

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COE) MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING OF THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE (WPTF)  
METCOM Conference Room  
Minutes of June 26, 2007**

COE Members present: Barne Wheeler, Chair; Troy Hansen, Sandy Neville, Bill Shreve, Marta Kelsey, Daryl Calvano (SMHD), Caroline Miller, Sue Veith (Environmental Planner) and Jada Stuckert of LUGM were the (Recording Secretary).

COE Members absent: Frank Allen and Susan Blake.

WPTF Members present: Barne Wheeler, Sheryl Skrabacz (SMHD), Cannon Morse (PNAS), Judith Jenkins, Rebecca Schofield, Steve King (MetCom), and Dennis Roth.

**I. Call to Order: Mr. Wheeler called the WPTF meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.**

**II. Review/Approval of May 3, 2007 and June 6, 2007 minutes:** The approval of the COE meeting minutes was postponed until after the WPTF meeting. Mr. Shreve made a motion to approve the May minutes with amendments and Mr. Hansen seconded. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote. Mr. Hansen made a motion to approve the June minutes with amendments and Ms. Neville seconded. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

**III. Continuing Business:**

- Review & Approval of Commissioners letter to Senator Dyson, and related Commissioner briefing (WPTF & COE)  
Mr. Wheeler gave a PowerPoint presentation to be given for the County Commissioners and asked for comments and recommended changes to the presentation. After discussion Mr. Morse made a motion to approve the letter with amendments and to schedule a briefing for the County Commissioners and Ms. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. It was the consensus of the members to include a courtesy copy of the letter to the State Water Resources Management Advisory Committee.
- Participation in discussion on large Commercial/Industrial uses of Aquifer water (WPTF & COE)  
Mr. Wheeler gave a brief overview regarding Commercial/Industrial uses of Aquifer water. After further discussion Ms. Schofield made a motion to discuss how to pursue making a recommendation regarding large Commercial/Industrial water withdraw from the Aquifer to the Board of County Commissioners at the next WPTF meeting and Mr. Shreve seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Additionally, Steve King, MetCom, agreed to write a letter to Mr. Kasaeri, Md. Dept. of the Environment, stating the same concerns about use of potable water for large industrial uses. The group unanimously agreed that such a letter was desirable, as it did not have to wait for County Commissioner approval. The COE could then follow as back-up and emphasis.

The next meeting of the WPTF will be held July 24, 2007 at the METCOM building beginning at 6:00 p.m. The WPTF meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The COE continued their meeting as follows.

Minutes: Mr. Shreve made a motion to approve the May minutes with amendments and Mr. Hansen seconded. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote. Mr. Hansen made a motion to approve the June minutes with amendments and Ms. Neville seconded. The motion passed by a 6-0 vote.

- Status of proclamation for Nancy Smith  
Ms. Neville stated she had been out of town and has not worked on the proclamation. Ms. Neville further stated it was her understanding Mr. Allen would be helping her. Mr. Wheeler directed Ms. Neville to email Mr. Allen requesting assistance with a particular aspect of the proclamation.
- Status of thank you letters to Forum Participants  
Ms. Veith stated she has the letters in her office and needs Mr. Wheeler to come in and sign them. Mr. Wheeler agreed to stop by and sign the letters.
- Status of Feedback on CEO Annual Report and forwarding letter  
It was the consensus of the members to discuss this issue at the next meeting.
- Update on Menhaden investigations to date, discussion of priority as COE objective  
It was the consensus of the members to discuss this issue at the next meeting.
- Discuss the new Chamber of Commerce 2.25% growth proposal  
This agenda item was not referenced.

#### **IV. New Business**

- Next COE Forum: What, Where, When, Tasks to be accomplished & timing  
It was stated this year it would be nice to have more than one focus for the forum, more like earth day where there is a broad spectrum of booths and activities. It was recommended the forum be held at the County Airport this year. Mr. Wheeler agreed to contact Mr. Erickson, Dir. DPW&T to explore holding the forum at the Airport. After discussion it was the consensus to hold the forum in February. It was decided the tasks to be completed would be discussed at the next meeting. Sue Veith also agreed to prepare a list of all topics that she can remember being presented/available at other forums and events. From this list, the group could then select those to be included in this year's forum.
- Goals & Objectives refinement, prioritization  
Mr. Wheeler stated Donna Gebicke thinks the charter looks rather ambitious, but had no formal feedback yet. Mr. Wheeler stated he will follow-up on this item and relay information to the members. Mr. Wheeler stated the key to this charter is having a good network of people who are willing to help. Mr. Wheeler also recommended utilizing sub-committees.
- Discussion of COE web site: approach, content; Climate Change, web-site-something to post?  
Mr. Wheeler stated he basically has the OK to utilize the greensomd.com website however he is still waiting on the final go ahead. Mr. Wheeler stated once he gets the final go ahead he will sit down with Chris Burch and come up with a draft of the webpage, then the members can view the page and recommend additions or amendments. It was the consensus of the members to move ahead with Burch after getting the final go ahead.
- Networking – Discussion of contact list

Mr. Wheeler stated once we get the go ahead for the Goals & Objectives we need to expand our list of contacts and get it put on the COE's greensomd.com web page.

**V. Announcements** None

**VI. Adjournment**

- Ms. Neville to email Mr. Allen requesting assistance with a particular aspect of the proclamation.
- Mr. Wheeler agreed to stop by and sign the letters.
- Mr. Wheeler stated once he gets the final go ahead he will sit down with Chris Burch and come up with a draft of the webpage.