

## **Funding Issues Discussed**

### **November 2005**

During the discussion of the annual report a motion was made for the Council to request \$300,000 from the Legislature for the purpose of bass restocking in the Harris Chain of Lakes (HCOL). After a discussion on the matter, the motion to request \$300,000 for Bass Restocking was approved by unanimous vote. There was also a discussion among Council members as to how funds received for sport fish restocking would be spent. A motion to discuss this matter at a later date passed unanimously.

Additionally, a motion was made to include \$300,000 in the Council Legislative Initiative for the purpose of wetland and aquatic restoration. The motion was approved and after a discussion of the funding request, a vote to approve a request of \$300,000 for Wetland and Aquatic Restoration passed unanimously.

### **Request for Funding Assistance to Conduct a Local Government Charette/Workshop on Low Impact Development and its Benefits to Surface Water Quality – Dr. Pearce Jones, University of Florida**

Dr. Pearce Jones, Ph.D., Director of the Program for Resource Efficient Communities at the University of Florida (UF) reminded the Council that he had made a presentation to them previously on reducing nutrient-rich runoff from property under development. He went on to say that since that time he had made additional presentations in Lake County including one to the Ocklawaha River Basin, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Working Group.

Chairman Skip Goerner explained that if Dr. Jones was making a request for funding to the Council, that they only receive funding through Legislative requests at the end of the year. He asked if Dr. Jones was requesting funding prior to that timeframe. Dr. Jones said that he was requesting funding for the sort term.

Dr. Jones went on to say that he had been asked by representatives of Lake County government to put on a workshop for County Planners to initiate a program that encourages developers to reduce negative impacts on the lakes from properties they develop. He explained that he had worked with Alachua County government to overturn an ordinance which required curb and gutter design in a particular subdivision under construction. Dr. Jones said that curb and gutter in that subdivision had the potential to discharge excessive nutrients and runoff into a nearby lake. By allowing the stormwater runoff to collect and percolate into the ground naturally, it had reduced the runoff into the lake. Dr. Jones went on to say that this is just one example of how Low Impact Development (LID) could better manage stormwater as opposed to discharging it directly into area lakes. Overall, his work at the UF is to educate local governments to encourage developers through both reward and deterrent, in an effort to expand the use of LID.

Councilman Bob Kaiser said that he supports Dr. Jones' efforts and would like to see more LID in Lake County.

Councilman Richard Royal said that he also agrees with the concepts of LID and suggested that the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) would be the logical entity to approach with this program.

Chairman Goerner explained that the Council would receive Legislative funding for projects of this nature through a Community Issue Budget Request (CIBR). He also said that the Legislature does not even consider a CIBR unless it includes a partner to provide matching funds in the request.

Councilman Keith Farner asked how much funding Dr. Jones was requesting. Dr. Jones responded that he was requesting \$7,500 for the program.

Gene Caputo of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) addressed the Council saying that the District had been working with Dr. Jones to develop a manual of LID guidelines for use by local governments. He said they had provided \$25,000 to initiate the project.

Chairman Goerner believes that it is not appropriate to utilize administrative funds of the Council for this purpose.

Councilman Farner agreed and suggested that the Council support Dr. Jones and request funding from the LCWA.

Dr. Dan Canfield of the UF and member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Council offered to provide Dr. Jones with the \$7,500 he was requesting for his program. Dr. Canfield said that he could use a portion of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) funds that he receives from the university. Chairman Goerner thanked Dr. Canfield for his generous offer and suggested that Dr. Jones still give his presentation to the LCWA.

## **December 2006**

No meeting

## **January 2006**

Dr. Canfield then notified the Council that the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) has contacted the Florida LakeWatch organization to work with them on evaluating the extent of toxic algae in Florida lakes. He said the FDOH also wants to work with Dr. JoAnn Burkholder and others on studying the human health effects of toxic algae on people in the HCOL. Dr. Canfield explained that federal funding for various projects has been reduced and they are uncertain where the money will come from for these studies. He

said that if the \$250,000 the Council included in their Legislative request for the toxic algae study is approved, they will be prepared to move forward.

## **February 2006**

Chairman Goerner offered the Council's assistance to the FWCC with the aquatic plantings through a budget request to the Legislature. He also asked if the legislative appropriations had been received by the LCWA. Mr. Perry said he did not believe so. Mr. Walker said that an agreement has been reached for the Lake Griffin canal dredging but did not believe any of the invoices had been paid. Mr. Walker also said that they are working on an agreement for the \$300,000 in legislative funding for aquatic habitat restoration.

Councilman Farner asked about the Lake Beauclair dredging project. Mr. Perry explained that they are still trying to identify a disposal site for the dredged material. At issue is the volume of material to be disposed is estimated at 1.5 million cubic yards, as opposed to the 390,000 cubic yards for the Lake Griffin access canal dredging.

Councilman Farner reminded Mr. Perry that the Council can only submit funding requests for approved projects. Mr. Perry assured the Council that they are trying to work out the issues for this project.

Mr. Walker went on to discuss the projects at Lowrie Brown saying that they intended to be working on restoration of the site which included reconnection to Lake Griffin, improved vegetative plantings and aquatic weed control. Due to the issues of breaches in the levees caused by the recent hurricanes, they are now working with the FWCC to accelerate the reconnection portion of the project. He explained that they may be able to receive mitigation funds from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that when coupled with the FWCC funds should be adequate for the project. Mr. Walker said that prior to reconnection, there will have to be efforts to control hydrilla at the site.

Mr. Walker then briefly mentioned the Sunnyhill restoration project saying that because the ACoE has pulled out from the funding for the project, the SJRWMD is now in the process of preparing a scaled down version of the project to reduce the costs. He said that although less water will flow through the marsh, they intend to move forward with the project.

He then provided an update on projects in the Emeralda Marsh saying they are completing planting along the degraded levees at the Knight-North property which should be done by the end of the year. The SJRWMD is preparing the final plans to complete the restoration of other Emeralda projects including the SN-Knight South property, Long Farm, Matthews Farm, Walker Ranch and the Eustis muck farm.

Chairman Goerner asked about the schedule for reconnection at Lowrie Brown. Mr. Walker explained that they are including money in the next year's annual budget to

complete the reconnection of the property to Haines Creek and Lake Griffin. He said that once the connection is complete there will be access for boating through the property.

### **March 2006**

Field Trip

### **April 2006**

#### Harvester Purchase and Status of Funding Transfer from the SJRWMD to the LCWA

Chairman Goerner reminded the Council that there are funds available from their Legislative request which could be used for the purchase of a mechanical harvester that could help manage weeds in the canals and around the lakes. He asked that Mike Perry of the LCWA provide information on the status of the funds from the Council's Legislative Request.

Mr. Perry explained that of the \$1.3 million from their Legislative funding, \$1.0 million has been transferred from the SJRWMD to the LCWA to assist with the Lake Griffin access canal dredging. With respect to the remaining \$300,000, the LCWA has submitted a scope of services to Dave Walker of the SJRWMD for the other projects recommended by the Council. He said that Mr. Walker is in the process of reviewing that scope.

Chairman Goerner asked if the Council is required to request the transfer of the \$300,000 to the LCWA. Mr. Perry said no because Mr. Walker understands the desire of the Council for the transfer of the funds. Chairman Goerner asked if the Council were to decide on the purchase of a harvester, would they be required to take any action. Mr. Perry said that the scope of services submitted to the SJRWMD would need to be amended to reflect any changes in the expenditures.

Chairman Goerner explained that the Council currently has three Community Issue Budget Requests (CIBRs) are moving through the Legislative budget process. He said one of them is a \$500,000 CIBR slated for canal dredging, but reminded the Council that none of the requests had been approved. Councilman Schlein asked if specific canals were designated in the budget request. Chairman Goerner said no, the request is to support the dredging project in general.

Councilman Royal put forth a motion that the Council accepts the updated information as provided by Mr. Perry and that they take no action until the Council receives a formal request to seek funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Powers.

Chairman Goerner said it was his belief that the Council should take action to support the dredging in the area being discussed. Mr. Perry added that one consideration of the dredging is the timing and that the contract would need to be amended prior to the dredge reaching that portion of the lake. He said that would occur in approximately six to nine months.

Councilman Schlein asked when the entire dredging project is anticipated to be completed. Mr. Perry said it should be completed in 19 to 24 months.

After further discussion on the matter, Councilman Powers withdrew his second on the Councilman Royal motion. The motion died in discussion.

Councilman Power put forth a new motion that the Council supports the dredging of canals that meet the original criteria for dredging and if the LCWA approves of dredging additional canals, the Council will seek to assist with funding. Councilman Schlein seconded the motion.

Mr. Perry said that the LCWA Board is committed to completing the project as approved and may be reluctant to include any additional canals to the project without the support of the Council or other entities to provide the necessary funding.

After additional discussion, a vote to approve Councilman Powers' motion passed unanimously. Chairman Goerner asked if Mr. Perry thought he should go before the LCWA Board to present this motion. Mr. Perry said yes.

V. Chairman Davis asked if timing of the Legislative session would allow for a Council Funding Request to be approved prior to the dredge reaching the southern portion of the lake. He also asked if the \$500,000 in the CIBR were approved, would that funding be available for dredging additional canals.

Mr. Perry said yes and explained that the State's fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> and if approved, the funds could be available on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He also explained that the \$7.2 million in funding to complete the original dredging project has been approved and the \$500,000 could be used for the dredging of additional canals.

## **May 2006**

Chairman Goerner discussed the current budget requests being reviewed by the Florida Legislature saying that the Council has prepared three Community Issue Budget Requests (CIBRs). One of those requests for \$850,000 to assist the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) with the Lake Griffin access canal dredging had been approved. He explained that another CBIR was submitted by the Council for \$750,000 to fund their combined initiative request for vegetative planting, aquatic weed control and fish restocking. He said that the Legislature had approved \$369,500 of that request. Chairman Goerner went on to say that the Council had submitted a third CBIR in the amount of \$250,000 to fund the toxic algae study in the Harris Chain of Lakes (HCOL) and that he has not been able to locate that request and was unsure of its status. Regardless, Chairman Goerner believes that the Council did very well in securing funding for the HCOL.

Councilman Kaiser asked if the current funding received for the access canal dredging could be used for the additional dredging discussed during the April council meeting.

Chairman Goerner said yes and that the LCWA could use the \$850,000 as they see fit for the dredging project. He added that the LCWA had offered matching funds for the access canal dredging budget request which was instrumental in the approval of the request.

### **June 2006**

No meeting

### **July 2006**

Chairman Goerner explained that the Council had already passed a motion to assist with the funding to dredge additional canals. He also said that the Legislature had recently approved \$850,000 of the \$2.1 million in the Council's Funding Initiative Request. Chairman Goerner said that a portion of that money could be used to support the additional dredging.

Councilman Farner said that he thought the Council had approved a motion to seek funding for additional canal dredging [through a new funding request]. Councilman Schlein said that he recalled the motion was to use funding already requested, if received, to assist with the additional canals.

After an extended discussion it was determined that the Council could use a portion of the \$850,000 to fund additional canal dredging and the balance would be used to fund other elements of the Council's Funding Initiative including bass restocking, aquatic vegetation enhancements and cypress tree plantings.

Chairman Goerner asked about the status of Legislative funding the Council received from last year's request. Dave Walker said the SJRWMD is working on amendments to the agreements with the LCWA to fund the projects supported by the Council.

A brief discussion was held on the motion previously passed by the Council on seeking additional funding to assist with the dredging of canals in Lake Griffin, which have been added to the current project. Chairman Goerner asked when the additional canal at the southwest portion of the lake would be dredged. Mr. Perry said that it would probably be dredged early in the next calendar year.

Councilman Schlein put forth a motion that the Council provide funding for the dredging of additional canals in Lake Griffin from the \$850,000 recently approved by the Legislature. The motion passed with Councilman Farner casting a dissenting vote.

### **August 2006**

Dr. Canfield then discussed budget issue requests of the Council saying that the funds of the current \$500,000 request are to be utilized for both the UF fish restocking program and the FWCC fish hatchery to produce advanced fingerlings. He said that the restocking program costs approximately \$300,000 to \$350,000 per year and they are working on

permits to stock the other lakes beside Lake Griffin. When it comes to the economic value of the bass fisheries in Lake Griffin, he said the UF has estimated the value at \$1.2 to \$2 million

## **September 2006**

### Programs/Priorities – Funding Distribution; Dave Walker

Mr. Walker explained that the SJRWMD is in the process of providing the \$300,000 received from the Council's Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006 Funding Initiative to the LCWA for the bass stocking and other projects supported by the Council. He said they are also awaiting direction from the Council for distribution of the \$369,500 received from the Council's FY 2006-2007 Funding Initiative. Mr. Walker reminded the Council that last year they passed a resolution directing how those funds would be utilized. He said that Mike Perry of the LCWA drafted a Statement of Work (SOW) with the SJRWMD for last year's work and that document can be amended to complete next FY's work. He asked that the Council provide some direction to the SJRWMD or to possibly work with the LCWA to prepare a new SOW.

V. Chairman Davis suggested that the LCWA email the existing SOW to the Council for their review and discussion.

Lance Lombard provided the following update on behalf of Mike Perry of the LCWA:

- \$40,000 for the operation of the Council is contained within the LCWA 2006-2007 Annual Budget
- The LCWA will track the expenditure of the funds received by the Council through their Legislative requests including the \$300,000 received from their 2005-2006 request and the \$369,500 received from their 2006-2007 request.