

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**Citrus County Task Force  
of the  
Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council**

January 11, 2010

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:04 p.m. January 11, 2010 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

**Task Force**

**Members Present**

Sandra Clodwick, Secretary  
Carl Bertoch, Member  
Ken Frink, Member  
Michael Moberley, Chair  
Wayne Sawyer, Member

**Technical Advisory**

**Group Members Present**

Michael Sears, FDEP  
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT  
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.  
Allen Martin, FFWCC  
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD  
John Hendrix, USACOE

**Recording Secretaries**

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

**Task Force**

**Members Absent**

Michael Czerwinski, Member  
Eric Latimer, Member

**Technical Advisory**

**Group Members Absent**

Bo Rooks, WRBB

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SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District  
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CRBB – Coastal Rivers Basin Board Member  
WRBB – Withlacoochee River Basin Board Member

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FFWCC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation  
USACOE – United States Army Corp of Engineers  
TAG – Technical Advisory Group

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A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Task Force. The numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Moberley convened the meeting. Ms. Josie Guillen called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Moberley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Following consideration, Mr. Wayne Sawyer moved, seconded by Mr. Carl Bertoch to approve the October 12, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Withlacoochee Study Update**

Mr. Mark Fulkerson, SWFWMD, gave a presentation on the Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative. Mr. Fulkerson explained the dynamics of the river and watershed. Mr. Fulkerson identified how alterations have affected the system. The main tasks are to assemble the information for a surface water model, develop the model of the entire river system, and use the model results to address the watershed issues. Mr. Fulkerson stated that the project accomplishments were the digital elevation model of the Withlacoochee Basin, the hydrographic survey of the Withlacoochee River, development of sub-watershed models, and the preliminary list of the model scenarios. Mr. Fulkerson stated the remaining work will be to assemble the model of the river corridor, incorporate sub-watershed models, verify model results, and the scenario results which will take place later this year into early next year.

5. **Discussion of Lake Restoration Disposal Options**

Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC, gave a presentation on the lake restoration and enhancement disposal challenges which were discussed at the TAG meetings in August and September 2009. Mr. Martin outlined the importance of the disposal sites, the challenges, and the potential options. Mr. Martin explained how crucial it is to have a disposal site for the potential restoration projects. If there is no disposal site, there is no project. Mr. Martin continued explaining the difficulties such as: the disposal site takes up a large amount of space, the inability to find suitable sites, and the cost to haul the materials. Mr. Martin stated the four options the TAG suggested, which are: private property, public property, purchasing property, and in-lake disposal.

Mr. John Hendrix, USACOE, opened by stating he is with the Regulatory Division, which involves permitting. Mr. Hendrix stated the USACOE has jurisdiction over restoration activities within the Withlacoochee River, its tributaries, basins, and lakes associated with it. Mr. Hendrix stated excavating and placing fill materials within these lakes, will require a permit. The current jurisdiction that USACOE has within these waters is under the Clean Water Act. Mr. Hendrix stated the movement of bottom materials can have temporary or long-term impacts when you fill an area and raise its elevation. Mr. Hendrix stated a Nation Wide permit has been used in projects such as these. It is not always applicable and projects do not always qualify for the permit. Mr. Hendrix stated the important thing to keep in mind on any project is that the USACOE is required at time of review to see that impacts are minimized to the aquatic resource. When you apply for the permit, you will go through a vigorous demonstration. During the review process you will be showing why you could not find an upland location to dispose the material. Mr. Hendrix stated that other agencies will be a part of the review process. Mr. Hendrix stated there are several listed species that occur throughout the area. A Nation Wide permit cannot be used at all if other listed species are found to be present within the zones, such as scrub jays because they fall within the Endangered Species Act. Mr. Hendrix stated that the USACOE has issued these types of permits.

6. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Lake Rousseau Presentation – POWAR Group
- Homosassa Pump Out Station Update
- Crystal River/Kings Bay

7. **Public Input**

Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, stated that five meetings for this year are not enough. There is a lot to be done. Mr. Grubman stated that many people have quoted falsely the USACOE's position and it was good to hear the USACOE talk about. The USACOE opened up opportunities to get permits in place. Mr. Grubman stated from Mr. Fulkerson's presentation that the staff at SWFWMD's Operations Department deserve a big compliment in regards to the procedural and structural changes. Mr. Grubman asked the Task Force members if the draft minutes could be posted on the website.

Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen, stated how important it is to put the habitat islands in all the lake systems. Mr. Brooks stated some residents that live in Tampa informed him that the Hillsborough River is running full. Mr. Brooks stated we cannot get enough water down here to open our flood gates and let some water in. Mr. Brooks asked why can't we pump the water in.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

APPROVED