

Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area (DIRWMA) Improvements

MEETING NOTES: ERP PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AT SFWMD SERVICE CENTER, OKEECHOBEE CITY, FLORIDA (3/8/18)

- I. Conceptual Permit
 - a. Obtain a "Conceptual Permit" including all "phases" of the project (area), excluding the SW corner of the site where hydrologic restoration has been concluded.
 - b. A new ERP (conceptual) permit will be issued for the entire project under a new permit number. The conceptual permit identifies the proposed construction phases.
 - c. A Conceptual Permit is valid for 20 years.
 - d. DI Conceptual ERP Permit fee - \$250.
 - e. This shall be a phased project. A "Construction Permit" for the work area included in a "phase" shall be obtained from South Florida Water Management District (the District) prior to commencement of construction in that phase. The restoration of Phase GP-1 (the Grove) and Phase-1 (the NW corner of the DI Ranch) to be included in the first construction permit.
 - f. Canals are classified as "other surface waters."
 - g. "Land use" for conceptual ERP is "environmentally sensitive."
- II. Construction Permit
 - a. Construction plans for a phase will required for District approval shall be completed and submitted with the construction permit application for that phase. Construction plans for the entire DI property project area are not necessary to apply for a construction permit for an individual phase.
 - b. A phase may include multiple regions.
 - c. A construction permit is valid for five (5) years.
 - d. Obtain a construction permit for a phase which includes the area expected to be completed in 5 years. A construction permit can be easily modified with respect to the area to be completed as part of a phase.
 - e. Construction permit 1 will include restoration of the Grove area associated with the "GP-1." Once restored, the Grove feature will no longer be considered a surface water management system (SWM system) with associated SWM system requirements. GP-1 will be considered a wetland enhancement area, therefore Section E of the ERP application will not be required.
 - f. GP-1 (Grove): The existing outfall structure will be removed, changed or modified during Phase GP-1. Currently the Grove's wetland stage fluctuates from flooded to dry. The wetland enhancement activities proposed to take place in Phase GP-1 will modify the existing wetland stage fluctuations to between dry and 6" to 12".
- III. Modeling
 - a. The entire project work area has been modeled. Any area included in a construction phase will also be re-modeled prior to submitting its construction phase permit. This will insure there are no impacts to neighboring property owners.

- b. (Grove) Phase GP-1 will include modeling the 25-year/3-day rainfall event. Modeled under current conditions will result in a 25-yr/3-day peak stage of about 4'. The existing (permitted) Grove area will be redesigned (the area will be enlarged and bermed) such that the 25-yr/3-day peak stage will be at least 6-inches and less than 1-foot. This redesign plan will expand the area of Phase GP-1, by expanding the area of wetland hydrologic enhancement within the newly defined Phase GP-1 boundaries. This redesigned plan will enhance more wetland area than is currently described under the existing, active, ERP permit. The lower peak stage resulting from the redesign will also make the new GP-1 plan an environmental enhancement area rather than a Water Management Area or Above Ground Impoundment. Hence, Section E of the ERP will not be necessary.

IV. Random Notes

- a. Canal = "other surface water"
- b. USACE deals with wildlife in conjunction with FWC.
- c. How will FWC review and comment on the new conceptual permit?
- d. Contact USACE/Ft. Meyers and notify them a new conceptual ERP application, with a new permit number, will be submitted to the SFWMD office in Okeechobee City.
- e. Ask USACE if they have an additional wetlands regulatory program covering this site.
- f. No SWM or Conservation Easements will be necessary on these State Lands. If it is deemed necessary that a water control structure must discharge off site during extreme rainfall events, an appropriate easement may be required to protect neighboring properties from being negatively impacted by the Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Improvements project. (probably N/A)
- g. There is no 'dredging' or 'filling' associated with this permit.