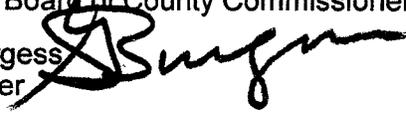


Memorandum



Date: May 8, 2007

To: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: South Miami Dade Watershed Study and Plan

Agenda Item No. 12(B)5

Transmitted herewith for your review and consideration is the South Miami Dade Watershed Study and Plan. Land Use Policy 3E of Miami-Dade County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan which was adopted by the Board in October 1996, requires preparation of a Watershed Plan for southeastern Miami-Dade County. The Watershed Plan was to meet the following objectives:

- To identify and protect lands, including their uses and functions, that are essential for preserving the environmental, economic, and community values of Biscayne National Park;
- To identify and establish mechanisms for protecting constitutional private property rights of owners of land identified above;
- To support a viable, balanced economy including agriculture, recreation, tourism, and urban development in the Plan area; and
- To assure compatible land uses and zoning decisions in the Study Area consistent with long term objectives for a sustainable South Miami-Dade.

Due to the complexity and scope of this planning effort, an advisory committee was established by the Board in 2000 via Ordinance 00-37 (South Miami Dade Watershed Plan Advisory Committee) prior to procurement of final funding for the project. The Committee, consisting of 29 members, was charged with serving as a conduit of information between project supervisors, project consultants, and community interests; advising the consultants and County, SFWMD, and SFRPC staff as to the views of their member organizations; informing their member organizations about the purpose, findings and proposals of the watershed planning project; suggesting information sources to the consultants; and reviewing and commenting on the proposed scope of work and consultant drafts and deliverables.

In April 2002 the SFRPC issued a Request for Proposals that resulted in the submittal of proposals by six qualified consulting teams. A selection committee assembled by the SFRPC ranked a consultant team led by Keith and Schnars, P.A. as the most qualified to prepare the Watershed Study and Plan (Attachment 1), and a contract between the SFRPC and Keith and Schnars was executed in May 2003.

Work product produced by the consultant was also peer reviewed by a 17-member Technical Review Committee (TRC) assembled by the Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental and Urban Solutions. TRC members brought information to the process as a part of their critique and provided advice on technical topics of importance to the Watershed Plan. The TRC's comments were intended to help the project consultant refine and improve the work product.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the South Dade Watershed Plan Advisory Committee for their commitment and dedication to this complex planning project. The Committee was assisted by the facilitation services provided by Janice Fleischer of Flash Resolutions. I would also like to thank the funding partners, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District; the South Florida Regional Planning Council for coordinating production of the Plan; and members of the Technical Review Committee for their expert help in refining the Plan. Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to those members of the community who attended night meetings that were held at key milestones in the work schedule and who took the time to provide valuable feedback.



Assistant County Manager