

LEON COUNTY COUNTYWIDE CITIZENS
WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2007 Annual Report

The By-Laws of the Leon County Water Resources Citizens Committee state that "It shall be the duty of the Water Resources Committee to consider the values provided to the public by the various lakes and related water resources of Leon County, including groundwater, and to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners policies, regulations, management activities and long-term funding strategies that protect or enhance these values. In assessing these values, the Committee also proposes to consider the various impacts to these resources from accelerated runoff, including flooding and surface and groundwater degradation. Last, to better accomplish these tasks the Committee proposes to consider an ecosystems approach wherever applicable.

A Report listing the actions taken by the Committee must be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners at least annually. The significant actions and other activities taken by the Committee in 2007 are listed below by meeting dates.

Date Action

1/02: The Committee reviewed at this meeting Cycle 2007-1 Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments 2007-1-M-006, M-007, T-015, T-016, T-019, T-022, and the Southside DRI. Following review and discussion, a letter was sent to the Board with the Committee's unanimous recommendations. These recommendations included:

- That the Board of County Commissioners adopt the staff recommendation to adopt 2007-1-T-016 (reducing total impervious area for combined adjoining lots within the Lake Protection Future Land Use category) based on the anticipated reduction from this proposed policy change in the number of septic tanks within the SDZs and/or floodprone areas of area lakes, and that increased enforcement of vegetated buffers near waterbodies be conducted by the County;
- That the Board adopt the staff recommendation to deny Amendment 2007-1-M-006 (requesting a change in the Urban Service Area);
- That the Board adopt the staff recommendation to deny Amendment 2007-1-M-007 (requesting a change in Future Land Use designation and Urban Service Area);
- That the Board deny Amendment 2007-1-T-015 (eliminating Special Development Zone protections in closed basins);
- That the Leon County Board of County Commissioners deny Amendment 2007-1-T-019 (clarification of Policy 1.3.2 [C]); and
- That the Board adopt the staff recommendation to deny Amendment 2007-1-M-022 (expansion of conservation subdivisions into the Rural Future Land Use category).

The Southside DRI presentation was deferred to the February meeting,

- 2/05: Planning Department staff presented the Southside Development of Regional Impact Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Following an extensive discussion, the Committee stated to the Board in a letter their unanimous objection to increased development of this site, as well as recommending that the developer and individual property owners be required by the County to incorporate and utilize BMPs, including increased enforcement of restrictive covenants, and using hydrological data as available for adaptive stormwater and aquifer protection management.
- 3/05: Dr. Sean McGlynn presented a summary of the Woodville Recharge Basin Aquifer Protection Study Report, Phase III (Final). Jim Oskowis of the City's Water Utility presented information on the City's proposed plan of action to upgrade the City's water treatment facilities, including their projected targets for nitrate reduction. Kristen Andersen of the Tallahassee – Leon County Planning Department gave a presentation on the County's Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment.
- 4/04: Dr. Sean McGlynn continued his presentation of the Woodville Recharge Basin (WRB) Aquifer Protection Study Report, Phase III (Final). Following discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to send a letter to the Board that:
1. Expressed the Committee's strong opposition to increased residential land use density in the Woodville Recharge Basin, based on the demonstrated groundwater vulnerability of this area;
 2. Recommended that the use of the computer model used in the Report be extended where appropriate into Wakulla County;
 3. Recommended that any wastewater treatment system permitted in the WRB meet 3.0 mg/L treatment level for nitrate;
 4. Recommended that, given the various issues with conventional stormwater treatment facilities in the WRB, the Board direct County permitting staff to consider all reasonable alternative stormwater treatment facilities in the WRB, and that this consideration should prioritize more "natural" treatment systems and processes that minimize percolation over standard volume control and recovery systems and processes; and
 5. Recommended the preservation and conservation of the habitat areas identified in the Report.
- The Committee also unanimously recommended to the Board that the County utilize community meetings/forums and provide Point-of-Sale and Permitting educational materials to the public promoting selected recommendations from the Report within the WRB, and that the use of inorganic fertilizers in the unconfined aquifer areas of the WRB be regulated and restricted.
- 5/07: The Committee discussed a proposed Board resolution honoring Martha Wellman, a longtime Committee member and involved citizen on water resource issues who passed away in April of 2007, to be sponsored by Commissioner Jane Sauls; and a proposal to place a memorial in a County park to Ms. Wellman, or naming an existing or proposed facility or area after her.

Johnny Richardson of the Leon County Department of Public Works presented water quality and other biological monitoring data, analysis, and conclusions regarding Lake Munson and the watercourses entering and leaving the Lake. The presentation was made on behalf of County Public Works, the department charged with the implementation of the Lake Munson Action Plan, including the proposed dredging of Lake Munson.

- 6/04: Johnny Richardson of the Leon County Department of Public Works discussed the status of the Lake Munson Action Plan, including recent implementation activities by Leon County which includes Phases I-IV. Phase V of the Action Plan addresses the cleanup of Lake Munson. Mr. Richardson asked the Committee to review the County's water quality monitoring data and to provide comments to the Board. The Committee voted unanimously to send the requested letter.

Staff presented a draft of the letter the Committee voted at its April 4, 2007 meeting to send to the Board concerning the Woodville Recharge Aquifer Protection Study. The Committee voted unanimously to send the letter to the Board.

- 7/03: No meeting was held in July.

- 8/06: Hal Davis of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presented the methodology and results of a groundwater study conducted by the USGS for the City of Tallahassee.

Alex Wood of Advanced Geospatial, Inc. presented the methodology and results of a mapping project undertaken by his consulting firm for Leon County. The project was an Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment of Leon County.

Staff recommended several proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments in the 2007-2 Cycle for the Committee to review and comment upon at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee chose amendments PCM070202a, PCM070202b, PCT070201, PCT070204, PCT070205, and PCT070207.

- 8/27: The Committee reviewed at this meeting Cycle 2007-2 Proposed Amendments PCM070202a, PCM070202b, PCT070201, PCT070204, PCT070205, and PCT070207. Following review and discussion, a letter was sent to the Board with the Committee's recommendations. These recommendations, which were unanimously upheld, included:

- That the Leon County Board of County Commissioners support the staff recommendation to adopt Cycle 2007-2 Proposed Amendments PCM070202a and PCM070202b (requesting a change in the Future Land Use designation from Rural to Recreation/Open Space);
- That the Board deny Proposed Amendment PCT070201 (changing the definition of Altered Floodplains), and to request City and County Environmental Permitting staff to address these issues in a systematic and communitywide process in order to create a scientifically defensible and rational definition;
- The Committee discussed Amendment PCT070204 (establishing the Urban Services Area as the Urban Services Boundary as defined in Florida Statutes), but voted to table until their next meeting on September 10, 2007. Concerns raised by the Committee during the discussion included the possibility of landowners submitting proposed Future Land Use amendments outside of the established amendment process, and the size and scope of the proposed Urban Services Boundary;

- That the Board support the staff recommendation to adopt Amendment PCT070205 (clarify timing of development under the clustering option and density of development when urban services are available within the Urban Fringe future land use category); and
 - That the Board support the staff recommendation to adopt Amendment PCT070207 (modifying Policy 2.1.9, providing a sunset date of February 1, 2009 for the non-family heir provision, and simplifying Comprehensive Plan language related to family heir Policy 2.1.9 subdivisions, creating consistency with Florida Statutes).
- 9/10: Thomas Kwader, a consulting hydrologist who lives on Lake Jackson, and Jesse Van Dyke, a Florida Department of Environmental Protection staffer who specializes in lake restoration, spoke to the Committee on sinkhole management and role of stormwater in Lake Jackson. The discussion included a debate on the idea of building a permanent berm around existing sinkholes on Lake Jackson, and the possibility of various pollutants entering the aquifer through these sinkholes. There were no actions taken regarding these issues.

The Committee continued its review of Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment PCT07024. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners deny Amendment PCT070204 (establishing the Urban Services Area as the Urban Services Boundary as defined in Florida Statutes).

- 10/15: The Committee heard presentations from Brian Wiebler of the Tallahassee – Leon County Planning Department, Lynn Putnam of the City of Tallahassee’s Water Utility, and Anthony Gaudio, representing the Leon County Septic Tank Advisory Committee. The presentations discussed various aspects of wastewater disposal, particularly within the more environmentally sensitive portions of Leon County as indicated by the recently accepted Leon County Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment (LAVA). Brian discussed the Planning Department’s Evaluation and Appraisal Report activities, including several issues and related proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments that would incorporate LAVA in some fashion. Lynn discussed the City’s wastewater planning activities and how they might address concerns brought by the LAVA results. Anthony discussed the latest septic tank technologies, the County’s attempts to require advanced septic tanks in certain areas of the County, and how LAVA might play a role in helping define these areas.
- 11/05: The Committee heard a presentation from John Buss of the City of Tallahassee’s Stormwater Management Division. The presentation discussed various aspects of the City’s stormwater management program, including the role of nitrates in the City’s urban stormwater and any impacts on local waterbodies and the aquifer. There was additional discussion on impending changes to the State of Florida’s stormwater regulatory program.
- 12/03: The Committee heard a presentation regarding the draft Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Groundwater Protection amendments from Brian Wiebler of the Tallahassee – Leon County Planning Department. The presentation discussed the EAR process and the proposed draft amendments. The Committee then heard a presentation on cluster and conservation subdivisions or developments from Neil Fleckenstein, a planner for the Red Hills Conservation Program housed at the Tall Timbers Research Station.