

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

April 3 & 4, 2008
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ellen McCarron, Florida Department of Environmental Resources (FDEP), CHAIR

Chris Brooks, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS)
Rob Brown, Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies (FLERA)
Graham Lewis, Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWMD)
Linda Lindstrom, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)
Harry Norris, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Mark Rials, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
Steve Richter, Saint Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
Gail Sloane, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Bob Vincent, Department of Health (DOH)
Megan Wetherington, Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)

There was 1 observer both days.

Day One: Thursday, April 3, 2008

AGENDA REVIEW/MEETING GUIDELINES/PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

Janice Fleischer, Council Facilitator, began by reviewing the Agenda (Exhibit A).

For meeting Reports, exhibits, Guidelines and other Council documentation go to
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/WaterMonitoringCouncil/> .

INTEGRATED DATA MANAGEMENT (IDM), METADATA AND SYSTEMS DESIGN STATUS

There was a slight variation from the Agenda schedule and this presentation was the first item of business.

Ellen McCarron, Council Chair, FDEP, delivered this presentation. A working draft of the IDM Functional Requirements document was handed out at the meeting. She told Council members that the final version of the document would be sent out and a link added to the project's Sharepoint website. When the final version is ready, an email distribution will be sent giving the link and document name.

Council member comments re: integrating with SFWMD and possibly GOMA:

1. I prefer to have us be a stand alone effort but recognize the economies of us collaborating and therefore giving up some control over the system itself.

- a. At this point, we cannot make any presumptions about how this will go and if we will eventually partner with the SFWMD or others.
- b. The metadata standards we are developing should make it possible for us to incorporate and take out what we need.
2. There is a lot of policy considerations embedded in the System and someone has to make decisions on how they are resolved. We should have some permanent standing committee and maybe it could be the WRMC specifically for the arbitration element.
3. What is the process that this System has to go through?
 - a. Vetted through the WRMC, the FOCC, the Legislature's Technology Review Workgroup (TRW) (IT issues Legislative group).
4. The IDM is still at least 2 years from implementation.
5. We need an executive summary of what this is.
 - a. It exists and we will get it to the WRMC.
 - a. Send to WRMC by email.

LIAISON UPDATE

Following Ms. McCarron's report and discussion, Council Liaison, Steve Wolfe, FDEP, delivered his Update Report (**Exhibit B**).

Member comments following the report:

1. Have we heard about the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council's (FOCC) Research Review? I don't think we have ever had a presentation on the FOCC Research Review (RR) and Resource Assessment.
 - a. RR: what research has already been done or underway?
 - b. RA: location and status of coastal infrastructure and natural and human resources.
 - c. RR: map based system, click on it to see what is going on in an area, also allows a text based query.
2. How can we get to it?
 - a. Still under development but we have a sample on the website
3. This Council can get more information on the FOCC if they would like.
4. RR: Is it only surface water?
 - a. Any research data in the south will go into the RR.
 - b. FWC is uploading all their data from wherever they have it (i.e. GAME, MERMAID).
 - c. Also attempting to gather NOAA and USGS data, they are talking to them now about getting permission to do that.
5. In your role as Liaison do you coordinate with the Century Commission, they have 3 focus areas, one is protecting Florida's lands (including: habitat protection, water quality) among several other focus areas.
 - a. www.centurycommission.org is the link.

PRESENTATION – DACS SHELLFISH HARVEST AREA MONITORING PROGRAM

Chris Brooks, DACS representative on the Council gave a presentation on shellfish monitoring and harvesting (**Exhibit C**).

Council member discussion:

1. Sampling every week or two weeks generally.
2. PSP more toxic than NHP.
3. Once an area is closed, a time period is waited, then the area is tested again.

4. Do commercial fishers have exclusive areas?
 - a. There are leases, in those areas no one but the Lessee can take the product out.

DISCUSSION - COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEP SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The question to be discussed was "How do Council Chair, Ellen McCarron and Council Liaison, Steve Wolfe, maintain communications with FDEP Senior Management? Are Council positions transmitted?" This question had been raised by a couple of Council members and Ms. McCarron felt it was important to be addressed with all Council members.

Council member suggestions/comments:

1. A briefing document produced on an annual basis can be a good resource for all levels of management and what is being done by the Council-each representative on the Council has someone above them to whom they must report/answer.
2. We need to keep a good record/chain of changes from what is expected of us and what we, as a Council, recommend to interpret those original charges.
3. More transparency needed to reflect Council work and communication of that work to senior management.
4. Request the FDEP Secretary or representative attend this Council's meetings once a year at least.
5. In any documents that are created in which charges may have been refined or changed, that should be stated as such in the document itself.
6. We should have an outline or some document that tracks what has been done by the Council.

On the subject of getting approval for what the Council is doing from the Secretary of DEP:

- Briefing with Secretary is currently set for Monday, April 7, 2008. (Note: This briefing was postponed until after session at the request of Deputy Secretary Mimi Drew.)
- Asking Secretary or his Representative to come to meetings at least once a year to field questions.
- Any additional requests:
 - Let them know that timing of feedback is important because otherwise we could be working on items the Secretary would prefer we not spend time on.
 - Check on "scope creep"
 - Are we getting too involved in what we are doing? What is our scope and much do we take on?
- In the Action Plan, the Council can either limit the scope of its recommendations to only those items they feel are within their specific scope, or they can make whatever recommendations they feel are important but not the responsibility of this Council.
 - Either way the path taken needs to be explained in the introduction to any Plan created.
- Another parallel with the Ocean's Council is that their work, the Annual Plan, is becoming nationally known and well respected; it is being used by agencies, etc. who are using it as a resource document for action within their agency/entity; this could be the same with this Council.
- Budgeting considerations:
 - We are not a legislative body; should we identify our operating expenses and have DEP do a Legislative budget request each year specifically for this Council.

Do you want a Monitoring Council that creates a strategy that incorporates and expands its original charges for its Plan structured in phases or just stay to the narrow scope of the Council charges?

The Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council will create an initial strategy that meets its original four Council charges while allowing for a broader view for its Plan which may be structured in phases.

5	4	3	2	1
4	5	1	0	0

Consensus achieved

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public commented was invited, no one commented.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned for the day.

Day Two: Friday, April 4, 2008

WELCOME BACK

Mr. Wolfe announced that there will be a Lab tour at 3:00 p.m. today if Council members are interested.

FLORIDA WATER RESOURCE MONITORING ACTION PLAN STRAWMAN II-DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION

This discussion, although scheduled for the first day of meeting, did not begin until Day Two and lasted until the end of the day when the meeting was adjourned.

Discussion on the Plan as a whole:

1. We should be addressing all Council charges in this Plan.
2. Make each Legislative charge a Goal and if it is being done then just state that, include both Charges 1 & 2 in the document.
3. We need to change the order of the Issues, they need to be reordered to reflect their priority.
4. All four charges can be mentioned in each Issue grouping or there can be four GOALS stated at the beginning of the document and an explanation of them/what has been accomplished.
5. We need to be explaining all four charges in this document. The document has four sections

Call it a "Status Report and Action Plan"

NEW FORMAT FOR DOCUMENT:

SECTION ONE: CHARGE ONE WITH STRATEGY AND WORK ACCOMPLISHED AND OUTSTANDING ITEMS.

SECTION TWO: CHARGE TWO WITH STRATEGY AND WORK ACCOMPLISHED AND OUTSTANDING ITEMS.

SECTION THREE: CHARGES THREE AND FOUR AND WORK ACCOMPLISHED AND OUTSTANDING ITEMS AND PLAN

All items in the current Action Plan as to be refined.

POTENTIAL SECTION FOUR: OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES

5	4	3	2	1
2	5	2	0	0

Consensus achieved

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was invited. One member of the public spoke: Kathy Katsikis.

Note: Public comment is not transcribed. If anyone from the public desires to have his/her comments appear in the Report of Proceedings, they can submit their comments in writing on the comment cards provided at each meeting or email the Facilitator, Janice Fleischer (janice@flashresolutions.com) within the first week following the meeting.

EVALUATIONS/ADJOURN

Members were asked to fill out their Evaluations and the meeting was adjourned.
