

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

March 10, 2008

The Citrus County Task Force met at 3:05 p.m. on March 10, 2008, at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

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

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

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

SWFWMD Staff

Members Present

Mark Hammond
Veronica Craw
Jimmy Brooks
Beth Putnam

Task Force

Members Absent

George Miskimen, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,
USACE
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.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Moberley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Following consideration, Mr. Carl Bertoch moved, seconded by Ms. Sandra Clodwick to approve the January 14, 2008 meeting minutes.

4. **Crystal River/Kings Bay – Summary of the Various Agencies Responsibilities and Actions**

Mr. Philip Rhinesmith summarized the various agency responsibilities from FDEP, SWFWMD, United States Geological Survey, Citrus County, City of Crystal River, and FFWCC and their actions such as: water quality, sediment, restoration, submerged aquatic vegetation and algae, water management plan, minimum flows and levels, cooperative funding, and wildlife management.

5. **Lake Rousseau - Summary of the Various Agencies Responsibilities and Actions**

Mr. Jerry Krummrich summarized the various agency responsibilities from SWFWMD, LAKEWATCH, Greenways and Trails, FDEP, FFWCC, and Citrus County and their actions such as: water quality, operations and maintenance, watershed management, nuisance aquatic plants and tussocks, fisheries, recreation, navigation, and minimum flows and levels.

6. **Water Resource Education Related Activities**

a. **Citrus County** – Ms. Joan Bradshaw from the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences gave a brief presentation on the following: 1) the county extension office, who they are; 2) Florida Yards & Neighborhoods and the benefits; 3) conservation concerns; 4) water related educational programs; 5) watershed efforts; 6) Citrus County Conservation Committees; 7) youth activities.

b. **FDEP** – Ms. Judy Ashton gave a brief presentation on the following: 1) Clean Marina Program; 2) Restoration; 3) Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas; 4) Parks Department; 5) Stream Ecology/Bioassessment; 6) Internship Program.

c. **FFWCC** – Mr. Jerry Krummrich gave a brief presentation on Water Resource Education Activities specifically related to lakes and specifically to Lake Tsala Apopka and Lake Rousseau. Project W.I.L.D. is a program directed at teachers with information on the Florida ecosystems and the environment. Another program is directed to lakeshore homeowners with information on control of aquatic vegetation and use of herbicides. There are links to other agencies and organizations on the FFWCC's website. These include the FDEP and LAKEWATCH. The LAKEWATCH website is a valuable tool to understanding the importance of water quality, clarity, and other questions frequently asked by users and homeowners. Many of the education opportunities made available by the FFWCC are web-based and easy to use.

d. **SWFWMD** – Ms. Beth Putnam gave a presentation – on youth education (mini grants, teacher training, field trip programs, education resources, and outreach), and public education (Florida Friendly Landscaping, watershed education, water C.H.A.M.P., community education grants, cooperative funding, publications, outreach, media messaging, and water conservation).

e. **LAKEWATCH** – Mr. Claude Brown did not attend the meeting.

7. **Update on the Tsala Apopka Diagnostic Activities**

Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC, stated the Task Force members and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommended a diagnostic study. FFWCC provided \$723,731.50, to contract with PB Americas, Inc. Mr. Martin stated the preliminary characterization and

mapping of tussocks is to identify and prioritize future harvesting or scraping projects. The chemical sediment assessment is to prioritize potential hydraulic dredging projects and to determine possible spoil contamination issues. Mr. Martin also stated the hydrographic survey of all 15 lakes determined distribution and total quantity of unconsolidated sediment.

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

- Update on MFLs (relationship with Crystal River Rousseau)
- Task Force position regarding Crystal River and Lake Rousseau activities in this year's annual report
- Potential Use of Alternate Dredge Sediments
- Morrison Pool/Sinks

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

9. **Public Input**

- Mr. Bill Garvin, citizen, informed the Task Force members of the trash he picked up during Save Our Water Week. In three hours, 60 empty aluminum beverage cans were collected. The Rainbow River has a "No Disposable" law. Mr. Garvin asked if something similar can be done at the Homosassa and Crystal River.

Mr. Garvin stated LAKEWATCH is testing the Homosassa River. Mr. Garvin is doing five spots on the Homosassa River and Mr. Ron Miller is doing three spots on Pepper Creek. The University of Florida has been doing fish counts and fish studies. They also did sediment retrieval in the Homosassa River. Mr. Garvin suggested the Task Force members contact them for more input.

- Mr. Charles Coose, citizen, asked for help to restore the SE corner of Hunters Bay by dredging the culvert drainage runoff that has occurred after many years. The culverts are in place and they drain Highway 19, Highway 44, and Highway 495. This is a county-wide problem and the runoff is going into Kings Bay. Mr. Coose has personally paid for soil samples/core borings. Mr. Cooses recommended that 18-24 inches of sediment be removed. Mr. Coose provided the Task Force members with hard copy information and photos.
- Ms. Dee Atkins, citizen, stated that City of Crystal River has an ordinance in place that requires the use of slow release fertilizers. However, until the county and the state adopt the same programs, there is not much they can do.

Ms. Atkins stated any waterfront property should have public sewer service and any area where it is not feasible for public sewer needs to have high performance septic systems. Runoff comes from the higher parts of the county and it all comes down to Crystal River. This issue needs to be county wide, preferably state wide.

- Mr. John Fusch, citizen, stated essentially we have a dead river. There is nothing growing at the lower end of the Withlacoochee River. Mr. Fusch has photographic evidence from the early 80s showing a lot of grass, manatee feed, and habitat for bass. The herbicide program on Lake Rousseau is suspect. Mr. Fusch has been working with FDEP and was concerned when he learned that FDEP had not done

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any monitoring in that part of the river when conducting the herbicide programs. Mr. Fusch stated that FDEP will begin a sonar program which will last for 100 days. Mr. Fusch is asking for help.

- Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, thanked SWFWMD for keeping the water up in Lake Panasoffkee. Mr. Grubman continued to state SWFWMD opened three panels for golf course structures, opened a fourth panel recently, opened the Moccasin Slough panel, the gate to Lake Bradley, and the gate to Lake Consuela. Mr. Grubman stated there are two sinkholes in Morrison Pond. Together they account for a loss of 3.5 millions of gallons per day. The data from SWFWMD indicates two sinkholes are involved. The SWFWMD is in the process of analyzing the data. Mr. Grubman requested the Task Force members ask for the sinkholes to be stopped specifically those that do not affect property owners.

Mr. Grubman asked Task Force member Mr. Carl Bertoch if the TAG meetings fall under the Sunshine Law. Mr. Bertoch's reply was each agency falls under the Sunshine Law. The TAG is not a policy making group.

- Mr. Ron Miller, citizen, Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) is a conservation organization related to the Gulf of Mexico. Their goal is to protect the nature coast of Florida. They are sponsoring overflights of the coastal area for those interested in conservation issues. GRN has offered an airplane flight for the Task Force members on Wednesday, March 19.
- Mr. Norman Hopkins, Amy Remley Foundation, thanked all of the agencies that supplied information which enabled the foundation to build the website. The website has attracted 60,000 hits per year. The next step is to move ahead and focus on the requirements of Citrus County for a public education center. Mr. Hopkins will be talking with SWFWMD and FDEP for the design plan. The intention of the building will be environmentally neutral. It should manufacture its own energy, use its own energy within the building, and the grounds should be environmentally friendly according to the standards provided by SWFWMD. Mr. Hopkins stated the problem is funding and is asking for help.

Mr. Hopkins stated there are three things affecting Crystal River or are going to affect Crystal River if nothing is done. The first thing is the Primerica Development. There was a measurable impact from the Home Depot development. The second is the Three Sisters project. Mr. Hopkins would like to see this item on the agenda generated from the previous meeting minutes regarding Three Sisters project. On January 15, the responsibility for applying for funds for the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) fell to the City of Crystal River. As a housing development, it will affect the principle source of freshwater for Kings Bay and Crystal River upon which the economy of the region depends. We need to watch that very closely that it proceeds for conservation and not for development. The third is Clemson University, which is due to make a statement at the next Kings Bay working group meeting. They have telegraphed that they will recommend the application of chemicals to control invasive species within the river run. That should be resisted because of the bio-accumulated effects it will have on toxins that are already present in the sediment.

- Mr. Casey Nayfield, citizen, stated that the primary threat to the bay is the development of the Three Sisters property. We must do everything in our means to raise funds in the amount of \$2.8 million so the City of Crystal River can match the funds and get the \$6.6 million from the FCT grants. If we lose this property, then 90 home sites and approximately 300 condominium units are going to have a dramatic affect on the springs system as well as the bay itself. The plan is that SWFWMD has promised to come in to restore some of this to natural wetlands, which will also increase the filtration in our bay and help out tremendously. Mr. Nayfield stated it is home to the manatees. It is the last spring system that flows pure freshwater year-round in the bay.
 - Ms. Mary Cravin, citizen, stated she read in a Polk County newspaper, that there is a huge military training project projected to go in the green swamp area. That will mean filling, paving, etc. The SWFWMD is aware of it and what has been going on so far has met with their approval. Ms. Cravin feels it could affect Citrus County and its waterways.
10. **Status Reports**
No presentations were made. The current Water Quality Monitoring report mailed to the Task Force members in their agenda packet and was also available for the public at the meeting.
11. **Goals, Objectives, Actions, Projects, and Schedules**
No action taken.
12. **Adjournment**
There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.