

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council

October 19, 2009

The Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council met at 3:00 p.m. on October 19, 2009 at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1st Floor Conference Rooms A & B, Brooksville, Florida.

Council Members Present

Nicholas Nicholson, Chair
Carl Bertoch, Member
Sandra Clodwick, Member
James Griffin, Member
Eric Latimer, Member
Mike Moberley, Member
Charles Morton, Member
Norman Pallot, Member
James Polk, Member
Wayne Sawyer, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Present

John Burnett, Hernando Co.
Katasha Cornwell, FDOT
Paul Thomas, FFWCC
Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD
Judy Ashton, FDEP

Recording Secretary

Josie Guillen, SWFWMD

Council Members Absent

James Adkins, Vice Chair
Mike Czerwinski, Secretary
Ken Frink, Member
Charlie Miller, Member

Technical Advisory

Group Members Absent

Chris Anastasiou, FDEP
Mark Edwards, Citrus Co.
Allen Martin, FFWCC
Chris Zajac, SWFWMD
Bo Rooks, WRBB
Colonel Alfred Pantano,
USACOE

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CRBB – Coastal Rivers 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 Nicholson convened the meeting. Members were in attendance and a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Nicholson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Following consideration, Mr. Mike Moberley moved, seconded by Mr. Carl Bertoch to approve the October 20, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Report to the Legislature – Incorporating the Report from the Citrus and Hernando County Task Forces**

Mr. Mark Hammond, SWFWMD, explained to the Council Members that the report is similar to previous years. The Hernando County Task Force is asking for the same request. The Citrus County Task Force refined their request based on a FFWCC report prioritizing benefits to fish and wildlife, and identified a new project based on the prioritization from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings.

After some discussion between the Council members, Mr. Michael Moberley made a motion to approve the report as final. Mr. Wayne Sawyer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **Election of Officers**

Mr. Moberley nominated Mr. Bertoch for Chair. Motion to close nomination for Chair by Mr. Jim Polk, seconded by Mr. Norman Pallot; motion carried. Mr. Bertoch became Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Jim Griffin nominated Mr. Polk for Vice Chair. Motion to close nomination for Vice Chair by Mr. Moberley, seconded by Mr. Pallot; motion carried. Mr. Polk became Vice Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Moberley nominated Ms. Sandra Clodwick for Secretary. Motion to close nomination for Secretary by Mr. Polk, seconded by Mr. Chuck Morton; motion carried. Ms. Clodwick became Secretary by acclamation.

Mr. Nicholson turned the meeting over to Chair Bertoch.

Mr. Griffin congratulated and thanked Mr. Nicholson for the great work he has done.

Other Business/Topics of Discussion not on the Agenda

Chair Bertoch stated to the Council members that the task forces are continuing to function which requires significant time and staff to be involved. Chair Bertoch continued to state there are reports to analyze and a lot of information to deal with, but the end result is there is no funding available now and in the near future. Chair Bertoch stated that the goals are worthy. Chair Bertoch asked, "Are we moving in the right direction?"

Mr. Morton stated he attended the Coastal Hernando Initiative Program (CHIP) and they are dealing with creating a boardwalk from Jenkins Creek Park to Hernando Beach. Mr. Morton stated that the bike paths will be built in conjunction with the highway. In 1993 this project was proposed by the Hernando County Pedestrian Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Morton stated the ground work had been laid in 1993 and there is a possibility within the next 3-6 months, CHIP may get part of the project. When the funding becomes available, the project is then presented.

Mr. Sawyer stated the funding may have not been available, but we have worked with the agencies and the county (who have had some funds); there have been some cooperative projects that have been accomplished and will continue to be accomplished. Mr. Sawyer stated if the Council does not take a position to show some leadership and work on these projects, as Mr. Morton mentioned, who else will complete them. Mr. Sawyer stated do not give up the ship just because there are no funds available.

Chair Bertoch said that perhaps there is an alternative to what the Council is doing to accomplish the goals.

Mr. Moberley stated to the Council members before the Task Force was formed, it was the intent of the two legislatures, Senator Nancy Argenziano and Representative Ginny Brown-Waite, that the public typically did not have a voice with some of the agencies. The public would go to the specific agencies to voice their opinions. With the Task Force formed, all the agencies are together for the public to express their opinions. If the public has a specific topic which requires answers, the Task Force members would add it to the meeting agenda.

Ms. Clodwick stated that the Task Force members are a forum and a liason between the public and the TAG. It gives the public an opportunity to express their opinions. In addition, the Task Force does lay a foundation for future projects. Ms. Clodwick stated she feels good about the work the Citrus County Task Force has done. The Task Force has implemented some programs through funds that were already available. The water sourcing project was implemented through SWFWMD.

Mr. Polk expressed his disappointment that meetings were poorly attended by the public. Mr. Polk stated that most of the public input has been confined to Hunter's Lake, Weeki Wachee, and Mountain Lake. No public input was expressed within other areas of the county. Mr. Polk stated that the Task Force members rely on the public to bring their concerns/issues before Task Force members to be able to address them.

Mr. Griffin asked staff if someone can report to the newspapers and give them information on what the Council is attempting to do? Mr. Hammond stated that SWFWMD provides press releases, a website was created to provide information for the public, and SWFWMD can take a look at further enhancements.

6. **Public Input**

Ms. Janey Baldwin, citizen, stated the Council members do not have to justify their existence. The reason the Council is here is the same as it was when Senator Nancy Argenziano and Representative Ginny Brown-Waite started this. Ms. Baldwin suggested the Council members not be discouraged. The funds will eventually be available and then the Legislature can act on the projects that you have presented. Ms. Baldwin stated that she loves the work the Council members have been doing. The Council needs to stay in existence.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business or announcements presented before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.