

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

September 14, 2009

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:01 p.m. September 14, 2009 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

Sandra Clodwick, Secretary
Carl Bertoch, Member
Michael Czerwinski, Member
Ken Frink, Member
Wayne Sawyer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

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

Recording Secretaries

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD
Jennifer Noland, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Michael Moberley, Chair
Eric Latimer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Jack Dennis, Alt., WRBB
Colonel Alfred Pantano, USACOE
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
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**

In the absence of Chair Moberley, Ms. Sandra Clodwick was the acting chair and convened the meeting. Ms. Jennifer Noland called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Clodwick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Following consideration, Mr. Michael Czerwinski moved, seconded by Mr. Wayne Sawyer, to approve the July 13, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **FDOT Mitigation Program**

Mr. Mark Brown, SWFWMD, stated the program started in 1996 and has over 170 roadway projects. Mr. Brown presented a map showing the past and proposed roadway projects with wetland impacts from 1996 – 2018 which included the total amount of projects and acres within the watersheds and/or basins. Mr. Brown stated mitigation primarily includes wetland habitat restoration and enhancement within existing public lands, public land acquisition with habitat restoration, and purchasing mitigation credits from private and public mitigation banks. Mr. Brown stated co-sponsors include five state agencies, nine local governments, and five private mitigation banks. Mitigation activities total over 12,800 acres of habitat acquisition and/or improvements. Mr. Brown stated over 70 percent of the projects are conducted on non-SWFWMD property. Mr. Brown presented a map showing the mitigation projects and acreages within the SWFWMD boundaries. Mr. Brown listed and explained the previous and future roadway projects with wetland impacts in the Basin. Mr. Brown stated the total estimated budget for five mitigation projects within the Withlacoochee River Basin is \$4.3 million. Additional mitigation projects are not anticipated in the entire SWFWMD area for the next several years.

5. **Update on the Volunteer Restoration Efforts on Sovereign Lands**

Ms. Ashton met on site a few months ago to do a wetland assessment and turned all information over to DEP permitting who are the people to approve this type of activity. Ms. Judy Ashton, FDEP, deferred to Mr. Al Grubman. Mr. Grubman stated the FDEP staff believed that this is not an effort that needs to be considered. Ms. Ashton asked Mr. Grubman if FDEP staff reviewed the letter from Mr. Mark Glisson and if they thought it was not applicable. Mr. Grubman concurred. Mr. Grubman stated some of the objections that FDEP staff had, such as, the plants obscuring the area are native. Mr. Grubman stated FDEP staff did not see his concern that the state of Florida is turning into meadows instead of lakes and marshes. Mr. Grubman stated he heard a rumor that FFWCC has looked further into this concern.

Ms. Ashton thought that one of the issues with FDEP was possibly getting heavy equipment out there and the impacts that it might have on the lands.

Chair Clodwick asked Ms. Ashton what were the objections to having a volunteer group? Ms. Ashton stated if it is just exotic removal by hand (no heavy equipment), she did not have any objections to it and gave her comments to the permitting section. Ms. Ashton stated there should be no concern as long as it is not a species of concern or desirable species in those types of wetlands that are being removed. A species list of the site was submitted to DEP.

Chair Clodwick asked Ms. Ashton if it can be revisited with a different approach. Can classes be taken or can a qualified consultant within the agency be out in the field to oversee the group of volunteers? Ms. Ashton stated that it might be a good idea for someone from the private sector to come in with a different approach without mentioning anything about heavy equipment.

Mr. Czerwinski has volunteered to create a procedure and work with Ms. Ashton.

6. **Kings Bay Fracture Sets**

Mr. Norman Hopkins presented a follow-up to a presentation on fracture trace analysis (photo-lineaments) given at the May 11, 2009 meeting. Mr. Hopkins explained that there

are two primary sources of inflows into Kings Bay. Mr. Hopkins showed a map that depicted sinkholes and springs located on these lineaments. He concluded these are fracture sets not just lineaments. State law does not regard underground water flows at all; however Federal law does consider it. There is a need to reconcile Federal and State Law. Mr. Hopkins asked the Task Force to keep Kings Bay and Crystal River in their priorities, as an agenda item. The SWFWMD has budgeted for water source work to be done in Crystal River. Mr. Bertoch stated that resolving the differences in State vs. Federal Law is beyond the scope of the Task Force and needs to be directed toward the Legislature. Mr. Hopkins said he has spent between \$150,000 and \$175,000 on this work. Mr. Hopkins stated that to resolve this issue, it would take a court case to determine. Chair Clodwick stated that the Task Force is not in a position to change Federal and State law. Chair Clodwick suggested the Task Force is a public forum for presentations. Mr. Sawyer suggested to Mr. Hopkins that he generate a paragraph to be considered for inclusion into the report to the Legislature. Mr. Hopkins stated that his group has advanced the study of this area which is of use to the Task Force. Mr. Hopkins stated his desire to have this work continued by the Task Force and Technical Advisory Group.

Chair Clodwick asked the Task Force members if they would like to consider including Kings Bay as an agenda item. An agenda item to include a paragraph or two considering the disparity between the Federal law and the State law as something they should address.

Mr. Czerwinski made a motion to maintain Kings Bay as an agenda item for each meeting provided that someone brings topics that can be explored. Mr. Ken Frink seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

7. **Recommended Projects from the TAG (Shovel Ready Projects)**

Mr. Allen Martin, FFWCC, presented the recommended projects to be included in the report to the Legislature. Those projects are: Point Lonesome, Gospel Island, and Phelps Island Cove. Mr. Martin included the various tasks to be done, the amount of acreage, and the estimated cost for each project.

8. **Draft Report to the Legislature**

Chair Clodwick asked the Task Force members if funding should be requested in the report. The Task Force members discussed prioritizing the projects in the report. Mr. Mark Hammond suggested to the Task Force members to prioritize the projects. As an example, Gospel Island project, request funding for permitting efforts, and include in-lake disposal work with the USACOE.

Chair Clodwick suggested to include the projects in the report and request the funding for one of the phases from Gospel Island, rather than the total amount for the projects.

9. **2010 Proposed Meeting Dates**

Item was tabled and will be added to the October meeting agenda.

10. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Final the report to the Legislature

11. **Public Input**

- Mr. Chester Bradshaw, citizen's advocate, Withlacoochee River Watershed, stated he had a pre-application meeting with FDEP concerning the removal of the western road dike system within the Hernando Pool area, known as the Potts Preserve Tract. The outcome of the meeting was a private landowner has the right to do restoration within sovereign lands. If there is a berm or a tree that has fallen within the waterway or obstructing use, as an individual, the landowner has the right to remove it with a permit from FDEP classified as dredge and fill. Mr. Bradshaw stated it would be easier for FDEP to work directly with the SWFWMD for a program to remove the dike system rather than volunteers to do it.

Mr. Bradshaw's next matter was working within the lake restoration program. Mr. Bradshaw stated he was part of an ecosystem management group in 1996-1998. The success was based on the \$3.5 million comprehensive study of the Withlacoochee Watershed which is a footprint and basis for a master restoration plan of the entire watershed. Mr. Bradshaw requested a proposed mitigation bank. Mr. Bradshaw stated the private landowner has given him cart blanche authority to work with the SWFWMD, FDEP, and the Task Force. Mr. Bradshaw stated he will start with a conservation easement application for the property shown on the map he handed out. The map shows the outfall canal and the proposed easement which will include a leaking tie back levee.

Mr. Bradshaw requested to have a workshop between Citrus County Board of County Commissioners and the Task Force to look at the ideas on how this issue could be handled.

- Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen, stated it is important for a USACOE representative to attend the meetings. They would be able to figure out the costs of in-lake disposal versus on-land disposal as well as the recommended projects and put the disposal on a 9-10 acre island. Mr. Brooks suggested another alternative would be to put the disposal on SWFWMD's land. The best place would be to put it back in the lake.
- Mr. Al Grubman, TOOFAR, stated Mr. Hopkins produced an interesting study and peer review could help him elevate the status as a technical document. Mr. Grubman stated if Kings Bay is going to be an item on the agenda each meeting, then Homosassa, Chassahowitzka, Lake Rousseau, and Lake Henderson should be on the agenda each meeting as well.

Mr. Grubman stated the TAG performed beautifully during their two meetings.

12. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.