

FINAL

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

November 5, 2010

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at 9:00am on November 5, 2010 at the Lake County Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida

Members Present

Skip Goerner, Chairman
Hugh (Dave) Davis II, Vice Chairman
Jon VanderLey
Richard Royal
Don Nicholson

Members Absent

Richard (Rick) Powers P.G., Secretary
Keith Farner
Edward Schlein, M.D

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 7, 2010 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

5. PRESENTATIONS / ACTION ITEMS

1) The Annual Legislative Report

- Chairman Goerner called on Marcy Policastro, Wildwood Consulting, Inc., for her submittal of the comments received on the most recent draft of the 2010 annual report.
- The Council reviewed and discussed the comments received on the last draft of the annual report. The 2010 annual draft report was updated and approved by the Council.
- Councilman Royal would like more details by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) on the district's comment in the draft report regarding the North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) reservoir project. It had been evaluated by the City of Apopka in cooperation with the District and was found to be technically and economically infeasible for using supplemental irrigation water from the NSRA.
 - Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, stated that the district supports the concept of reservoirs on the NSRA, but it was found by the City of Apopka not to be cost effective at this time.
 - Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, in response to questions about the expense, stated that possibly due to porous soils, the reservoir would need to be lined and this would raise the cost of the project. The decision was made by the City of Apopka not proceed with the plans based on an

economical analysis. Mr. Godwin commented he would get additional information and provide it to the Council.

- Chairman Goerner stated that he wants to see the economical analysis that was done.
- The Council decided to keep their recommendation that the members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) should develop a strategy to create a reservoir on the north shore that can be a resource for local municipalities and provide an alternative to the detrimental discharge of nutrient-rich waters into Lake Apopka. The Council believes that this strategy would improve water storage capacity, along with providing fish and wildlife habitat.
- Ms. Policastro stated she would create 35 copies of the final report including the CD's with the appendices, and send them to Nancy Christman, SJRWMD.
- Chairman Goerner stated that Ms. Policastro, Wildwood Consulting, Inc. did a wonderful job on the report. In addition, he would like to congratulate everyone involved in working on the report. Moreover, he was pleased that all the agencies and Council have gotten along much better this year, and is a model of what should be done in the future.
- Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, verified with Chairman Goerner the delivery methods for the completed 2010 annual report. The delivery method will be: 1) Ms. Christman will deliver the reports to Chairman Goerner; 2) Chairman Goerner will mail them to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate with a cover letter, and deliver to the Lake County delegation; and, 3) Ms. Christman will mail the Council and SJRWMD Governing Board their copies. The report will be posted on the Council website.

2) Council Members approval of the 2011 meeting dates and discussion of presentations for 2011

- The council approved the 2011 meeting dates.
- Chairman Goerner would like to have a presentation at the January meeting from Dave Walker, SJRWMD regarding the SJRWMD comments in the annual report on discharges of aluminum from the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF).
- Councilman Royal would like more details by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) on the district's comment in the draft report regarding the North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) reservoir project. Chairman Goerner requested a presentation at the January meeting and would like a copy of the analysis.
- Chairman Goerner called on Dennis Renfro, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to discuss his plans on next year's presentations to the Council.
 - Mr. Renfro stated that a few of his presentations for 2011 will be: 1) at the February meeting, he will have information on the economics of the fisheries and the history of the area. He might also be able to give a report on the black bass initiatives; 2) a presentation possibly in March or sometime later, on hydrilla; and 3) he will have Bruce Jagers, FWC, talk about the habitat, sometime in 2011.
 - Chairman Goerner requested from Mr. Renfro, within the next couple of days, some information he might have ready now on the economics and the history of the fish populations to use in a presentation he is doing with a large group of business people within the next week or so. Mr. Renfro will contact Chairman Goerner on what reports he has available.

- The Council requested updates and presentations from FWC on: 1) the rule change for a minimum size black crappie in Lake Griffin; and, 2) an update on the invasive plant and fish species, such as armored catfish. Mr. Renfro agreed to the presentation requests.

6. COUNCIL & AGENCY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Vice Chairman Davis asked Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, if lack of revenue has caused any revamping of projects that SJRWMD had planned.
 - Mr. Godwin stated there are some slow-downs of project schedules, and if there are more budget cuts there will be further slow-downs. There are no new projects scheduled.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Diane Heitman, citizen, had concerns regarding: 1) the sentence in the draft annual report that mentioned enhanced lake level fluctuations in Section 3.2 *Dredging as a Tool for Restoration* She wants to know what the minimum flows and levels are and how they are going to be set, as it does not mention this in the report; and 2) that dredging jeopardizes the structural integrity of the docks and the boathouses.
 - Chairman Goerner commented that the enhanced lake level fluctuations have only been determined for Lake Griffin. The district will be studying the minimum flows and levels for the other lakes in the Harris Chain. The information in the annual report does not address the minimum flows and levels and how they are going to be set. He stated the property owners on Lake Griffin were informed that dredging jeopardizes the structural integrity of their docks and they signed waivers and releases in order to have their canals and areas around their docks dredged.
 - Councilman Nicholson stated that there was a 20-foot set back around the structures. The waters are under federal regulation and are commercial waters, so navigation is extremely important.
 - Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, explained to Ms. Heitman that SJRWMD has been asked to evaluate a range of lake levels that will meet all the constraints needed to restore the lakes.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Comments

- Chairman Goerner suggested that the council go on a field trip next year, possibly for a demonstration on electric shock fishing. Mr. Renfro, FWC, agreed and commented he would be happy to show them electro-fishing on the field trip.

B. Motions

- Councilman VanderLey made a motion that the Council keep the recommendation in the annual report, for additional funding of \$1,500,000 for alum and \$65,000 for polymer to operate the NuRF. Vice Chairman Davis seconded the motion. Four out of the five Council Members approved the motion. Councilman Royal dissented. The Council will recommend to the Legislature (in the annual report) the additional funds needed for the NuRF, on behalf of the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA).
- Councilman Nicholson made a motion to change the wording in the annual report from the NuRF's *backup system* to *backup generator system*, Councilman VanderLey seconded the

motion and all Council Members approved. The motion carried unanimously. The language was updated in the annual report.

- Councilman VanderLey made a motion to cancel the December 3, 2010 meeting, Councilman Royal seconded the motion, and all the Council Members approved. The motion passed unanimously.
- Councilman Royal made a motion to approve the 2011 meeting dates, Councilman VanderLey seconded the motion, and all Council Members approved. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting: January 7, 2011

- Chairman Goerner wants a presentation at the January meeting by Mike Perry, LCWA, on the continued costs for alum, and by the District on their concerns about the alum discharges from the NuRF. Richard Royal asked for a presentation by SJRWMD on the feasibility study of a reservoir at the NSRA completed by the City of Apopka.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am

Respectfully submitted by:

Chairman Skip Goerner

Secretary Rick Powers, P.G.