ADOPTED

Myakka River Management Coordinating Council
Nature Center
Oscar Scherer State Park
1843 S. Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida

August 12, 2005
9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

The meeting started at 9:30 a.m. Jonathan Miller explained the procedure and introductions were made.

Tom Williams – Myakka State Forest Update.

The Myakka State Forest roller-chopped over 1,000 acres in 2005. Due to residential development, roller-chopping is the forest's main resource management technique. Smoke from prescribed burning is a challenge to control, however the goal is to chop and prescribe burn all the forest's boundaries to protect from wildfires. Roller-chopping has been more effective on saw palmettos during the wet periods than chopping during dry periods.

A new administration building is being built that will give staff more of a site presence. The building is 1,500 sq. feet, has four offices, and a conference room.

The forest was wet this season (as shown on a slide). The campground was closed because of vehicular erosion of the dirt roads during the rainy months. Next year, the road to the campground will be surfaced with shell and compacted to allow the access to the campground to remain open longer.

A three-year-old planting of South Florida slash pine is doing well and seedlings are still coming up. One hundred acres of South Florida Slash Pine were planted this year. Another 100 acres are planned for the coming year, where South Florida slash pine and long leaf pine will be planted in a mixed forest.

Tropical soda apple, melaleuca and lygodium were targeted for exotic removal.

Statistics for the forest in 2004:

- 3,300 visitors to the forest, an increase from 2003
- 844 people camped overnight
- 19 annual passes were sold
- 24 miles of plow lines.
- 4,006 volunteer hours (garbage clean-up, trail maintenance etc…)
- 1,492 hunter visits

Jono Miller asked if cogon grass was a concern. Tom responded that they have cogon grass. They ran a disk through it accidentally, which exacerbated their problem. They have sprayed it once. They have to chop it, spray it, and burn it until it's gone.

Belinda Perry – Sarasota County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Update.

Sarasota County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program (SCESL) program has closed on two parcels since this council's last meeting in April. The Jordan Property was purchased for 16 million dollars and is the Blackburn portion of the ranch in Deer Prairie Creek (503 acres). The other property, which is not in the Myakka River Watershed, is a 20-acre site on the Lemon Bay Preserve.

With the Jordan property and the Lemon Bay Preserve purchases, the ESLPP funding has been depleted. The program was started in March 1999, the County proposed two referenda to fund the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program: one to approve an increase to the ad valorem tax up to 0.25 mils, the second to approve bonding authority up to 53 million. They have gone back to the board, and through discussions the board has asked SCESL to look at extending and expanding the program.

The result is a referendum that will require two separate ballot issues. One ballot issue is extending and expanding the existing SCESL program to include neighborhood green space purchases. The commission was looking for the opportunity to buy open green spaces that do not meet the criteria of the current SCESL program. If the program is expanded to buy green space it will take the program from its original 20 years (to 2019) and add an additional 10 years (to 2029). The second ballot issue is to increase the bonding pact. The $250 million cap is what they conservatively estimate for what would be coming in over the life of the program. The program receives $6 to $8 million a year to pay for property. Without bonding, the program would not have been able to buy the 503-acre Jordan Property.

Before the public hearing is held on the referendum, a series of workshops are planned. The first workshop was August 8 at the Fruitville Library; the second will be held next Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at Nokomis Community Center; and the third one will be in North Port at the North Port Library, Wednesday August 17, 2005. The purposes of the workshops were to gather input on three things: 1) the name of the new program; 2) what the program will include; 3) and the language for the referendum.

Don Callouette asked when the referendum is anticipated to go to voters. Belinda answered that the Board should decide at the public hearing on September 14th. There are no other issues on the ballot unless you are in the City of Venice, therefore voters that come out are going to be strongly for the referendum, or against it.

Jono Miller stated that The Nature Conservancy polled the community and found that one of the highest levels of support was generated for protecting land along the Myakka River.

Editors note: The Sarasota Board of County Commissioners voted to hold an election for the referendum, and the vote will take place November 8, 2005.

Howard Berna – Sarasota County's Myakka River Permitting Update.

At the county level, there are three permits under review for the Myakka River.
Several permitted docks are in construction, so the views along the river are changing, especially along the Myakka River Trails neighborhood.

In June, the Board of County Commissioners heard the first watercourse buffer variance request with respect to the Myakka River Protection Zone. The board granted two variances for adjoining properties on Starfish Circle. Site specific conditions were such that a single-family residence home could not be built on those properties without this variance. The Board granted the minimum required variance for construction for both lots. A third variance request for the Myakka Country Estates neighborhood will be going before the Board on September 28th.

Sarasota County is coordinating with the Florida Park Service on an educational mailing to make the public aware of the Myakka River Protection Zone rules. The mailing is to reduce the amount of calls and concerns as well as clarify county and state laws.

Sarasota County is dealing with code enforcement actions with regard to some fill violations on Myakka River properties. They have also responded to several vegetation removal complaints and are attempting to educate homeowners about the new rules with regard to maintaining the vegetative buffer along the Myakka River.

Jono Miller asked if Howard had a chance to look at the new canoe/kayak launch. The sketch Jono had seen earlier looked liked it was on the steepest bank on the Myakka River. Howard said the site was chosen because it would impact the least native vegetation along that shoreline. The bank is going to be shaved back at the top and stabilized by hardening a segment of the shoreline with rock.

Jim Ballenger – Sarasota County's River Road Expansion Status.

The design for the expansion of River Road began in January 2005. River Road will be a six-lane highway from US 41 to Center Road and a four-lane highway from Center Road to I-75. The design was completed and approved by Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. Preliminary survey work has been completed, and the locations of wetlands and mesic hammocks have been documented. Approval from SWFWMD is pending. The 30% plans, or preliminary plans, are due at the end of August.

Currently discussions over the right-of-way acquisition, acquisition of pond sites, and flood plain mitigation are ongoing. The engineers are challenged because of nearby development on the west side and environmental lands on the east side.

The council asked when construction will begin. Jim responded that they have complete funding for design, but not for construction or right-of-way acquisition. The funding is Federal money which is going through FDOT. Currently, construction is stated in the CIP to begin in 2008. The date is tentative depending on construction costs and the priority of the site at the time.

Jono asked if the right-of-way was going to take more out of The Jelks Preserve on the east than development property on the west. Jim explained that it had not been determined and they

wouldn't know until they get to the 60% plan, which will be developed in the spring of 2006. There was an option of a reduction in the right-of-way; however, it will cause a shift in alignment. They are working closely with Belinda Perry and others in Natural Resources to try to resolve the issue.

A retention pond site is proposed for the Jelks Property, but a natural lake is being engineered rather than a retention pond. Acquiring other parcels to reduce the amount of impact to the Jelks Property is another possibility.

Mary Jelks asked what the increase of elevation of the road would be. Jim answered that the preliminary information shows an elevation of two to three feet over current condition. This may change, as they are still fairly early in design. Several wildlife crossings are also included in the road construction plans.

Maran Hilgendorf – Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update.

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is celebrating National Estuaries Days 2005 on September 24th. Many recreational and educational activities are being planned, and handouts were given to the council listing the various festivals, wading trips, guided walks and paddling events being offered. A listing of events is to be published in Harbor Happenings.

CHNEP is designing their new 2006 calendar. Through September 10th the public can help select images that best depict the beauty of the estuaries and watersheds in the Charlotte Harbor NEP study area**.** The images were submitted from the community. The survey can be found at the following website: http://www.charlotteharbornep.org/.

Two CDs were made available to the council, the first was titled 2005 Charlotte Harbor Watershed Summit *Lessons learned in Transferring Sceince to Watershed Management,* and the second CD was titled, Assessment of Boat Propeller Scar Damage within the Greater Charlotte Harbor Region.

On February 11, 2000, the Charlotte Harbor *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) was approved by the program's Management Conference. The development of the Management Plan began in 1995 when Charlotte Harbor was accepted into the National Estuary Program. Every five years the management plan has to be updated, and the update process was fifty percent complete. Working through a committee, objectives and plans are modified. A survey has been drafted to help determine the priority of objectives that are in the management plan. Maran asked council members to look at the survey, and provide comments. Comments can be mailed to the new office, the address is provided on the yellow handout. After the objectives are prioritized, they will have a meeting to discuss any concerns.

Jono Miller – Announcement

Jono Miller explained that Heidi Smith, previously with the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Project, wasn't able to attend. He wanted to announce her project in conjunction with Clyde Butcher to create educational materials about the Myakka watershed. The project would include a one hour documentary film about the Myakka watershed, audio-interview segments for public radio, coffee table book, a soundtrack, traveling photographic exhibit, an on-line journal, and

educational opportunities for students. The budget for the project is $220,000. Jono expressed concern over the exposure the project would bring to the river.

Paula Benshoff – Myakka Wild and Scenic Trails Map.

The Friends of Myakka River received two grants to produce a map of the lower Myakka watershed, one from SWFWMD and one from Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. The purpose of the map is to consolidate conservation land recreation opportunities along the Myakka River into one document for the public. The map's northern most point will begin at Crowley Museum & Nature Center and continue south to Charlotte Harbor. The map is 28 X 32 inches and is two sided. Side one will portray Myakka River State Park and the Carlton Reserve. The second side will include the area south of the Carlton Reserve ending at Charlotte Harbor.

Managers for public lands were contacted to obtain GIS and mapping information. Currently, a graphic interface is being developed to make the information comprehensive. The first half of the map is due to be finished by August 13th. Work on the second half of the map will begin the week of August 15th. Suggestions for sights to include on the map for side two are still needed. Fishing spots along the river are going to be portrayed, as well as bird-watching sites.

You can reach Paula at Myakka River State Park. A simple e-mail address is **Biology@myakkariver.org**.

Print-outs were available to view after the meeting. Production is scheduled for September.

Amy Emmert – Myakka Wild & Scenic River Biologist Report

Manatee activity has been sighted recently around the Jelks Preserve. Five manatees were observed in the first week of August, one was a juvenile. The four-foot juvenile was seen feeding along the bull rush, and had no visible prop scars.

Two docks were under construction along the Myakka Trails section of the river, and one permit application was being reviewed.

A cooperative community mailing between Sarasota County and the Florida Park Service is being processed. All property owners within the 220-ft protection buffer zone will receive a flyer that summarizes the rights of property owners along the river, and a county ordinance brochure. The mailing will also be a reminder of the boating regulations on the river. The mailing was necessary due to increasing vegetation trimming, clearing, and boating violations.

Law enforcement on the river has increased. The availability of a personal watercraft for park patrol, and coordination with Fish and Wildlife Commission, has increased warnings and citation numbers, above numbers in years 2003 and 2004.

Thirty-five melaleuca trees have been cut and treated. Two hundred square feet of old-world climbing fern has also been poodle-cut and treated.

A new Myakka Wild & Scenic River brochure is being developed for the Florida Park Service to disseminate.

The next project for the management office will be to start dialog with the City of North Port to adopt an upland buffer. A letter to North Port's city manager has been drafted to encourage development of protection measures for the Myakka River corridor. Jono Miller added that in 1985, when the legislature passed the creation of the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council, a law to develop a protection zone included all the counties and municipalities along the river. Sarasota County has complied, but North Port has not yet participated. The draft letter was available for review by the council.

Jono commented that the graph of citations and warnings did not show how many hours law enforcement was patrolling the river. Jono asked if the patrol hours are also increasing compared to past years. Lt. Todd Hand, Patrol Supervisor, responded saying that the patrolling is up due to their acquisition of personal watercraft. Jono asked to see the number of hours that officers were spending patrolling on the water compared to previous years.

John Coates, Sam Zamani, Jacki Champion, Robert Vanderslice – Wingate Creek Discharge Permit, Bureau of Mine Reclamation DEP.

Robert Vanderslice presented the Wingate Creek Mine's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal application. The permit's purpose is to protect the environment, and in particular protect the Myakka River from discharge pollution; it defines mining activities and sets effluent limitations for the Wingate Creek mine. The permit is in the draft process and is ready for comment from both the industry and the public. A proposed permit will be issued after the public meeting, followed by the final permit.

The location of the Wingate Creek Mine is north of Myakka City in Manatee County. The mine site is approximately 3,000 acres. Approximately 700 acres have been mined and 1,400 acres are proposed to be mined. The mine will discharge into Wingate Creek and Johnson Creek. A small portion of the property drains to the east fork of the Manatee River.

Wingate Creek Mine has had many owners. The first was Pittsburg Glass, who bought the property but did not mine. Texaco bought an adjacent property which was later incorporated into the Wingate Creek property. Beker Phosphate was granted a mining permit in 1975, and started operations around 1980. In 1992, Nu Gulf, Inc., a subsidiary of the Mulberry Corporation, purchased the property. In the year 2001, Nu Gulf filed bankruptcy, and in 2002 the property transferred to a holding company. Cargill Fertilizer bought the Wingate Mine in 2004. When Cargill Fertilizer combined with IMC Phosphates they changed the name to Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC which is the current owner and operator.

Mosaic uses the Wingate property for mining and beneficiation. The site does not house a chemical plant or gypsum stacks to process the mined phosphate. Phosphate is moved by truck to processing plants in the north. Wingate Creek Mine is a small mine and phosphate removal is slower at the Wingate mine compared to larger mines. Mining first removes the top layer of earth or overburden, and then removes the phosphate matrix. The matrix is acquired by dredge and not by a dragline. At the beneficiation plant, sand and clay are separated from the phosphate rock. Waste clay is pumped to settling ponds, and recovered sand is used to backfill mining pits. The phosphate travels by truck to the fertilizer processing plant. The mine has two years to reclaim the land after mining ceases.

A facility schematic was shown to show the location of the clarification areas, clay settling areas, clay deposit areas, and reclamation areas. Active mining sites were located on the west side of the property. Two outfalls are planned for the new permit. One outfall discharges into Johnson Creek, and the second discharges into Wingate Creek. Both of these tributaries join and run to the Myakka River. Discharge volume is dependent on rainfall in the watershed. During some times of the year there is no discharge from the outfalls.

Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements in the permit are determined by state and federal rules. A current study of the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for the region is being conducted. Until the report is submitted to the EPA, the permit is intended to keep Mosaic at previous limitations and monitoring. The permit-required TMDLs were shown for both outfalls.

TMDLs were set in part by looking at the impaired waters which are downstream of the outfalls. Upper Myakka Lake is the first impaired water, which is impaired for biological criteria and biodiversity impact. Then the Myakka River segment is impaired for nutrients, coloforms, and dissolved oxygen. A segment near North Port in the lower Myakka is impaired for nutrients and mercury.

The TMDL monitoring frequency regulations comes from the permit application and the requirements of the state's water quality standards. The antidegradation rule does not apply to the Wingate Creek Mine because it is a renewal of an existing permit. The facility is not allowed expansion of discharge volume.

In the previous permit, there was no limit for phosphorus; nitrogen was the concern of the permitting process at that time. The state mining rule did not have a limit for phosphate level to use as a guide. By looking at the values and discharges for the period in which the mine has been active, a phosphorus limit was developed for the two outfalls. Nitrogen had a target limit in pounds per year for 2001 and 2002 that the permit draft could model. The nitrogen limit has been reduced to approximately 50,000 pounds per year of permitted volume, which is about a 66%.

The permit limit for total suspended solids is 60mg/l maximum per day. The minimum that Wingate has been discharging is 0.3 mg/l, the maximum has been 11mg/l, and 3.3 mg/l is the mean and 3mg/l median out of 29 different samples. The permit requires a limit of 5mg/l of phosphorus per day and 3mg/l average for the month. The minimum for the mine has been 0mg/l and the maximum is 2.2 mg/l. The median is 0.5 mg/l and the mean is 0.6 mg/l.

The total nitrogen minimum for outfall one has been 0.6lbs/day. The maximum discharge was 3.4lbs/day, however the mean has been 1.5lbs/day. Outfall two has similar characteristics.

Dissolved Oxygen is a big issue because the upper levels of the Myakka River have a low dissolved oxygen level. This is expected in the watershed. The discharged water averages 5.3mg/l for dissolved oxygen. The discharge is adding more oxygen to the river.

Jono asked if these limitations were adopted as proposed, would the mine have to meet the targets. Robert answered that if the mine goes over the target values set by the permit, a study of

impact, including biological impact, of the outfalls sites is required. A recommendation plan is also required to keep loads under that target value for the next period until they achieve the levels stated in the permit.

Changes to the draft are planned because of comments from the EPA, the public and staff. Additions will include monitoring for turbidity, chronic testing, acute process testing and stream condition index sampling. Comments from Mosaic Fertilizer and comments from the public meeting had not been heard. The public meeting will be held September 14 at the Manatee Civic Center from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

All comments need to be received by September 14th. Comments can be sent to:

Bureau of Mine Reclamation
Phosphate Mining Program
8407 Laurel Fair Cr.
Tampa, FL 33610-7355

Or email comments to Robert Vanderslice at **Robert.Vanderslice@dep.state.fl.us**

Peggy Morgan asked about the discharge volume coming from the mine. Robert responded that the rainfall has been high this year. The flow range was from zero to twenty million gallons a day. Wingate averaged four million gallons per day. Two weeks before the council meeting date, outfall two discharged 6 million gallons per day.

Jono asked how the discharge compares with run-off in the absence of mining activities. The answer was that the discharge would be higher without mining activities.

Marty Kelly – Upper Myakka River Minimum Flows and Levels/PHABSIM

Marty Kelly from the South West Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), presented the proposed minimum flows and levels (MFL) developed by his department for the Upper Myakka River Watershed. The Upper Myakka River minimum flow study was completed in August 2005 and the minimum flows and levels for the lower Myakka Watershed, the estuarine portion, will be finished in 2006. The upper and lower watersheds are studied independently because of the ecological differences between estuarine and freshwater systems.

If SWFWMD develops minimum flows for the upper river and then for the lower river, which value is counted? Marty answered that the most conservative value has been used in the past. It will depend on withdrawals. A criterion is no impact on the fresh water section of the river; however, if withdrawal from the freshwater system causes a violation of the minimum flow and level for the estuarine section, the more conservative minimum flow value will be adopted.

The Upper Myakka River Minimum Flows and Levels presentation was given to the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program on July 13th, and was presented to their governing board at the end of July. The "draft" technical report is available on-line at the SWFWMD website, http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/documents/.

The studies' methodology was established grant-supported work on the middle Peace River. At the same time work was done on the Alafia River and the Myakka River because of the possible importance of neighboring watersheds.

By their estimates, based on their land-use maps, the entire Myakka River watershed is about 598 square miles. Data collection concentrated on the USGS gage near Sarasota. Two gages supplied data and had relatively long records of water levels. The USGS gage at Sarasota has records from the mid-thirties and the USGS gage at Myakka has about 20 years of records. There is good agreement between the flows at those two gages.

A question was asked of how the model is used to predict flow in the river. Marty answered that the model would accurately predict flow. The gage site provides history of the flow by measuring the elevations of water. They relate that to periodic discharge measurements, and develop a flow-to-elevation relationship to model all the way up the river.

With the legislation directing the water management districts to develop minimum flows and levels, came the phrase "minimum flows." Historically, that has meant a minimum number. The idea of minimum flows really evolved out West, downstream of big hydroelectric dams. Fisheries scientists concerned about trout or salmon noticed that much water could be trapped behind the dams without letting a drop of water out. Water had to be released to protect the fish downstream. Work was done to determine how much would have to be released. So they came up with "minimum flow." We have come a long way since the 1960s because they now know about "flow regime."

The Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation effects weather patterns across the state, for multidecadal periods of 20 to 30 years. Meteorologists and climatologists have recognized this pattern since at the mid-nineties. Warming and cooling in the North Atlantic effects weather patterns across the US. On the Florida peninsula, tropical storm activity and the frequency of hurricanes correlates to the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation. A Peer Review recommended that SWFWMD look at anthropogenic changes in flow, and use a "Building Block" approach which relates flow requirements dependent on the time of the year.

First principle of MFL is that flow is a major determinant of physical habitat in streams. If flow declines how does that affect habitat? The second principle is that organisms occurring in those systems have adapted or evolved their life histories over millenniums in response to the natural flow regime. These organisms have life history strategies taking advantage of high flows in one time of the year and low in another time of the year. The third principle speaks to the idea that not only is there longitudinal upstream/downstream variation, but when flows get big enough the water comes up in the channel and spreads out laterally into the floodplain.

The longest flow record in our state dates back to 1927 or 1929 on the Suwannee River; Sarasota gage records go back to 1935. The Myakka River flow data was looked at in two 30-year benchmark periods; 1940 to 1969 and 1970 to 1999. Our flow records in Florida are relatively long (the Army kept records dating to the late 1890s). Data from the Sarasota gage was analyzed started January 1 for each year studied, and the median was plotted for each day. The southern part of the state of Florida gets the bulk of rainfall in June, July, August and September, averaging 8 inches each month. The flows pick up in response to rainfall. A bimodal flow pattern, two peaks, is seen in north Florida rivers. Rivers with the bimodal flow pattern actually have more flows during the 1970-1990 year period when comparing the two 30-year periods. A warmer AMO in the late 1990s caused the increase.

Jono Miller asked if it was true that the 100-year flood predictions are based on the last 30 years of record. Marty responded that he did not know. Jonathan continued that he thought it was a moving block so if they based the100-year flood on the last 30 years it would explain why our Southwest Florida area has gotten two or three 100-year floods in a short time period.

With the Building Block approach it was recommended to look at seasonality of flow. The flow (in cubic feet per second) was divided by the watershed area (square miles) upstream from the gage for each day for the 1940 to 1969 period. The dry flow period, or block one, is determined when the flows are below the 25% lowest flows and stay there. Block one runs from mid-April until June 24th. Block one ends when the flows pick up and exceed the average median flow for the year. Starting June 26th or 27th the high flow period begins, Block 2, and lasts till the end of October. At the end of October the median flow period begins, Block three, and extends until April of next year. Based on these blocks, the river will be looked at in terms of protection for below exceptable flow conditions.

Jono Miller asked if all other rivers have a base flow. Marty responded that not all of them do; Alafia, Hillsborough, Zephyrhills do because of freshwater springs. Horse Creek and Charley Creek, two major tributaries, which probably have watershed areas comparable to the Alafia, have no base flow. Up north, all water management districts have determined base flows for rivers.

What protection is necessary during the low flow time of the year? Two conditions were considered. One was wetted perimeter. Perimeter referes to the extent water is in contact with the channel. The goal is to keep as much of the wetted perimeter covered according to historical flow records for the river. They can maintain wetted perimeter in the Myakka with a flow in the neighborhood of 50 cfs. The second condition was fish passage depth. If water was removed during the low flow period it will impact fish passage over shoal areas. To define fish passage needs, a relationship of length of fish to water depth was developed. Most fish would be able to move upstream and downstream in a depth of 0.6 feet. A model was run to see what flow was necessary to guarantee a depth of .6 feet. The weir on the upper lake requires 180 cfs; however, elsewhere on the upper Myakka it is less than 40 cfs.

The ideal is to maintain historic flows. In the case of the Myakka, historically the river had zero flow half the years in the historic record. The river naturally ceased to flow and should cease to flow, therefore SWFWMD does not propose a low-flow threshold.

Under low flow conditions, fish passage and wetted perimeter conditions were looked at by using Physical Habitat Simulation Modeling (PHSM). This model makes it possible to calculate habitat availability under flow conditions. Tilapia, Armored catfish, Florida Gar, Bowfin Largemouth bass, Bluegill and Spotted Sunfish were found to be the dominant species in the Myakka River. Habitat reduction of 15% is the impact limit. Life histories of the dominant species were researched and the most restrictive species was identified. It was that species that determined the minimum flow level; when the decrease in flow reduced habitat needs for that species by 15%, the minimum flow number was determined. Flood plain connection was also looked at. They actually counted the number of days that the river would inundate the flood plain and allowed no more than 15% reduction in the number of days.

Marty showed the Flow Prescription for the Upper Myakka River. Under the low flow time of year there is no low-flow threshold set because historically flow was zero. In Block 2 where most of the flows occur, if flows are reduced by 5%, 15% of habitat is lost. At high flow time 7% reduction leads to 15% of habitat loss.

A question was asked if there was any maximum flow restriction for the low flow season to prohibit agricultural sources adding water to the river. Marty replied that they are required to develop the low flow, because water will be taken out not put in. In the report, land use changes for the Myakka River Watershed are addressed. A substantial decrease in pasture acreage is supplanted by a substantial increase in row crop acreage. The restrictions in the report don't apply until, conservatively, the Block 1 flows go down by 22 cfs and the Block 2 flows go down by 26 cfs. Fifteen million gallons of water a day in Block 1 and about 18 million gallons of water a day in Block 2 would need to be removed before the criteria in their report would even be applied.

Dana Bryan asked how the statement that loss of 15% of habitat falls short of significant harm is justified. Marty answered that the 15% was a Peer Group recommendation on the Upper Peace River study.

Questions and answers continued.

Role was taken by Amy Emmert. It was found that there was a Quorum.

Belinda moved to adopt the minutes. Tom Williams seconded. The minutes were adopted.

No other agenda items were identified.

No new business items were identified.

The next meeting date was set for December 9, 2005.

Chuck Downs moved to adjourn. Mary Jelks seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Diane Davies
Mary Jelks
Jeff Thirlwall
Peggy Morgan
William Smith
David Crawford
Jono Miller
Greg Blanchard
Suzanne Cooper
Tom Williams
Don Caillouette
Chuck Downs, Jr.
Maran Hilgendorf
Belinda Perry
Tina Powell

INTERESTED PARTIES

ADOPTED

John Coates
Adam Munson
Sam Stone
Dana Bryan
Andrew Chupka
Sam Zamani
Robert Wilhelm
Jamie Scudera
Diana Donaghy
Jonathan Morales
Richard Storsberg
Jim Ballenger
Howard Berna
Jackie Champion
Robert Vanderslice
Kathy Meaux
Ken Alvarez
Ed Freeman
Kim Heuberger