

To: Attendees
From: HDR Engineering, Inc.
Date: February 27, 2002
Subject: Indian River Lagoon (IRL) North Project Delivery Team (PDT) Meeting
Summary – February 20, 2002
Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet

Handouts:

Meeting Agenda

Indian River Lagoon Performance Measures SJRWMD – SWIM & CCMP

IRL-North PDT Feasibility Study - Power Point Presentation

Draft Project Management Plan Indian River Lagoon-North

Issue Groups from Public Meetings and January 23, 2002 PDT Brainstorming Sessions

IRL-North Feasibility Study Goals and Objectives – Power Point Presentation

IRL North PMP First Draft Comments (12 Jan 02)

The Indian River Lagoon North - Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting was held in Palm Bay, Florida at the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Field Office on February 20, 2002. The meeting followed the attached agenda and is summarized below.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AGENDA, FACA REMINDER, AND REVIEW

Steven Robinson, Project Manager for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) welcomed the PDT members and provided an overview of the attached agenda. Steve explained that only PDT members are permitted to actively participate in the discussion and decision-making associated with IRL-North Feasibility Study. The PDT consists of federal officials and elected officers of State, local, and tribal governments. He stated that an opportunity for any members of the public to make comments/statements utilizing the comment cards provided on the table would be available at the end of the meeting. Steve requested that each person present at the meeting introduce themselves and the agency they are representing.

Steve offered the PDT and meeting attendees a review of the IRL North project to-date, including a summary of the meeting held on January 23, 2002. The study purpose of the IRL North Project is to achieve ecosystem restoration while meeting other water resources needs of the area. He stated that a comment regarding the navigational interests of the Indian River Lagoon was received, and although navigation is not a required component of the project, it will be a considered component of the project. The IRL North project is located in the Volusia, Brevard, and Indian River counties of Florida. The project will not compromise, but will build upon the efforts of previous and on-going projects. The Indian River Lagoon has been separated into the north and south projects. The IRL-South project is working under multiple congressional authorizations, and currently finalizing the Feasibility Study and report. The two projects (IRL North and IRL South) will be merged into one complete project to accomplish the goals and objectives set for the Indian River Lagoon restoration. Steve provided a list of on-going projects

that are already recognized. He emphasized that the IRL North project will not adversely affect the on-going projects, and requested that all PDT members assist in identifying those projects, which may influence or provide an avenue to share information regarding the IRL North project area. He added that a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) representative would be appointed to the PDT.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Erwin Wunderlich, Corps, reviewed the goals and objectives for the IRL North. He requested that the PDT provide comments on the existing goals and objectives. He reported that comments were received and incorporated as appropriate into the goals and objectives presented today. The PDT accepted the following goals and objectives:

Goal: Enhance Ecological Values

Objectives:

- Reduce excessive freshwater inflows & pollutant loadings to the IRL.
- Improve water quality in the IRL.
- Improve habitat for IRL biota, w/emphasis on seagrass.
- Increase spatial extent & functional quality of SAV & Watershed wetlands.
- Increase functional quality of native upland habitat.
- Maintain/improve diversity and abundance of native plant and animal species, including State, Federal, and local listed species.

Goal: Enhance Economic Values and Social Well-Being

Objectives:

- Maintain or improve water supply.
- Maintain or improve flood protection.
- Improve opportunities for tourism, recreation, and environmental education.
- Enhance commercial and recreational fisheries and associated industries.

PDT COMMENTS ON DRAFT PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Erwin discussed the matrix of comments received on the Draft Project Management Plan (See attached IRL North PMP First Draft Comments (12 Jan 02)). He advised that the matrix will be updated with comments as they are received. This matrix will be placed in Appendix F of the Project Management Plan (PMP). Erwin reviewed several comments that were believed to be of great importance including the following:

- Comment #4 regarding clams.
- Comment #17 regarding Mosquito Lagoon.
- Comment #30 Change threatened & endangered species to listed
- Comment #33 Removal of spoil islands.
- Comment #48 Project boundary.
- Comment # 68 Looking at negative impacts too.

A PDT member asked if the inlets are included in the study area? Steven Robinson (Corps) indicated that the inlets are included in the study area. Debbie Peterson (Corps) also explained to

the PDT that because study is tied to CERP and the C&SF project the recommended work cannot include deepening or widening the inlets.

Debbie Peterson added that the PMP is a living document that can be revised and updated throughout the life of the project. She stated that it is best to take care of major concerns that would significantly change the document before beginning the Internal Review process through the Corps and SJRWMD.

A representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) explained to the PDT that the FWS has a legal mandate to place wildlife as their first priority. Thus, there can be limitations on certain actions regarding issues like water levels because of this limitation.

ISSUE GROUPS

Debbie Peterson announced that issue groups were identified from input from the IRL North Public, and PDT Kickoff Meetings. Debbie reviewed several issues that were identified, and grouped into the following categories:

- Project Delivery Teams.
 - Coordination.
 - Projects.
- Interagency Participation.
- Water Quality.
 - Potential Alternatives.
 - Best Management Practices.
- Ecosystem.
- Public Outreach and Education.
- Problem Definition/Identification.
- Potential Alternatives/Benefits.
 - Water Circulation
 - Habitat
 - Water Storage/Supply
 - Basin Sediment Management Strategy
- Models/Evaluations/Performance Measures.
- Real Estate.
- Lessons Learned.

Debbie advised that once the list of issues is complete, it would need to be prioritized and captured in the PMP. Steve Robinson stated that the lessons learned section would be a great opportunity for county members to share information and use experiences with storm water management to benefit the lagoon and individual counties.

MODELS

Joel Steward, SJRWMD, and Mitch Granat, Corps, reviewed the types of models available for use on the IRL North project. Joel explained that a pollutant load reduction model is needed and the University of Florida and the SJRWMD have been working toward this goal since 1994. The model has a working premise that sea grass is the resource that they desire to restore and protect,

with water quality being the key factor that affects the health and distribution of sea grass. Thus, a model is needed that can determine the levels and parameters that represent the threshold between healthy and non-healthy sea grass.

PLRG's

- Pollutant Load Reduction Goals.
- Based on Sea grass with water quality and light requirements.
- PLRG's are related to TMDLs

Joel explained that if loading is controlled, affects to water quality will be reduced and light penetration will increase, thus seagrass percent cover will increase. The PLRG model will determine allowable reduction levels. The current understanding of sea grass viability is that 25% of ultraviolet radiation must reach the sea grass bed or bottom to support healthy sea grass growth.

For the purposes of the IRL North Feasibility Study, the PLRG model will be focused on the central Indian River Lagoon. Joel also explained that there is a Sebastian River Model and it will be linked to the PLRG model

A PDT member asked if drift algae would be included in the modeling, and Joel confirmed that submerged plants will be incorporated into the PLR model.

Mitch Granat, Corps, explained that one of the challenges of the IRL North study is modeling. He also discussed additional models available for IRL and explained that the PLRG model is a low resolution large scale model to look at pollutant load reduction.

Mitch further briefed the PDT that in looking at potential reservoir sittings, one of the challenges is balancing restoration with development. The Indian River Lagoon area is expanding 100% every 10 years, and there is a continuing demand for coastal area development.

Mitch also explained that the upland problems/lagoon issues need to be addressed. Developing a higher resolution model to look at structural changes to the system and couple this model to the PLR model will be an important objective. Mitch indicated that there are significant time constraints so the models will have to constructed concurrently.

The specific models to be used have not been identified to date, but will be identified during the initial phase of the Feasibility Study. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will need to be used for quantification of the:

- Size of the reservoirs needed.
- Design structures that can pass flows.
- Setting goals at boundaries of lagoon models.
- Optimize openings through causeways.

Mitch Granat referred interested members of the PDT to Appendix 22J for more information regarding the modeling effort for the IRL North.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Troy Rice, Project Manager for the SJRWMD, introduced the performance measures to the PDT. He requested that all PDT members review the list and make comments/additions. Troy requested that all comments are submitted to him via email prior to the next meeting. The performance measures will be discussed and adopted at the next meeting. Debbie Peterson added that this section is extremely important for the preliminary steps of the project and encouraged participation among the PDT members.

BRAINSTORM ISSUE GROUPS

The IRL North PDT was divided into three sub teams (Water Quality, Process, and Ecosystem) to discuss the Issue Group list provided. The teams were tasked with making additions to the list and prioritizing the items if time permitted. Steve reminded all public comments for this exercise should be saved for the public comment discussion period at the end of the meeting. The results of the brainstorming session are provided as Attachment 1 of this document.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Fryer, a Nature Conservancy representative, commended the group on the actions being taken to restore the Indian River Lagoon. He added that the process and project can be successful in accomplishing goals, if the PDT will take the time to recognize potential conflicts between the goals and objectives. He added the team needs to be integrated in how they deal with the pressures on the systems, and then find innovative ways to deal with the potential conflicts. He reminded the PDT about the use of natural storage treatment areas to maximize benefits with minimal future operation and maintenance needs, like those being applied in the IRL South project. He recommended that the team identify high value areas and preserve those that are possible. Jim asked the PDT to question how they package the benefits of the IRL North project, and review additional on-going efforts that are dealing with similar issues.

Specific Comments on the Issues List and Performance Measures include:

- Keep both biological and natural system goals.
- Better prioritize comments.
- Look at developing a landscape runoff.
- Consider water quality and thermal alteration.
- Encourage public participation.
 - Urge keeping the word out, as it will be worthwhile in the end.

FUTURE ACTIONS/NEXT MEETING CLOSING

Debbie Peterson offered a homework assignment to the PDT that consisted of providing comments on performance measures presented in today's meeting and/or recommending additional performance measures that are not already noted. She requested that this information be provided by March 4, 2002 via email to the Project Managers. Steven Robinson indicated that he appreciated everyone's input for the meeting. The next meeting will be held after May 1, 2002, and a meeting notice will be available no later than two weeks prior to the next meeting date.

ATTACHMENT 1
Sub Team Notes from Issue Groups
Indian River Lagoon North
Project Delivery Team Meeting February 20, 2002

WATER QUALITY TEAM

Additions to the Issues List

- Government Coordination
- Sediments included/Strategy
- Water Quality
- Circulation
- Water Storage/Supply/Reuse/ASR
- BMPs
- Models
- STA's, Storage/Reuse/ASR
- Outreach on Water Quality
- Real Estate
- Lessons Learned Elsewhere
- Flood Control

Prioritization List

- Turbidity
 - Shoreline Stability
 - Canals, Spoil Islands
 - Sedimentation
 - Re-suspended sediment
 - Phytoplankton Nutrient Management
- Salinity
 - Freshwater input and prolonged reductions.
 - Circulation/Flushing
 - Too Many Canals (manmade)
 - Groundwater upwelling into Lagoon.
- Other pollutants and sources
 - Sediments (bottom)
 - Toxics in sediments, marinas, wastewater, boats
 - Nutrients
 - Industries
 - Septic
 - Plants
 - Power
 - Wastewater
 - Citrus
 - Highways/Urban/Agriculture

PROCESS TEAM

Additions to the Issues List

- Establish an issue resolution process (take issues and turn into alternatives)
- Parallel process Vs. sequence
- May 2002 – NEPA Scoping meeting (too soon??)
- Focus of Technical issues from a global engineering perspective – not policy issues.
 - Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan (CCMP).
- Meeting Notices and Agenda need to be out no later than two weeks prior to the meeting date.
- RSVP and Proxy process need to be developed.
- Secure project website for PDT members (ex: Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project)
- Feasibility Study Coordination P.I.O with local governments and NPDES P.I.O requirement.
- Education
 - Develop new messages (What is in it for me?)
 - Different Types of People
 - Professionals – Industrial/Commercial
 - Residents
 - Children/students
- Obtain Public Buy-In.
- Establish Sub teams.

ECOSYSTEM TEAM

Additions to the Issues List

- Include Species Management (ex: Migrating birds)
- Include Air Quality
- Need knowledge of drift Algae Role
- Real Estate – Large contiguous pieces of land for Natural Storage.
- Oyster Habitat/Water Quality
- Include exotic fish species
- Listed Species – Abundance and Distribution
- Deep Water Habitat [Problem or Opportunity]
 - Muck settlement
 - Spawning Aggregations
- Bulkheads/Docks as habitat
 - Design Criteria
 - Structural Material
 - Shadowing Effects
- Sea-level rise/shift
- Re-establishing/Re-connecting impoundments
 - Opportunity for available research
- Restore Sea grasses
 - Success criteria
 - Other factors affecting Sea grass growth
- Mitigation
 - As a tool
 - As an issue
 - Impacts to existing mitigation areas?
- Land Acquisition Issues
 - Unrealistic expectations