

Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes –September 14, 2009

Members in attendance

Daniel Alberdi, Hallie Calig, Deborah Cope, Roy Davis, Wayne Echelberger, Ph.D., Harold Falls, Melanie Higgins, Ann Hodgson, Ph.D., Vicki Kenyon, Kim Koleos, Dale Meryman, Ph.D., Cam Oberting, Sharon Terrill-Elfers

Members absent

Joy Ingram, David Jellerson, George Parker, Jr. Jeremy Burris

Guests

Brian Boman, UF/IFAS; Jemy Hinton, UF/IFAS; Stephen Gran, Hillsborough County Economic Development

EPC Staff in attendance

Bob Stetler, Director Wetlands Management Division; Tom Ash, ERM Division; Laura Thorne, ERM Division ; Michael Levine, Legal Intern; Jeannette Figari, CEAC Liaison.

I. Regular Business

Vice Chairman, Wayne Echelberger, Ph.D., called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The Chairman, David Jellerson, was out of town and unable to attend.

a) Public Comment

Dr. Echelberger called for public comment. Mr. Brian Boman, Project Manager for the Agricultural Best Management Practice Implementation Project II, gave a summary of his proposal to the Committee; Ms. Jami Hinton, presented statistical information regarding current enrollment in the ongoing effort to encourage the implementation of BMP's; and Stephen Gran, Hillsborough County Economic Development, spoke to the County's support of efforts being undertaken to manage nutrient loading into the waterways.

b) Approval of August 3, 2009 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes; the motion carried 13-0.

The CEAC Liaison introduced Michael Levine the new legal intern who provided some background information about himself.

c) Review –August 20, 2009 EPC Meeting

In Dr. Garrity's absence, Bob Stetler gave a brief summary of the items addressed at the August EPC meeting.

- Dr. Garrity informed the Commission of the recent Agency reorganization that will combine the Wetlands and ERM Divisions as the Watershed and Wetlands Management Division.
- Dr. Garrity discussed the tanks compliance audit conducted by the DEP and informed the Commission of the high grade the Agency received.
- The Commission declared the week of September 20-26, 2009 Pollution Prevention Week.
- An information report was given by the Air Management Division regarding the US EPA's revised air quality standard for lead.

- The Waste Management staff provided an update on the efforts of EPC, SWFWMD and PGMD in the development of mulch BMP's.
- The Water Management Division staff discussed the regulation of mobile truck washing and stationary truck washing facilities.
- Wetlands Management Division staff presented the quarterly update on the Hybrid program.

d) Preview – September 17, 2009 EPC Meeting

Bob Stetler gave a brief summary of the items to be included on the September agenda.

- Staff will request the Commission authorize setting a Public Hearing to consider amendments to Chapter 1-6, Services-Fee Schedule.
- Dr. Garrity will present the annual State of the Environment report.
- Holly Greening, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, will update the Commission on the Nitrogen Management Consortium.
- An update will be provided on the DEP's proposed reclassification of surface water bodies.
- The Legal Department will submit an information report regarding the issuance of local emergency orders for natural disasters.

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II. Items for Discussion, Action or Presentation

a) Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) project recommendations

Tom Ash, ERM Division, reviewed the PRF application/approval process before presenting staff's recommendations on each project.

Mr. Ash indicated that the total funds available as of 8/30/09 were \$ 381,588.00. Mr. Ash proceeded to present the EPC staff recommendation for each project at which time CEAC members shared their comments on the projects and then voted to either support, oppose or amend staff's recommendation.

Agriculture Best Management Practice Implementation Project

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Denial (\$150,000) (CEAC Vote 11-1-1)
- This is a continuation of an existing statewide initiative for another 3 year period
- The existing project has not fully used its current funding and has doubled state and federal match
- Mr. Davis moved approval of \$50,000 for one year of funding, lacking a second, the motion failed

Nutrient Input Reduction into Tampa Bay Using Vegetative Buffer Zones

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Denial (\$50,000) (CEAC Vote 12-0-1)
- Little new information would be gained about nutrient uptake benefits of planted shorelines
- The amount of shoreline planted and actual environmental benefit would likely be minimal

Constructing a Rain Garden to Reduce Stormwater Runoff

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Denial (\$49,618) (CEAC Vote 12-0-1)
- The project focuses on the USF campus and would have minimal county-wide impact
- Implies funds would be used to meet already required MS4 & NPDES requirements

Basis of Review for Borrow Pit Applications

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Approval for \$68,160 (CEAC Vote 13-0-0)
- This project will help develop more current scientific knowledge to aid staff with reviews.
- Emphasis will be placed on technical criteria needed to review potential borrow pit impacts.

- Dr. Hodgson moved CEAC support staff recommendation of approval with the emphasis placed on technical development not on rule development (codification) and the removal of the portions of the project that focused on rule development.

Effects of Restoration on Use of Habitat by Neo-tropical Migratory Songbirds

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Approval for \$84,081 (CEAC Vote 11-0-2)
- This project builds on existing data related to migratory birds' use of coastal upland habitats.
- Project will restore 5 acres of habitat in Cockroach Bay and develop useful restoration techniques for future projects in Tampa Bay.
- Dr. Hodgson corrected the misrepresentation of Audubon's interest in this project. Dr. Hodgson clarified that Audubon's position was neutral.

Artificial Wetland Cells

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Approval for \$5,500 (CEAC Vote 13-0-0)
- Project will create and deploy several floating vegetated islands in lakes and ponds.
- The islands will provide nutrient uptake, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic benefits.

Pilot Project for Outfall Water Quality in Lake Magdalene

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Denial (\$92,000) (CEAC Vote 13-0-0)
- The applicant has a current PRF project in place that is not yet completed
- There is uncertainty regarding long-term maintenance and permission to use county ROW

East Lake Watershed: A Student-led Action Plan to Improve Water Quality

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Approval for \$46,300 (CEAC Vote 13-0-0)
- This project is focused on student-driven environmental management and education.
- Students will monitor water quality, stormwater impacts, and develop a management plan.
- Danny Alberdi made a motion to modify staff's recommendation for approval to \$36,000; he suggested removing the funds allocated for "other", "youth summit" and "staff travel." The motion was seconded; the motion failed.
- Vikki Kenyon recommended that a deliverable be established to better assess the results.

Tampa Port Authority Stormwater Retrofit Project

- EPC Staff & CEAC Recommend Denial (\$17,000) (CEAC Vote 13-0-0)
- The project proposes additional work in a previously approved project area
- There would be minimal additional benefit by adding on to an already completed project

Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Hillsborough County Government

- EPC Staff Recommends Approval for \$75,000
- CEAC Recommends Denial (CEAC Vote 2-10-1)
- Staff feels that the project will allow the county to update its GHG inventory thus being able to take future action toward implementing greener initiatives with county facilities and vehicles
- CEAC feels this is an inappropriate use of PRF funding and any such study should be funded by the county itself. CEAC also feels that there are more readily available and less expensive ways of calculating the same data.

At the conclusion of the voting, Mr. Ash provided a summary of the allocation of funds. The total PRF funds allocated for approved projects based on staff recommendations amounted to \$279,041 and the total allocated based on CEAC recommendations amounted to \$204,041.

The remaining balance of PRF funds based on staff recommendations would amount to \$102,547 and the remaining balance based on CEAC recommendations would amount to \$177,547.

Other Business

Dale Meryman, Ph.D., CEAC's representative on the Water Conservation Technical Advisory Committee, submitted a summary report of the issues addressed at their August 11, 2009.

Harold Falls informed the Committee of the upcoming Phosphate Conference to be held at the Lakeland Civic Center on October 14th and 15th. Mr. Falls also provided some anecdotal information regarding the building of his new energy efficient home.

A motion was made by Vikki Kenyon (seconded by Dr. Ann Hodgson) to cancel the December meeting and move the scheduled agenda item to the November meeting. The motion carried 12-0.

CEAC members were asked to review the Bylaws and prepare to make any recommended changes at the October meeting.

Agenda Items for September 14, 2009 CEAC Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.