

**APPROVED**  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

March 3, 2008

The Hernando County Task Force met at 3:33 p.m. on March 3, 2008, at the Springs Coast Environmental Education Center, Weeki Wachee, Florida.

**Task Force**  
**Members Present**

Nicholas Nicholson, Chair  
James Adkins, Secretary  
Charles Morton, Member  
James Polk, Member

**Technical Advisory**  
**Group Members Present**

Chris Anastasiou, FDEP  
John Burnett, Hernando Co.  
Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT  
Sam Lyons, CRBB Member  
Denise Tenuto, SWFWMD

**SWFWMD Staff**  
**Members Present**

Veronica Craw  
Mark Rials  
Roberta Starks

**Task Force**  
**Members Absent**

Jim Griffin, Member  
Charlie Miller, Member  
Norman Pallot, Member

**Technical Advisory**  
**Group Members Absent**

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,  
USACE  
Paul Thomas, FFWCC

**Recording Secretary**  
Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

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SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District  
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CRBB – Coastal Rivers Basin Board Member

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FFWCC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation  
USACE – 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**

Chair Nicholson convened the meeting. Members were in attendance and a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Nicholson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Following consideration, Mr. Charles Morton moved, seconded by Mr. James Polk to approve the January 7, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Prioritization of Hernando County Surface Water Bodies by Public Access**

Mr. John Burnett, Hernando County, provided the Task Force members with a list of the access points to surface waterbodies that are maintained by Hernando County. Chair Nicholson requested for a motion to ask Hernando County to provide data or maintain the usage of the ramps for the Task Force member be able to request future funding. Mr. Morton made the motion and Mr. Polk seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

The coastal access points are Bayport (ramp is closed for improvements), Hernando Beach (open to boat traffic, channel narrow and confined, County is in the process of dredging), Pine Island (canoe ramp), Rogers Park (full boat access), and Jenkins Creek (smaller boat access).

Withlacoochee River has two major access points, Lake Townsend Park (fishing pier and boat ramp) and Nobleton Wayside Park.

Lake access points are: 1) Lake Lindsey is privately owned and maintained by the County. Public access is only through the homeowners association parcel. The land on the southern and western shore is owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is a public boat ramp on the eastern side of the lake. 2) Mountain Lake is accessed through Hernando County right-of-way surrounded by private property and is presently closed because there is no water in the lake. 3) Bystre Lake has no boat access. 4) Hunters Lake has the largest urban population; access point is through the Spring Hill Civic Association property and County owned boat ramp parking area. County closed the boat ramp because the lake has very little water and is not accessible. All of the other lakes deeded to the County are accessible for the residents in the surrounding properties, no public access.

5. **Prioritization of Hernando County Surface Water Bodies by Wildlife/Habitat**

Mr. Paul Thomas, FFWCC, did not attend the meeting. Therefore, no presentation was given.

6. **Prioritization of Hernando County Surface Water Bodies by Water Quality**

Ms. Roberta Starks, SWFWMD, informed the Task Force members Florida has more than 7,700 lakes. Approximately 1,800 are within the SWFWMD jurisdiction. The Florida Lakes Gazetteer lists 122 lakes in Hernando County.

Ms. Starks stated that SWFWMD monitors 19 lakes in Hernando County (two are inactive, two are event driven), LakeWatch monitors four, and FDEP monitors lakes on a random, rotating basis for their state-wide Integrated Water Resource Monitoring network.

Ms. Starks showed a list of how frequently the lakes are monitored for water quality and what field and laboratory parameters are analyzed for the District and LakeWatch networks. Also presented were Trophic State Index plots for each of the District's monitored sites which assists with determining the health of lakes.

7. **Status of Shoal Line Boulevard Canal**

Mr. John Burnett, Hernando County, handed out a letter to the Task Force members from Florida Engineering and Design, Inc., who were hired by the County to undertake a design project for the removal of sand and sediment from the Shoal Line canal area. This letter was sent to FDEP with an engineering design packet. The County does not have funding allocated for this project. A recent cost estimate was obtained in the amount of \$200,000 to

remove the sediment, transport it, and land fill it. The County's intends to apply for a grant to cover the cost of the project through the Florida Boating Improvement Grant Program.

8. **Open Discussion**

Mr. Mark Rials asked Chair Nicholson to clarify the request or the motion made earlier for Hernando County.

Mr. Morton stated he has been receiving questions from the public at the Swamp Fest in Weeki Wachee on the salinity of the Weeki Wachee River. The question asked was, "Is the salinity in the Weeki Wachee River because of saltwater intrusion or because of less nutrient coming through the spring since the water levels are down"? Ms. Veronica Craw, SWFWMD, stated salinity is one of their measured parameters. Ms. Craw will assemble the data and present it at the next meeting.

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

- Weeki Wachee River Salinity
- Influence of Rainfall on the Aquifer and Surface Water Trophic State Indexes
- Prioritization of Surface Water Bodies in Hernando County by Wildlife/Habitat

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, at the East Hernando Branch Library in Ridge Manor.

10. **Public Input**

None.

11. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.