

REVISED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

July 11, 2011

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:02 p.m., July 11, 2011 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

**Task Force**

**Members Present**

Sandra Clodwick  
Michael Czerwinski  
Al Grubman, Chair  
Wayne Sawyer

**Technical Advisory**

**Group Members Present**

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

**Recording Secretary**

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

**Task Force**

**Members Absent**

Robert Christensen  
Eric Latimer  
Michael Moberley, Secretary

**Technical Advisory**

**Group Members Absent**

Judy Ashton, FDEP  
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT  
Colonel Alfred Pantano, USACOE

---

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District  
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
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.

**For further details of the meeting, an audio recording is available upon request.**

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

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Grubman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of the May 9, 2011 Minutes**

Following consideration, Mr. Michael Czerwinski moved, seconded by Mr. Wayne Sawyer to approve the May 9, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Continuation of the Restoration of the Lower Withlacoochee River**

**approx. 4 minutes into the meeting**

a. Mr. Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residence (WAR), is proposing to impound the barge canal for public water supply which has been adopted as an alternative by the water supply authority. Mr. Hilliard stated the Lower Withlacoochee River

(LWR) is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water as most of the Withlacoochee system and it is also identified as an impaired water. Mr. Hilliard stated he handed the Task Force members a copy of the executive summary of the Withlacoochee Watershed report published by the University of Florida Water Clinic and Adaptive Management of Water Resources (IGERT).

- c. Mr. Mark Hammond, SWFWMD, stated the Withlacoochee River Basin Board had looked at opportunities for restoration on the LWR over several years. Mr. Hammond stated the Inglis Lock has a control structure at the end of the bypass channel that discharges into LWR. The basin board looked at 4 alternatives, they are: 1) install a structure in the barge canal and remove the obstruction in the lower river to reconnect the lower river. Since there is a structure in the barge canal, the basin board looked into raising the U.S. Highway 19 bridge over the lower river to allow boat traffic; 2) instead of a structure on the barge canal, also included was a lock for all boat traffic and the LWR would have flow but there would be a structure to prevent high volume of flow; 3) the conveyance be increased through the bypass channel and the spillway. The maximum flow through the channel and spillway is about 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). There are 3 limitations on it, which are: i) the spillway; ii) the channel; to increase the flow through the bypass channel. The need will be to increase the cross section of the channel, increase the box culverts, and modify the structure. The cfs would be increased from 1,500 to 2,500 cfs; and iii) no changes to the system. The cost for alternative 1 is approximately \$41 million, alternative 2 is approximately \$26 million, and the cost for alternative 3 is approximately \$12 million. Mr. Hammond stated a concern was raised regarding sediments. Since the LWR had been bifurcated it was no longer getting high flows. Since you are not getting high flows with high velocity you cannot flush out the finer sediments. The velocity that would be needed to pick up the particles and move them out was a minimum of 2 – 2.5 feet per second. The velocity would need to be up to 4,000 cfs to be able to pick up a lot of the sediment and flush the system out. Having the velocity at 4,000 cfs will put additional water on private property, affect docks and structures, which requires a permit.
- b. Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC, stated a consideration FDOT would have in doing any structures is that it would change the hydrology around the bridges. When they build the bridges there are scouring rates that are taken into affect. Mr. Martin stated allowing a drawdown on Lake Rousseau would be beneficial for the freshwater fisheries. Mr. Martin stated deepening the bypass canal and modification of the structure would have potential benefits for Lake Rousseau. Mr. Martin stated the down river changes to the estuary will need to be looked into further.
- d. No public input.

Add-on **Don Hess, Citizen**

**approx. 1 hour, 2 minutes into the meeting**

Mr. Hess stated that approximately 6 or 7 years ago he became interested in Crystal River and Kings Bay restoration. There was a plan by a small group to dissolve the City of Crystal River Charter. Mr. Hess said the dissolution of the City would have increased development around Kings Bay. There was a plan to build a 7-story time share on Pete's Pier. Because of the work by Mr. Hess and his group, the City Charter was not dissolved and the building was denied by the City. Mr. Hess and his group have continued to work on protecting Kings Bay. Mr. Hess suggested that the creation of a master restoration plan for the Bay/River may interest potential outside funding partners

such as Hank Paulson of the Nature Conservancy and the Paradigm Fund. Mr. Hess suggested that a plan is needed to secure funding from various sources. Mr. Hess next discussed the commercial truck traffic through Crystal River and deposition of contaminants from the Crystal River Power Plant. Chair Grubman added that much of the topics are beyond what the Task Force is responsible for and clarified that the key point that Mr. Hess is making is that a plan be drafted for restoration. Mr. Hess responded to this by agreeing that a plan is desperately needed. Mr. Hess read a list of projects completed by the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Hess interviewed the head of urban development for the Rochester Institute of Technology and described a plan called the Specialty Plan Interface between Land and Water for Urban Development. Mr. Hess said a plan would cost about \$100,000. Mr. Hess read a list of the necessary parts to be included in the plan. Mr. Hess stated that saving the education center and the dredging of Kings Bay are both critical for the restoration and a critical part of a plan. Chair Grubman thanked Mr. Hess for his presentation and suggested that a plan for Kings Bay be part of the annual report to the Legislature. Mr. Sawyer stated that since he has been part of the Task Force, we have listed many things that need to be done, and he thanked the agency staff for putting together projects for funding consideration but noted we have received no support for any of these large projects. Mr. Sawyer added that instead of continuing the trend of not accomplishing anything we have proposed, we invite the individuals that Mr. Hess spoke about to a future task force meeting. Mr. Hess suggested that Mr. Ernest Paskey who has been with Citrus County as a planner and was the Associate Professor at Rochester Institute of Technology would be good to have at a future Task Force meeting. Mr. Czerwinski stated that he and others have proposed a plan for the restoration of Crystal River including Kings Bay and the associated uplands. Mr. Hess stated that the first step is to develop a plan. The Task Force expressed an interest in having Mr. Ernest Paskey come to a future meeting.

5. **Recommendations for Restoration of Kings Bay**

**approx. 1 hour, 35 minutes into the meeting**

- a. Dr. Gary Williams, SWFWMD, stated the springshed of Kings Bay is very large. Kings Bay is a high discharge system and on par with Rainbow River. Dr. Williams stated the current data shows an average of 400 cfs which translates to more than 250 million gallons of water per day coming out of the system. Dr. Williams stated water emerging from spring vents in Kings Bay generally has a longer residence time than spring discharge in other systems, which can lead to higher levels of phytoplankton (microscopic, free-floating algae). Kings Bay supports the largest population of manatees on the west coast. The presence of such large numbers of manatees presents logistical challenges for restoring the vegetation of Kings Bay. Dr. Williams stated the primary restoration issues that have been identified are low levels of native submerged aquatic vegetation, low water clarity, and high levels of filamentous algae. Dr. Williams stated the number 1 priority to restoring Kings Bay is to restore a healthy submerged aquatic vegetation community. Dr. Williams stated 3 things to think about making a healthy plant community: 1) nutrient source control; 2) identify ways to reduce filamentous algae (sediment and grazer investigation); 3) execute a successful revegetation program (protect from grazing until established and management of periphyton load).
- b. Mr. K.C. Nayfield did not attend the meeting.
- c. Mr. Norman Hopkins did not attend the meeting.
- d. No public input.

7. **Public Input**

Mr. Chester Bradshaw, citizen, stated county cooperative project between Citrus County and SWFWMD took out one part of Parson's Point Road on the Potts Preserve 5 years ago which made a great difference in the lake. Mr. Bradshaw is working with the landowner of the eastern portion of the fill road to suggest donating the land to the state, put an agency in charge until the Task Force and/or Citrus County can come up with a plan to remove fill at no cost to the state. Mr. Bradshaw stated the United States government built the outfall canal. The federal projects using funds that are spent from the national treasury must have a recreational value. Citrus County has nothing in the form of recreation. Mr. Bradshaw stated the funds are still available. Mr. Bradshaw asked why doesn't the Task Force pursue this? There are funds available for recreation and possibly restoration. Mr. Bradshaw stated years ago it was asked of Citrus County to look at the idea of setting up a mitigation project. Mr. Bradshaw has asked the Task Force to review his requests.

Mr. Dan Hilliard, WAR, stated he handed out the executive summary of the Withlacoochee Watershed Report. Mr. Hilliard asked the Task Force members to read it because it involves the entire watershed. Mr. Hilliard stated he is hoping SWFWMD will collaborate with WAR to put forth a long-term comprehensive water quality assessment in the lower river.

Mr. Frank Heath, citizen, read a letter to the Task Force of his concern with Eden property development, a proposed plan for a high level motor home park. Mr. Heath's concern is having a 439 motor home park emptying out onto Highway 44 because of a storm or other situation. Mr. Heath stated Highway 44 is the only multi-lane evacuation route for all of Citrus County. This area was designated years ago as residential limited to one residence per twenty acres when the county's objective was to maintain the rural features. This would provide noticeable tax revenue for the county. It is also one of the most pristine wetland areas along the nature coast. Mr. Heath stated if a motor home park were to be built, it would draw in tourists in the winter months. The motor homes would not add anything to county's tax base since they are licensed as motor vehicles. Mr. Heath asked the Task Force members to present a resolution to the county commissioners requesting to vote no on this proposal. Mr. Czerwiniski recused himself from voting on this issue due to a conflict of interest.

6. **Approval of the 2012 Task Force Meeting Dates**

**approx. 2 hours, 25 minutes into the meeting**

Ms. Veronica Crow, SWFWMD, requested approval of the 2012 meeting dates. This is a cost saving measure for the Task Force since they are now being published on the SWFWMD's annual meeting date calendar. Mr. Wayne Sawyer made a motion to approve the 2012 meeting dates. Ms. Sandra Clodwick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Ms. Vicki Trux, FDEP,  
Mr. Paskey, Urban Planner,  
Mr. Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD, Water Quality  
Ms. Veronica Crow, SWFWMD, Nutrient Criteria  
Lake Rousseau, POWAR  
Mr. Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD, Chassahowitzka Dredging Update

Report to the Legislature Preparation  
Water Flow across Flying Eagle

9. **Actions Items for the Next Meeting**  
None.

10. **Adjournment**  
There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Approved