDP Project Team: The Basin Specific Feasibility Study indicates that STA-1E can handle the phosphorous loads from the ABBDP. The ABBDP would therefore not include monitoring water quality entering STA-1E.