



## **Progressive Water Resources**

*Integrated Water Resource Consultants*

### **Stephen M. Suau, P.E.** **Managing Partner** **Watershed-Based Community Design**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Mr. Stephen Suau is a Civil Engineer with over 25 years experience in Florida. Although his specialty is watershed management planning and water resources, he has been involved in all facets of civil engineering design, permitting and implementation with both the private and public sectors. Mr. Suau has performed civil engineering related services in the private sector on Developments of Regional Impact and Master Planned Communities throughout Sarasota County. He has also served as Executive Director of Sarasota County's Planning and Development Services Business Center.

Mr. Suau has a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Illinois in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Engineering Administration from Bradley University. He resides in Sarasota, Florida and has served as chairman of the Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility Advisory Committee, co-chairman of the Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Advisory Committee, vice-chairman of the Myakka River Planning Advisory Committee, and the Sarasota County Sustainable Agriculture Policy Committee. Mr. Suau currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida House Institute for Sustainable Development and as chairman of the Sarasota County Economic Develop Corporation's Biomimicry Committee.

#### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

##### **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 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 also assisted in the development of the Sarasota County he helped lead a new vision for water management that linked all of the County's water programs. Mr. Suau drafted the County's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – a plan to implement the vision.

##### **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.

##### **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. 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 lands 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.

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#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Lemon Bay – Interagency Watershed Management 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.