

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

June 14, 2010

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:00 p.m., June 14, 2010 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

**Task Force**

**Members Present**

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

**Technical Advisory**

**Group Members Present**

Judy Ashton, FDEP  
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.  
Allen Martin, FFWCC  
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

**Recording Secretary**

Veronica Craw, SWFWMD  
Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

**Task Force**

**Members Absent**

Eric Latimer, Member

**Technical Advisory**

**Group Members Absent**

Katasha Cornwell, FDOT  
Bill Bachschmidt, WRBB  
Colonel Alfred Pantano, USACOE

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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. Veronica Craw 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 Ms. Sandra Clodwick to approve the March 8, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Kings Bay**

Mr. Norman Hopkins, Amy H. Remley Foundation, stated Kings Bay and Crystal River is a protected Outstanding Florida Water. The standard of anti-degradation should be preserved as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 1979, under the Florida Antidegradation Policy. Mr. Hopkins stated unfortunately, the law is not being implemented and the studies and evidence shows (photo shown on the overhead projector) that it has not been implemented. The photo shows an intense presence of algae. Algae requires a cocktail of nutrients, e.g. nitrogen, phosphorous, dissolved calcium and iron. Mr. Hopkins stated the reason the algae is not good, is because the water quality is still being degraded. Mr. Hopkins stated that what could be happening is local roads have increased traffic and the mineral deposits in the exhausts can be washed by recent heavy rain and resulting in spikes to the cocktail. The algae has not yet been identified but looks like a diatom or microcystis. An Environmental Protection Agency document describes the latter bacteria as being toxic.

Mr. Hopkins stated that algae has many different impacts. For example, it can hold down and compete with natural vegetation (which is food for the manatees). The manatees would be skinny, get hungry, and swim to other areas to feed. It would diminish the (manatee) population which is a feature for the tourist industry. Mr. Hopkins stated the use of these waters is reportedly worth about \$20,000,000 a year to the local economy.

Mr. Michael Czerwinski asked Mr. Hopkins what he would like for the task force to do. Mr. Czerwinski asked if perhaps the task force needs to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for Kings Bay, and suggested for Mr. Hopkins to develop a letter to the City of Crystal River about the comprehensive plan change and the reasons why. Mr. Hopkins can bring the letter before the Task Force members to review and support the activities.

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Mr. Sawyer stated his concern about losing 29 years of time regarding the condition of Kings Bay. Mr. Sawyer suggested passing a resolution giving verbal support to Mr. Hopkins when he meets with the City of Crystal River that the Task Force members are concerned about the situation of losing the 29 years of the standards.

Mr. Carl Bertoch stated amending the comprehensive plan is another process and it can take a number of public hearings before the amendment could be adopted. Mr. Bertoch is in support of the concept.

Mr. Hopkins said he would submit a form of words for consideration in time for the next meeting.

Ms. Veronica Craw stated that several retrofit projects have been performed and completed in the area surrounding Kings Bay and there are several ongoing projects as well. Ms. Craw stated staff is currently revising the Surface Water Improvement Management Plan. Several studies are ongoing in the system by the University of South Florida which is a nutrient source tracking project and identification of phytoplankton that

is blooming in the systems. Mr. Craw stated that the District is participating in the acquisition of the Three Sisters land parcel. The intent is to construct a wetland treatment system to route the canal stormwater which comes through and directly discharges to the bay without any treatment. The wetland system will remove nutrients then to discharge treated water back into the bay.

Ms. Craw stated the Clemson study conducted a few years ago on the sources and impacts of Lyngbya in the system resulted in several recommendations in treatment options to control the Lyngbya in the system. Most of the recommended treatments did include an algaecide. Mr. Craw stated as far as she is aware, the City of Crystal River paid for the study and has not pursued it since then.

### **Public Input**

Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen, asked Mr. Hopkins if they will allow more water in the Two Mile Prairie and the Two Sink, would it help flush the system. Mr. Brooks stated the public fought to keep the buildings out from the airport and a Walmart will be there now. The public defeated it twice. The new commissioners voted to let it in (Walmart). Mr. Brooks stated that the Members are fighting a government that does not care.

### 5. **Hydro Electric Plant**

Mr. Dean Edwards, Inglis Hydropower, LLC, gave a brief introduction of the company. Mr. Edwards gave a history of the Inglis Dam. Mr. Edwards stated Lake Rousseau was formed by the construction of Inglis Dam in 1909 by Florida Power Corporation for hydropower. Hydropower's operations ceased in 1965. In the 1960s, the USACOE built a portion of the Cross Florida Barge Canal between Lake Rousseau and the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Edwards stated the construction of the barge canal interrupted the natural flow of water from the upper into the lower segment of the river. The USACOE constructed the 8,900 foot long Inglis Lock Bypass channel to discharge fresh water from Lake Rousseau into the lower Withlacoochee River segment. Mr. Edwards stated in the early 1990s, the barge canal was not authorized as a federal project and ownership was transferred to the State of Florida. The office of Greenways and Trails is mandated by the Florida Statutes to manage the Greenway area as a multiple use recreation area and to consider hydroelectric power as a compatible use. Mr. Edwards stated the Inglis Hydropower project will be built on the north side of the Inglis bypass spillway and will take about one year to construct. The water that is now passing through the bypass spillway will instead pass into the intake for the powerhouse. Mr. Edwards stated the flow of water through either the spillway or the powerhouse will be regulated by the SWFWMD. The project will be constructed with a bridge across the intake channel that carries water from the bypass channel to the powerhouse to allow foot and vehicle traffic to get to the south side of the bypass channel. Mr. Edwards stated the power from this plant will be carried from the plant down the existing power line that now runs to the site. The benefits for this project are the total maximum plant output will be 2,600 horsepower or 2,000 kW. The estimated annual energy production will be 12,300,000 kWh. This is enough power to supply 2,000 average homes with renewable power. Mr. Edwards stated per SWFWMD, during periods of downstream, tidal flooding flow will be reduced. The project will pay an estimated \$30,000 per year in tangible personal property tax. The Town of Inglis would receive \$6,750, jobs will be available during construction, will provide SWFWMD with the ability to increase the maximum flow in the river, provide SWFWMD with the ability to draw down Lake Rousseau for weed control, provide additional areas to fish along intake and discharge channels, and park benches will be installed for fishermen near the project's channels.

**Public Input**

Mr. Jack Dennis, Withlacoochee River Basin Board Member, asked Mr. Edwards when was the last time the project was turned down?

Mr. Edwards answered Mr. Dennis by stating the project was turned down in the early 1990s and was exempted from licensing to another company called High Power owned by a Mr. Perot sometime in 1996 or 1997. Mr. Perot lost the exemption in 2002 because construction has not started.

Mr. Dennis asked Mr. Edwards if he was going to obtain the permit through SWFWMD or FDEP.

Mr. Edwards stated the permit will be obtained through FDEP.

Mr. Hopkins asked Mr. Edwards as a clarification to the variability of the groundwater level and the discussions going on to put new well systems and transfer water into other counties surrounding Citrus County, is that going affect the two feet margin for groundwater?

Mr. Edwards stated he only has the one data point which they did the test boring.

**Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda**

Mr. Allen Martin, FFWWC, stated that funding has been approved by FFWCC and Citrus County for the Lake Spivey project which involves two coves that have tussock materials. Project should begin in August 2010.

6. **Task Force Goals and Objectives for 2010 & 2011**

Chair Moberley stated his concerns and the importance on future meetings because of budget constraints with the agencies. Chair Moberley suggested perhaps combining most of the presentations in one meeting instead of spreading them out throughout the year. Chair Moberley shared with the Members the advertising costs for each meeting.

Approximate cost to advertise for each meeting ..... \$865.00

Approximate cost to advertise for 6 meetings per year ..... \$5,190.00

Approximate cost to continue advertising in the Citrus County Chronicle..... \$44.00  
for each meeting

Approximate cost to advertise in the Citrus County Chronicle for 6..... \$264.00  
meetings per year

The Members conveyed their concerns, suggestions, and opinions as to how often the meetings should take place. Such as: no funding - false hope, many discussions, efforts and documents when nothing is being produced, is it appropriate to continue the meetings? Members suggested possibly having 1-2 meetings a year. A Member stated that there have been many successes produced throughout the years (i.e., \$50,000 for water quality monitoring, pump out station, etc.). Before any conclusions are made, it was suggested for the Senator address the Members on this issue.

**Public Input**

Mr. Hopkins, stated that each of the members are appointed by the Governor and you are a forum for communicating between the public to the TAG as a whole and to the Members. Mr. Hopkins stated that is a vital part of what the Task Force members do and what the members cannot do is to summon up money to pay for anything specific. Mr. Hopkins suggested to the members to concentrate on forming the most efficient link you can make yourselves into for bridging the gap between the public who are trying to find out information and conveying information to the members and TAG. Mr. Hopkins stated this function is not formed by any other body in Citrus County.

7. **2011 Meeting Dates**

Mr. Mark Hammond, SWFWMD, (standing in for Ms. Josie Guillen), clarified and suggested to the members to be able to save costs on advertising for task force meetings in 2011, the meeting dates that have been established for 2011 will be published on the District calendar. Mr. Hammond will seek direction as to in the event a meeting that is not scheduled on the 2011 District calendar, if in fact the meeting will need to be advertised in all 16 counties and see if costs can be reduced.

**Public Input**

Mr. Chester Bradshaw, citizen, asked Mr. Carl Bertoch an official government agency has to advertise a public meeting with workshops every two weeks and have discussions amongst themselves as long as they do not take any legal action?

Mr. Bertoch stated that the District's General Counsel's office will provide the guidance on this subject.

8. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Flying Eagle Prescribed Burns requested by Mr. Wayne Sawyer
- Oil Spill requested by Mr. Czerwinski
- Minimum Flows requested by Ms. Sandra Clodwick

9. **Public Input**

Mr. Chester Bradshaw acknowledged Mr. Wayne Sawyer for long time standing with the Task Force and the Citrus County Advisory Committee. Mr. Bradshaw stated even though an aquatic plant management permit was issued to the private landowner, Mr. Charlie Strange, Mr. Bradshaw cut approximately 5.5 miles of the boat trail across the lake which was approved by FDEP. Mr. Bradshaw stated the trail was the original navigational route of the ferry boats. Within that area it causes an Otter slide. Mr. Bradshaw stated currently fill are being removed, the current permit process was to take Otter Slide down to a 31.5 foot elevation. Mr. Bradshaw stated he set that elevation back in 1999 with FDEP. Mr. Bradshaw stated the permit only allows 25 foot width of the boat trail. The landowner is willing to work with FDEP to expand to 50 foot because it was the true natural flow of the water system. Mr. Bradshaw showed the members three overflow points from the Hernando lakes system back to the Withlacoochee River. The landowner and the airboat associations had placed picnic tables, boat landing, trash barrels, restrooms, and recreation areas through-out. Mr. Bradshaw stated there is plenty of opportunity within this lake system such as removing the fills out of the lake on the western side. On the eastside, fill roads were removed and have cut down on the elevation. Mr. Bradshaw along with other agencies went to the area to look at the possibility of removing excess vegetation which will slow the flow going out of the lake.

Mr. Bradshaw is requesting the members to give a technical review of the three major over flow points and see if the flow can be increased.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

APPROVED