

Captiva Community Panel

MINUTES

Dec. 13, 2016

Attending: Jay Brown, Mike Mullins, David Mintz, Mike Kelly, Peter Koury, Mike Boris, Bob Walter, Rene Miville, Sandy Stilwell

Audience: 40

Meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. Introductions by Brown and a roll call followed. The Nov. 8 Community Panel minutes were unanimously approved (Mullins/Walter).

Water quality: *Rae Ann Wessel:* Big picture context of the problems, issues, and things you need to understand. Context of historic flow vs, current conditions. How flow north to south was changed over time, from sheet flow to channelized flow. Disston connected independent lake watersheds to create channelized flow southward and westward. Lake dike was built in response to hurricane deaths in 1926-1928, 3,000 deaths. Changed Glades flow forever. Originally no lake drainage east, western expansion area for lake expansion; 20-24 feet depth originally, now 15-17 feet deep managed lake with drainage east and west via rivers. Caloosahatchee dredged from loop and oxbows to straight channel. Fresh water sources are Lake O, river watershed and tidal influence. Federal-state partnership conceived in 2000, \$14 billion project over three decades. Too much water in some areas, not enough in others. There is a formula on how Corps manages lake water. Watershed/lake water ratio changes throughout year based on weather, storage needs. 11,000 acres of marsh lost in channelization, they slow movement and aid in water treatment. Need storage in all basins, but not all storage is equal. Share adversity and benefits across the system.

Myths vs. facts... Higher dike would flood lake marsh. Aquifer storage and recovery stores underground and pumps it out when needed. Deep well injection, no water for Glades when it needs it, loses water to system forever. North vs. south storage, different benefits. North slows water into Lake, but nothing into Glades. Need state partner to move south of lake storage forward, South Florida Water Management District not interested right now. Storage on Caloosahatchee also under way, C43 and other areas. Other projects under way showing progress in storage and treatment. Local efforts and economic impacts. \$541 million in lost real estate value for each foot of water clarity lost. Everglades Coalition conference first week of January at Sanibel Harbour Resort. Sea level rise symposium here Jan. 13.

Wessel Q&A... turnover in officials, involvement, Scott actions. Explained Negron bill.

Rep. Francis Rooney: Introduction by Brown. *Rooney:* Prepare me to make the arguments that need to be made in DC. How complex restoration of Glades will be. Authorized but not appropriated CERP. Work on making connections with influential officials. This is what he's saying in DC. Don't forget... dry years lets water clear up, people forget how bad conditions can be. Government authorized project with WRDA bill, then it has to go to appropriations committee to get funding. Working to staff Interior Dept. posts via Trump appointments. Focus on the funding, avoid sugar wars until later. Stable, careful, consistent as possible.

Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane, Wessel, Rooney: Q: Wait until rainy season to show off the Glades problems. *Rooney:* Have to respond to timing of process, but agree showing them is most effective.

Cunningham: Many moving parts. Who is overseeing the efforts? *Rooney:* Get all us of saying the same

clear message. *Ruane*: Local vs. state/fed issues. More focus on the west coast than in years past. *Wessel*: Unique time, local officials united people here, communicate to state leaders. Now new leadership in DC. Critical time to act. *Mullins*: Follow up with contacts info, contact Negron, etc. Tough to get traction in DC for new people, how do we help you gain traction. *Rooney*: There are a lot of local contacts with new DC people, vacationed in this area. *Ruane*: Take advantage of FL delegation. *Mintz*: Land purchases south of lake... where are we with that? How important? *Wessel*: 2007 agreement to sell sugar land. 2008 recession took money needed to complete deal. Administration changed, took interest away out of Tallahassee. Hold on to 2020 option to contract, or put forward a new deal which is what Negron is offering, strategic purchases. *Mintz*: How important are sugar land purchases? *Wessel*: Need state partnership, not a federal issue. *Ruane*: Speed up action rather than be bound by sugar restrictions and pollution levels. Get Corps to build and plan at the same time.

Mintz: Who is responsible? *Ruane*: No one person, committees and at different levels and locales. Not one person, not one silver bullet, not one playbook. *Rooney*: State = water quality, Corps = water movement. *Wessel*: State, federal and stakeholder document, living document. *Kate Gooderham*: Importance of connections... not just Members of Congress, but also residents who can go back home to those districts. *Ruane*: ID who you know. *Rooney*: Bring our issues to those who come here for money or vacations. *Wessel*: Pollution north, how to keep it out of Lake. Designing that system right now, that's why it's not being discussed much right now. Dealing with volume first, then quality. *Kelly*: Water management district a key piece, looking for them to plan. Doesn't governor appoint? *Wessel*: Have not left him out in terms of approaching him, just need someone who knows him. *Mintz*: Why won't district act? *Wessel*: Influence, interest makes it unwilling to act. *Ruane*: Unity of message needed, now we need to pressure district. Discussion.

BREAK

Meeting reconvened with 20 people

Sea Level Rise: *Max Forgey*: Recap of status and speakers. \$20 per person, \$10 for morning sessions. *Brown*: Could we tape speakers? Video options? *Walter*: Webcast it? *Stilwell*: FSW students to tape it? *Forgey*: Will look into options. Sponsorships available. Discussion of morning session.

- **ACTION**: Forgey and Davis will finalize program, Gooderham will develop online registration and begin marketing.

Captiva Plan: *Gooderham*: received letter of completion Dec. 7, three months after last submission. County might get it on the Feb. 27 agenda for the Local Planning Agency, which I cannot attend. Staff report usually comes out 1-2 weeks before hearing, so panel would not be meeting in person in time to review it. Discussion, panel wanted option to review report and have Gooderham present for LPA, so asked Sharon Jenkins-Owen to see whether report could be written and distributed before the March 14 panel meeting and have the amendment heard at the March 27 LPA hearing.

- **ACTION**: Gooderham will follow up with SJO on staff report timing and request item be moved to March 27 LPA agenda.

LCSO: *Sgt. Mike Sawicki*: Nothing new to offer, happy to answer any questions.

Depew Proposal: *Mintz:* Cost is high, almost twice his proposal. Scope is bigger than expected. *Boris:* Hear what he has to say, discuss afterwards. *Miville:* Have him come out, define scope, work with him on cost. Discussion of scope and cost. *Kelly:* Is it timely to discuss? New panel members coming on, timetable for approval. *Miville:* Work on code language for teeth in enforcement. *Brown:* What can we do to maintain control over density? Summary of committee work that led to this proposal. Driven by wastewater research, impact on density and intensity. How can we protect ourselves against higher densities and intensities of use on our island? *Cunningham:* Potential to put off to later date, advise him before he comes in January. *Mintz:* Year-long project, prepare timeline for next iteration of plan. If there are changes in plan he suggests, we may want to hold off on code changes until those are done. Review code and plan, make suggestions to strengthen both, work with community to bring that into force. *Kelly:* Plan and code interaction and timing, both take a lot of time to achieve. *Brown:* Have him tell us what he can do. Major question, needs his input. *Boris:* Very interested to hear what he has to say. *Walter:* Add clarity to what you want to do. *Mintz:* Where is our plan vulnerable? What he can do to make it stronger. *Walter:* Max helped us with our plan intimately, Depew just looking at it as an outsider.

- **ACTION:** None.

Wastewater Committee: *Brown:* Exchange of emails with Utilities Director Pam Keyes. Summary of actions so far. Evaluation of package plants accepted. BoCC workshop next step, revised scope in works. On back burner with her, it seems. Not a big issue, or are there other problems with idea? *Stilwell:* Always about putting out fires with the county. *Mintz:* Made a lot of progress, we got spoiled about that, now seeing a more normal rate. *Mintz:* Surprised that 14 private homes in South Seas are still on septic systems.

- **ACTION:** Gooderham will follow up with Keyes on status.

Captiva Drive: *Mintz:* Met with Lee DOT director Randy Cerchie, Doug Padgett, Louis Serao with Lee DOT Dec. 12. Said DOT would support project and the need for project. First step is to update survey to determine where road is and what property may be needed. Then engineering and design, then work with property owners and utilities to get project moving. DOT will pay for survey, Cerchie will speak with Ryan Bell with Johnson Engineering. We will set up meeting with Johnson as well, plus LCEC and utilities. *Stilwell:* Getting Dennie Hamilton to look at power security in that area. *Boris:* Rest of cost comes from where? *Mintz:* Don't know. Discussed process of determination of costs. *Boris:* No shift of road north and east? *Mintz:* Mostly, except by resort where there is a little room to work if needed.

- **ACTION:** Mintz will follow up on Johnson meeting. Mintz and Gooderham will discuss with LCEC's Tricia Dorn at or after Jan. 10 meeting.

Captiva Drive Signs: *Cunningham:* Asked DOT for new Wiles and Chapin signs to point to library, etc. DOT approved request quickly, unlike last time. Won't need help from panel after all.

Panel vote: *Boris:* Walter unanimous candidate, need to elect him to board. *Gooderham:* New members named, and thanks to Kelly, Brown, Cunningham for their service to the panel. *Mintz:* Offered extended comments on all three. *Brown:* Will stay involved. *Cunningham:* Very interesting five years. Changed over time, moved from talk to accomplishments. Open-minded people now. Still hope you consider a different manner of selecting members, need some form of democratic process.

Fund-raising: *Cunningham:* Raised \$8,700 from cruise, in good shape for short term, some pending

projects could cost. Jan. 13 reception -- \$50 per person, how to market? Make announcement at symposium? Aimed at Captiva audience. *Boris*: After holiday? *Walter*: Save the date and follow-up closer. *Cunningham*: Same process for reservations. Speaker needed for reception? *Stilwell*: Keep it short if people have been in meetings all day. *Walter*: Reception style food and bar. *Forgey*: Speakers invited, they may draw people to continue discussions with them. *Kelly*: Kings Crown as a reason we're preserving the island. *Walter*: Get mailing to Island Management to distribute to South Seas owners. *Boris*: Invite your neighbors as well. *Kate Gooderham*: Purpose is to raise funds, meet your neighbors, introduce them to the panel. What you can do there to reflect all three reasons for reception? Poster of accomplishments, Kings Crown history, get people engaged. *Cunningham*: Larger donors, not tied into this but more one-on-one. *Kate Gooderham*: Silent auction? *Lisa Riordan*: Associations have their own websites, could use that. Posters and flyers. Get CCA, Historical Society involved?

- **ACTION**: Gooderham will work on registration process and marketing, follow up with CCA and Historical Society on participation?

2017 schedule: Approved as presented.

2017 budget: *Boris*: Discussion. Working document, can update as needed. Stock donations... a lot of emails exchanged on that. More money than we want to take? *Brown*: Perception issue only. If we promoted efficiency could we get a large donation that could be perceived as a potential conflict? *Miville*: Rauschenberg largest donor, a lot of people who have given quietly. *Boris*: Alternative way to make a gift, an easy way to give. Move to approve 2017 budget and schedule (*Boris/Cunningham*), unanimous. *Koury*: Thanks to Bob and South Seas for facilities and reception.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

-- *Ken Gooderham, administrator*