

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

August 9, 2010

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:00 p.m., August 9, 2010 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

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

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

Katasha Cornwell, FDOT
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Domenic LetoBarone, FDEP
Allen Martin, FFWCC
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Sandra Clodwick, Secretary
Ken Frink, Member
(Resigned)

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Bill Bachschmidt, WRBB
Colonel Alfred Pantano, USACOE

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
TAG – Technical Advisory Group

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 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. Carl Bertoch moved, seconded by Mr. Wayne Sawyer to approve the June 14, 2010 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. The motion will need to be reaffirmed at the next scheduled meeting since the task force is not fully constituted due to the resignation of Mr. Ken Frink.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda

Ms. Veronica Craw stated to the members since the task force is not fully constituted, they can take provisional action and reaffirm the action at the next scheduled meeting.

4. **Flying Eagle Prescribed Burns**

Mr. Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD, filling in for Mr. Kevin Love, stated no new acreage has been burned since the last update from Mr. Love. Mr. Rhinesmith stated the conditions have not warranted any prescribe burns. Mr. Rhinesmith stated, staff has achieved some upland prescribed fire application at both Potts Preserve and Flying Eagle, but no wetland marsh fires because of the wet conditions.

Public Input

Mr. Al Grubman, TOO FAR, asked Mr. Rhinesmith if the high priority is still the same on Mr. Love's list as in the past.

Mr. Chester Bradshaw, citizen, stated you can put all the fire you want in the lake system, do the dredging of the muck sediment, but the important issue the task force needs to look at is to try and restore the natural water flow through the lake system. Mr. Bradshaw requested the Task Force put their efforts into the things that will make a difference with the lake.

5. **Oil Spill**

Commander David Burns, United States Coast Guard, gave a presentation on Coast Guard's efforts to track the oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Commander Burns first gave some history on sector lines of demarcation of the Coast Guard Florida Peninsular Command Post-Branch St. Petersburg. Commander Burns reviewed the various agencies responsibilities including Emergency Operations of the various counties for responding to oil spills. Commander Burns showed a graphic depicting a list of governmental agency responders and their responsibilities. Commander Burns next showed a map depicting the topography of the deep Gulf and explained the remote possibility of oil making its way to the shallow water areas along the Nature Coast. Commander Burns next showed several photos and he and Mr. Dominick Letobarone of FDEP described the "Trigger Zones" along the flight paths. The thought was that if oil was detected crossing these zones there would be a response from Command Post - Branch St. Petersburg. FDEP initiated the collection of baseline data from Taylor to Collier counties and have analyzed samples collected from the Gulf. This information is available on several agency websites. Only one sample (tar ball) was found in this area and was not tied to the Deepwater Horizon event. Additionally, Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques (SCAT) were overseen by the FDEP and Coast Guard.

Chair Moberly asked if there were specific methods to clean mangrove and marsh areas. Commander Burns suggested that their efforts are focused on keeping the oil from entering these areas.

Public Input

Mr. Norman Hopkins, representing the Amy Remley Foundation commended the timely baseline sampling by FDEP. Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if there was any danger of oil contamination through the freshwater springs offshore, from water contaminated with oil being forced through fractures into the springs. Commander Burns responded by saying he has no comment on the subject. Dominick Letobarone from FDEP stated that many agencies are participating in a natural resource damage assessment team to look at these types of questions. Mr. Hopkins said there were links on the Amy Remley website to many of the agencies mentioned during the presentation.

6. **Minimum Flows**

Mr. Doug Leeper, SWFWMD, stated that minimum flows and levels (MFLs) have been established for several waterbodies. In Citrus County, MFLs have been established for the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes and Fort Cooper Lake. Mr. Leeper stated MFLs will be established for the Chassahowitzka River System, Homosassa River System, Upper and Middle Withlacoochee River Systems. Mr. Leeper stated next year the MFLs will be established for Crystal River/Kings Bay and the Lower Withlacoochee River. Mr. Leeper stated staff applies different procedures depending if the river system is a tidal system or a freshwater system. Mr. Leeper explained the process of the MFLs. A priority list and schedule is developed and updated annually. Methods and flows or levels are developed and peer-reviewed. Mr. Leeper stated workshops are held for public input, recovery or prevention strategies are developed, as necessary. Mr. Leeper stated the SWFWMD Governing Board adopts the flows or levels into the SWFWMD rules, Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code. Mr. Leeper stated the recovery strategies are included in the regional water supply plans (in some cases it is incorporated into the SWFWMD rules). Mr. Leeper showed the members the priority schedule in the northern systems for 2010-2013. Mr. Leeper stated which systems were completed and ongoing by peer-review, and ongoing data collection.

Public Input

Mr. Grubman, stated when the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority is looking to take water, their consultant establishes a proxy MFLs. Mr. Grubman addressed Mr. Leeper on how he feels about it and how it relates to what he is doing.

Mr. Norman Hopkins, Amy Remley Foundation, stated he admires what is being done scientifically to assess the MFLs. Mr. Hopkins stated most of the public does not understand what is happening. Mr. Hopkins stated that the public does understand, for an example, when a consultant states they want to move water into a reservoir and it can be taken from those waterbodies with MFLs which are far below the actual levels in the waterbody. Mr. Hopkins stated because the public does not understand, a suggestion would be to have a policy statement either from the task force or from another body to illustrate how the MFLs which have been scientifically evaluated are actually applied in practical issues.

7. **Summary of the July TAG Meeting**

Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC, stated the reason the TAG met was to discuss the in-lake disposal. Mr. Martin stated FFWCC staff put together some information to come to a conclusion of either getting a permit to do the work or a letter from the USACOE. Mr. Martin stated the scientific evidence shows no reason in-lake disposal cannot or should not be used, but it is agreed that upland storage could be utilized whenever practical. Mr. Martin stated the TAG discussed different methods on how projects can be done. It was determined that FFWCC is not able to pursue a system permit for Tsala Apopka, unless a policy changed. Mr. Martin stated the TAG thought they should look at projects working under the assumption and realization that in-lake is not an option for disposal, but to look for upland disposal options instead.

Public Input

None.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda

Chair Moberley stated there were emails going back and forward among the members that border violating the Sunshine Law. Chair Moberley is concerned about this and expressed the types of issues that can be violated. Chair Moberley asked the members in the future to be more careful when corresponding via email.

10. **Election of Officers**

The Election of Officers was tabled until the Task Force is fully constituted.

9. **Report to the Legislature**

Chair Moberley asked the members since the legislation has not given us any funds, do we want to submit the same report as last year's? Mr. Bertoch asked what about endorsing a specific request of a project(s) that the various agencies are making? Chair Moberley's concern is since the Task Force is not fully constituted, how will it affect approving the report to the legislature. Ms. Craw stated that the members can take provisional action. Mr. Bertoch suggested adding a statement to the report adopting MFLs to require the water management districts to combine their thought processes.

8. **Advertising Notices for Task Force Meetings**

Ms. Craw clarified to the members the costs of advertising the meetings and changing/adding future meeting dates. Ms. Craw stated the advertising of the meetings does not need to be noticed in the 16 county SWFWMD jurisdiction. The advertising will continue in the Citrus County newspaper to meet the noticing requirements which includes any deviation from the 2011 published meeting dates.

11. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Report to the Legislature

Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda

Mr. Michael Czerwinski stated the 305(B) reports and the 303(D) list are where water quality is being obtained. Mr. Czerwinski showed the members the current phosphorous levels in Florida waters from 1970 – 2005. Mr. Czerwinski stated the draft report was just issued. The report will show what is going on with water quality in Florida, how to control nutrients in the state of Florida, and stormwater controls, etc. Mr. Czerwinski stated the next objective is to move on to the springs, specifically Kings Bay. Mr. Czerwinski suggested designating some restoration projects whether they come from the agencies or from the public. Mr. Czerwinski stated the focus is to get the attention of the legislature or the agencies to express concern on which restoration project to fund.

12. **Public Input**

None.

13. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.