

<b>FINAL</b>
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Of the  
HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL**

**May 4, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at 9:00am on May 4, 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  
Sid Grow  
Robert (Bob) Johnson  
Don Nicholson  
Keith Truenow

**Members Absent**

Edward Schlein, M.D  
Lloyd Woosley

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

**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 Woosley were absent.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 2, 2012 meeting minutes were approved as amended by unanimous vote.

Vice Chairman Goerner noted corrections of the April 6, 2012 meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Goerner stated that page three; first bulleted paragraph should have 'Florida Sunshine Law' replaced with 'Florida Statute.'

**5. PRESENTATIONS / ACTION ITEMS**

Chairman Davis called for a presentation by Mike Cullum, PE, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)

- Mike Cullum, PE, SJRWMD, provided information on Interim Lake Level Analysis. His presentation slides are viewable on the website at <http://harrischainoflakescouncil.com>. The presentation and discussion by the Council and Mr. Cullum included: 1) minimum desired level for each lake system of Apopka, Harris, Eustis, Dora and Griffin; 2) January 2012 SJRWMD Projects and Land Committee meeting on lake discharges; 3) changes in historic water levels for Lake Apopka and the Harris Chain of Lakes; 4) approach for implementing interim lake levels in the Harris Chain of Lakes and Lake Apopka; 5) Ocklawaha River basin lakes and dams with flood conveyance routes; 6) pervious land segment - flow paths; 7) rainfall comparisons - May 2011 through April 2012; 8) data (stage, rain, and discharge) for Lake Apopka, Apopka-Beauclair spillway, Lake Eustis, Lake Harris, Lake Dora, Burrell spillway, Lake Griffin and Moss Bluff

spillway; and 9) example of flood control releases when stage is above schedule. Mr. Cullum stated that SJRWMD works very closely with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the restoration process. He stated that the Apopka Lock and Dam has a Nutrient Treatment Facility (NuRF) located in the area that is operated by the Lake County Water Authority. The NuRF is an alum system that provides treatment of dissolved phosphorus to limit algae growth. Mr. Cullum explained the plot elevations of the Upper Ocklawaha lake levels and stated that the datum was in NAVD88. The analysis was based on the regulation levels with minimum and maximum levels of guidelines that the District uses to maintain the lake levels. Mr. Cullum stated that the plot graph shows how the lakes were lower than minimum desirable levels during certain times. He stated that Apopka's watershed is twice the size of the lake. Mr. Cullum explained that when there is no stormwater runoff the groundwater flow becomes the higher percentage of the flow. The District staff proposed at the Projects and Land Committee (SJRWMD) meeting in January to change the minimum discharge to 0-0-0 cubic feet per second (Apopka, Burrell, and Moss Bluff spillways) during the drought. A number of speakers at the meeting requested the minimum discharges be 23-23-0. The SJRWMD Governing Board (January) approved the 23-23-0 schedule through April 30. The Board authorized the Executive Director, if any environmental problems arose, to implement the 0-0-0 discharge schedule. The 0-0-0 discharge schedule was implemented by District staff on April 27 due to a decline in Lake Apopka (2 feet) over the last year and concerns with impacts to restoration efforts. Mr. Cullum discussed that there are many different opinions and interests on biology and lake level management. Mr. Walt Godwin (SJRWMD) discussed the two primary concerns of Lake Apopka – loss of eelgrass and re-suspension. Mr. Cullum recommended to the Council that SJRWMD send a biologist to discuss eelgrass and other plants in these lakes. Mr. Cullum informed the council that a recommendation will be taken to the Board in June for the establishment of interim discharge schedule for the Harris Chain of Lakes and Lake Apopka. He stated that the District will hold a public meeting on May 31, the Harris Council will be provided information from public meeting at their June 1 meeting, and the SJRWMD Governing Board will make a decision at their regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 12. Mr. Cullum stated that models incorporate precipitation, evaporation and transpiration, as well it includes surface water outflows. Mr. Cullum stated that he is aware of how the lake levels have had an impact on the areas economy. He continued and stated that there is a lot of work and research that is going into lake level management. He stated that all of the models include drought and predictable rainfall levels.

- Vice Chair Goerner questioned the discrepancy between the SJRWMD and USGS water quality data. Beauclair Canal average discharge in 2010 was 49.6 cfs and Moss Bluff average discharge was 168.7 cfs. Vice Chair Goerner stated that the re-suspension is a problem in Lake Apopka and that he feels that storing water on the North Shore could prevent this problem along with many other problems. He continued and stated that the Council can only make a recommendation about how to correct the problems of the lakes such as visibility, water levels and re-suspension. Vice Chair Goerner wanted to know how quickly water could be released during a flood.
- Councilman Nicholson expressed concern that a hurricane or floods could cause flooding with higher lake levels.
- Chairman Davis asked Mr. Cullum to provide information on what the lakes water levels would drop to if the lakes were at maximum desired elevation and all the gates were open?
- Mike Perry, Lake County Water Authority (LCWA), expressed concern if the Apopka-Beauclair Canal can move 250,000 cubic feet per second if it goes to 300,000 cubic feet per second it will

bypass the NURF. Also, if Lake Apopka floods, it would take 60 days to drain the floodwaters off of the lake at 300,000 cubic feet per second.

- Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, stated that there are three components to lake level fluctuations with minimum flows and levels. These three components are lake level itself, frequency, and the return interval. The three components will provide clarification on how the event happens, how long it last and what are the actual effects.

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

- Mike Perry, Lake County Water Authority (LCWA), updated the Council on: 1) the Beauclair Restoration project dredging is at 54% completion, but are running into some dense and thicker lake areas, but are on track and 2) LCWA is currently working on a budget to take to their Board next month. They were told to be aware that there would be a potential of 8% decrease of property value. LCWA owns the Burrell Lock and Dam structure and has a 50-year lease to the SJRWMD that will be up in 2013.
- Walt Godwin, SJRWMD updated the Council on: 1) Lake Apopka average flow for the period is 85 cfs and 2) much of the work on the hydrologic interconnect that finalized the infrastructure needed to manage water in the NSRA, Duda, and Sand Farm system is complete. The final component will involve an upgrade to Unit 1 pump system to discharge water into a retention area in the southern part of the Sand Farm property. The completion of this is scheduled by September 30, 2012.
- Dave Douglas, FWC, updated the Council on: 1) ninety thousand sunshine bass have been stocked into Lake Apopka, 2) 109,000 sunshine bass have been stocked into Lake Harris, 3) staff attended FWC Lake Apopka Restoration Team meeting and conducted field surveys with SJRWMD, DEP, Orange County, and UF on Lake Apopka in preparation and planning for restoration proposals for the lake.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Charles Clark, citizen, stated that the Lake County Water Authority is involved with the Lake Beauclair Aquatic Enhancement Project and the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF). He stated that the Lake Beauclair Aquatic Enhancement Project is to remove a navigational hazard in Lake Beauclair as well as a removal of a large percentage of the flocculent, unconsolidated, re-suspendable bottom material. The NuRF project is to remove phosphorus and suspend solids from Lake Apopka by adding alum before the water is released into the Beauclair Canal. In order for the NuRF project to be successful, the flow rate cannot be greater than 300 cfs. Mr. Clark stated that the LCWA has requested that SJRWMD refrain from any actions that will substantially increase the probability of extended flows in excess of 300 cfs in the Apopka-Beauclair Canal.
- Ann Griffin, citizen, spoke with the Council about not letting any more water out of Moss Bluff. She continued and stated that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is to preserve natural resources, fish, and wildlife. Ms. Griffin requested to know the time of the SJRWMD public meeting and if the citizens will be heard. Mr. Kraig McLane stated that the meeting will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the citizens will be heard.

- Linda Bystrak, citizen, spoke with the Council about researching further into the Jet Port proposal on the North Shore of Lake Apopka will have an impact that will cause restoration efforts to be harmed.
- Mr. Mike Perry stated that the LCWA wanted more information on the efforts, before taking action.

**8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

**A. Comments**

- Vice Chairman Goerner requested that Mr. Mike Cullum come to the June meeting to further explain the Water Level Regulation proposal and update the Council on the public meeting being held by the SJRWMD on May 31.
- Councilman Nicholson asked that the policy for the Council to speak to the press be discussed. Vice Chairman Goerner stated that there is no policy, but he usually speaks to the press on behalf of the Council.

**B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting: June 1 , 2012**

- Kraig McLane, SJRWMD, will arrange to have Mr. Mike Cullum and a biologist from SJRWMD to attend the next meeting to discuss the lake level management and a summary of the May 31 SJRWMD public meeting. He continued and stated that the Council will want to decide if they want to have a July meeting and to prepare for the process of the annual report. Mr. McLane introduced himself to the new Council Members and stated that he is the contact person for any needs by the Council.
- Chairman Davis discussed the possibility of changing the Council meeting to the last Wednesday of the month. He stated that he would like the Council to review their schedules and bring back a recommendation at the next meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm