

NFWWMD/DOT Umbrella Mitigation Plan – Projects Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 24 - 26, 2008

Attendees:

Individual - Employer	03/24/08	03/25/08	03/26/08
Andy Phillips – Corps of Engineers	❖	❖	
Cecelia Harper – EPA - Atlanta	❖	❖	
Mary Mittiga – FWS	❖	❖	
David Rydene – NMFS - St. Pete	❖	❖	
Terry Gilbert – URS for FWC			❖
Joy Giddens – DOT			❖
Tracey Ludyjan-Ybarra – DOT	❖	❖	❖
Duncan Cairns – NFWWMD	❖	❖	❖
Robert Lide – NFWWMD	❖	❖	❖
David Clayton – NFWWMD	❖	❖	❖
Tyler McMillan - NFWWMD			❖
Ann Redmond – BRA/ENTRIX	❖	❖	❖

Monday, 3/24/08

We met at lunchtime to get organized before heading to the first site.

Perdido River WMA Site Visit. We visited two mitigation sites in the Perdido River WMA and discussed the general placement of a wildlife crossing on US 90. The 2 sites visited were a 54 ac restoration site very close to the impacts and a 1 ac planting site about 2 miles away. The 54 ac site is discussed below (Tuesday's minutes).

The 1 ac site was visited and shelved as a potential mitigation area. It is an impoundment which would benefit from having its forested edge expanded. The plan is to plant cypress trees. The impoundment is of a woodland stream, to which it outfalls. The mitigation would be out-of-kind and relatively small in scale, so its contribution to watershed health would be minimal. It was also observed that the cost to implement would outweigh the mitigation benefits.

Tuesday, 3/25/08

We first met in the office to discuss the projects. We re-convened after lunch at the Warner Property.

Perdido River US 90 Bridge widening mitigation. The Corps will be permitting the impacts in both FL and AL. 3.9 ac. Impacts along the entire project. The state of AL prefers the mitigation for AL impacts be located in AL. The FL DOT inventory shows

3.6 ac. of impacts, so the NFWFMD will be paid for that much mitigation; although they will supply 3.9 ac.

The impacts were shown by the permitting consultant to be to bottomland hardwoods, but the species composition we saw yesterday was essentially the same as at the proposed mitigation site: bays, cypress, pines, and maples. The trees are much larger and there are also Atlantic white cedar and laurel-leaf oak in the floodplain. UMAM scores are 0.8 per indicator, equaling 2.952 FUL, based on 3.69 ac. of impact. Temporary impacts are 2.6 ac lost, equaling 2.08 ac FUL overall (could be high). Need to assess secondary impacts. Probably need to offset 7 ac of losses, with range of loss ranging from 5 ac to 8 ac, depending on final analysis. Project start date is April 2009.

Mitigation site. Site is part of 5,456 ac acquisition from International Paper and is located slightly east of the impact area on the south side of US 90. This is a 54 ac site, although it could expand into the 20 ac area to the west along US 90. Will need Rapanos worksheet for this site. Need some elevational survey at the site to verify water flow directions across site. Discussed degree of effort needed to restore the site, particularly with respect to the windrows. Should the wind-rows be leveled or breached? There aren't large areas of perennial bunchgrasses, so could probably level them partly or completely and not lose them. Is it necessary to simply breach the wind-rows periodically to normalize flow?

Site is determined to be appropriate based on similarity of wooded species, connection to Perdido River system, proximity to site, location with respect to existing NFWFMD and TNC conservation landholdings, etc.

Polygon	Acres**	L&LS		WE		CS		Delta	Time Lag*	Risk	Lift
		Pre	Post	Pre	Post***	Pre	Post				
A	8	8	9	6	7	4	8	0.2	0.6766	1.25	1.89
B	12.5	7	8	8	9	7	8	0.1	0.8899	1	1.40
C	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
D	15.5	8	9	5	7	4	9	0.26667	0.8333	1.25	3.97
E	5	6	7	6	7	4	8	0.2	0.6766	1.25	1.18
Total	54							Total Functional Lift:			8.45

Polygon treatments

A – Will be restored to mixed forested wetland, which is already intermixed with the planted pines. Beds will be removed.

B - No re-planting needed. Will allow fires to burn into this polygon, so minor lift from that. Also some lift from change in surrounding habitat from pine plantation to native communities.

C – Upland polygon, will be restored to longleaf pine and wiregrass. No scores assigned.

D - Beds will be removed, unclear at the moment how much reduction in the wind-rows will occur and/or how long deterioration will take, will be replanted as slash and longleaf pine flatwoods. Assume 12 years to tree eight of 20+ ft.

E - 300' width from edge of US 90 pavement into the site – the secondary impact zone. Impacts are unchanged due to age of road, so some lift will occur due to replanting and removal of beds.

St. Marks Watershed Mitigation Plan. Robert handed out updated information about the potential sites. Impacts are to Wakulla River floodplain.

The Flint Rock site is about 20,000 ac. Unknowns are how the agencies can assure compliance with the mitigation plan, when or if the land would become part of the refuge, what the management of the piece(s) identified for mitigation would be, and what area(s) would be most appropriate for offset of the to-be-permitted losses. Site has the “other” flatwood salamander species in sawgrass ponds.

Ferrell Property. Family is working closely with the state to sell this land to state and NFWFMD; NFWFMD would buy 12 ac. There is a known connection from sinkhole(s) on this site to Wakulla Springs. Appraisals have been done. Would become part of Wakulla Springs State Park and managed as part of the park. IRT likes this piece: closer to site, obvious long term ecological and hydrological benefits accrue from this project. Acquisition issue is cost, which needs to be overcome.

Warner Tract site inspection. This site is part of the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie system and acquisition area. It is adjacent to the Tarkiln Bayou State Park. While we were at the site a construction crew was upgrading a road bordering the northern boundary. The site is in very good condition. It would provide important buffering functions from surrounding development and its preservation and management would make significant contributions to the health of receiving waters. Photos are provided attached in an attachment.

Wednesday, 3/26/08

Sand Hill Lakes Mitigation Bank Inspection. We were scheduled to meet at the FWCC check station at entrance to SHLMB for a site inspection that had been scheduled in response to a credit release request. FDEP has already visited the site and approved the release, but federal concurrence is still needed. Dale Beter was to lead the trip for the federal agencies, but was unable to attend at the last minute. It was decided to do the site inspection for those who had made it and to re-schedule as soon as possible with Dale. These minutes are intended to document the site conditions observed during the inspection. Photos are provided attached in an attachment.

Site 1 – Road fill removal and erosion stabilization. Completed. Stabilized and planted.

Site 2 – Greenhead Branch bridge and erosion stabilization. Completed. Erosion area stabilized and planted.

Site 3 – Restoration of longleaf pine from turkey oak. Oaks removed. Pines planted. Prescribed fire implemented. Good natural wiregrass coverage. Native vegetation responding well to the recent burn.

Site 4 – Dykes Mill bridge removal and erosion stabilization. Completed. Stabilized.

Site 5 – Management of oak/pine forest with prescribed fire. Recently burned.
Site 6 – Dry Pond boat ramp. Installed.
Site 7 – Black Pond dam upgrade. Dam construction completed. Channel stabilized.
Site 8 – Joiner/Dry bridge. Bridge installed and area stabilized.
Site 9 – Gyro-trac area/ restoration of hydric pine flatwoods. Area gyro-traced and burned.
Site 10 – Joiner/Green culvert. Bridge and culvert installed. Area stabilized.
Site 11 – Gyro-trac area/restoration of hydric pine flatwoods. Area gyro-traced and burned.

Minutes drafted by Ann Redmond

Attachment:
Warner Tract photos

Warner Tract

IRT Site Inspection Photos

March 25, 2008

Hydric Pine Flatwoods



Savannah



Internal Road System

