

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

October 13, 2008

The Citrus County Task Force met at 3:08 p.m. October 13, 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

Jack Dennis, Alt., WRBB
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Allen Martin, FFWCC
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Eric Latimer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger,
USACOE
Judy Ashton, FDEP
Bruce Hasbrouck, FDOT
Sam Lyons, CRBB
Bo Rooks, WRBB

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. Carl Bertoch moved, seconded by Mr. Ken Frink, to approve the September 15, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Continued Discussion on the Report to the Legislature

Mr. Wayne Sawyer clarified the proposal he made at the September 15 meeting regarding the water conveyance at Dead River up to the north/south dike. Sawyer was not recommending creating a canal, rather a pathway whereby water could move more unrestricted from one point to the other. Mr. Sawyer requested that the SWFWMD and/or the Technical Advisory Group take a look at the area and provide a cost.

Chair Moberley asked Mr. Sawyer about the Orange State Canal. Mr. Sawyer stated about 10 years ago a request was made to have the Orange State Canal dredged. It was never initiated. At this time, Mr. Sawyer suggested not to address Orange State Canal; the project could be costly.

Mr. Mark Edwards, Citrus County, stated several years ago the Board of County Commissioners put aside \$125,000 a year for a pool of funds to be used originally for the USACOE study. The study was to identify projects that needed to be done within Citrus County and the funds would be available to use for those projects. Mr. Edwards stated that the county has approximately \$800,000 set aside for Tsala Apopka Lake enhancement reserves.

The Task Force members are going to schedule a field trip to the Flying Eagle (Dead River) and Moccasin Slough.

Mr. Dale Jones, FFWCC, stated the sediment study, which was requested by the Task Force members, cost approximately \$750,000. The study included assessing the sediment levels, distribution, and depths around the major lake systems. FFWCC received the report from the contractor. The review is near completion. FFWCC will also look at the report to determine the best areas for fish and wildlife benefits for sediment work. At that time, FFWCC will give a presentation to the Task Force members.

Ms. Sandra Clodwick made a motion to request \$100,000 for planning, permitting, design, and diagnostic to continue on with the study. Mr. Michael Czerwinski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Clodwick gave an update on the Cutler Spur Boulevard, which is an old railroad spur that connects to Three Sisters Springs. It is on the West Fort Island Trail to NE 3rd Avenue and there is a residential area which was developed in the 70s. There are some commercial entities. There are two 24-inch outfall stormwater pipes that do not have retrofitting in them. The City of Crystal River would like to identify that as a project for funding from the Legislature. This project will improve the stormwater treatment for the roadway corridor by including a combination of bio-swales and inlet skimmers and treatment areas along the Spur Boulevard as well as retrofit the 24-inch pipe. This project cost is estimated at \$300,000 - \$400,000.

Mr. Czerwinski made a motion to request \$200,000 for design, permitting, and implementation of the study. Mr. Frink seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **The Springs Coast National Estuary Program Proposal**

Mr. Ron Miller, Homosassa River Alliance, stated he spoke to the University of Florida which would be the best people to do the technical work. The Springs Coast region is productive with regard to fisheries. The estuaries have well developed seagrass beds which are major contributors to the local fishery and provide habitat for the fish, wildlife and manatees.

Major expansion of coastal mining and plans to build two huge nuclear power plants have been added to the study. The power plants will use up to 130 million gallons of cooling water per day. The water will be taken from and returned to Citrus County.

The area to be evaluated includes the Weeki Wachee River up to Cedar Key, beginning at the springs and extending to the far edge of the coastal grass beds. It extends beyond Hernando and Citrus counties.

The goals of this study are to: (1) identify the economic and environmental benefits of these resources, and (2) identify and map the natural resources and habitats necessary. The cost of the study will be \$50,000.

The long range objective is to ensure the maintenance of natural conditions. Proper management of these resources will ensure the long term propagation of fish, birds, turtles, manatees, and other wildlife.

Mr. Czerwinski made a motion to recommend a \$50,000 allocation in the report to the legislature for the Springs Coast Environmental Assessment. Mr. Sawyer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council Web Site**

Ms. Veronica Craw, SWFWMD, gave a brief presentation on the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council web site.

Chair Moberley requested to add links of outside agencies on the web site.

Mr. Edwards requested to add Contact Information on the web site.

Mr. Czerwinski requested to add maps of Hernando and Citrus counties showing the waterways and an area of concerns/questions for those who can not attend meetings.

7. **Permit Issues Regarding the Potential Conveyance**

Representative from FDEP could not attend the meeting due to medical reasons.

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

- Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council web site
- Update on Soils and Debris at NE 3rd Street

Location to be determined.

9. **Public Input**

- Mr. Charles Koos, citizen, stated the water quality and the health of Kings Bay is important to him. The silt and debris that comes out of the 2nd Court culvert is bothersome. Mr. Koos has requested the Task Force clean it up. The silt and debris needs to be dredged from the culverts. Once the culverts have been cleaned up, it will provide more manatee habitat. It would improve the bottom with more fish to breed and it would reintroduce native aquatic plants. This would also improve the flow in Hunters Spring as well as improve the flow into Kings Bay.
- Mr. Bob Knight, Citrus County, stated that the county has funds for water quality programs and was not aware of this particular issue. With regard to muck removal, there is a lot of permitting involved. If the issue is stormwater runoff into swales from roads, it becomes extremely problematic in terms of where you would dispose of the material because there are heavy metals, chrome, and lead. Testing alone could be approximately \$15,000. Mr. Knight recommended the county take a look at the area and assess it.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion from the Task Force Members

Mr. Frink suggested that FDOT get more into the picture of stormwater retrofit projects. FDOT spends a tremendous amount of time and effort creating stormwater treatment facilities that treat only the roadway improvements. However, the runoff from existing offsite pollutant generators are often routed around the roadway project and continue to pollute our waters. This is a simple cost issue. FDOT is charged with transportation issues, not correcting our past bad practices as they relate to stormwater runoff. FDOT has a massive budget on a project-by-project basis. Allocating even a small fraction of their construction dollars, water quality improvement projects could be constructed as part of roadway projects. Mr. Frink believes we could see a huge environmental benefit. To offset the direct cost to FDOT, Mr. Frink also suggested that the concept include the utilization of existing mosquito control ditches for stormwater management and treatment.

10. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 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.