

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

March 8, 2010

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:08 p.m. March 8, 2010 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

Sandra Clodwick, Secretary
Michael Czerwinski, Member
Ken Frink, Member
Eric Latimer, Member
Michael Moberley, Chair
Wayne Sawyer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

Michael Sears, FDEP
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT
Allen Martin, FFWCC
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD
John Hendrix, USACOE

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Carl Bertoch, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Bo Rooks, WRBB

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

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

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. Ken Frink to approve the January 11, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

6c. **Restoration Efforts - Crystal River/Kings Bay**

Mr. Andy Houston, City of Crystal River, gave a presentation on the Hunter Springs dredging project. Mr. Houston stated that the boat channel will be taken down to 5 feet in depth, removing 315 cubic yards of sediment out of the area. Additionally, the remainder of the channel area has new signage for wading and swimming, and will be eliminating boat traffic onto the beach area. Mr. Houston stated this project is not going to address dredging out the spring vents in Hunter Springs. Mr. Houston stated in 1997, the City of Crystal River identified the project to dredge Hunter Springs. The project is currently in the stormwater master plan and will cost approximately \$900,000-\$1,000,000.

Mr. Houston stated the Hunter Springs dredging project will increase the flow to Kings Bay from Hunter Springs. Mr. Houston stated they are obtaining a permit to have the Lyngbya removed which will begin on May 1, 2010.

4. **Lake Rousseau Presentation**

Mr. Randy Oehmig, Protect Our Waters at Rousseau (POWAR), gave a presentation of the invasive plant management concerns and the sediment buildup on Lake Rousseau. Mr. Oehmig gave a brief background and general information on Lake Rousseau. Mr. Oehmig stated aquatic plant control in Lake Rousseau is primarily by the use of herbicides, although some mechanical control has also been employed by residents through the permitting process. Because of the costs involved and the potential for high sedimentation and nutrient build-up resulting from repeated herbicide applications, a sole reliance on chemical plant control methods is probably not optimal for the long term management although at this conjecture alternative sources of management control are either not applicable or have not been explored.

Mr. Oehmig stated the boat trails are targeted to be kept at 200 feet in width. One acre at 15 feet treated with Aquathol per 2009 estimates would cost approximately \$800. Typically under these conditions it takes 10 to 15 gallons per acre. Mr. Oehmig stated in some experimental areas several species of flies have been introduced as biocontrol agents for hydrilla however have failed to establish. The Paraponyx moth from Asia was discovered feeding on hydrilla in 1976 but was never studied or approved for release but large populations of hydrilla are occasionally completely defoliated by the moth. Additionally, our native Coots can decimate an entire field of hydrilla in relatively short order.

Mr. Oehmig continued to state even though herbicide treatment may not be the optimal solution, at this time it is our primary resource for maintaining Lake Rousseau and we are requesting that in this time of budget deficits, Lake Rousseau remains a top priority for BIPM funding. The benefits from herbicide treatment cannot be understated and the effect results in an unprecedented recreational paradise.

Mr. Oehmig concluded by stating maintaining Lake Rousseau is an important economic and recreational entity, POWAR also actively engages in the struggle to regain navigability of the Withlacoochee River to the Gulf.

5. **Update on Flying Eagle Marsh Prescribed Fire**

Mr. Kevin Love, SWFWMD, reported on the aborted attempt to burn about 1,000 acres in the Flying Eagle Marsh. The reason the project was aborted was because it was late summer, the light fuels were green and wet and it would not carry fire. So the project

was shut down. Mr. Love stated we have had a hard winter, the light fuels are no longer green and wet, they are dead and dry. The water levels on the marsh are a couple of inches above optimum for the burn. Mr. Love stated within the next 4-6 weeks they will be optimum and will launch the burn project. Mr. Love stated he will provide photos of the burns at the next Task Force meeting.

6. **Restoration Efforts – Homosassa & Chassahowitzka River**

Mr. Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD, gave a presentation on the headsprings restoration on the Homosassa & Chassahowitzka Rivers. Mr. Rhinesmith gave a background on the Homosassa Springs. Mr. Rhinesmith stated the headsprings dredging project was completed in 1992 by FDEP. The project included only the Fishbowl Vent which removed approx. 1,500 cubic yards. Mr. Rhinesmith stated the Homosassa Springs Restoration had a Cooperative Funding Project between FDEP and SWFWMD. The project was completed in December 2006. The project included:

- Hydraulic Dredging of the Blue Waters /Long River Bridge and Mitten Cove
- 13,000 cubic yards removed
- Major benefits were water clarity/water quality, recreational use, and Manatee passage

Mr. Rhinesmith also gave a background on the Chassahowitzka Springs Restoration. Mr. Rhinesmith stated in 2009 the feasibility study was completed cooperatively funded between Citrus County and SWFWMD. The report included the Composition of Sediments and Removal Logistics. Mr. Rhinesmith stated dredging design, permitting and construction services will be taken care of this fiscal year 2010. Funds for the construction has been requested for 2011-2012.

Mr. Rhinesmith stated he met with Citrus County. The County put in a new boat ramp facility. There has been some conflicts between the power boats and the canoe/kayaks. The County is looking into separating the groups and putting in a larger boat ramp and a launch facility for the kayaks. Mr. Rhinesmith stated a lot of it will be benefited from the dredging that will occur there. Hopefully facilitating access will make it a little easier.

Mr. Rhinesmith summarized the total headspring sediment volume which is about 5,117 cubic yards. The turn-around basin volume estimated to 1,355 cubic yards. The dredging costs are estimated to be:

- Headsprings \$186,264 to \$360,685 (\$28.78 to \$55.73 per cubic yard)
- Turn-around basin \$38,997 to \$75,515
- Total project cost \$460,000

Mr. Rhinesmith stated part of the plan includes 2.31 miles of residential canals. The consultant will be looking for ways to reduce sediment inflows into that system and protect our investment. They will be making recommendations for stormwater retrofit and bank stabilization.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion

Ms. Judy Ashton, FDEP, stated the pump-out station at the Homosassa River is on track and making a lot of progress. Ms. Ashton stated in about 6 weeks she will need to do the permit certification form and will start the reimbursement process. The station should be opened within 4-6 weeks.

7. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Kings Bay – Norman Hopkins

8. **Public Input**

Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, asked if there has been any follow up or will there be a follow up to talk to the USACOE of further inflake disposal? Mr. Grubman requested to have public input after each presentation is given at the meeting.

Mr. Michael Czerwinski made a motion to allow public comment after each speaker limited to 2 minutes. Ms. Sandra Clodwick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Larry Hartman, citizen, stated there is a proposed dike at Potts Preserve, which is in an environmentally sensitive area that will have access to the north end of the property. Mr. Hartman stated that 1/3 of the expense will be used for the dike and it will cost approximately \$150,000 to build the dike to get equipment on the property (which there is already equipment on the property). Mr. Hartman stated after the dike is built, culverts will be installed at the outfall canal and build a road over that, which will restrict the amount of water that can be exited out the lakes in the event of a hurricane. Mr. Hartman stated “they” are in the process of swapping 6-acres on the other side of the canal to build a road to allow more equipment, when there is already an access road. This area is in sovereign submerged wetlands and it is interfering with the rights of boaters in the Hernando Lake. Mr. Hartman stated it is ridiculous to create an access road when there is already one available. Mr. Hartman stated that an independent engineer estimated that the dike could be repaired for under \$5,000.

Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen, stated Lake Rousseau could have a couple of habitat islands close to the banks where it is not bothering the navigation of the lake. Mr. Brooks stated all of our lakes could stand having some. Mr. Brooks stated we need to have someone from the USACOE that has authority to get these habitat islands in place. Mr. Brooks stated he is glad to see all dikes taken out of Potts Preserve.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.