

Broward County Climate Change Task Force

Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

February 3, 2009

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome by Pat Gleason
2. Roll Call and Introductions
3. Review of Sunshine Law by Nancy Gassman and discussion.
 - a. The Sunshine Law requires that deliberations between two or more Subcommittee members that may impact decision making must take place in a public forum, i.e. a publicly noticed meeting with open attendance. Emails, phone calls, etc. in which deliberation, debate, or strategizing of government decisions are not allowed under the Sunshine Law. The suggestion of chat rooms in the public domain is currently under review by the Attorney General. Articles, reports, data, etc. can be distributed through the subcommittee chair and added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting at any time.
 - b. Barry Heimlich and Robert Renken both expressed concerns that the timeline of the Subcommittee may be impacted based on the volume of information and the need for collegiate discussion in order to fulfill the goals of the Subcommittee when restricted by the Sunshine Law. A need for a vehicle that facilitates the exchange of academic/professional thoughts between meetings that adheres to the Sunshine Law requirements was identified. Rohit Goswami suggested using a wiki site with a publicly known update time to meet that need.
 - c. Until a practical solution is identified, the Subcommittee may need to meet more frequently and for longer durations, as well as, be judicious about the focus and topics of discussion.
4. Review of mission and brainstorming session by Pat Gleason and discussion.
 - a. Pat Gleason read the mission statement and Task Force's brainstorming ideas. He also recommended that the Subcommittee pick 3-4 items to discuss at the next Task Force meeting and to focus on in the near future.
 - b. Keike Lueger suggested adding ocean acidification to the list of topics to be covered.

- c. Barry Heimlich noted that many of the topics listed in the Subcommittee mission are also the responsibility of other subcommittees, i.e. adaptation and mitigation. His view is that this subcommittee should provide the technical background and guidance to the other subcommittees. He also suggested that the Subcommittee do a more comprehensive brainstorm than the one developed by the Task Force. Pat Gleason expressed that this Subcommittee should provide a summary of key issues, i.e. sea level rise, and their expected effects on Broward County. Hector Samario's view is that the Subcommittee is to provide scientifically based numbers, ranges, and/or constraints to other subcommittees for use in their decision making.
 - d. John Pipoly sees the Subcommittee as correctly digesting material and providing an "Executive Summary" to the public. Nancy Gassman responded to John by informing the Subcommittee that the Task Force has identified an eighth group to be focused on public outreach. This group is still in development.
 - e. Barry Heimlich pointed out that the scope of the Subcommittee is very broad and that other subcommittees will likely have technical experts in their respective fields to address issues as well.
5. Discussion and selection of action items.
- a. Barry Heimlich suggested that the Subcommittee use "Florida's Resilient Coasts" as a resource as it addresses what climate change is and its causes and effects. He will make available, through Pat Gleason, an electronic version of the report and will bring print copies to the next meeting.
 - b. Hector Samario suggested focusing on saltwater intrusion, severe weather, and ocean acidification as they may not be addressed by other subcommittees. Nancy Gassman responded that ocean acidification will be covered by the Natural Systems Subcommittee as well, however in a different context. Michael Zygnerski mentioned that Broward County is developing a saltwater intrusion model to predict drought conditions, saltwater intrusion and sea level rise. He will provide a summary write-up on the model development and a link to the presentation currently on broward.org. The north Broward model is developed and is expected for release toward the end of 2009/ beginning of 2010. The south Broward model is still under development.
 - c. Pat Gleason suggested that the Subcommittee focus on the scientific basis of adaptation and mitigation. In particular the geological constraints on mitigation due to the Biscayne Aquifers high permeability. Stewart Magenheimer suggested looking at New Orleans and the Netherlands as examples. Nancy

Gassman mentioned as an example of the actions other governments are taking that Denmark is starting to buy lands that are predicted to be over taken by water within the next 100 years. Barry Heimlich suggested using the adaptation planning guidelines being developed by Dr. Bloetcher of FAU and recommended he give a presentation to the Subcommittee. Michael Zygnerski mentioned that there is an ongoing study in Pompano Beach to assess the ability to mitigate saltwater intrusion using density.

- d. Barry Heimlich suggested that a Subcommittee Member review literature on predicted sealevel rise and give a presentation at the next meeting. He also requested to add the presentation and its discussion to the agenda for the next meeting. Nancy Gassman volunteered to develop a matrix of findings provided that other members send her reports to review.
6. Discussion of presentation at next Task Force meeting.
- a. Pat Gleason is to give a presentation to the Task Force summarizing the direction of the Subcommittee including approx. four points to be addressed in the near future. Hector Samario suggested developing a timeline for issues that affect other Subcommittees. Nancy Gassman responded that sealevel rise projections and potential storm frequency/drought changes will be essential to other subcommittees. Hector Samario also pointed out mitigation and adaptation. Pat Gleason asked whether the Subcommittee should meet a 3-4 month timeline for these issues. Nancy Gassman recommended by mid-summer, but cautioned that the timeline of the development of the models also needs to be considered. Michael Zygnerski said that the capabilities of the models can be shown earlier than their anticipated delivery date, however results cannot. Robert Renken mentioned that there is an existing wellfield/canal model that can show the effects of sealevel rise. The model is a general scenario set to depict a typical wellfield in Broward County.
 - b. The following list of topics was developed for the Task Force presentation.
 - i. Summary of Evidence for Climate Change
 - ii. Sea level rise – what we know
 - iii. Climate Change-what we know
 - iv. Uncertainties associated with climate change
 - c. Robert Renken noted that the level of uncertainty needs to be made explicit in the final conclusions and recommendations of the Subcommittee. Rohit Goswami

recommended that the Subcommittee identify a level of risk/non-risk to use in development of the subcommittee report. Stewart Magenheimer responded that the available data will determine the level of certainty.

7. Next scheduled meeting is on February 24, 2009 at 10am. Same location - CDM Office.
8. Adjournment