

# APPROVED

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

July 14, 2008

The Citrus County Task Force met at 3:00 p.m. 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

Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.  
Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT  
Sam Lyons, CRBB  
Allen Martin, FFWCC  
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

#### Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

#### Task Force

##### Members Absent

Carl Bertoch, Member

#### Technical Advisory

##### Group Members Absent

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,  
USACE  
Judy Ashton, FDEP  
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  
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 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, Ms. Sandra Clodwick moved, seconded by Mr. Wayne Sawyer to approve the May 12, 2008 meeting minutes.

Chair Moberley introduced Mr. Eric Latimer, the newest Task Force member who replaced Dr. George Miskimen.

4. **Update on the Pump-Out Station on the Homosassa River**  
Chair Moberley stated that the plans are done. The County and the owner of the property at McRae's Fishing Resort have come to an agreement and are proceeding ahead. The pump-out station should be installed by the end of the year.
5. **Update on the Clearing House Website**  
Mr. Richard Patz, citizen gave a presentation on his findings of having a website as a way to disseminate information from the Citrus County Task Force. There is valuable and important information related to water supply, water quality, navigation and fishing in Citrus County. Access to websites addressing these topics are not always effective and efficient. In conclusion, development of the website would need two ways to approach website use, 1) know the website address; 2) search engine use. The two ways to approach search engine optimization would be to pay for it or develop your own website, and actively manage it. A volunteer could develop and manage such a website and training would be needed.
6. **Update on the Clemson Study**  
Ms. Veronica Crow, SWFWMD, gave a presentation on the Lyngbya Risk and Management Assessment being performed by Clemson University and funded by FDEP. The four tasks studied were 1) the Lyngbya Assessment which evaluated habitat value and toxin production; 2) Lyngbya Management Assessment which identified controls and site constraints and cost and environmental impact of mechanical harvesting; 3) Evaluation of Potential Chemical Control Efforts; and 4) Evaluation of Other Potential Control options which examined the efficacy of biological, mechanical and/or combinations of controls.
7. **Update on Hardwood Reduction in Flying Eagle Marshes Pilot Project**  
Mr. Matt Chopp, FFWCC gave a presentation on a pilot project to determine how much time, money, and effort is needed to mechanically reduce woody vegetation that has colonized marsh habitats at Flying Eagle Wildlife Management Area in the absence of historic fire frequency and hydrology.
8. **Update on Marion County Swales Ordinance**  
Mr. Ken Frink, Task Force Member, spoke on stormwater requirements for new development of waterfront property within the county and requirements to install catchment swales. Mr. Frink called the City of Inverness and they have the least amount of waterfront development. They are receptive to a draft ordinance. Crystal River has the most comprehensive land development code for treating stormwater runoff. The largest agency with stormwater treatment codes for waterfront properties is Citrus County. This only pertains to new development, not re-development.
9. **Update on FFWCC Spoil Site Funding for Three Sisters**  
Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC stated that the \$150,000 given to the Task Force through FDEP can only be used for a spoil disposal site for Tsala Apopka. The money cannot be used for Three Sisters or any other project. The money needs to be used by July 31, 2010. An option would be if the Task Force finds a more pressing need to use the money elsewhere, the Task Force can go back to the Legislature, give the money back and ask for re-appropriation of the funds with the risk of the Legislature not approving further funds.

A draft report of the Sediment Mapping Project which FFWCC funded is available. The final report should be completed by the beginning of September. The goal is to use the report to help identify the areas that have the most benefit for FFWCC to work on future projects.

10. **Impounding the Barge Canal Western Terminus and Reconnecting the Lower Withlacoochee River**

Mr. Dan Hilliard, Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. (WAR), gave a presentation about a program started in the 1960s to create the Cross Florida Barge Canal which left us with the existing containment structure which impounds Lake Rousseau and the Western Terminus of the Barge Canal. As a result, a steadily deteriorating natural system in the Lower Withlacoochee River and upward trends of salt water intrusion indicated by monitor wells in the Yankeetown/Inglis area. WAR's proposal is to impound the Barge Canal and reconnect the bisected Lower River to restore natural flows to an ailing system. Engineers may manipulate the specifics of such a project, but it is bodies such as this board that will make the decision to act on this proposal, and define the objectives. This is a rare opportunity to right a wrong, and provide for future water resource needs.

Chair Moberley stopped Mr. Hilliard and asked him if he would continue his presentation at the next meeting due to time constraints.

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

- FFWCC Sediment Diagnostic Study Report Update
- FFWCC/Citrus County Gospel Island Tussock Removal and Sediment Project
- FFWCC Flying Eagle Marsh Pilot Project-Roto-tilling and Herbicide Application Cost Estimate
- SWFWMD-Prescribed Fire-Burn Unit Map of the Flying Eagle
- SWFWMD-Flying Eagle Shinn Ditch
- Update on Marion County Swales Ordinances – Ken Frink
- Continuation of Impounding the Barge Canal Western Terminus and Reconnecting the Lower Withlacoochee River – Dan Hilliard
- Ron Miller of National Estuary Reserve Program
- Lyngbya Removal Estimates for Kings Bay – Mark Edwards

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 11, 2008.

12. **Public Input**

- Mr. Al Grubman, citizen, complimented FFWCC for the correct decision on the spoil sites. Mr. Grubman asked if Ms. Guillen could place a copy of the Community Budget Issue Requests regarding the spoil site in the Task Force file. Mr. Grubman felt that the request submittal was very specific and that the money be used for acquiring property or easements for spoil sites.

At the March meeting, Mr. Grubman thought the Sunshine Law applied to the TAG and the response to the question he had was not fully thought out. Mr. Grubman had a copy of the Sunshine Law 2008 Edition and he said that it clearly shows that the Sunshine Law does apply to the TAG. Mr. Grubman asked for the Task Force Members please review the manual.

Mr. Grubman stated that very little has been accomplished by the Task Force and does not understand how meetings can repeatedly be skipped. If the Task Force is having trouble thinking of ways to help restore the waterways, they are better off sitting at the meeting thinking than calling off meetings.

Mr. Grubman continued to state a website may be useful, but the Task Force has forgotten their mission. The point of the Task Force is to restore the waterway.

- Mr. John Dennis, citizen, stated approximately 3 or 4 years ago FDEP spent \$500,000 - \$750,000 reinforcing the dam on the lower Withlacoochee near Lake Rousseau. Mr. Dennis questioned the appropriateness of removing the structure. Mr. Dennis stated that flows above 27.5 feet (NGVD) were diverted to the lower river. This equates to 1,540 cfs.
- Mr. Dennis acknowledged that the loss of cypress in the lower river was unfortunate. Since the structure was built in the 1960s, Mr. Dennis questioned the relationship between the structure and the loss of the trees in the last 10 years. Mr. Dennis reminded the Task Force members of the existing navigation rights on the river and these rights have been reaffirmed within the last couple of months with the USACE. Mr. Dennis commented that a smaller structure at the lower end of the canal is not the answer. Mr. Dennis reminded the Task Force that the health of Lake Rousseau and the lower river is no better than the health of the Withlacoochee River and the Rainbow River that feed the system. He stated that FDEP received \$4 million specifically for the Inglis Lock. This money could be used for down sizing the existing lock to accommodate recreational boat traffic.

13. **Status Reports**

No presentations were made. The current Water Quality Monitoring report was mailed to the Task Force members in their agenda packet and was also available for the public at the meeting.

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

No action taken.

15. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.