

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

August 11, 2008

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

Task Force

Members Present

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

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT
Allen Martin, FFWCC
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD
Bo Rooks, WRBB

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Ken Frink, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,
USACE
Judy Ashton, FDEP
Sam Lyons, CRBB

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
USACOE – 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. Michael Czerwinski moved, seconded by Ms. Sandra Clodwick, to approve the July 14, 2008, meeting minutes, with an additional statement to include the introduction of the new Task Force member requested by Mr. Czerwinski. Motion carried unanimously.

4. The Barge Canal Western Terminus and the Lower Withlacoochee River

Dan Hilliard, representing Withlacoochee Area Residents (WAR), continued his presentation on the Barge Canal and Bypass Spillway of Lake Rousseau from the previous meeting. Chair Moberly suggested Mr. Hilliard start with a review of the conveyance to refamiliarize the Task Force members with the system. Mr. Hilliard began by showing a slide depicting the way water is diverted through the system. He described several areas of interest, including the proposed water intake by Progress Energy. The second area Mr. Hilliard pointed out is an area for a proposed linkage of the River to provide a boat transit system. Mr. Hilliard stated the he is meeting with engineers from Progress Energy to discuss the proposal.

Mr. Mark Hammond, SWFWMD, followed Mr. Hilliard's presentation by stating that the Withlacoochee River Basin Board invested \$300,000 to see if the river could be reconnected, increasing the bypass spillway capacity. Based on everything they investigated, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board didn't see the cost effectiveness in spending between twelve and forty million dollars to reconnect the River. The potential water supply component of the Barge Canal and/or Lake Rousseau was brought to the Withlacoochee River Water Supply Authority. They have been looking at it as an alternative supply. Mr. Hammond showed a map of the area and described several options regarding rerouting water through the system. Mr. Hammond suggested that increasing water released during low flow periods would be of the highest ecologic value.

Mr. Carl Bertoch stated the WAR is former clients of his who are representing opposition to the expansion of mining in Citrus County. Mr. Bertoch is not representing them at this time with this issue.

5. Sunshine Law

Ms. Lori Tetreault, SWFWMD, gave a presentation on the Sunshine Law for the Technical Advisory Group. Ms. Tetreault stated not all board or committee functions are considered "decision-making" functions. Committees with delegated decision making authority are subject to the Sunshine Law. Examples of delegated functions are screening, rejecting, ranking, recommending, and approving. Fact finding and staff functions (i.e., administrative and technical support, research, information, investigation, etc.) are not subject to the Sunshine Law. What is delegated by the Task Force members determines their obligations under the Sunshine Law.

9. Use of Volunteers on State and District Lands

Mr. Will Miller, SWFWMD, stated the District has utilized, on an annual basis, approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer labor. Most of the volunteers are groups such as Boy Scouts and Equestrians. In regard to Flying Eagle, Mr. Miller stated he has the authority to utilize the volunteers on District owned lands which maintain horse trails, campgrounds, and picnic facilities on the uplands of Potts Preserve and Flying Eagle. Mr. Miller stated he has no authority to assign volunteers to work on sovereign and submerged lands. Mr. Miller continued to state that the type of volunteers the Task Force members are looking for will need to be highly trained and better equipped to get into those marshy areas.

Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT, stated FDEP will need to be contacted and a permit will need to be applied for and approved to allow such volunteers.

6. **Lake Tsala Apopka/Flying Eagle**

a. **Flying Eagle Marsh Pilot Study Tilling and Herbicide Application**

Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC, stated the cost for rotovating (tilling) is approximately \$300 per acre. The herbicide treatment ranges from approximately \$100 - \$400 per acre depending on how thick the vegetation is and what chemicals need to be used. Each site will vary in price.

b. **Flying Eagle Prescribed Fire**

Mr. Kevin Love, SWFWMD, stated that SWFWMD maintains approximately 150,000 acres of prescribed burns. There are 25 major preserves within 15 counties and 25,000-30,000 acres are burned annually. Mr. Love showed a map of the areas burned from 1995-2007 and also showed the proposed areas to be burned in 2008. The area of interest to the Task Force was identified as a priority for burning in 2008 by SWFWMD.

c. **Flying Eagle Shinn Ditch Restoration Update**

Mr. Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD, stated the purpose of the restoration was to restore normal hydroperiods to wetland systems bisected by Shinn Ditch and mitigate wetland impacts caused by dewatering. The SWFWMD will install a series of four ditch plugs along the ditch and modify existing culverts on the east/west berm. The tasks completed thus far include the site restoration plan, surface water modeling, engineering, construction drawings, final design plans and construction coordination, and a draft FDEP permit application.

7. **National Estuary Program**

Mr. Ron Miller, Homosassa River Alliance, was not present at the meeting.

8. **Update on Marion County Swales Ordinance**

Mr. Ken Frink, Task Force Member, was not present at the meeting.

10. **Future Meetings**

Mr. Mark Hammond, SWFWMD, stated in 2007 the Task Force held 7-8 meetings. So far this year the Task Force has met every other month. The key focus is to put together the report to the Legislature. Mr. Hammond suggested the Task Force members provide some guidance to the TAG if further information is needed or additional projects.

11. **Election of Officers**

Chair Moberley opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Wayne Sawyer nominated Chair Moberley to remain Chair for another term. Mr. Eric Latimer seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, Ms. Clodwick moved to close the nomination for Chair. Mr. Bertoch seconded the motion and declared Chair Moberley to be Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Latimer nominated Ms. Clodwick to remain as Secretary for another term. Mr. Bertoch seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, Mr. Czerwinski moved to close the nomination for Secretary. Mr. Bertoch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Report to the Legislature

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2008.

13. **Public Input**

- Mr. Norman Hopkins, Amy H. Remley Foundation and Kings Bay Association, stated his concerns regarding Crystal River/Kings Bay. Northeast Kings Bay provides the source of freshest water to the River and the Bay. Potentiometric maps show the likely source of the fresher water to be via aquifer conduits from the north. Excessive rates of withdrawal in Levy County for the proposed nuclear and mining activities there, as well as in north Citrus County, could hazard the local economy.

Mr. Hopkins stated a geochemical water analysis is needed to verify the source of fresh water before the minimum flows and levels are established in 2012.

Ms. Clodwick stated that she would communicate with Mr. Hopkins and decide whether giving a presentation at the next meeting regarding Crystal River/Kings Bay would be a benefit as it relates to the proposal to the Legislature.

14. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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.

Goals, Objectives, Actions, Projects, and Schedules

No action taken.