



Stephen M. Suau, P.E.

Principal



Professional Credentials

Professional Engineer License No. 36309

Areas of Expertise

Civil Engineering • Watershed Management • Low Impact Development Design • Demand Management Planning • Surface Water Hydrology

Education

M.S., Engineering Administration, Bradley University, 1985

B.S., Civil Engineering, University of Illinois, 1980

Project Experience

OVERVIEW – Mr. Stephen M. Suau, P.E. is a registered Professional Engineer within the State of Florida and has over 38 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. He has been involved in all facets of civil and environmental engineering design, modeling, permitting and implementation, and is a recognized leader in sustainability practices such as low impact development and watershed-based community design. Mr. Suau is actively engaged in developing demand management plans for greater efficiency and water conservation for both indoor and outdoor water use. He has also provided technical oversight of surface water studies and modeling that address both hydrologic flow restoration to natural systems and provide sustainable and reliable surface water supply yields. Although most of his time has been spent in the private sector, he has served as General Manager of a public Stormwater Utility, General Manager of Strategic Water Supply Planning, and as Executive Director of Sarasota County's Growth Management Department.

He has served as chairman of the Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility Advisory Committee, co-chairman of the Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Advisory Committee, and vice-chairman of the Myakka River Planning Advisory Committee.

More recently, he has served on the Sarasota County Sustainable Agriculture Policy Committee and the Sarasota County fertilizer ordinance technical advisory committee. Mr. Suau currently serves as chairman of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Task Force and is a member of the Technical Advisor Committee's (TAC) for Florida's Statewide Stormwater Rule. He has provided contractual consultant services to the Century Commission for Sustainable Florida relative to watershed management issues and planning for the Statewide Water Summit. Mr.

Suau has extensive experience with local, regional and State water management agencies, public presentations, and working with elected officials.

Sarasota County - Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan - As General Manager of Sarasota County's Watershed Management Program, Mr. Suau oversaw the development of detailed floodplain models and digital maps for the entire unincorporated County as well as the cities of Sarasota and Venice. This program was also the recipient of the 2002 James Lee Whitt Local Award for Excellence from the Association of State Floodplain Managers. During his tenure with Sarasota County, Mr. Suau formed and led integrated, multi-disciplinary watershed management teams that linked all of the County's water programs. Mr. Suau also drafted an Integrated Watershed Management Implementation Plan and incorporated it into the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Dona Bay Watershed Management Plan - The current Dona Bay watershed has been significantly impacted by man-made drainage activities which increased the efficiency and volume of freshwater being discharged to its tidal reaches. While with Sarasota County, Mr. Suau developed a vision for restoration of Dona Bay and its associated watershed and assisted in acquiring lands that are strategically located in the watershed. He also initiated an extensive program to monitor freshwater flows to the Dona Bay estuary. Mr. Suau has been retained by Sarasota County to oversee the planning, design and implementation of a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Dona Bay watershed that will address the following general objectives:

1. Provide a more natural freshwater/saltwater regime in the tidal portions of Dona Bay.

2. Provide a more natural hydroperiod within and water budget from the Dona Bay Watershed.
3. Protect existing and future property owners from flood damage.
4. Protect existing water quality.
5. Develop potential alternative surface water supply options that are consistent with, and support, other plan objectives.

Peace River Regional Water Supply Authority – Surface Water Feasibility Study - PWR is under contract with the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority to evaluate several potential alternative water supplies to meet projected future demands. In this capacity, PWR has provided a lead role in identifying watershed restoration opportunities, hydrologic data collection and analyses (i.e. water budgets, minimum flows and levels), yield vs. reliability and sustainability analyses, hydrogeology, aquifer characterization, conjunctive use opportunities, regulatory and permit strategic planning, and public outreach and presentations. PWR has developed a process for identifying hydrologic restoration opportunities that includes analyses of historical government land surveys, aerials, and soil indicators. This information augments the science-based engineering approach to water supply development that is integrated into other watershed management objectives such as natural system flow restoration, water quality enhancement and total maximum daily load reduction, and floodplain management. Aquifer management strategies can then be integrated to allow surface and ground water sources to be rotated to benefit the sustainability of each.

Braden River Utilities - Integrated Irrigation Program - PWR has been contracted with Braden River Utilities to provide an integrated irrigation plan that uses ground water, surface water, and reclaimed water sources. As part of this work plan, PWR has developed a comprehensive demand management plan for indoor and outdoor water use. The Plan is intended to increase water efficiency and reduce water waste. The indoor water demand management plan combines state-of-the-art, but cost-effective, appliances and recycling technologies. The outdoor water demand management plan includes state-of-the-art landscaping techniques and irrigation technologies such as soil moisture sensors to control and reduce water use. PWR has also assisted with educational materials and outreach programs.

Babcock Ranch Community – Master Irrigation Planning and Design - Mr. Suau and PWR were contracted to prepare a Master Irrigation Plan for the Babcock Ranch Community. As part of this effort, PWR prepared indoor and outdoor demand management plans that considered the cost-effectiveness of water conservation emerging technologies and certification programs. Implementing indoor and outdoor water conservation technologies and strategies were quantified in terms of potential reduced water related infrastructure costs. This effort also included estimation and projection of irrigation demands as well as the integration of supplies.

Fruitville Initiative – Whole Systems Plan - With a strong background in watershed management, Mr. Suau also served as Executive Director of Sarasota County's Planning and Development Services Business Center. During his tenure, Mr. Suau led the Fruitville Initiative in whole systems thinking and planning and provided expertise Low Impact Development (LID) and in Stormwater/Green Infrastructure. By leveraging public assets associated with a 400-acre natural area watershed park, excavated material, regional floodplain compensation, and stormwater reuse, Mr. Suau was able to mobilize the County and community to bring added value to adjacent public and privately-owned land designated as a Major Employment Center and strategically located at the first full interchange in Sarasota County. The vision that started with fill dirt, flood storage, and stormwater reuse has evolved into a community plan that could still be a regional showcase in smart growth and sustainable living.

Lemon Bay Watershed Plan - Mr. Suau was approached by a consortium known as the Lemon Bay League who represents homeowners' associations in 2 adjacent counties (but the same watershed) who were interested in championing their common environment, Lemon Bay. The Lemon Bay League also expressed a community desire that all of the water management agencies expending energies in protecting the Lemon Bay be coordinated. Mr. Suau engaged nine different water management agencies including the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve, Englewood Water District, Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, the Lemon Bay Conservancy and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and facilitated a series of community workshops on the various elements of watershed management. Mr. Suau then

drafted the Lemon Bay Interagency Watershed Management and continues the development and implementation of the community-based Plan as a member of the Lemon Bay League's Board of Directors. For his work to date, Mr. Suau was a recipient of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's 2004 "Outstanding Leadership in Water Resources Education" award. In 2007, Mr. Suau was also awarded the "First Annual Mike Price Award" for Civic Engagement for exemplary civic contribution to the Lemon Bay Community.

Palmer Ranch – Integrated Water Resources Plan -

Between 1986 and 1998, Mr. Suau had the privilege of working on an integrated team for the Palmer Ranch, one of the premier development efforts in Florida. Mr. Suau led the integration of water resource within the context of the planning team. He oversaw the development and continued application of detailed hydraulic system models that accurately predicted existing and on-going system changes. His work also included the development and application of the first reclaimed wastewater system for domestic irrigation in Sarasota County as well as the monitoring of pre and post development stormwater pollutant loads.

Thomas Ranch – Integrated Water Resources Plan - Mr.

Suau facilitated a series of workshops with consultants for a 17,000-acre ranch proposed for development as well as Sarasota County and Southwest Florida Water Management District regulators to develop a set of Integrated Water Resource Performance Standards. These workshops initiated a new dialogue in water resource regulation that reflects the current state of the art of water management. Mr. Suau provides on-going consulting services to the Thomas Ranch to assist in their implementation.