



MEETING SUMMARY

CARGILL CROP NUTRITION ANNUAL RESTORATION REVIEWING AGENCY MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2004

Attendees:

Jeff Glas, DEP	Mike Thompson, EPCHC
Bill Hawkins, Cargill	Patricia Frantz, SWFWMD
Pete Owens, EPC	Pat Milam, Cargill Consultant
Parker Keen, Cargill	Trish Stratton, Cargill Consultant
	Clayton Robertson, Cargill Consultant

Welcome:

Parker Keen, Cargill's Land Manager, opened the meeting by welcoming the group and providing an overview of the agenda. The participants introduced themselves and were given an opportunity to propose additional agenda items. Mike Thompson expressed that he was particularly interested in reviewing the wetlands associated with the project. Pete Owens requested a discussion on the reroute of Archie Creek including a timeline. Mr. Owens also asked to discuss the status of other NEBs including the benthic studies, air quality monitoring, and the water quality monitors.

Update on Pond Water Release:

On 9/5/2004 during Hurricane Frances, there was a release of pond water at the Riverview facility. Mr. Keen used aerial photos to show the team the visual extent of the release. Mr. Keen explained the circumstances that lead to the release. Pat Milam, who had inspected the spill area, gave a qualitative assessment of his observations. He noted that new rhizomes are already appearing on the vegetation that was affected by the release. Pat Frantz asked if Cargill would consider using the existing ILMP website as a tool to follow the outcome of the release and to monitor the mitigation work associated with the release. Mr. Keen told the group that the idea had already been proposed internally at Cargill and that he would keep them informed of the final decision.

Current ILMP Restoration and Monitoring Efforts:

Pat Milam, Milam Environmental and Clayton Robertson, VHB, Inc. provided an update on the restoration and monitoring efforts for the NEB properties. Photographs and aerials were projected on a screen for the RRA to view. Mr. Robertson told the group that a prescribed burn had been conducted in February of this year. He provided handouts showing the locations of new piezometers and staff gauges that had been installed on the north parcels in response to an agency request. He also provided water level data that had been obtained following the installation. Mr. Robertson reminded the group that Cargill was utilizing an adaptive management technique to restore the north parcels, and he opened a discussion about whether or not the water levels in Parcel Northeast A may be too high. The agencies agreed to discuss this further following a visit to the site.

Pat Milam used the aerial photos to update the RRA on restoration activities that had occurred over the past year. He discussed plant types that have emerged as well as the transition of the restored parcels. He also showed the group where exotic species removal activities have been taking place. Mr. Milam talked about the types of activities that Cargill had employed to remove exotics and maintain the restored parcels including fire, mowing, manual removal, and herbicide treatment. Mike Thompson commented on the large amounts of brazilian pepper that dominate the parcels on the east side of US 41. He asked if there was a better solution than mowing, which is one of the current management practices on the west side of Hwy 41, for the long term maintenance of exotics. He suggested a shrub that could outcompete the pepper. Mr. Keen proposed that if the budget becomes available, there may be an opportunity for

Cargill to reduce the seed source that is present east of US 41. He also raised the dilemma of planting desirable shrubs that could be negatively affected by chemical treatment while the seed source remains across the street. Mr. Keen stated that Cargill's long term strategy will continue to be mowing because of the seed source. Mr. Milam added that while he and his team mow the areas, they mow around any newly recruited desirable species that they come across.

Mr. Milam and Mr. Keen relayed that the stack buffer has had one complete chemical treatment to remove exotics such as grape vine, brazilian pepper, and cogon grass. Milam Environmental will complete a follow up treatment in the next few months. A prescribed burn is not possible on the stack buffer due to the potential for smoke on US 41 as well as the proximity of residences to the buffer. Mr. Keen pointed out that until this year, Cargill's focus has been on completing the north parcel restoration. Now that the north parcels are completed, the focus will shift to the stack buffer, with maintenance activities and experimental test plots continuing on the north parcels.

Update on Archie Creek Construction Project:

Mr. Keen apologized that the construction manager was unable to attend the meeting and offered to meet with his colleague in the near future to get an update on the project timeline. The update will be broadcast to the RRA via a site alert on www.cargill-neb.com. The team reviewed aerial photos of the construction work and held a brief discussion about the old and new creek routes. Mr. Keen offered to organize a site visit specific to the construction project if the RRA was interested in conducting a field visit of the area. The Archie Creek project has been delayed by the relocation of a gas pipeline. The pipeline must be moved by the gas company before the new creek connection can be completed.

Future ILMP and SSLMP Development:

Mr. Keen reviewed the intent of the Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP) and Site Specific Land Management Plans (SSLMP)) as originally envisioned during the permitting process. Mr. Keen summarized Cargill's understanding of the permit requirements which mandate that restoration work be completed on the NEB parcels after the fifth permit year. Cargill has met the requirements of the permits for all NEB parcels. Future plans include development of SSLMPs for other parcels in the ILMP. Mr. Owens requested that the Buckhorn Springs SSLMP outline EPCHC's desire to see the property preserved. He recommended that either Cargill not develop the property or sell the property to Hillsborough County environmental lands program to protect it against development. To address the agencies' concern regarding long term management, Mr. Keen gave a brief update on the Cargill/IMC merger. He announced that he would be the land manager for the new company and does not anticipate any major changes to the way Cargill has been managing its holdings.

Lunch and Field Visit:

The RRA had a box lunch and then departed for a field visit. Due to the high water levels from excessive rain, the tour was limited to a drive around the stack buffer and parts of the rerouted creek. The team also used the area roads to view the perimeters of the north parcels. Mr. Keen confirmed with the RRA members present that the current management plans, as discussed during the meeting and field visit, is acceptable for the next year. There was additional discussion about using the website to make comments regarding the ILMP/SSLMP and construction of Archie Creek. Mr. Keen reiterated that any incoming comments on the website are reviewed and responded to as soon as possible. He encouraged each agency to use the website during the year to communicate with Cargill regarding any ILMP activity.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30pm upon return to the Riverview facility parking lot.