

**FINAL**

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

**March 05, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at 9:00am on March 05, 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  
Keith Farner  
Don Nicholson

**Members Absent**

Hugh (Dave) Davis II, Vice Chairman  
Edward Schlein, M.D  
Jon VanderLey  
Richard Royal

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Skip Goerner called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Don Nicholson 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, Councilman VanderLey, and Councilman Royal were absent. A Quorum was not present, so voting was not permitted.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Goerner called for a postponement to approve the February 5, 2010 meeting minutes until the next meeting, due to a lack of a quorum.

**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 Lake Apopka's water quality, lake flows and levels and ground water levels. The Presentation slides are viewable on the website at <http://harrischaincouncil.ifas.ufl.edu/>. The presentation and discussion by the Council and Mr. Walker included: 1) the total phosphorous and lake stages on Lake Apopka from 1986-2010; 2) information on the baseline total phosphorous (TP) loading to Lake Apopka from 1989-1994; 3) the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and expected net TP loading to Lake Apopka; 4) the TP discharges from the North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) and removal by the Marsh Flow-Way; 5) Information on Lake Apopka's water levels from 1942 to 2009, and 6) historical data on annual discharges and rainfall, monitoring well elevations, and monthly values for the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) index from 1856-2008. Mr. Walker commented that the return of sport fishing and vegetation in Lake Apopka could be attained with the methods that are being implemented and with Lake Griffin's improvement being used as an example. He also explained they anticipate flooding 2000 acres in the NSRA by the end of this year and by 2012 should have the entire NSRA flooded. He also mentioned the staff has found 350 beds of eelgrass across the lake and as water clarity continues to improve, the eelgrass should continue to expand.

- Mr. Walker stated that SJRWMD staff is preparing a white paper of total nitrogen levels, chlorophyll and Secci data, which shows improved water quality for Lake Apopka. He will forward to Nancy Christman (SJRWMD) when completed.
  - David Walker mentioned that there would be a meeting regarding lake level changes and lake elevation issues sometime in the future.
  - Chairman Goerner requested Mr. Walker to bring data on amounts of vegetation on Lake Apopka from 24 years ago to the present time.
  - Joe Branham (owner of Bugg Spring), asked Mr. Walker to explain how the fluctuations of lake level baselines are established from the past to present measurements. Mr. Walker explained the old and new measurements, and the terminology used for data collection of the geographic elevation levels.
  - Lloyd Woosley (citizen), asked Mr. Walker to explain SJRWMD's strategy on lake level fluctuations. Mr. Walker explained the schedule and commented that the information is on the SJRWMD's website under GIS data.
  - Ann Griffin (citizen) came to the podium to comment that the system for lake fluctuations is working well and there is no need to have it altered. The SJRWMD is doing a good job and it is not necessary to change anything.
- Joe Branham, (owner of Bugg Spring), gave a presentation on Bugg Spring, which may be viewed on the website at <http://harrischaincouncil.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Presentations and discussion by the Council and Mr. Branham included: 1) a flow meter presentation and the type of equipment he uses for measuring; 2) the data on nitrogen and phosphorous levels of Bugg Spring; 3) the flow from Bugg Spring, which he has measured at 6.7 million gallons per day; 4) the U.S. Naval Dept. is leasing the facility for testing and training for Sonar use, which he believes could be the reason for the low fish population and, 5) Bugg Spring is 105 feet deep, 72.5 degrees all year round, has a good vegetation growth and supplies water to other lakes.
    - Mr. Branham stated the data he collects is sent to SJRWMD and can be viewed at <http://www.sjrwmd.com/springs/lake/bugg.html>. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has a report of the springs (# 2009-5046) which is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5046/>.

Councilman Goerner called for any questions or comments on Mr. Branham's presentation:

- Dan Canfield, University of Florida (UF), commented that Mr. Branham's knowledge and data is excellent quality and he thanks him for his presentation. Mr. Canfield continued to discuss his history with Mr. Branham.

**6. COUNCIL & PUBLIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
**Agency Updates, including reports received with agenda package**

- David Fisk, (SJRWMD), replied to Councilman Nicholson's question about the debris in the North part of Moss Bluff and the Silver Springs area from the 2004 storms, which took many trees down and had the potential to cause a back-flow and create flooding problems. Mr. Fisk commented that the Marion County Commission and the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) did some remedial work in 2005. Chairman Goerner commented that the area called the 'Narrows' is still clogged with a lot of debris.

- Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, stated that she would send to the council members (for their review) the schedule for the consultant to do the annual report.
- David Fisk, SJRWMD, asked the Council Members if they had any questions for him. Chairman Goerner asked Mr. Fisk if he will be coming to the meeting next month, Mr. Fisk responded that he would come to the meetings when he can.
- Mike Perry, Lake County Water Authority (LCWA), updated the Council Members that the lake water level schedules in March would be coming down and currently the structures are only at the minimum discharge. Mr. Perry commented that he would like to thank Dave Walker and the SJRWMD for the Alum cost information and that the LCWA was able to reduce the price they pay for Alum by 30%. The LCWA has begun creating an Alum reserve fund, when there are high peak water flows for the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF). They will need a total budget of about four million dollars, to be used for NuRF's regular use, and to build up the reserve fund for Alum. Mr. Perry is asking (on behalf of the LCWA) for assistance by the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council members to obtain additional funds to purchase the Alum. As for the Lake Beauclair Restoration update, LCWA is waiting to hear from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to go forward with the project. In addition, Mr. Perry added that the Hickory Point restoration project should be able to start in April.
- Christianne Ferraro, Florida Dept. of Environment Protection (FDEP) commented about the funding information she had forwarded to the Council Members and mentioned the section 319 Grant deadline is May 28, 2010. She gave an update on the meetings last month on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) numeric nutrient criteria and she stated the EPA has extended the comment period until April 28, 2010. She also said the FDEP would be holding a public workshop on the change to the surface water classification system. There will be an additional classification of class 3 limited that will be incorporated into the current classification code.
- Dan Canfield, UF, commented on the EPA's quantitative numeric nutrient criteria. He stated that the EPA is calling a meeting next week in Tallahassee to discuss the controversy of the new numeric nutrient criteria, which he will be attending. He also commented on historical and current restoration issues on Lake Apopka and the cost, Chairman Goerner recommended waiting until next months meeting to continue his presentation, when Councilman Richard Royal will be present. Mr. Canfield agreed. He continued his update on the movement of bass into Lake Dora. Mr. Canfield stated there is a lot of demand for the harvester and it is being utilized.
- Councilman Nicholson questioned how much money has been spent on Lake Apopka. Dave Walker, SJRWMD, stated, the approximate cost of the land acquisition was one hundred million dollars and the restoration cost is fifty-five million dollars. He added that the estimated cost to dredge all of Lake Apopka was eight hundred million dollars.
- Secretary Powers and Chairman Goerner discussed that the focus must be to look to the future restoration activities not how much money was spent in the past. Secretary Powers stated that the phosphorous will be under control and is not the issue now. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and everyone must use the data that is available and all work together to accelerate the return of Lake Apopka to a high-value recreational facility again.
- Councilman Farner commented that the Lake Beauclair dredging project would be a good example for Lake Apopka. He mentioned how well the Apopka-Beauclair Canal's (A-B Canal) natural habitat came back after it regained its water clarity.
- David Walker, SJRWMD, provided written reports on Lake Apopka and the Upper Oklawaha River Basin (UORB) in the agenda package. These are on the website at:  
<http://harrischaincouncil.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

- Chairman Goerner asked Mr. Walker to provide more in-depth monthly Apopka updates and Upper Oklawaha River Basin (UORB) updates.

7. **OTHER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Ann Griffin (citizen) expressed her concerns to the Council Members on: 1) reconnection of the marshes with the polluted sediments; 2) overuse of Alum in the NuRF project; 3) hauling off toxic dredged sediments from Lake Beauclair; and 4) amount of phosphorous in the lakes. She agrees with stopping any further pollution but suggests letting the lakes heal themselves naturally.
- Charles Clark, LCWA, came to the podium and asked Mike Perry, LCWA to explain the monitoring and testing of aluminum in the water after treatment from the NuRF. Mr. Perry stated the testing shows the amount of aluminum that stays in the water is not a significant amount and, at the request of Chairman Goerner, he will bring data next month on the background concentration of aluminum.

8. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**A. Comments**

- Chairman Goerner showed the council members the completed resolution plaque that will be presented to the wife of the late Robert Kaiser. He also said a letter of recommendation was written for Patrick Hunter, previous Recording Secretary, and will be presented to him in a few weeks after the letter is framed and a plaque purchased.
- Chairman Goerner mentioned he would contact Senator Baker regarding replacing Councilman Kaiser's position. He will notify Nancy Christman as to when to run the advertisement in the newspaper.

**B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting: April 2, 2010**

- Chairman Goerner called on Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, to include the following on the agenda for April: 1) David Walker, SJRWMD, to discuss the existence of vegetation from 25 years ago to the present time in Lake Apopka; 2) discussion of Councilman Royal's paper on Lake Apopka; and 3) discussion between the Council Members, Technical Advisory Group and SJRWMD, on the District's view of restoring Lake Apopka to return to an enhanced recreational facility.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

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Chairman Skip Goerner

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Secretary Rick Powers, P.G.