

FINAL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Of the
HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL**

September 10, 2010

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at 9:00am on September 10, 2010 at the Lake County Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida

Members Present

Skip Goerner, Chairman
Richard (Rick) Powers P.G., Secretary
Jon VanderLey (partial meeting)
Don Nicholson
Richard Royal

Members Absent

Hugh (Dave) Davis II, Vice Chairman
Edward Schlein, M.D
Keith Farner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Skip Goerner called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Jon VanderLey gave an invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL; REMINDER FOR OTHERS TO SIGN IN

Chairman Goerner called the roll. Vice Chairman Davis, Councilman Schlein and Councilman Farner were absent.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 6, 2010, meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

5. PRESENTATIONS / ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Goerner called for a presentation by David Walker, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).

- David Walker, SJRWMD, provided information on the Upper Ocklawaha River Basin (UORB) and Lake Apopka basin activities for 2010 and SJRWMD's priorities for 2011. The presentation slides are viewable on the website at <http://sfrc.ifas.ufl.edu/harrischaincouncil/Minutes.htm>. The presentation and discussion by the Council and Mr. Walker included 2010 and 2011 projects for: 1) the Emeralda Marsh; 2) alum treatments in the Harris Bayou; 3) Lake Apopka and the North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA); and, 4) the harvesting of gizzard shad.
 - Mr. Walker discussed the completed and future restoration activities in the Emeralda Marsh. In 2010, a serpentine swath was created to move water into a 1000-acre area located within the marsh. This makes it possible for connection to Haynes Creek, which will accelerate restoration of the wetland area. A 30-foot bridge and a second bridge at the north end were built for future connections, and will give the ability to allow flow into Emeralda and the Yale-Griffin canal in the future. Mr. Walker also stated that in area #6 and area #7 (previously known as Walker Ranch and Eustis Muck Farm) they have installed a culvert connection using a 10'x5' box with an invert elevation of 54' crossing under Emeralda Island Road. It will allow the water to flow under the road and will help with the restoration of the Emerald Marsh. The cost was approximately

\$230,000 to install the culvert, and hopefully there will be funding to continue installing culverts in the future. He mentioned his goal is to obtain funding for installing large culverts to replace the small culverts installed by Lake County about 12 years ago. These small culverts have inverts of 58' and create a dam instead of allowing flow. He would like to see raised culverts under the road to allow boats to be able connect to the Yale-Griffin Canal. In area #2, spatterdock is growing well, and in area #4 (Lowery Brown Farm), they completed the planting of 19,000 cypress trees within 34 acres.

- The presentation continued with information on the completion of the Harris Bayou's alum treatment. Two hundred thousand gallons of alum and 8,000 gallons of sodium aluminate were used, with a total cost of \$220,000. They used half the alum to treat the water and the other half to treat the sediment. He stated the total phosphorus (TP) was originally at 250 parts per billion (ppb) and after flushing with water from Lake Harris it went down to 150 ppb. The maximum level of discharge from the Harris Bayou is 1000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Staff is monitoring the water quality after the alum treatment and he will provide the Council Members with an update in the future.
- Mr. Walker continued with information on activities completed at the NSRA. Some of the construction of levees and culverts has been completed for this year and future construction will continue for the re-plumbing of the flooding system so they can begin to do a phased re-flooding. He mentioned phases 1 & 2 have been flooded, and by the end of 2010, after the approval from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), they can begin to flood phases 6 & 7. The staff is currently in the process of preparing a biological assessment to submit to the USFWS. By 2012, phases 3, 4, 5 and 8 (the last areas of the NSRA) should be flooded.
- The presentation concluded with the results for the 2009-2010 gizzard shad harvest. At Lake Apopka, 400,000 lbs of shad were harvested, and at Newnan's Lake, 200,000 lbs were harvested. According to the experimental gill net samples taken from Lake Griffin and Lake Apopka, there has been a decline of about 85% shad biomass. At Lake Apopka harvesting will continue. The final harvest in Lake Griffin was in 2008. Lake Apopka's TP has improved. It is currently at 62 ppb, and its target TP is 55 ppb. The 2011 priorities for the UORB and Lake Apopka are currently in the SJRWMD's draft budget for next year.
- Chairman Goerner commented that the Council Members would make recommendations in the annual report of priorities from SJRWMD that they endorse.
- Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, commented on Councilman Royal's question on the phosphorus content in the Harris Bayou. Mr. Godwin stated about 70% of the phosphorus is particulate and 30% is dissolved but a wind event can change the percentages. It is a shallow site with organic sediments. One of the major objectives of the alum treatment is to seal in the bottom sediments to avoid the fluctuation. He stated Eelgrass would be the ideal vegetation to grow in the Harris Bayou, but the water quality and bottom sediment needs to be good to support its growth.
- Bill Johnson, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Committee (FWCC), commented on the draft annual report regarding the data reported by SJRWMD of a 90% decline of the shad fish biomass. He believes it would be more accurate to say a 90% reduction in the gill net catch basin. He stated, that the smaller the gill net measure, the less efficient it is in catching shad.
- Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, stated that the data collected from the experimental gill nets is a relative number not an absolute number. The data they are looking for is the change over time in the stock of the shad fish in the lakes as represented by the experimental gill nets, which is the method being used in all the models.
- Christianne Ferraro, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) presented the Council Members with her presentation for the annual report. The presentation slides are viewable on the website at <http://sfrc.ifas.ufl.edu/harrischaincouncil/Minutes.htm>. Her information included: 1)

2009-2010 activities of the Upper Ocklawaha Basin Working Group; 2) issues in the Basin; and, 3) legislative priorities.

- Ms. Ferraro stated that the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), was developed in 2007 with the local governments and this is FDEP's biggest involvement in the Harris Chain of Lakes (HCOL). The BMAP includes a nutrient budget and a list of projects for each impaired lake. Since adoption of the BMAP, the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF) project has been put into operation; SJRWMD continues lake restoration projects; and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) is signing up farmers for agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- She mentioned that DEP provided funding assistance to Lake County and SJRWMD helped with the land purchase for the Hollendel Road pond. The Lake County Public Works Department has completed the basin stormwater studies; Lake County's local governments have completed stormwater retrofit projects and Lake County Environmental Services has an Adopt-A-Lake program.
- Ms. Ferraro continued her presentation with a description of activities for the next year including continued implementation of stormwater retrofits, Ag BMPs, and development of a nutrient budget that reflects the period from 2001-2010.
- She explained FDEP is a regulatory agency and their focus is on water quality issues and Total Maximum Daily Loads, and many issues in the Basin are outside their jurisdiction and expertise.
- FDEP has not yet determined their legislative priorities for 2011, but they do have some items from last year they are still working on. Those items are: 1) authority for revised storm water management permitting rule; and, 2) pesticide permitting. Ms. Ferraro will update the Council on the EPA's numeric nutrient criteria as it develops.
 - Chairman Goerner commented he would like to see FDEP streamline the permitting process so it does not hold up projects.
- Chairman Goerner called on Bill Johnson, FWCC. He would like Mr. Johnson to have the new director of the FWCC come to a HCOL meeting and discuss some priorities with the Council Members. Mr. Goerner will send Mr. Johnson a list of ideas he would like to discuss with the new director.
- Chairman Goerner announced there is no quorum now, since Councilman VanderLey had to leave the meeting early.
- Marcy Policastro, Wildwood Consulting, Inc. discussed comments received on the first draft of the annual report.
 - Councilman Powers wants the comments that are incorporated into the drafts of the annual report limited to only Council Members and agencies through their Tag members. Public comments should go to the Council directly or through Nancy Christman for a determination of whether to include them. The other Council Members agreed.
 - Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, stated the Council and TAG should submit any comments for the next draft annual report to her and Ms. Policastro by September 28, 2010.

6. COUNCIL & AGENCY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Councilman Powers questioned the other Council Members about information on the Lake Apopka dredging demonstration project, funded by FWCC's Lake Restoration Trust Fund. Bill Johnson, FWCC, suggested the Council ask Dan Canfield, University of Florida (UF). He stated Mr. Canfield is

in charge of the project. Mr. Johnson mentioned he would get a copy of the contract for the Council to view.

- Councilman Royal asked Councilman Powers if the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) has awarded a contract for dredging Lake Beauclair. Councilman Powers stated the bids are being evaluated now, but the project was delayed due to the permit being challenged. David Walker, SJRWMD, suggested obtaining a copy of the DEP permit application for proposal information.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Lloyd Woosley, citizen, commented his input to the annual report. He felt the report needed to be more readable so the Legislature can better understand the process.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Comments

- Councilman Powers requested changing next meeting date to Thursday, October 7, 2010. The Council Members agreed.

B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting: October 7, 2010

- Chairman Goerner called on Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, to include the following on the agenda for October: 1) Mike Perry, LCWA, presentation of LCWA's annual report of activities in the basin, upcoming project recommendations and legislative priorities for inclusion in the annual report and 2) continuation of review of the draft annual report by the Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Chairman Skip Goerner

Secretary Rick Powers, P.G.