

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

May 5, 2008

The Hernando County Task Force met at 3:30 p.m. on May 5, 2008, at the East Hernando Branch Library, Brooksville, Florida (Ridge Manor area).

Task Force
Members Present

Nicholas Nicholson, Chair
James Adkins, Secretary
Charlie Miller, Member
Charles Morton, Member
Norman Pallot, Member

Technical Advisory
Group Members Present

John Burnett, Hernando Co.
Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT
Paul Thomas, FFWCC

SWFWMD Staff
Members Present

Veronica Craw
Mark Rials
Mike Heyl

Task Force
Members Absent

Jim Griffin, Member
James Polk, Member

Technical Advisory
Group Members Absent

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,
USACE
Chris Anastasiou, FDEP
Sam Lyons, CRBB Member
Denise Tenuto, SWFWMD

Recording Secretary
Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CRBB – Coastal Rivers 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**

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. Charlie Miller to approve the March 3, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Paul Thomas, FFWCC, went through the list Mr. John Burnett from Hernando County provided at the last meeting and crossed referenced with FFWCC data sets and files. Mr. Thomas stated there is not much data available on any of those lakes. What FFWCC has is a regional fishing guide which lists the public access lakes in the county. Mr. Thomas stated in the near future he will have staff go to these lakes and gathered specific data.

5. **Weeki Wachee River Salinity**

Mr. Mike Heyl, SWFWMD, showed the Task Force members an overview of salinity data in the Weeki Wachee River from 1985 through 2005. Mr. Heyl also explained the need for intense monitoring to collect data for the Weeki Wachee Minimum Flows Report. The SWFWMD conducted measurements on a monthly basis from 2003 through 2005. Comparing the data, SWFWMD Minimum Flows and Levels sampling period 2003 through 2005 was abnormally wet and salinity slightly reduced over the period of record. In addition, Mr. Heyl gave a brief explanation to the Task Force members of the Weeki Wachee Springs conductivity from December 1992 through December 2007.

6. **Influence of Rainfall on the Aquifer and Surface Water Tropic State Indexes**

Ms. Veronica Craw, SWFWMD, showed the members a schematic graphic of the rainfall percentile distribution through the SWFWMD's jurisdiction from April 2007 through March 2008 as well as a graph of rainfall distribution for April 2008. For April 2008, most of the District received normal to above average rainfall. Ms. Craw presented a graph showing the 12 month rainfall analysis. The northern portion of the District still has a rainfall deficit of approximately 3 inches. Ms. Craw continued to show flow data presented by United States Geological Survey on the Weeki Wachee and the Withlacoochee River. Ms. Craw showed a graph predicting continued drought in the southern portion of the District and explained about Tropic State Indexes and how they relate to nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll and productivity.

7. **Open Discussion**

Mr. Mark Rials shared with the members how the SWFWMD advertises for the task force meetings. The SWFWMD advertises in the Florida Administrative Weekly, Florida Specifier, and generates Press Releases from the SWFWMD Communications Department for the local newspapers. Ms. Josie Guillen added that the SWFWMD also advertises in 6 other newspapers to cover the 16 counties with the SWFWMD jurisdiction.

Mr. Pat Fagan, Director of Hernando County Parks and Recreation Department, personally invited the members to the opening of Bay Port Renovation on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. The renovation was a partnership between SWFWMD, Sensitive Lands Committee, and Hernando County. The project cost approximately \$1.2 million.

Mr. Fagan stated other projects the County is working on; one of them being Pine Island. The next project Hernando County is undertaking will be presented at the next Commissioners meeting for a grant from the Florida Boating Fund for the cleaning of State Road 50 Canal. The grant award cost is \$212,000.

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

- Update on the Legislative funding request – Mark Rials
- Update on the wildlife and habitat – Paul Thomas
- Update on continuation of salinity data from 2005-2008 – Veronica Craw

APPROVED

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7, at the SWFWMD Governing Board Room.

10. **Public Input**

None.

11. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.