

FINAL

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

August 1, 2003

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was held at 9:00 AM on August 1, 2003 at the Lake County Board of County Commissioners' Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present

W. Thomas Brooks, Vice Chairman
Hugh Davis II, Secretary
Charles C. Clark
Keith Farner
Rick Powers

Members Absent

Skip Goerner, Chairman
Thomas A. Cook, MD
Don Nicholson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by Mr. Robert Kaiser (Ex-Officio), followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Vice Chairman Brooks called roll. All members were present except for Chairman Skip Goerner, Councilman Dr. Thomas Cook and Councilman Don Nicholson.

4. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Vice Chairman Brooks welcomed all Council members and members of the audience.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to the number of members not present, Vice Chairman Brooks postponed the review of the June and July 2003 Meeting Minutes until the September 2003 Council meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Kaiser provided a handout and a brief update on the City of Leesburg Wastewater Projects, including the new Cutrale Wastewater Treatment Plant which is not currently online. He stated that he had invited Mr. Ray Sharp, Director of Environmental Services for the City of Leesburg, to attend the September Council meeting.

Ann Griffin (speaking as a Lake Griffin homeowner) discussed information that she learned at the recent meeting of the East Central Florida Water Supply Planning Initiative (ECFWPI). She explained that the cities of Apopka and Leesburg are looking into supplementing their reclaimed water with water taken from Lake Apopka and Lake Harris, respectively. She explained that Apopka is proposing to draw 2.3 – 3.5 millions of gallons per day (mgd) from Lake Apopka to supplement their reclaimed water. She said that the project is expected to cost \$8,000,000 and would involve the construction of a withdraw structure, pump station and a transmission pipeline approximately 4.3 miles in length. The City of Leesburg is proposing to draw 2.9 mgd average and a maximum of 3.5 mgd from Lake Harris. This project would also include construction of the pumping station and approximately 2 miles of transmission pipeline. Ms. Griffin expressed her concern as to the effects that this would have on these lakes and other lakes in the chain. Gene Caputo of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) explained that both of these projects are just options that are being considered and no decisions have been made.

Vice Chairman Brooks was surprised to hear this and requested that someone knowledgeable of these proposals from both the SJWMD and the City of Leesburg attend the September Council meeting to discuss these issues. Mr. Caputo and Mr. Kaiser agreed to invite someone from their respective organizations to speak at the September meeting. Mr. Caputo pointed out that this matter had been discussed at the May 2003 Council meeting and that handouts were provided. He went on to suggest that a Council member should attend future ECFWPI meetings.

Mr. Caputo provided an aerial map of the Emerald Marsh Restoration Area that had been prepared by Dave Walker (SJRWMD) at the request of the Council. He also presented the Draft Upper Ocklawaha River Basin (UORB) State Funding Initiative; Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005 prepared by the SJRWMD. Mr. Caputo suggested that the Council forward any comments to him prior to the September meeting due to the submittal deadline and that these comments could be discussed during the September Council meeting. The Council agreed.

Mr. Caputo also provided the Council with the reworded version of a proposed resolution suggested by Councilman Thomas Cook, M.D. and presented by Councilman Charles Clark at the July Council meeting. Mr. Caputo suggested that the proposed resolution, which involves the reporting of biotoxic related illnesses, be discussed at the September Council meeting.

The Council agreed to postpone a discussion of the two proposed resolutions put forth in the July 2003 meeting until the September 2003 Council meeting.

Mr. Caputo stated that the agenda items for the September 2003 Council meeting will make it a rather lengthy meeting and that the Council should be prepared. He reminded the Council that the meeting date for September had been changed to 9/12/03 due to the water conference being held in Tampa during the first week of the month. Mr. Caputo also reminded the Council that their election of officers must be completed by the November Council meeting. He suggested that the Council consider how they would like to handle that issue. The Council agreed to put the issue of a nominating committee or the election process on the agenda for the September meeting.

Patrick Hunter of Berryman & Henigar, Inc. (BHI), as Recording Secretary for the Council, then participated in a discussion of the preparation of the Council's Annual Report to the Florida State Legislature. Mr. Hunter discussed the progress that has been made on the 2003 report and inquired if the Council would approve the use of language previously submitted in the 2002 report, particularly the first few sections that primarily discuss the issues with the Harris Chain of Lakes and the formation of the Council. The Council members present agreed and commented on the amount of time and effort expended by the Council last year to put together the report and "to agree" on the language used. The Council also discussed a schedule for the submittal of a draft version of the 2003 report. It was requested that the first draft of the report be submitted electronically by 9/19/03 so that there would be ample time for the Council members to review the report prior to the October 3rd meeting. The Council inquired as to the most efficient means for providing their comments and edits for the draft report. Mr. Hunter suggested that each council member submit written comments or edits directly on a "hard copy" of the draft report. The Council members agreed and Mr. Caputo said that he would mail hard copies of the draft report to the Council members for review and comment. Mr. Caputo also reminded the Council that the approved budget for BHI includes two extra meetings for the purpose of finalizing the Annual Report. Therefore it was decided that after the Council has reviewed the initial draft of the report, submitted any comments they had, and discussed the report during the October meeting, the Council would make a decision if any additional meetings would be necessary.

Councilman Clark requested to postpone the discussion of operational limitations on flowways until the September 2003 Council meeting. The Council agreed.

7. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations were scheduled to be given at the August 2003 Council meeting.

Agency Updates

John Benton (FWCC) provided a brief update on the fingerling bass restocking report submitted during the July Council meeting. He said that a discussion of that report is scheduled for the September Council meeting and that if the Council had any comments on

the report, that they be submitted via email before the September meeting. Mr. Benton also discussed the draft of the Lake Beauclair drawdown/pumping and dredging proposal. The FWCC was in the process of reviewing this proposal and will submit any comments. The author of the report, BCI, will give a presentation of the proposal at the August LCWA meeting. Mr. Benton also explained that the issue of the success of fingerling bass restocking as an effort to control shad populations had not yet been proven. He went on to say that it is an expensive effort that possibly only provides moderate results.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Brooks called for any comments from the Council members. Councilman Farner asked if the Annual Report to the Florida State Legislature would include any requests for funding. Mr. Caputo said that it would not, but that such a request could be attached to the report. There were no other Council member comments.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Brooks called for public comments.

Ms. Griffin explained that the proposals by the cities of Apopka and Leesburg, to utilize water from Lake Apopka or Lake Harris to supplement their reclaimed water, are for a withdrawal period of seven months.

There were no other public comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Brooks called for meeting adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

W. Thomas Brooks, Vice Chairman

Hugh Davis II, Secretary