

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

b. Water Quality Issues

1. Reports from City Council members

- i. Draft letter to stakeholders regarding City Council Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan Management Measures

April 21, 2008

**DRAFT**

The Honorable Ray Judah  
Vice Chair, Lee Co. BOCC  
P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Re: Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan Management Measures

Dear Commissioner Judah:

As part of the Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan (CRWPP) the South Florida Water Management District created a technical working group. That group has been tasked with developing a list of management measures: projects that will improve water quality in the Caloosahatchee River. The complete list of management measures contains 127 projects, some of which will have little or no improvement on the River's water quality.

Collectively, as elected officials we have the opportunity to work together to build consensus for a few "big bang for the buck" projects that will improve the health of the Caloosahatchee River and estuary in both the short and long term. Given the current budget climate in Florida, we feel that the best way to get these critical projects funded is through consensus building and by speaking with one voice.

Attached is a draft list of five projects that are essential. Unfortunately, some of the projects are only in the conceptual phase of development and do not yet have a sponsor. We realize that some of the projects are large and will be expensive but we also feel that they are projects that will have the biggest overall benefit to our region's water quality.

We are open to other stakeholder suggestions on other beneficial projects; however it is important to keep in mind that it is much more likely that a smaller list will get funded in the short term. Our opportunity for success will be greatest if we are collectively pursuing the same priority projects.

If you are interested in discussing the CRWPP projects and how we work together to improve the Caloosahatchee River water quality please contact Sanibel Mayor Mick Denham at (239) 472-3700.

Sincerely,

*Sanibel City Council*

Sanibel City Council

Cc: Regional Elected Officials  
Judie Zimomra, City Manager  
Ken Cuyler, City Attorney

## **Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan Management Measures**

**As of April 15, 2008**

**Filter Marsh (STA) for C-43 (CRE 14)** reservoir to treat outflow prior to being discharged into the Caloosahatchee River. Acquire lands and create a filter marsh or similar stormwater treatment area (STA) to remove nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids in water released from the C-43 reservoir into the Caloosahatchee River.

**Level of Certainty: 5 – Implementation certainty unknown; conceptual idea with limited information**

**Lake Hicpochee storage/flowway / treatment feature- (CRE 9)** treat all water coming in from the S-4 basin and create a treatment flowway in Lake Hicpochee. (Language from CRE 7 & 8) Restore the lake by removing nutrient-rich muck from the site and replanting with suitable native aquatic vegetation to provide water quality treatment and additional storage of water discharged from Lake Okeechobee. In addition, STAs should be installed on private lands adjacent to Lake Hicpochee to treat the agricultural ditches that currently flow through the lake and end up in the eastern Caloosahatchee.

**Level of Certainty: 3 – Implementation certainty unknown; conceptual level of design/activity development complete; location defined**

**Centralized Recyclable Water Containment Area (RWCA) (CRE 2)** in the S-4 Basin to treat agricultural runoff and act as backup water supply source. The RWCA concept utilizes agricultural lands or other lands for temporary storage for water quality and treatment benefits. The land is later returned to other uses after a period of time. This concept could be rotated through the S-4 basin and could be used as alternative water supply for agriculture and to eliminate the practice of back pumping / back flowing and reduce agricultural stormwater discharge into the eastern Caloosahatchee.

**Level of Certainty: 5 – Implementation certainty unknown; conceptual idea with limited information**

**Lehigh Acres Centralized Wastewater Treatment and Re-use (CRE 35)** (Orange River sub-basin Tidal Caloosahatchee) – SWFFS WQ –W69 This project consists of conversion of high-density septic tanks to centralized wastewater treatment in Lehigh Acres, including the installation of the infrastructure for a treated wastewater re-use system.

**Level of Certainty: 4 – Implementation certainty unknown; conceptual idea; may have rough order of magnitude cost and/or general basin location**

**Billy Creek Filter Marsh Phase I & II (CRE 45)** – Construction of a 56-acre filter marsh facility on an undeveloped parcel adjacent to Billy Creek. The project will install a water control structure to within Billy Creek to divert flows into a filter marsh facility providing additional attenuation of stormwater flows within the channel itself.

**Level of Certainty: 2 – Construction/implementation likely; detailed design/activity development ongoing; location well defined**