

# REVISED

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

July 13, 2009

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:05 p.m. July 13, 2009 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

#### Task Force

##### Members Present

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

#### Technical Advisory

##### Group Members Present

Judy Ashton, FDEP  
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT  
Jack Dennis, Alt., WRBB  
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.  
Dale Jones, FFWCC  
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

#### Recording Secretaries

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD  
Jennifer Noland, SWFWMD

#### Task Force

##### Members Absent

Carl Bertoch, Member

#### Technical Advisory

##### Group Members Absent

Janey Baldwin, Alt., WRBB  
Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger, USACOE  
Sam Lyons, CRBB  
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

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

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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 Michael 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, Ms. Sandra Clodwick moved, seconded by Mr. Eric Latimer, to approve the May 11, 2009 meeting minutes with the corrections noted by Mr. Michael Czerwinski. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Update on FDOT Roadway Projects in Citrus County**

Ms. Katasha Cornwell, FDOT, gave a presentation on the Five Year Work Program (FYWP), the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects that are currently funded and the potential ARRA projects that may be funded in the future. Ms. Cornwell stated that the FYWP project for S.R. 200 (widening and reconstruction) is not moving forward at this time. Ms. Cornwell stated there is another re-surfacing project for S.R. 200 that will be letting in March 2010 and FDOT have the permits in hand for that project. Ms. Cornwell stated there are other projects on U.S. Highway 19 for widening and reconstruction. Ms. Cornwell identified those roadway projects that would require water quality treatment versus resurfacing projects that would not require water quality treatment as part of the project permitting. Ms. Cornwell stated there is a widening and resurfacing project on S.R. 44.. FDOT has put the widening portion on hold due to funding issues. However, the resurfacing project will be done in the interim.

Ms. Cornwell stated that most of the ARRA projects have been designed and most have been approved by FDEP for Citrus Co. Ms. Cornwell showed the Members a list of projects that have been designed and funded for the federal economic stimulus package and are ready to be let.

5. **Update on Point Lonesome and Disposal Site Funding**

Mr. Dale Jones, FFWCC, stated in 2006 the Legislature approved \$150,000 grant to be used for hauling or disposal of materials from the Tsala Apopka lakes. The grant cannot be used for purchase of property. Mr. Jones stated recently FFWCC sought and were granted a two year extension, which now expires in 2012. FFWCC is evaluating the feasibility of fish and wildlife projects which may qualify for this funding. Mr. Jones stated in 2006 FFWCC approved a \$600,000 project to remove tussock materials. Mr. Jones continued stating that low water conditions prohibited the project initiation. FFWCC agreed to redirect funding to the Vegetation and Sediment Mapping project. Mr. Jones stated that the Vegetation and Sediment Mapping project was completed in the fall 2008 at a total cost of \$720,000. In conclusion, Mr. Jones stated Point Lonesome was proposed for FFWCC funding this year, but fell below the available funding line.

Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, gave an update on the field trip to Point Lonesome with Mr. Czerwinski. Mr. Grubman stated they went through the property to see what FFWCC looks for, what they want, and possibly what the Members want. Mr. Grubman stated that Point Lonesome falls short on that it is away from public view. Mr. Grubman suggested when the Members pick a project on a lake, to pick one where the public are driving by it. Mr. Grubman's concern is that there is not a lot of the public at the meetings because they do not believe the Task Force can get the job done. Mr. Grubman stated he looked at a piece of land (that Senator Charles Dean suggested it as a good site), where the canal flows through from the Inverness Pool towards the Hernando Pool and goes under the bridge on Gospel Island Road. Mr. Grubman stated it would have high visibility, public utility, and possibility cooperative funding.

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

Mr. Kevin Love, SWFWMD, stated that SWFWMD has burned approximately 10,000 acres since the beginning of June 2009. Unfortunately, the areas burned were not in the Flying Eagle Marshes. Mr. Love stated during the last week in May, the Withlacoochee District of the Division of Forestry began lifting the ban on burning and began issuing permits within its region. The Flying Eagle Marshes were among the first areas that SWFWMD staff identified to get authorization to apply prescribed fire. Mr. Love stated

that SWFWMD staff spent two days at Flying Eagle trying to burn and the vegetation would not ignite. The reason is, it was severely dry in the marsh all the way through the spring. Then in May, it started to rain which moistened the marsh vegetation and soils. By the time the ban was lifted, the marsh was freshly green and the green vegetation would not carry fire. In April, the marsh could have been burned, but permits were not being issues at that time by DOF. Mr. Love stated that there is a 50/50 chance that conditions will be conducive to have a burn this year.

7. **Moccasin Slough**

Mr. Mark Hammond, SWFWMD, updated the Members that Citrus County had taken the lead on the expansion of the project and that Citrus County might have some funds available. Mr. Hammond reminded the Members it was previously an item on the agenda to see what the Members wanted to do about it and to see if this was a project the county could do with some of their funds. Mr. Hammond stated that Citrus County came to SWFWMD and that the Basin Board provided some funds to that project, as well as the county.

Mr. Mark Edwards, Citrus County, stated the county did submit an application as a cooperative funding project with SWFWMD approximately 10 years ago. Mr. Edwards stated the project was about a 6 mile trail in an area of marsh that had emerged into hardwoods over the years and had blocked off the sheet flows around the trees. Mr. Edwards stated that with the financial assistance of the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, County staff used a cookie cutter to mechanically remove the vegetation blocking the trails. Mr. Edwards stated that the project was approved for \$100,000; after completion of the project, the county came in under budget.

Mr. Edwards updated the Members of the \$900,000 that was to be used for lake enhancement. The funds are now to be used for water quality. Mr. Edwards stated once you have a project established and other agencies agree and have submitted funding for that project and possibly get funding from the legislature, address the board of county commissioners at that time.

Mr. Edwards spoke to a Mr. Walt Eastman regarding the Boshert property. Mr. Edwards stated that Citrus County and FDEP purchased the property. The property will be used by the county and FDOT. Mr. Edwards stated two projects have been identified for this property, the widening of U.S. Highway 19 and the county by-pass road.

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

Mr. Grubman stated that Judy Ashton, FDEP set up a tour to Flying Eagle. Mr. Grubman stated the FDEP staff collected samples in the marsh area. Ms. Ashton also set up a meeting with a Mr. Harry Michaels and a Ms. Michele Press. At the meeting, Mr. Grubman presented a proposal for the restoration of sovereign lands in the Flying Eagle Recreation and Wildlife Management Area along with a photo showing the emergent plants and hardwoods. Mr. Grubman stated it was on FDEP's priority list to remove the good plants that did not suit their historical vision.

Mr. Michael Holtkamp, SWFWMD, gave an update on the rainfall distribution within SWFWMD's 16 county jurisdiction showing maps and graphs of the percentiles and mean levels from June 2008 through May 2009.

8. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- FDOT Mitigation Program, Mark Brown, SWFWMD
- Water Quality Data on Lake Rousseau, Judy Ashton, FDEP
- Update on volunteer restoration efforts on sovereign lands, Judy Ashton, FDEP
- Western Dike Road in Potts Preserve, Chester Bradshaw
- Tag Submittal of "shovel ready" projects to be recommended in the 2009 report to the Legislature, FFWCC

9. **Public Input**

- Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, stated there is a very substantial fish kill on the Withlacoochee River. Black water coming down the river and the decision on what lake to put the black water in and the potential to kill the fish. The obvious solution is to run all the water through Flying Eagle and throw away the dikes. In 2005 there was a submission of community budget issue request to figure out the engineering.

Mr. Grubman informed the Members about the clearing out of the Withlacoochee River from I-75 to the Gulf stimulus project. Mr. Grubman's understanding of the project was to take the snags out of the river, which leaves out the tributaries and other places that should be cleared.

Mr. Grubman stated one of the sinkholes at the Morrison Pool has stopped and there are discussions about doing something about the other sinkhole that was originally bypassed.

Mr. Grubman thanked Mr. Charlie Strange and Mr. Chester Bradshaw, for initiating a major policy change within SWFWMD. The policy change is that it is SWFWMD's responsibility to protect the level of the Hernando Pool. Mr. Strange owns a dike which borders and supports the Hernando Pool. There were many questions over the years as to who would maintain the dike. Mr. Grubman stated that SWFWMD said the dike is not theirs to maintain.

Mr. Grubman stated when he arrived at the meeting today; apparently three members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) were having a meeting. Mr. Grubman stated it looked like it should have been advertised in advance and minutes written. The Sunshine Law is not dead in Florida and should be respected by this task force. Mr. Grubman demanded his rights to the Sunshine Law be honored and if Mr. Grubman was mistaken, he apologized.

- Mr. Chester Bradshaw, citizen, addressed the subject of the Arrowhead property owner's association volunteer effort to remove illegal fill on roads between islands of the Hernando Pool, Potts Preserve, and the Western Dike Road. FDEP permitted the removal of the west road system and east/west road in 2001, which has not been removed. Mr. Bradshaw stated the dike system was originally built to protect the landowner. It has been abandoned and has several holes. The dike has fill in between the islands which stop the fish and the recreation use of the lake. Mr. Bradshaw's request is to restore the lake system. Mr. Bradshaw handed to the Members a copy of the modified permit and a letter stating there was a technicality that a landowner can request from FDEP to remove abandoned fill or an obstacle. Mr. Bradshaw's request is to put this issue on the agenda for discussion and for the Members to support it. Mr. Bradshaw stated there was an error in the approved

minutes from the March 9, 2009 Citrus County Task Force meeting, item number 8. The error being that Mr. Bradshaw did not make the statement about the marsh being determined that it is not sovereign lands.

- Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen, stated his concern is the Wysong Dam. If the Dam is backed up and 200 cubic feet per second (CFS) is released through the structure, Croom has to be discharging 200 CFS. If the Dam is up, all that water is behind it. If 200 CFS comes through the structure, 200 CFS goes over the spillway. There is a lot of water in that lake. It keeps the lake system flushed and full of water. When the four storms came, someone opened up into Two Mile Prairie and Arrowhead did not flood that year. Obviously, we haven't had enough water, so it hasn't flooded since. If they let the water in the Two Mile Prairie instead of back in, it will open the bridge up.

Mr. Holtkamp gave a brief update to the Wysong Dam and stated as of midnight, July 13, the upstream level on the Dam elevation is 39.02. The levels can only be maintained 39.05 with the Dam inflated. Once it gets to 39.05, the level needs to be lowered. Since the upstream pool has been lowered, the 220 foot main section of the Dam has been up and has been diverting the flows from what was coming down the river and what was coming up the outlet river, Lake Panasoffkee; diverting those through the bypass structure.

- Mr. Norman Hopkins, Amy H. Remley Foundation and Kings Bay Association presented an aerial of Citrus County showing the photo lineaments derived from a 1972-1973 FDOT survey. This was an update of information given by the Foundation in March 2009, depicting lineaments with computed Latitude and Longitude. Mr. Hopkins drew attention to colored lineaments representing a major tributary flow into Kings Bay/Crystal River coming from the southeast and flowing underneath the project site known as Crystal River Commons, which is being passed into the next phase by Citrus County. A second tributary from the northeast was also indicated. Mr. Hopkins stated the photo lineaments need to be related to known physical features such as sinkholes, and spring vents, to determine whether they are indications of fracture sets. The water flowing into the Kings Bay Springs catchment area originates both from the southeast in Polk County and from the northeast in Putnam County. These underground piezometric flows when they encounter fracture sets, acting as conduits, take the path of least resistance to join the direction of flow in the conduit. Science literature draws attention to the importance of this for protection of groundwater quality. Florida law is silent, "pretending" that water doesn't flow underground, while Federal law affirms that it does. A case fought in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal handed down a decision in August, 2007, affirming that "tributary" flows into a waterway flow underground or on the surface without distinction. This argues strongly for support of Florida law protecting Kings Bay waters from degradation as Special Waters within the classification as an Outstanding Florida Water, to standards existing as of March 1, 1979.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.