

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

March 14, 2011

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:00 p.m., March 14, 2011 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

Robert Christensen, Member
Sandra Clodwick, Secretary
Michael Czerwinski, Member
Al Grubman, Member
Eric Latimer, Member
Michael Moberley, Chair
Wayne Sawyer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Allen Martin, FFWCC

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Judy Ashton, FDEP
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT
Bill Bachschmidt, WRBB
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD
Colonel Alfred Pantano, USACOE

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.

Audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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 the June 14, 2010, August 9, 2010, October 11, 2010, and January 10, 2011 Minutes**

Now that the Task Force is fully constituted, following consideration, Mr. Al Grubman moved, seconded by Ms. Sandra Clodwick to approve the June 14, 2010, August 9, 2010, October 11, 2010, and January 11, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Election of Officers**

Chair Moberley opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Wayne Sawyer nominated Mr. Al Grubman. There being no further nominations, Chair Moberley asked for a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Robert Christensen moved the motion and Ms. Clodwick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and declared Mr. Grubman as Chair.

Chair Moberley opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Eric Latimer nominated Mr. Michael Czerwinski. Mr. Czerwinski declined. Mr. Sawyer nominated Mr. Michael Moberley. There being no further nominations, Chair Moberley asked for a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Grubman moved the motion and Ms. Clodwick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and declared Mr. Moberley as Secretary.

From this point Chair Grubman took the lead of the meeting.

5. **Kings Bay**

approx. 9 minutes into the meeting

Mr. Norman Hopkins, Amy Remley Foundation, provided information on Kings Bay. Mr. Hopkins presented a map which showed the permeability of the soil over the areas of the Brooksville Ridge, Dunnellon Gap, the Coastal Plain areas, and the west and north boundaries of Citrus County. Mr. Hopkins stated the darker areas show where the water percolates faster. The darkest shades are 10-20 inches per hours, which indicate a more permeable area. Mr. Hopkins stated it is termed as a poorly confined aquifer, which means liquids are readily absorbed. Mr. Hopkins showed another map which represents the relative pressure distribution within the main Floridan aquifer system. Mr. Hopkins stated the wavy lines join parts of equal artesian pressure. The map shows the water flowing into the Kings Bay recharge area from the southeast, from the northeast, and from the north. The saltier water which underlies a freshwater lens of the aquifer is held down by the volume of water which constitutes the freshwater lens. The next map Mr. Hopkins presented showed the depths of the lens. In 1975, the area of Kings Bay had a lens depth of 250-500 feet. Mr. Hopkins stated the Florida Geological Survey advised that the levels have been reduced significantly since that time because of drought and from pumping. Mr. Hopkins stated in the shaded area along the east coast of Florida, there is no potable water. Potable water is defined as having chlorides less than or equal to 250 milligrams per liter and dissolved solids less than or equal to 500 milligrams per liter. The lack of potable water in the shaded section of the east coast according to Mr. Klein was the result of pumping. Mr. Hopkins stated pumping is a significant action which depletes the depths of water constituting the lens. When artesian flows encounter water flowing in fracture or karstic conduits the path of least resistance is adopted by the combined flow - in the direction of the conduit flows conveying groundwater to the spring vents. In the next map, Mr. Hopkins shows the variations of saltiness across parts of Kings Bay. The southwest area indicates higher (saltier) conductance with the lower readings shown to the north. Mr. Hopkins stated drought periods and pumping over the years have reduced aquifer levels and depth of the freshwater lens allowing saltier water to well up from lower levels.

Mr. Hopkins stated the Amy Remley Foundation was asked to give a presentation to the Florida Public Services Commission concerning the area occupied by the proposed nuclear site. Mr. Hopkins noted that it will be helpful if the work that is being done by the foundation to track the flows of water underground were acknowledged and supported by the Task Force. Mr. Hopkins asked that the work that has been done by the

foundation be recognized and given support. He said it will be an important contribution that the Task Force could make to preserve the quality of water in Kings Bay and the health of the environment.

Mr. Hopkins stated the cost of electricity generated by the nuclear plant would be several times the cost paid by consumers today as the plant exceeding \$22 billion. Mr. Hopkins stated that it is unsustainable for either Progress Energy or Duke Energy to sustain that level of expenditure. Mr. Hopkins presented an alternative strategy which will be beneficial to the environmental versus having a nuclear plant in that position. Mr. Hopkins asked for the support of the Task Force for the work the foundation has done, will propose to do, and asked to provide a presentation at a future meeting.

Mr. Wayne Sawyer stated there has been a Citrus Port proposal for Citrus County. Mr. Sawyer asked Mr. Hopkins to provide a study of how it will affect the fragility of the environmental waters, tankers, water discharge. Mr. Hopkins stated the County is not proposing to bring tankers into any port. The tankers cannot come closer than approximately 50 miles into the gulf. Mr. Hopkins stated what the County is proposing is a discharge from the tankers into barges.

Mr. Eric Latimer answered Mr. Hopkins question on the amount of groundwater usage; Progress Energy has proposed 1.58 million gallons per day (mgd). Mr. Latimer stated he would be able to provide a staff member from Progress Energy to attend a future Task Force meeting to discuss the Environmental Impact Statements.

Mr. Hopkins stated the figure Mr. Latimer gave is not the troublesome figure. The troublesome figure is the 128 mgd which Progress Energy is proposing to take from the barge canal which will vent 50 mgd into the atmosphere charged with tritium which will fall into the ground and accumulate in groundwater which will affect the groundwater reserves for this area and Levy County. Mr. Hopkins stated that Progress Energy proposes to pump 60 mgd directly to the Crystal River Energy Complex and into the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Latimer corrected Mr. Hopkins and stated the water is pumped back into the discharge canal at the Crystal River plant.

Chair Grubman asked Mr. Hopkins to provide the members a hard copy of future presentations.

6. **Flying Eagle/Potts Preserve Prescribed Fire Update**
approx. 1 hour into the meeting

Mr. Joel DeAngelis, SWFWMD, stated last month conditions were great for burning in the main marsh at Flying Eagle. Staff conducted three burns, totaling about 1,300 acres. The burn was predominantly marsh and the hammocks within the marsh and along the edges. The conditions were low humidity, northeast winds, water in the airboat trails to contain fire in the units, and either moist or saturated conditions in the marsh vegetation.

7. **Restoration of the Lower Withlacoochee River**
approx. 1:32 hours into the meeting

Mr. Dan Hilliard, Director of Withlacoochee Area Residents (WAR) gave a presentation on the report entitled "Saving Valuable Resources-Restoration of the Lower Withlacoochee River and Preservation of Coastal Estuarine Resources." The report includes descriptions of water quality, water supply, and natural systems restoration. Mr.

Hilliard explained that the lower Withlacoochee River is an example of a mix of conditions. There is evidence of increasing chlorophyll levels and algae in the lake. Mr. Hilliard noted several extremes in conditions in the first two pages of the report. The lower river system is altered by the creation of the Lake Rousseau impoundment and the lower Withlacoochee River is altered as well.

The State of Florida places the value of the system at \$587 billion. The Lake has been identified as a future water supply by the Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority (WRWSA).

The alterations to the system include widening the channel which has slowed the discharge rate and has resulted in increasing salinity levels up river. The bifurcation of the lower river by the barge canal; the river lost 29 percent of its average annual flows. This coupled with drought and modifications to the lower river have led to the death of many large cypress trees along the lower river. The barge canal impacts have been studied and are the topic of several reports. URS looked at alternatives to address improving flows to the lower river. The Janicki report looked at hydrodynamic models and impacts to benthic communities. The reports agree that there are impacts to the benthic community with reduced flows. The sporadic high flows have been lost in the river because of these modifications. The goal is to preserve what we have left. Additional impacts are pending on the lower river with the Progress Energy Power Plant. The other impact to flows is potentially the WRWSA's withdrawals from 3 surface water points and 3 wellfields. The proposal for restoration includes the installation of a barrier/lock mechanism 6-miles west of the existing Inglis Lock raising the head 1.8 feet. A spillway gate constructed at the east end of the rock dam at the cul-de-sac where the Lyngbya growth is located would restore the hydrologic connection to the lower river.

Ms. Clodwick reiterated her concerns for a solution to this problem and to maintain or improve the health of the lower river and all the waterbodies of Citrus County. Before the Task Force could make a decision on the subject, Ms. Clodwick asked for comments regarding Mr. Hilliard's presentation and the two recommendations made by WAR from Mark Hammond and the Technical Advisory Group.

Mr. Sawyer stated that he wanted time to review the report and have Mark Hammond make suggestions.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda

Mr. Michael Czerwinski asked the Task Force to have a stakeholders meeting for the restoration of Kings Bay. Chair Grubman stated the May meeting would be an excellent time to discuss Kings Bay seeing as the Task Force and the Kings Bay Working Group will be present. Ms. Clodwick agreed with Chair Grubman's statement. Ms. Clodwick also agreed with Chair Grubman's comment if issues are going to differ from the focus of Kings Bay, then perhaps a stakeholders meeting might be necessary, so the stakeholders can address their concerns.

Public Input

Mr. Hopkins stated he would like to see a focus of the mind and a meaningful presentation at the combined meeting in May.

8. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
Kings Bay Restoration

9. **Public Input**
None

10. **Adjournment**
There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

APPROVED