

Guest Commentary: **Stormwater management plan is crucial for Collier County** (Naples Daily News <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2010/aug/30/guest-commentary-stormwater-management-plan-crucia/>)

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Everyone is an owner of public property, but no single person can use public property in the same way that they would use their private property. So, it's not property in the same sense at all. But the way we use our private property can be greatly affected by public property neglect, especially when:

- Surface water management is inadequate.
- Planning higher-use impervious surface area continues.
- Canal drainage systems were designed to remove water quickly.
- Wetland impacts are mitigated outside of our functional watershed and Big Cypress Basin.
- There is no master drainage plan.

It's safe to say that regardless of the infrastructure problems, there's little dispute that clean water is important and a county stormwater management plan is absolutely essential to correct stormwater-related water quality and water quantity impacts. You probably would also like to know, for new and existing land uses, what the approved drainage plan looks like.

Both plans would normally be developed on a drainage-area basis and not limited to on-site stormwater-management measures. A drainage area generally consists of one or more hydrologic unit areas, excluding any part of such hydrologic unit area(s) outside Big Cypress Basin.

I think we've been around as a county long enough to know that Big Cypress Basin is an isolated basin and that the Big Cypress Basin Board, not the Collier County Commission, should:

1. Be responsible for the basin stormwater-management plan;
2. Coordinate and develop the basin stormwater-management plan in consultation with Collier County, Collier Soil and Water Conservation District, and the cities of Everglades, Marco Island and Naples;
3. Characterize and assess the basin drainage area;
4. Prepare a statement of drainage-area-specific water quality and water quantity objectives;
5. Describe drainage area-specific stormwater-related water quality and water quantity design and performance standards;
6. Promulgate a description of the stormwater-management measures and a summary of the rationales for them;
7. Describe the long-term monitoring program for the drainage area;
8. Describe the strategy for implementing the selected stormwater management measures for the drainage area and for evaluating the effectiveness of the Big Cypress Basin stormwater-management plan.

From Vasey's blog. "Collier 101: Where To Learn About Ecology and Have Fun," available at naplesnews.com/blogs. Vasey, retired from the military, serves as a member of the Collier Soil and Water Conservation Board.

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