Final Minutes

EVERGLADES WETLAND RESEARCH PARK ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday August 5, 2013, 2 - 4 pm

Participants:

Committee members:
Mike Bauer, Ph.D., City of Naples, Naples, FL
William Bullock, MINTO Communities Florida
Mike Duever, Ph.D., Naples, FL
Katherine C. Ewel, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, Gainsville FL
Siobhan Fennessy, Ph.D., Professor, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
Tim Hall, Turrell, Hall & Associates, Naples, FL
Doug Hartman, Naples, FL
Bill Heffner, AggRok, Grove City, OH
Gary Lytton, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Naples, FL
Bernie Master, Worthington, OH
Jerry Pausch, Ph.D., BF Goodrich, retired, Leesburg, OH
Mike Peppe, Columbus, OH and Naples FL

EWRP Staff/Volunteers:
Olga Connors
Daniel Marchio (FGCU student)
Bill Mitsch, Ph.D.
Ruthmarie Mitsch, Ph.D.
Tim Morin (OSU student)
Li Zhang, Ph.D.

The meeting was brought to order by Professor Mitsch at approximately 2 pm with simulcasts among Columbus OH, Naples FL, and near Gainesville FL.
1. Introductions of Participants

Attending committee members and staff introduced themselves
a. at FGCU Kapnick Center in Naples  Mike Bauer, William Bullock, Mike Duever, Tim Hall, Doug Hartman, Gary Lytton  staff: Li Zhang, Olga Connors, Daniel Marchio
b. at OSU Faculty Club in Columbus  Siobhan Fennessy, Bill Heffner, Bernie Master, Jerry Pausch, Mike Peppe  staff Bill Mitsch, Tim Morin
c. those on line with Adobe Connect elsewhere:  Kathy Ewel, Gainesville FL

2. Director's Report - Bill Mitsch

Bill presented a power point presentation that covered the following topics. The entire slide show is available at the EWRP Advisory Committee web page http://www.fgcu.edu/swamp/advisorycommittee.html

a. Introduction to EWRP, Everglades, and EWRP People

The goals, physical features, and people of the EWRP, and an introduction to the Florida Everglades, esp for non-FL folks. He introduced 14 staff/students who form the current core of the the EWRP and 6 newcomers for 2013-14: new MS student Andrea Pereyra from Lima Peru, new post-doc Alvaro Cabezas from Berlin, Germany but Ph.D. from Spain; and 4 anticipated visiting scholars for 2013-14 from east and west China.

b. Current Research Initiatives

A description of the three main research foci of the EWRP to date in south Florida by the EWRP was presented:
a. wetland mesocosm phosphorus removal project by different vegetation types with South Florida Water Manamgent District in West Palm Beach
b. carbon sequestration/methane emissions in wetland communities in Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary
c. Tidal creek restoration in mangroves on Naples Bay. The budget for this project to happen was given as $7.1 million. We are only beginning to discuss how to get this project started. The overall cost is shown here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permits and Engineering Design (1+ year)</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of tidal stream restoration (1 year)</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of boardwalks (6 months)</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Infrastructure (field and lab)</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher salaries 5 years x (2 post docs and 4 graduate students) + 2 visiting scientists x 5 years</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments for site maintenance and student site engineer</td>
<td>$2,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,100,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**c. Outreach—Short Courses and Moonlight on the Marsh Distinguished Lectures**

These outreach efforts are now being discussed as being the beginnings of a part of the EWRP called **The Naples Institute**. It is only an idea, just hatched, that TNI could become an environmental think tank in Naples similar in concept to The Santa Fe Institute [http://santafe.edu/](http://santafe.edu/) In Santa Fe, they come to discuss complex systems; in Naples, scientists from around the world would come to solve the world’s ecological problems. What better place in the world than next to the Florida Everglades and in an environment conducive to thinking outside the box. We want to continue to develop this idea but it is not official in any way yet.

Local and international outreach was described including the six short courses that will be offered in 2013-14 at the EWRP by an
international "faculty" of 9 distinguished local and visiting scientists.

- November 7-9, 2013 Creation and Restoration of Wetlands
- December 12-14, 2013 Treatment Wetlands
- January 23-25, 2014 Ecological Modeling
- January 30 - February 1, 2014 Ecological Engineering & Ecosystem Restoration
- February 17-20, 2014 Wetland Ecology and Management
- March 17-21, 2014 Wetland Delineation

Instructors include Jim Bays, CH2M-Hill, Tampa, FL; Sven Jørgensen, Copenhagen University, Denmark; Jiyoung Lee, College of Public Health, Ohio State University; Robin Lewis, Lewis Environmental Services, Tampa, FL; Ulo Mander, Tartu University, Estonia; Bill Mitsch, EWRP, FGCU; Ralph Tiner, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Amherst, MA; Jos Verhoeven, Utrecht University, The Netherlands; Li Zhang, EWRP, FGCU

Bill also formally introduced the five Moonlight on the Marsh distinguished lecturers for 2013-14. This is an exciting program with world-class lecturers. All will be held in the Kapnick Building at the Naples Botanical Garden on 7 pm on Thursdays:

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2013, 7 PM**
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT WITH WETLANDS
Ülo Mander, Ph.D., Professor of Landscape Ecology and Head, Department of Geography, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

**THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 2014, 7 PM**
ALGAL BLOOMS AND RED TIDES: WHAT’S MANAGEABLE AND WHAT’S NOT
Hans W. Paerl, Ph.D., William R. Kenan Professor of Marine and Environmental Sciences, University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences, Morehead City, North Carolina

**THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2014, 7 PM**
WHO IS POLLUTING THE BEACHES? UNDERSTANDING
CONTAMINATION SOURCES, HEALTH RISKS, AND PROTECTION OF BEACH WATER
Jiyoung Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Environmental Health Science, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2014, 7 PM
RECLAIMING, USING, AND PROTECTING WETLANDS: THE DUTCH APPROACH
Jos Verhoeven, Ph.D., Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2014, 7 PM
THE PROBLEM OF INVASIVE PYTHONS IN THE UNITED STATES
Michael E. Dorcas, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Biology, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina

3. Committee Member Inputs/General Discussion

We went around the rooms and there were comments from several of the participants. Some of those are listed here.

a. Minto and FGCU continue to refine an agreement for FGCU to do research on Minto property (mangroves adjacent to Naples Bay). It should be completed soon.

b. Several suggestions were made on specifics of the mangrove restoration project as, for example, are there any plans to have freshwater inputs to the stream restoration.

c. A suggestion after the meeting by committee member Jerry Pausch was that we connect the seminar on pythons on Feb 27 by Dr. Dorcas with a fundraiser related to the Megapython movie mentioned in Bill's presentation, as the Hollywood producer, David Latt, is a friend of Jerry's and was an employer of Jerry's daughter Natalie. We have since made a connection with Mr. Latt. In fact an event, already preliminarily scheduled for Friday February 28, is now labeled a FUN(D) RAISER.
4. Financing the EWRP--Discussion

a. We found out from Doug Hartmann that our proposal for RESTORE funds sent to Collier County to fund our Naples Bay tidal creek restoration ended up in the "middle of the pack" after reviewed by a committee and was not a priority, mostly because it was read as an "education" project more than a "restoration" project even though we were careful to emphasize restoration in the proposal.

b. Suggests came from several sources to work more closely with the FGCU Foundation and development office.

c. There were no complaints about the $7.1 million cost of the tidal creek restoration project. Lots of encouragement to "do it!"

d. We plan to make formal connections with the NSF Long Term Ecological Research site that is coordinated by Florida International. To that end, one of their researchers is coming to FGCU campus to give a lecture on Oct 30 and we will invite him to the EWRP for discussions of collaboration.

5. Scheduling of next EWRP Meeting

We scheduled the next Committee meeting (it will be in Naples) for Friday January 17, 2014 in Naples at the Kapnick Center, in conjunction with the MOM lecture on algal blooms and red tide by Prof. Paerl the previous evening.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm.