

FINAL

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

October 7, 2010

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at 9:00am on October 7, 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
Jon VanderLey
Richard Royal

Members Absent

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Skip Goerner called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

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 and Councilman Schlein were absent. Councilman Farner arrived at 9:15am after roll call and the approval of the minutes.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 10, 2010 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote

5. PRESENTATIONS / ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Goerner called on Tom Champeau, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC).

- Tom Champeau, FWC, introduced himself to the Council and gave a summary of his background and his vision for FWC. He is the new Division Director of the Fresh Water Fisheries Management for FWC and works out of the Tallassee office. He has 29 years of experience managing lakes, rivers and fisheries. He helped establish a committee appointed by the County Commissioners and made up of private citizens in Highlands County, Florida to develop (with the help from different experienced technical groups) a management plan for Lake Istokpoga. The committee has been active for 11 years. His vision for FWC is to involve private citizens, and with their support and assistance, manage Florida's waterbodies and fisheries habitat.
- Mr. Champeau stated that to promote Florida's fisheries the FWC needs to communicate and promote the values that the fisheries have on society and how important fishing is to our economy and the ecological benefits of a healthy lake. He spoke about the education program - Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs -for Children (HOFNOD). In Florida, the Aquatic Resources and Sportfishing Education Program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission coordinate HOFNOD. He mentioned that behavioral science

shows children exposed to fishing at an early age learn self-respect and are less likely to engage in self-destructing activities.

- The presentation continued with his division's purpose, which is to enhance, manage and promote ecological, social and economic values related to fisheries, so that the citizens and policy makers recognize and work for healthy lakes and rivers, and for the protection and proper management of Florida's watersheds. The FWC will focus on the management of people; fish population, and their habitat.
- Mr. Champeau stated that he has reassigned some staff and introduced Dennis Renfro, Special Projects Field Coordinator with FWC. Mr. Renfro works out of the Eustis office and will be the new point of contact for the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (new TAG member). Mr. Champeau explained that Marty Hale, FWC, would be helping Mr. Renfro, and Bill Johnson, FWC and John Benton, FWC will both be involved in the research issues in the Chain of Lakes.
- Mr. Champeau informed the Council of FWC's Black Bass Management Plan that has been under development for the past six months. The process has involved the public, technical advisors and anglers. The information and a public input survey are available on their website at:
http://myfwc.com/NEWSROOM/10/statewide/News_10_X_BlackBassMgtPlan2.htm.
- He concluded his presentation with information that the legislature has changed the statute for the management of non-native aquatic plants to allow for more adaptive management. FWC is currently working on multiple ways to manage hydrilla. With each lake being different, separate policies will need to be made for each lake.
 - Councilman Rich Royal questioned Tom Champeau, FWC, as to whether Lake Apopka will be one of those lakes that will be looked at as an alternative hydrilla management plan. Mr. Champeau said the management group would be developing criteria for a full risk analysis including hydrilla expansion on a lake-by-lake basis.
 - Chairman Goerner asked Tom Champeau, FWC for data on the economic evaluation of bass. Mr. Champeau commented that Dennis Renfro, FWC would prepare the data. Councilman VanderLey suggested Mr. Renfro e-mail it to the Council so they can review it before the next meeting and possibly include it in this year's annual report as an attachment. It was later decided by the Council that it would not be possible to get the data in time for this year's report.
- Mike Perry, Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) provided the Council his agency's accomplishments for the annual report. His report can be viewed at <http://sfrc.ifas.ufl.edu/harrischaincouncil/Minutes.htm>. The major topics in the report included: 1) storm water retrofits; 2) the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF); and, 3) Lake Beauclair restoration project.
 - He explained to the Council that in the last year \$1.8 million has been committed to local governments to implement their stormwater retrofit projects to capture nutrients before they enter the lakes. The LCWA has been working with the local governments on stormwater retrofits for about the last 10 years and will continue to work with them. He commented that the stormwater baffle boxes with cyclonic separators used by the city of Mount Dora have Plexiglas covers so the public can see what gets collected.

- Mr. Perry gave the Council some statistics on the NuRF. He stated that since it began operation in March 2009 it has removed 5502 pounds of total phosphorus (TP). The NuRF has treated almost 16 billion gallons of water and removed 67% TP from water coming from Lake Apopka. Lake Beauclair has consecutively seen the lowest TP concentrations values of 40 and 42 parts per billion (ppb). The average TP inflow from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal (AB-Canal) is 89 ppb, and when exiting the NuRF, the average TP discharge is 34 ppb, which is equal to Lake Beauclair's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) target concentration for TP. They now have relocated the injection area of alum during high flow conditions and it settles better after entering the settling ponds.

- Mr. Perry concluded his discussion with information on the Lake Beauclair Restoration Project. The project consists of dredging the top five feet of muck in the western end of Lake Beauclair and dredging four muck-filled tributary canals near the end of the AB-Canal. This project will remove the excess nutrients that are stirred up during wind events and will eliminate the navigational hazard that has trapped boats during low water level conditions. As of last week, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has issued the permit and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) permit should be received this week. Next week the LCWA Board of Trustees will make a decision on the company that will be awarded the bid to do the dredging and the deposition of the treated sediment, so the project may begin by the end of November 2010. It must be completed within six months (before June 15, 2011). They will be simultaneously dredging two areas at a time, one piece of equipment will be dredging the lake and the other will be dredging the canals. Mr. Perry commented that if it rains a lot during the dredging operation, it could cause a delay in the operation.
 - Councilman Royal asked Mr. Perry what the TP comparison is between Lake Beauclair and the other lakes in the chain. Mr. Perry will get the information and inform the Council at another meeting.
 - Councilman Powers questioned Mr. Perry on the hours of operations allowed for the dredging contractor. Mr. Perry believes it will be about a 16-hour day, they would need to be done by a certain time at night, but the permit will have that time limit on it.
 - Chairman Goerner asked Mr. Perry the amount of money the LCWA needs for the upgrading and operation of the NuRF. Marcy Policastro, Wildwood Consulting, Inc. had a copy of the NuRF wish list presented at the August 2010 meeting. Mr. Perry agreed the items on the list are correct, but the cost of alum is not on the wish list. He will send the alum information to the consultant to include in the annual report.

- Marcy Policastro, Wildwood Consulting, Inc., the Council, and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed and discussed the comments received on the second draft of the annual report. Comments were updated and approved by the Council. Ms. Policastro reminded everyone to submit their comments to her and Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) by October 22, 2010 so they can be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. COUNCIL & AGENCY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Nancy Christman said that the District is concerned that the Council is accepting technical information during the draft review period that was not presented to the Council during the period of time for this Annual Report. The Chairman responded that he thought this was acceptable.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Lloyd Woosley, citizen, commented that the annual report reads much better now and readers close to the watershed will have a better understanding of the history and processes in place. The Council is very close to the system and the solutions that are now in place, and it would be good for the Council to get input on various new strategies, techniques and options.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Comments

- Councilman Powers spoke about what he would prefer to see in the 2011 meetings: 1) Council should begin to assign the TAG to accomplish certain tasks with specific timeframes; 2) the TAG members should make presentations on each of their views and perspectives on what and why things have happened, and their agency's accomplishments for the past 10 years; and, 3) each month there should be a presentation from one of the agencies. This will allow the Council Members to have discussions during the summer meetings on what they should focus on during the next decade. Chairman Goerner suggested the TAG members could present those reports during the Council & Agency Questions/ Answers section on the meeting agenda. Councilman Powers also mentioned he would not be able to attend November 5, 2010 meeting.
- Chairman Goerner suggested Walt Godwin, SJRWMD give a presentation on the harvesting impacts on the population of gizzard shad. He also stated that Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, should send Councilman Powers the information she has for requesting replacement of the vacant TAG seat for USACE, and he suggested Councilman Powers writes a letter of request to the USACE requesting that the current vacant position be filled. Councilman Powers agreed.

B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting: November 5, 2010

- Chairman Goerner called on Nancy Christman, SJRWMD, to include the following on the agenda for November: 1) discussion of the presentations in 2011; 2) discussion on the direction of the TAG; and, 3) review of the final draft for the annual report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25

Respectfully submitted by:

Chairman Skip Goerner

Secretary Rick Powers, P.G.