

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

October 11, 2010

The Citrus County Task Force met at 2:00 p.m., October 11, 2010 at the Lecanto Government Building, Lecanto, Florida.

Task Force

Members Present

Robert Christensen, Member
Sandra Clodwick, Secretary
Michael Czerwinski, Member
Eric Latimer, Member
Michael Moberley, Chair
Wayne Sawyer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Allen Martin, FFWCC
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD
Charles Thompson, FDEP

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Task Force

Members Absent

Vacant, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Bill Bachschmidt, WRBB
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT
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.

No audio available for items 1 – 3 & 5

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Moberley convened the meeting. Ms. Josie Guillen called the roll and noted a quorum was present; however, the Task Force was not fully constituted due to the resignation of a member.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Moberley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Review the August 9, 2010 Minutes**

No changes to the August 9, 2010 minutes; however, the minutes could not be approved since the Task Force was not fully constituted.

5. **Review the Report to the Legislature**

Mr. Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD, showed the members the final changes and additions to the report to the legislature. Because the Task Force was not fully constituted, the updates to the report could not be approved. The report is subject to confirmation upon proper constitution of the Council.

4. **Review of Statutory Mandates for Minimum Flows and Levels**

Mr. Carl Bertoch, citizen, gave a presentation on the legislative side of the Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) Program. The water management districts are required, by Section 373.042, Florida Statutes, to develop a priority list of water bodies for which they will establish minimum flow and levels. Each year the districts update their list and submit them to the FDEP for review and approval. While the assignment of the development of the MFL rule to the water management districts satisfied their legislative requirement, in truth, it really did not solve the problem. If you look at the MFL's of the Homosassa River as an example, there is plenty of scientific information to support the proposed MFL. However, if the District says no to a withdrawal that would have an adverse affect on the Homosassa, it will likely go to administrative hearing because of the abstract nature of the study, historic flows, etc. Past development over the last 40 years has certainly had an impact of flows. There are possibly as many as 40,000 vacant platted lots in Citrus County. The question is how the agency and Citrus County will deal with the vested status of these developments. The impacts that withdrawals have on the River from providing water to these lots isn't addressed in the development of the MFL. The District needs to consider how to address these undeveloped lots and platted, vested subdivisions in the MFL. There is a responsibility to provide services to these lots while protecting the River.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda

Mr. Michael Czerwinski stated he is going to attend the next Kings Bay Association meeting to formulate and produce an action plan for the dredging and restoration of the bay. Mr. Czerwinski suggested to the Members to have a joint meeting with the Kings Bay Association so the members can introduce what is important in the Kings Bay region.

6. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Lake Rousseau Tussock Management Presentation
Electric Shock – POWAR
Burning Update
Water Quality Recap
Election of Officers

7. **Public Input**

Captain Ray Wright, Nature Coast Bass Club, asked the Members "if there is anything that can be done to bring the fishery back to where it used to be?" After much discussion, Mr. Wright will contact Mr. Allen Martin with FFWCC.

Mr. Martin stated that FFWCC has data on all the fisheries. Mr. Martin stated that during the last couple of years they have intensified their sampling. Mr. Martin stated that FFWCC is constantly working to make habitat improvements. Mr. Martin stated FFWCC is looking to see if it is beneficial to stock the fishery in the Van Ness area.

Mr. Duane Brooks, citizen, stated they have the minimum flows and levels and he cannot see what good it would do for him to go to a meeting when their minds are already made up. Mr. Brooks stated there is nothing he can say to make them change it. Mr. Brooks stated there is a hatchery at Parson's Point that they do not use. TOOFAR tried to get it for Fishing for Success and Dr. Canfield was going to stock it, but the attorney's blocked it for insurance purposes. Mr. Brooks stated if you leave the Wysong Dam up you would have a Wysong lake behind it. What goes through Croom has to go through Holder. Mr. Brooks stated if you have water circulating in the lake system, let it go into Two Mile Prairie. When there is too much water, the water goes in the sinkhole back into the aquifer. Mr. Brooks stated they cleaned the lake park area around his house after the first drought. When the rains came, blue gills, bass, mud fish began to spawn for about a year. It now has muck and looks like a dead area.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

APPROVED