

Draft, for Review by Sub-committee members

To: Bob Stetler

From: Dr. Scott Emery

Date: 11/17/07

Re: Summary Notes - Internal Process Sub-committee (IPS-c) Meeting on 11/16/07

Present: C. Courtney, D. Doughty, S. Emery, T. Neldner, W. Richardson.

EPC Assistance provided by Chris Cooley.

Discussion began with concept of "reasonable use". Discussion examined several possible factors that might be used to examine reasonable use. Examples included: economic factors, site access factors. Discussion moved into the concepts of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. It became apparent that the discussions repeatedly moved into subject matters to be considered by the "External Process Sub-committee". It also became apparent that information from this other sub-committee will likely be crucial to our Internal Process Sub-committee being able to do its assigned job. Consequently, the IPS-c members recommend that the two Process Sub-committees be combined for future discussions.

Discussion moved into delineation-related matters. What would prevent SWFWMD and EPC from accepting each other's wetland lines? If reciprocity were the norm, there would not often be the need for both agencies to expend field effort for the same line. EPC might want to take additional advantage of the substantial engineering and hydrologic expertise that SWFWMD uses to examine floodplain and related hydrologic issues. SWFWMD can also help set seasonal highs, normal pools, and hydro-periods. It was suggested that joint and/or cross training of the field personnel of the 2 agencies might be useful to achieve more standardized results.

Discussion then moved into the UMAM procedure. It was suggested by one member that the local government could potentially use site-specific or watershed-specific technical criteria to occasionally require a higher "value" for mitigation of select wetlands (termed "UMAM Plus").

This segued into "net environmental benefit". Within this topic, discussions included inside versus outside county boundaries within the same watershed, and ways in which the concept might be usefully employed to the wetlands issue (Basis of Review and Applicant's Handbook).

This discussion brought the group back to "reasonable use." Discussion of the Corps use of "avoidance, minimization, and mitigation" as compared with EPC ensued. This led to what might constitute "justification". A specific hypothetical situation was discussed.

The group decided to hammer out details related to the delineation process and UMAM/UMAM Plus at the next meeting.

(Note that at the full Committee session, it was decided to combine the two Process Sub-committees into one. This "Process Sub-committee will meet Thursday, November 29 at 10 am at the EPC upstairs conference room.)

End draft summary notes