

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council

October 15, 2012

The Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council met at 9:13 a.m. on October 15, 2012 at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Rooms A & B, Brooksville, Florida.

#### **Council Members Present**

Robert Christensen, Member  
Sandra Clodwick, Secretary  
Mike Czerwinski, Member  
Al Grubman, Member  
Charles Morton, Member  
James Polk, Vice Chair  
Wayne Sawyer, Member

#### **Technical Advisory**

##### **Group Members Present**

Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD  
John Burnett, Hernando Co.  
Charles Kovach, FDEP  
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD

#### **Recording Secretary**

Jennifer Noland, SWFWMD

#### **Council Members Absent**

Nicholas Nicholson, Member  
James Adkins, Member  
Eric Latimer, Member  
Charlie Miller, Member  
Mike Moberley, Member  
Norman Pallot, Member

#### **Technical Advisory**

##### **Group Members Absent**

Virginia Creighton, FDOT  
James Davidson, USACOE  
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.  
Allen Martin, FFWCC  
Paul Thomas, FFWCC

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SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District  
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
CRBB – Coastal Rivers Basin Board Member

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FFWCC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation  
USACOE – United States Army Corp of Engineers

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*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**

Mr. Michael Czerwinski convened the meeting. Ms. Jennifer Noland called the roll and noted a quorum was present; however the Council was not fully constituted.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Czerwinski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Review the Minutes**

No changes to the November 14, 2011 minutes; however the minutes could not be approved since the Council was not fully constituted.

4. **Review of Voting/Procedures Legislative Rule Change**

Mr. Czerwinski drew the member's attention to a letter in the meeting packet regarding a change to the Rules of Order for the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council. The Citrus County Task Force members felt their meetings have been impeded by the rules of operation which has significantly reduced their ability to act in a timely and effective manner in carrying out statutory duties. They drafted the verbiage in this letter and sent it to the Honorable Dean Cannon, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and the Honorable Mike Haridopolos, President of the Florida Senate, on behalf of the Citrus County Task Force. This letter was a topic at the last Meeting for

the Hernando County Task force where it was suggested to draft and resend on behalf of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council which would then encompass both Task Forces. The following rules will be voted upon for submittal:

- Vacancies on the council will no longer be cause for meetings not to be legal and official as long as a quorum (majority) of board members are present. This rule change will also assist recruiting and selecting board members in each of the disciplines specified in the enabling legislation.
- Meetings lacking a quorum will proceed in order to serve the Public, if at least three board members are present. Minutes will be recorded and published with a notation "subject to confirmation by the board." Decisions made, will be confirmed at the next meeting having a quorum present.

Mr. Jim Polk moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Charles Morton. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Review of the 2012 Report to the Legislature – Incorporating the Report from the Citrus and Hernando County Task Forces**

Ms. Veronica Crow, SWFWMD, displayed the electronic draft of the 2012 Report to the Legislature for member review/edits. Because the draft was delayed, if any member is uncomfortable with the short turn-around timeframe, an additional full Council meeting could be scheduled and noticed for November 5<sup>th</sup> in advance of the Tallahassee deadline of November 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Crow stated there were a few things in the report that have not been cleaned up yet however the District's Visual Communications Staff will have it ready by print time: Appendix A-Legislation verbiage is empty, Table of Contents needs updated after reorganization of report content, and additional pictures/figures/maps need to be included. Ms. Crow stated the cover now includes "Restoration Funding Request for 2013" for clarity being this is the 2012 report however the funding requests are for 2013. She also stated the majority of the red lined text is simply where it was cut from one page and moved to another. Ms. Crow stated a new "tear-out" page has been added on the back side of the Executive Summary. This page highlights the objectives that were developed by the Council and a summary of the priority projects for both groups. Mr. Al Grubman requested a tab be added to the "tear-out" page to make it more visible to the Legislative staff in Tallahassee. Ms. Crow stated Point Lonesome has been added back into the Citrus County Task Force section and there were no changes to the Hernando County Task Force project funding request from last year to this year. Both groups will be submitting four projects for funding consideration this year.

Ms. Crow moved into the Citrus County portion of the report noting there were several updates made to the existing text and the focus has moved to more of the Ecotourism/Economic aspects of the water value to the county as directed by Senator Dean. Ms. Crow thanked Mr. Czerwinski for his editorial comments and associated map regarding the Kings Bay Habitat Restoration Initiative (Project 1). Ms. Crow stated Project 2: Kings Bay *Lyngbya* Removal write-up was provided by Mr. Art Jones, Kings Bay Rotary Club. Mr. Jones was successful in receiving funding for this effort last year from Senator Dean however it was later line-item vetoed by the Governor. Mr. Grubman stated he was not comfortable with the language regarding the purchase of the following equipment when the funding request is only \$100,000: One roller press machine, two mechanical harvesters, and two suction dredge vessels. Mr. Czerwinski stated he believes Mr. Jones was intending to use additional funds received from other entities to supplement this project and any questions should be re-addressed with Mr.

Jones. After further discussion, Mr. Morton suggested changing the wording to “Funds requested thru the CCTF will be used to complement any other funding sources toward...” Mr. Christensen suggested changing the wording to remove the number of pieces of equipment being requested. Ms. Craw stated Mr. Jones current equipment is leased and not owned. Mr. Sawyer stated it may be more accurate to change the wording to purchase/lease. Mr. Czerwinski suggested adding the “ONE RAKE AT A TIME” signature to the write-up as it has gained quite a bit of notoriety and success as a manual removal effort. Ms. Craw moved on to the newly created Homosassa River write-up noting a change in description location from “Chassahowitzka Coastal Strip” (USGS term) in the first draft to the “Nature Coast”; although both are accurate, the Nature Coast is better known. Ms. Craw reviewed the verbiage describing the surrounding area including the Wildlife Park. Mr. Sawyer questioned the need for the MacRae’s Boat House reference regarding brackish water and salinity issues as he felt it would be confusing for readers who are unfamiliar with the area. After further discussion, that paragraph was removed with the exception of the last sentence stating “SAV must be adapted to environments that can be both fresh and brackish if they are to survive in this environment.” Ms. Craw reviewed Project 3: Homosassa River-Mitten Cove. Mr. Czerwinski suggested adding back the picture depicting eelgrass sod growing in coco mats and place it next to the Mitten Cove picture depicting the current state of the bottom with captions for both. Ms. Craw continued to the final project for Citrus County #4: Point Lonesome Harvesting Phase I which taken verbatim from the 2011 report. Mr. Morton suggested adding “due to habitat loss” as the reason for a decline in the fisheries resource thus affecting local residents, guide services, motels and fish camps. Ms. Craw reviewed the Lake Rousseau write-up though the group is not requesting funding this year they concluded it should remain in the report. She noted the second paragraph was submitted by Ms. Clodwick at the CCTF meeting on Monday, October 8, 2012.

Ms. Craw moved on to the Hernando County Task Force portion of the report and explained the group decided at their October 1, 2012 meeting, because they only met once during the year, they felt it better to not make any changes to the existing write-up. The only edits made were to clean up the maps to concentrate more on the water resources in the area vs. the land as was done with Citrus County. Mr. Czerwinski suggested it may be better to state the group “reviewed and agreed to resubmit the projects identified in 2007...” as that would show they at least met and discussed the issues. Mr. Polk raised his concerns regarding sediment removal on the Weeki Wachee River for “navigation” purposes. After group discussion, it was changed to “recreation” to avoid the potential dredge possibilities allowing large boats to then enter the river. It was also changed in the Goals section to remove “Navigation” and replace with “Recreation” and remove “Sand” and replace with “Sediment.” Ms. Craw reviewed Project 1: Lake Lindsey Habitat Restoration and there were no comments/edits. Ms. Craw then reviewed Project 2: Weeki Wachee Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration where Mr. Morton suggested deleting the following sentence to be consistent with changes in the main write-up “A recurring complaint from members of the public is that the sand currently in the Weeki Wachee River is excessive, and impacts the navigability of the river for fish, wildlife and people.” Mr. Polk suggested that next year’s report include funding for a bank erosion project. Mr. Morton suggested that with the addition of the Rogers Park project (being funded by an MSBU created by the residents), the sentence “Two locations, including Mystic Cove and Richard Drive, are proposed for study for hydraulic dredging of sand.” should be changed to “Various locations...” and add the word “potential” before hydraulic. Ms. Craw reviewed Project 3: Mountain Lake Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration. Mr. Polk questioned the potential for fish restocking once the project was completed and higher lake levels return. Ms. Craw stated she would add

that as an agenda item for the January 2013 meeting of the HCTF and request FWC to give an update on the fisheries status of some of the lakes in the area. Ms. Craw reviewed the final project for submittal, Project 4: Hunters Lake Habitat Restoration. She also explained the Restoration Issues portion of the HCTF section as the projects are considered multi phase and additional costs associated with each would not be determined until the prior phase is completed.

Mr. Czerwinski felt the name on the table just below the Lake Rousseau section may be confusing and suggested changing the name from "Project Costs" to "Funding Requests for Citrus County." and to remain consistent, anywhere in the report that references "Project Cost" should be changed to "Funding Request" as the amounts shown may not be indicative of the overall project costs.

Ms. Craw stated the redesign (moving the Representation and Enacting Legislation to the back of the report) was a suggestion from Ms. Creighton, FDOT as it puts the project requests first and foremost and will flow better for the reader.

The Council determined there would be no need for a follow-up meeting as everyone was in agreement with the changes discussed and suggested Ms. Craw proceed with the additional minor changes to the maps and figures.

Ms. Craw started routing the two cover letters (House & Senate) for signature by the members who were present. She noted Ms. Noland would contact the absent members and make arrangements for signature.

6. **Other Business**

Mr. Czerwinski drafted a letter to Ms. Michelle Hopkins, SWFWMD, in objection to ERP permit No. 4300950.006 discussed at the CCTF meeting on Monday, October 8, 2012. He explained the objection refers to the authorization for proposed wetland mitigation as a result of the FDOT expansion project of SR55 (US 19) from Jump Court to W. Ft. Island Trail (CR44) in Citrus County to be conducted at Conner Preserve in Pasco County. The draft letter was sent to Mr. Christensen for legal review on Friday, October 12, 2012 and approved by him this morning. Mr. Czerwinski stated the letter needed to be sent certified mail by Friday, October 19, 2012. He requested all CCTF members review and comment to Ms. Noland quickly.

7. **Public Input**

None

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.