

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

January 14, 2008

The Citrus County Task Force met at 3:04 p.m. on January 14, 2008, at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

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

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

Judy Ashton, FDEP
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Jerry Krummrich, FFWCC
Sam Lyons, CRBB
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

SWFWMD Staff

Members Present

Mark Hammond

Task Force

Members Absent

Michael Czerwinski, Member
Tim DeFoe, Member
George Miskimen, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,
USACE
Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT
Bo Rooks, WRBB

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

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
USACE – United States Army Corp of Engineers

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, Mr. Wayne Sawyer moved, seconded by Mr. Carl Bertoch to approve the September 17, 2007 meeting minutes.

4. **Update on the Report to the Legislature**

Chair Moberley stated that he attended a delegation meeting in Inverness and reported to them the Task Force findings. Chair Moberley added that he met with the Legislators one on one before the delegation meeting. Chair Moberley also called Senator Dean's office and confirmed the report is currently in the committee's group.

Chair Moberley stated to the Task Force members that there is a limited amount of funding. Chair Moberley stated the intention of the members is to be positive and hopes that the Legislator will approve some of the funding requested in the report.

Chair Moberley stated he will go to Tallahassee to meet with the Legislators before the report goes to the full committee in April.

5. **Lake Rousseau Technical Advisory Group Findings**

Mr. Philip Rhinesmith gave a presentation on Lake Rousseau. Mr. Rhinesmith stated that Lake Rousseau is a highly enriched waterbody and is rapidly progressing into marsh-like system, with excessive aquatic plant growth and increased deposition of organic sediments. Mr. Rhinesmith added that Lake Rousseau supports a healthy sportfish population with some occurrences of fish reduction due to increased river flows and reduced dissolved oxygen levels. Mr. Rhinesmith summarized the LAKEWATCH water quality data.

6. **Crystal River/Kings Bay Technical Advisory Group Findings**

Mr. Rhinesmith gave a presentation on Crystal River/Kings Bay. Mr. Rhinesmith stated that the first magnitude spring system forms the 600-acre Kings Bay embayment with a total average discharge rate of 975 cubic feet per second. Mr. Rhinesmith stated the tidally influenced embayment is the headwaters of Crystal River which terminates approximately 6 miles west in the Gulf of Mexico and declining water quality/clarity trends and increasing sediments. The goal is: 1) to achieve and maintain water clarity, 2) stabilize or remove the accumulated bottom sediments, 3) revegetate denuded areas with desirable native aquatic vegetation, and 4) restore vital aquatic habitat.

7. **Task Force Goals and Agenda Items for 2008**

Ms. Sandra Clodwick stated she would like to see more concentration on Lake Rousseau. Ms. Clodwick stated that we have a viable start, but need to identify and determine what kinds of things, such as sediment and/or areas with better flow to create better water quality, and water quality monitoring.

Chair Moberley suggested having a presentation of an update on Chassahowitzka River.

Mr. Bertoch suggested reducing the agenda on what can be accomplished. Mr. Bertoch stated to look into the Kings Bay analysis and find out who's doing what. It may be something we cannot attack or make recommendations on, other than work through those groups and support them. Mr. Bertoch also suggested to take a look at costs of these projects. Mr. Bertoch would like to see something accomplished. Are some of these goals realistic? Can we accomplish them? Mr. Bertoch would like to see something more practicable.

Chair Moberley suggested perhaps this year's goal can be education. To educate what the public can do to cut down on pollution.

Chair Moberley stated if there are not many issues for the agenda or projects have not been accomplished, he will suggest having bi-monthly meetings.

8. **Open Discussion**

Chair Moberley stated to the Task Force members there will be some members resigning from the task force/restoration council. Chair Moberley reminded the members we cannot meet unless all positions are filled. Chair Moberley had asked a member to please refrain from submitting his resignation until his position can be filled.

9. **Agenda and Location for Next Meeting**

- Chassahowitzka River
- Agencies working on Kings Bay
- Update on Inglis Lock

The location of the next meeting will be at the Lecanto Government Building.

10. **Public Input**

- Mr. Norman Hopkins, Kings Bay Association, stated there is a website available. It was designed for teaching environmental science for students and for assisting teachers to teach students for environmental science. Over 40,000 hits have been made to the website since it's been available over six months ago.

Mr. Hopkins mentioned that the Three Sisters Springs is crystal clear, is fresh, and has plenty of wildlife. However, the spring is under threat by the owner. The threat is to build 350 dwellings which will destroy the water clarity. It is currently used as a manatee refuge.

Mr. Hopkins stated fresh water is coming into Kings Bay and Crystal River which is vital to the fishing industry which depends upon the health of the seagrass meadows.

Mr. Hopkins stated most of the dive traffic and dive industry is focused on Three Sister Springs and the freshwater springs which are in the area of: Hunter Spring, Magnolia Spring, Catfish Spring, Idiots Delight, and Three Sisters Springs. These are the predominate source of freshwater of the entire river system. The main springs suffering saltwater intrusion. Many spring vents that used to contribute to the river system no longer function.

The Amy Remley Foundation is planning and working to acquire the Three Sisters property from the owner. Mr. Hopkins stated at the last Kings Bay Association meeting they need funds to move forward.

- Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, stated he is not against spraying and mechanically harvesting weeds. We need to remember that most of what we're talking about whether it be Lyngbya in Kings Bay, prolific weeds in the Tsala Apopka Lakes, or weeds in sediments in Lake Rousseau, we're fighting symptoms. At some point we also have to work on the future. As nitrogen builds up in our systems, as we continue to poison the systems, we may solve the Three Sisters problem. The springs are up to 5 parts milligrams per liter. In the Ocala National Forest it is .03. Once it gets up to 10 milligrams per liter, the water will not be potable. Long-term, we must reduce nitrogen. The biggest sources of nitrogen are fertilizer and septic systems.

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Mr. Grubman stated Citrus County is looking for a way to educate the public on fertilizing.

Mr. Grubman stated high performance septic systems shown to be an improvement from a study by the Department of Community Affairs.

- Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen and a TOOFAR member, suggested perhaps Jumper Creek could be cleaned up.

Mr. Brooks heard that a lake may be created (like Lake Rousseau) behind Wysong Dam and stated it would not be a bad idea.

Mr. Brooks stated that a big problem is getting all the runoff off the roads, parking lots, lakes, and creeks.

Mr. Brooks stated TOOFAR has a website with a lot of information.

- Mrs. Cheryl Phillips, Muck Masters, Inc., suggested to partner with them during the Save Our Waters week.

Mrs. Phillips stated her husband, Mr. John Phillips invented the muck sucker. This machine removes the muck and has shown progress. They have a prototype, a working patent and would like to proceed on bigger and better projects. Mrs. Phillips stated they would like to show the county and the state that the muck can be removed. Several alternatives have been looked at on what to do with the muck. One is to create top soil, bio-fuel, and creating fertilizer. The primary focus is to remove the muck in the canals and some of the lakes.

- Dr. David Monier, citizen, thanked the Task Force members for giving their time for good concerns and issues.

Mr. Monier wants to find out more uses for the muck removal machine, not just for sediment. The lakes are very low, there are tons of shoreline, and it is a lot easier to remove what is already dried with a bull dozer. Mr. Monier suggested to make it feasible to have the sediment used as bio-fuel and fertilizer. We could finance ourselves, make it a profitable source, designate a location to store it, and have it available for the public.

11. **Status Reports**

No presentations were made. The Water Quality Monitoring report for the time period of January 14, 2008 was mailed to the Task Force members in their agenda packet and was also available for the public at the meeting.

12. **Goals, Objectives, Actions, Projects, and Schedules**

No action taken.

13. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.