

FINAL

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

**April 6, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at 9:00am on April 6, 2012 at the Lake County Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida

**Members Present**

Hugh (Dave) Davis II, Chairman  
Skip Goerner, Vice Chairman  
Richard (Rick) Powers P.G., Secretary  
Lloyd Woosley

**Members Absent**

Don Nicholson  
Edward Schlein, M.D

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Davis gave an invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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

Chairman Davis called the roll. Councilman Schlein and Councilman Nicholson were absent. A Quorum was not present, so voting was not permitted.

Chairman Davis stated that next time there is a quorum present the committee should modify the Robert's Rules of Order, which allows for a quorum to be modified by the committee that allows a less number of committee members to be present, until the other councilpersons are appointed to the vacant seats.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Councilman Woosley and Councilman Goerner noted corrections of the March 2, 2012 meeting. Councilman Woosley stated that page 3, in the third bulleted paragraph should have the word 'not' removed. Councilman Goerner stated that page 3, in the third bulleted paragraph should have the word "Chairman" replaced with Councilman.
- Without quorum, no action was taken.

**5. PRESENTATIONS / ACTION ITEMS**

- Chairman Davis called for a presentation by Joe Branham, PhD., on the Bugg Spring hydrology. Joe Branham, past owner of Bugg Springs, provided information about the Spring. He states that it is a second magnitude spring and over the 22 years Dr. Branham has been measuring it, he has documented that has an average flow of 11 cubic feet per second. He has monitored its stage and measured the flow for precision and started collecting water samples that could be used for water quality. Dr. Branham stated that he went to St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to get approval of his technique of measuring. He stated that SJRWMD has used his data to measure the minimum flows and levels of the Spring. Stage is important as equally as flow. Dr. Branham has sold his land on Bugg Springs to the Navy. He stated that the spring is basically a breach in the aquifer that has caused the water to draw down several feet. The disparity

could indicate that although the level of the spring and the lake are closely correlated, the reason for the change is spring versus lake is not common between them, and the relationship may be simply due to the connectivity between the two bodies of water and not a direct common effect. The total area of the spring is roughly 2 acres. The Navy started putting sonar equipment in the spring to calibrate all of the Navy ship sonar. Its volume is approximately 10,000,000 cubic feet. The water coming into the spring is 7 ½ million gallons of water a day that flow into the spring. Dr. Branham also checked the relationship between spring level and the level of Lake Harris, using data from a station along the lakeshore near the Leesburg Airport. The reason for this test was to see if the levels of both locations were related, and then if the lake level was significantly related to vent flow. The results showed an extremely strong relationship between spring and lake levels. There are three gages that are in the spring today. The water authority (Lake County Water Authority) has one set to MGVD1929 the St. Johns River Water Management District has one set MGVD1988 & Dr. Branham has one that is set at 1 ½ feet lower than the other two measurement devices. Dr. Branham provided charts with all of this information. Responding to questions from the council, Dr. Branham has seen significant difference in the flow of the spring since it has been being monitored. According to Dr. Branham, since 1990 the stage has gradually decreased and the flow has gradually increased.

- Mr. Billy Baxley shared his vent flow and spring level to the council. Mr. Baxley shared an analysis of daily flow and spring level measurements from Bugg Spring from May 2011 thru March 2012. Correlation analysis was also performed between periodic surface flow measurements, which were made on a weekly basis. The vent measurements were made with the EM current meter, while the surface current was measured manually. The SJRWMD measured the spring level, rainfall, and lake level. All values were daily averages except for the surface current, which was measured and provided as maximum velocity measured during the sampling interval, typically 30 minutes to one hour. The EM current meter against time, in this case daily average values, as well as the spring level for the same time period. Mr. Baxley feels that there is a lot more data that needs to be collected to determine the causes. (His presentation can be viewed on the website at <http://www.harrischainoflakescouncil.com>.)
- Chairman Davis called for a presentation by Diane Heitman. He stated that with the low attendance on the Council she might want to wait until next month. Ms. Heitman stated that it was up to the Council members. Ms. Heitman stated that her presentation was information on the economic impact of low water levels. Chairman Davis asked if this information was fact or opinion based. Ms. Heitman stated that she could provide names of the people she talked to and the businesses that have had negative economic impact. Councilman Goerner stated that the information Ms. Heitman provided was not accurate. Councilman Davis asked Ms. Heitman if she could defend her presentation. Ms. Heitman stated that she could provide the information she had that reflects the economic overview of homeowners and business owners. Councilman Goerner stated that he wants the facts presented and this Council is not a public forum. He continued and asked what information she is providing that is factual and new information items that the Council does not already know. Mr. Woolsey stated that he feels she is presenting a new concept using real time hydrologic precipitation data having a dynamic system rather than a draw down system that goes into affect at a certain date. This could allow the water managers to be in real time data and let them use this information. Councilman Goerner stated that he does not see Ms. Heitman's presentation as use for the Council. Chairman Davis stated that unless Ms. Heitman can give any information to provide questions to SJRWMD her presentation is not of use for the Council. He continued and asked if she had specific cost to business and personal landowners. Ms. Heitman stated that she has talked to certain businesses and they have all agreed that they have suffered economically due to the water levels. Chairman Davis stated that the economy is suffering and that it is not solely due to the drought and lake levels. He continued and stated that Ms. Heitman needs to come back once she has more concrete data and information to present to the Council.

- Chairman Davis stated that Councilman Goerner requested from the January 2012 meeting that a report be presented to the Council in February on the Harris Chain of Lakes minimum flows and levels based on the regulation schedule and that the presentation was not provided. He added that Kraig McLane was there to discuss this. Mr. McLane stated that he had a presentation to share with the Council, will receive input from the Council, and report to the District on input received. He continued to state that District staff is continuing to work on the minimum flows and levels and alternatives for new lake regulation schedule and will have a new set of interims in place by June. Mr. McLane stated that the District would like to provide this information and receive feedback from the Council in May. He continued and stated that the District will then in turn provide a formal presentation to the Council in June with the information for the summer schedule and beyond. Mr. McLane stated that the District is developing a standard regulation schedule for the Harris Chain and Lake Apopka that will begin implementation in 2014. The District's goal is to hold the water higher over a long term. Councilman Goerner stated that he wants to get information from the District and they are not providing this information. Councilman Goerner wants specific people such as John Richmond, Mike Cullum or Casey Fitzgerald to provide information of how much water is being utilized for irrigation and utilities; how it will be provided during the future; how much the city is using; and how the higher water levels will be maintained. He stated that without this information the Council cannot make recommendations. Councilman Goerner wants to know what is going on with the marsh on the North Shore. Mr. McLane stated that the District wants to get the plan completed and provide the completed preliminary plan. Councilman Goerner feels that the District is not providing information to the Council that they are required by law to do. Chairman Davis wants Moss Bluff to be closed to store water. Mr. McLane stated that Moss Bluff has been closed since January 11. The water levels of Lake Apopka has dropped 8 inches; the Superpond has dropped 4 inches; Lake Griffin went up 3 inches and currently is up 1 ½ inches. Chairman Goerner stated that the discharge from Moss Bluff has not been consistent. He continued and stated the schedule of the interim schedule that will be provided to the Council in May & recommendations will be taken back to the District to finalize is not sufficient time or adequate for the Council before it is taken to SJRWMD Governing Board in June. Councilman Goerner stated that under Florida Sunshine Law the Council should be provided a technical advisor by the District. He continued and stated that a meeting might need to be held with legislators to see if the law is being upheld. Mr. Goerner stated that the Council does not want to wait until the District is ready to release a plan. Chairman Davis stated that he felt that the Council is not giving adequate time to give input to the District for the report. Councilman Powers stated that he does not have a problem with the District completing the preliminary plan and sending it to the Council for input at the May meeting. Councilman Goerner stated that he wants a technical advisor from the District to discuss what is going on and answer questions from the Council. Dan Canfield (addressed the Council from the podium), University of Florida (UF), stated that the plan should take more than one day to be reviewed, before the Council takes action. He is concerned of the timetable given. Councilman Woolsey asked what will happen when the schedule date of April 30 comes before the plan is applied. He asked that Mr. McLane send information on what will happen at this time. Councilman Powers recommended that the Council should write a letter to the Executive Director to leave the schedule in place until the plan has been approved.
- Chairman Davis asked if the Council would like to change the date of the HCOLRC to the last Wednesday of each month. The change will accommodate Dr. Schlein, but would conflict with Councilmen Woosley and Powers. (without quorum, no action was taken)
- Mr. McLane stated that there were 10 applications that were being reviewed to fill the vacant spots on the Council and that the Lake County legislative delegation will be taking action on this.

**6. COUNCIL & AGENCY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

- Dennis Renfro, FWC, gave his updates to the Council on: 1) Staff completed the stocking of 140,000 Phase II largemouth bass in to Lake Dora. The bass ranged between 4-5 inches in length and were distributed at 40 separate sites around Lake Dora for best survival; 2) 210,000 sunshine bass of the requested 300,000 have been stocked into Lake Apopka; Staff attended Lake Apopka Fish and Wildlife Restoration Standing Team meeting and field surveys on Lake Apopka in preparation and planning for restoration proposals for Lake Apopka; 3) the requested document on native aquatic plants is available for \$42.
- Mr. McLane, SJRWMD, gave his update to the Council on: 1) copies of the Water Control Manual were available on CD and it has placed it on the Council website; 2) he shared copies of a letter to Mr. Mike Perry, Lake County Water Authority from Mr. Hans Tanzler, Executive Director, SJRWMD that discussed the water levels and flows within the Harris Chain of Lakes and Lake Apopka; introduced the new recording secretary for the council, Heather Barnes and thanked Barbara Jadcak for her duties as recording secretary.
- Councilman Goerner stated that he wants water levels and regulation schedule to be discussed at the next meeting. He wants a technical update presented from John Richmond, Hal Wilkening, Casey Fitzgerald or Mike Cullum.
- Dan Canfield, University of Florida (UF), gave his update to the Council: 1) the legislature put \$4.8 million for Lake Apopka work. SJRWMD, FWC, Lake County Water Authority, Orange County, Lake County and the University of Florida are part of a team on what to begin a plan (Lake Apopka); Magnolia Park dredge permitting is going to DEP; 3) the harvester that the citizens want to use that the Council bought is not working.
- David Herbster, FDEP, gave his update to the Council: 1) FDEP will have a meeting with Clean to Green with Orange County in the room and the Corps on the phone to discuss working together on the Lake Apopka/Griffin applicant.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Ms. Ann Griffin asked that the Council let people speak about the topic and not make them wait until public comments. She explained how the low water levels are causing people to not be able to navigate boats around. Ms. Griffin explained how there is a very large negative impact on the economy on Lake Griffin. She stated that the lake discharges are not consistent. (Ms. Griffin's handouts are viewable on the website at <http://harrischainoflakescouncil.com>).
- Ms. Linda Bystrak, County Water Authority, asked the Council to not reschedule the meetings to the last Wednesday of the month due to a conflict with the County Water Authority meeting. She requested that a sandbar be dredged from Lake Dora for the water taxis to be able to freely move.

**8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Councilman Goerner stated that he does think the Council should allow the public to speak during the items of concern and not wait until the end of the meeting.

**A. Comments**

**B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting: May 4, 2012**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm