

FINAL

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

July 8, 2005

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was held at 9:00 AM on July 8, 2005 at the Lake County Board of County Commissioners' Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present

Hugh (Dave) Davis II, Chairman
Skip Goerner, Vice Chairman
Thomas A. Cook, MD, Secretary
Keith Farner
Robert Kaiser, P.E.
Rick Powers, P.G.

Members Absent

W. Thomas Brooks
Don Nicholson

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by Florida State Senator Carey Baker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Chairman Davis called roll. Councilmen Tom Brooks and Don Nicholson were absent.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A call was made for discussion of the minutes from the May 6, 2005 meeting. No changes or edits were suggested. A vote to approve the May Meeting Minutes passed unanimously. A call was made for discussion of the minutes from the June 3, 2005 meeting. No changes or edits were suggested. A vote to approve the June Meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Acknowledgement of Charles Clark's Resignation

Chairman Davis recognized Councilman Clark's resignation as tendered via email to Senator Carey Baker. He suggested that the Council notify their legislative delegates to advertise for a replacement for the vacant position. Mr. Gene Caputo of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) told Senator Baker that the District has an advertisement for a similar position they had run in the past and offered to provide it to the Delegation. Senator Baker said he would be glad to review the advertisement.

Proposed Contract Renewal of Berryman & Henigar, Inc.

Mr. Caputo informed the Council that they had received the proposal for continuing services of Recording Secretary by Berryman & Henigar, Inc. (BHI). The proposal covers the period of 10/1/05 through 9/30/06 in the amount of \$26,719. Mr. Caputo said that although it represented an increase over last year's contract, the District recommends approval. When asked why there was a proposed increase in the contract amount Recording Secretary Patrick Hunter (BHI) explained that this contract more closely reflects the amount of time spent preparing the monthly meeting minutes and annual report. Councilman Bob Kaiser asked if the contract amount would be reduced if the Council held fewer meetings throughout the year. Mr. Hunter explained that the contract represents costs per meeting therefore, only the meetings attended would be billed. After brief discussion, a motion to accept the proposal was made and seconded. The proposal to renew the services of BHI was approved by unanimous vote.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Overview of Legislative Session – Senator Carey Baker

Florida State Senator Carey Baker started out by saying that the annual report prepared for the Council is well put together and the Legislature likes the report. Senator Baker congratulated Mr. Hunter on his efforts saying he is doing a good job.

Senator Baker also thanked the Council for their efforts saying that they were formed in 2001 to review data as it relates to lake restoration and sport fish population recovery. He explained the Council was to then use the information they had to advise the Legislature if additional studies were needed, research additional sources of funding, and then submit a report to the Legislature. Senator Baker said the Council has made good progress and was successful in securing funding for the Lake Griffin access canal dredging and other projects, which were major steps towards lake restoration.

Councilman Kaiser asked if the canals in the other lakes would also be dredged at some point in the future. Vice (V.) Chairman Skip Goerner explained that Lake Griffin was selected to be the first lake for canal dredging activities due to the approved lake level fluctuation program. He said the other lakes in the chain will also have their canals dredged as they move closer to the fluctuation program, so as not to restrict access during period of lowered lake levels.

Senator Baker then discussed Senate Bill SB No. 444 sponsored by Senator Paula Dockery and other environmental legislation that was passed in the previous legislative session and provided for the following appropriations:

- \$7.2 million for Lake Griffin Access Canal Dredging
- \$73 million for beach replenishment and sand dune restoration
- \$130 million for water projects including Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) projects, and sanitary sewer improvements and upgrades. He added that in past years they spent no money on projects of this nature. SB 444 provides an additional \$200 million for these projects.
- \$300 million to buy environmentally sensitive lands through the Florida Forever Act which is more money than any other state or the federal government currently spends, was also provided for in SB 444.
- \$100 million for the Everglades restoration programs
- \$1 million to begin studies on algal blooms in marine environments
- \$42 million for parks and recreation
- \$1 million to Lake County for the Lake Griffin access canal dredging project and \$300,000 for other lake restoration projects, as recommended by the Council.

With respect to SB 444 he explained the following appropriations for the \$200 million total program funding with matching funds from other state and local agencies which could provide a total of \$500 million. The bill provides for:

- 1.) Regional Water Supply Planning
 - Alternative water supplies
 - Improved communication between local planners
 - Identify water resources for the next 20 years
- 2.) Provisions for concurrency requirements of local governments
 - Requires water resources to be identified prior to issuing building permits
 - Requires local governments to report their progress towards identifying alternative water supplies
- 3.) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program saying that efforts to date have been a good start but more funding is going to be needed to meet the goals of the program. SB 444 is going to put more emphasis on the program.

The \$200 million provided for in the bill is appropriated as follows:

- \$100 million for Water Supply Grants with 60% matching funds from the water management districts. This amount is guaranteed annually and is funded through revenue generated by Florida State Documentary Stamps Tax.
- \$50 million to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the TMDL Program and to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer

Services (FDACS) to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for agricultural runoff. The TMDL Program will receive 85% of this funding, or in excess of \$40 million which is a substantial increase over the \$4 million provided last year.

- \$25 million for SWIM projects and other surface water restoration programs, and requires a 25% match from other agencies.
- \$25 million for financially disadvantaged communities for upgrading their waste water treatment facilities

V. Chairman Skip Goerner thanked Senator Baker for his efforts and support of the Council. Senator Baker responded by saying the efforts of the Council have helped pull together all the agencies as they had never been before.

Councilman Keith Farner asked if there would be a change in the future mission of the Council and Senator Baker said that the mission of the Council has not changed and they will continue to review restoration technologies, make recommendations to the Legislature, and remain active for many years to come.

TMDLs for Lakes Apopka and Beauclair - SJRWMD

Chairman Davis said that the TMDL presentation that had been requested by Councilman Clark and in his absence, the Council should discuss whether they would like to move forward with the presentation.

Mr. Caputo explained that Councilman Clark had made a request for the presentation based on the information he had gathered on the nutrient loading of the lakes. He reminded the Council that they had already heard several presentation on the matter and if the Council so desired, they could request a presentation by the FDEP, as they are the administrators of the program.

Councilman Farner said that although Councilman Clark wanted to hear a presentation on the nutrient load differential between lakes Beauclair and Apopka; he would prefer to hear a presentation on the status of the Lake Beauclair dredging and restoration project.

Dr. Dan Canfield of the University of Florida (UF) and a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Council said that Councilman Clark wanted an explanation on the additional nutrients that are entering Lake Beauclair from the Apopka-Beauclair (A-B) Canal, not attributed to discharges from Lake Apopka.

V. Chairman Goerner then discussed information he would like to hear presentations on including the information that Dr. Canfield has been compiling on historic discharges from Lake Apopka. He expressed his concerns that with the start of hurricane season, there could again be excessive discharges from the muck farms of nutrient-rich water due to passing storms. V. Chairman Goerner said he would also be interested in any alum treatment or plans to reduce the nutrients in runoff from the farms.

Councilman Farner said he would also like to hear a presentation as to whether there are any plans to retain water within the muck farms to minimize the runoff and better regulate flow through the lakes.

Councilman Rick Powers summarized the issues of concern saying that the Council would like a complete review of the nutrient budget, current nutrient and suspended sediment management practices and philosophy.

Mr. Caputo said that this discussion could be scheduled for the next month.

Agency Updates

Bill Johnson of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) discussed the recent electro fishing results saying that the catch rate for all species of fish was good, especially in lakes Eustis and Yale. He provided the following catch rates of large mouth bass for the period of January – April 2005:

Largemouth Bass Electrofishing Jan-April 2005

	Total Catch					CPUE per 10 minutes			
	N	all	>254 mm	>355 mm	>457 mm	inches all	10 >254 mm	14 >355 mm	18 >457 mm
Apopka	39	238	193	128	37	6	5	3	1
Beauclair	20	138	76	31	6	7	4	2	0
Carlton	18	272	206	101	35	15	11	6	2
Dora	40	433	317	129	27	11	8	3	1
Eustis	40	802	655	327	68	20	16	8	2
Griffin	40	422	279	110	16	11	7	3	0
Harris	40	621	465	199	62	16	12	5	2
Yale	40	992	637	181	35	25	16	5	1
Total	277	3918	2828	1206	286	14	10	4	1

where:

N=Total Number of Electrofishing Events

all=number of fish counted

CPUE=Catch Per Unit Event

V. Chairman Goerner asked how this year’s data compared to last year. Mr. Johnson said they are still working on that data and he will be able to present it next month. V. Chairman Goerner recalled when he went out on Lake Griffin with Mr. Johnson for one of the electrofishing events and they had only located two bass in two hours.

Mr. Johnson then provided the gill netting results indicating the total catch of selected species in lakes Dora / Beauclair and Eustis for the period of November 2004 – June 2005:

Species specific effort, catch and angling success rates for lakes Dora/Beauclair and Eustis for the period spanning November 2004 through June 2005.

<u>Dora/Beauclair</u> Species	Effort (hours)	Error (s.e.)	Harvest (n) (catch for LMB total)*	Error (s.e.)	Harvest Success (fish/hr)	Error (s.e.)
Black Crappie	28,948	2,415	32,163	3,416	1.09	0.07
Largemouth Bass (total caught, incl. released fish)	3,184	569	2,042*	-	0.64	-
Largemouth Bass (fish kept)	3,184	569	143	51	0.04	0.02
Bluegill	990	296	2,780	1,371	3.35	1.32
Redear sunfish	0	482	23	23		
Warmouth	0	0	0	0	-	-
Redbreast sunfish	0	0	0	0	-	-
Hybrid Striped bass	0	0	298	96	-	-
Catfish	503	148	1,389	310	-	-
Anything	651	331	0	0	-	-

<u>Eustis</u> Species	Effort (hours)	Error	Harvest (n) (catch for LMB total)*	Error	Harvest Success (fish/hr)	Error
Black Crappie	12,674	1,779	9,293	1,814	0.54	0.08
Largemouth Bass (total caught, incl. released fish)	16,135	1,461	6,541*	-	0.41	-
Largemouth Bass (fish kept)	16,135	1,461	1,650	265	0.15	0.02
Bluegill	547	272	1,687	627	1.69	1.34
Redear sunfish	2,425	843	4,687	1,631	1.17	0.28
Warmouth	-	-	52	52		-
Redbreast sunfish	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hybrid Striped bass	113	61	47	34	0.11	0.11
Catfish	0	0	437	194	-	-
Anything	5,058	991	-	-	-	-

Note – The number of fish caught (Harvest) in the middle columns.

Mr. Johnson explained that even though the number of fish in the lakes is good, one way to increase their numbers would be by improving the near-shore habitat. He also provided data on commercial gizzard shad fishing efforts in the following table which outlines the Lake Dora Shad Harvest for 2005 and includes the incidental catch of other species of fish:

2005

Lake Dora Commercial Shad Harvest		avg length	avg wt	pounds wt of bycatch	N=	BLCR 2005 harvest % bycatch of harvest	
average shad weight (grams)*	530				500		
total weight of shad catch (pounds)	279,549						
percent shad (number)	87.84%						
percent black crappie (number)	3.61%						
percent redear (number)	0.91%						
percent bluegill (number)	0.37%						
percent largemouth bass (number)	0.01%						
average shad weight (pounds)	1.17						
predicted number of shad	239,207						
predicted total fish catch (number)	272,321						
total black crappie caught (number)	9,831	300	420	9,104	146	32,163	23.4%
total redear caught (number)	2,478	227	304	1,661	41	23	
total bluegill caught (number)	1,008	188	173	384	25	2,780	
total largemouth bass caught (number)	27	218	138	8	1		
total gamefish caught (number)	13,344						
				11,158			

1 pound = 453.6 g

average shad weight (grams)*	515	average of all weights
	530	proportioned by mesh

V. Chairman Goerner asked what the success rate is of the crappie released after being caught in the gill nets. Mr. Johnson explained that if they are handled properly, their success rate is very good. He went on to say that a graduate student at the UF is conducting a study of the success rates and he would provide that information when it becomes available. Mr. Johnson also said that because they use the larger mesh gill nets, the number of crappie caught are much less than it would be with smaller mesh nets. Because of this he explained, the greatest affect is a reduction in the number of larger fish within the crappie population.

Mike Perry, Executive Director of the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) provided the Council with an update of their activities saying that “the dredge is in the water” with respect to the Lake Griffin access canal dredging project. He said that setup is continuing to dredge the canals and they are currently working on acquiring booster pumps and issues with the disposal site due to excessive rains over the past month. They anticipate dredging to begin in the next two weeks and will complete all the canals on the lake within Lake County, before they dredge the canals in Marion County.

Mr. Perry also gave a brief update on the Apopka Beauclair Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF) saying they have received 60% plans from the design engineer and once they are approved by the LCWA Board of Trustees, permitting of the project will begin.

With respect to the Lake Beauclair dredging / restoration project, Mr. Perry said that the LCWA has reviewed the marketability of the sediments and have not been encouraged by their results. The issue involves the moisture content of the dredged sediments being too high for use by either the Hurley Sod Farm or the Hyponix facility, which they contacted. He said the costs associated with drying the material would increase the resale price, which would reduce its marketability.

Mr. Perry also said they are reviewing locations of land to be used as a disposal facility to contain the dredged material. He explained to the Council that the estimated cost to conduct this dredging could be as much as \$10 million and it will most likely be at least two more fiscal years before those funds become available.

Mr. Perry then provided a brief update on the LCWA budget saying that with the appropriations approved by the Legislature, they are currently able to fully fund the access canal dredging this fiscal year and have set aside \$4.5 - \$5 million to build the NuRF project. He explained that they have not received any bids on the project, but have reserved funds based on the engineering estimate. Mr. Perry said they will also set aside \$1.5 million for the Lake Beauclair dredging / restoration project.

Mr. Perry also gave an update of the blue-green algae monitoring that the LCWA has been conducting saying that the Board of Directors is currently not supporting the continuation of monitoring as they have in the past. He said the LCWA is working with the City of Leesburg to post signs warning of algal bloom conditions and to not recreate in the water when blooms are observed.

Councilman Kaiser asked if the LCWA was able to secure funding from other sources, besides the \$1 million provided by the Legislature through the efforts of the Council, in order to fund the \$4 million shortfall for the Lake Griffin access canal dredging.

Mr. Perry explained that they received an additional \$1 million from the Legislature for the project and they also identified \$5 million in their fiscal budget that could be used for the project. He said that the additional funds in their budget could be attributed to an 18.5% increase in property values in Lake County, which increased the amount of money paid in ad valorem taxes.

Councilman Kaiser expressed his concern of the lack of interest to continue cyanobacteria monitoring. He asked if the LCWA has considered revising their sampling program by obtaining a proposal from an expert in the field, like Dr. JoAnn Burkholder of North Carolina State University. He suggested that with a more cost effective program and possibly sharing the costs with the SJRWMD, Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and/or the FDEP, perhaps they could continue the monitoring.

Councilman Thomas Cook asked if Mr. Perry had received Dr. Burkholder's suggestions for streamlining the monitoring program. Mr. Perry said that they have however; they are reluctant to continue their involvement with the cyanobacteria monitoring.

Councilman Rick Powers explained that the study of cyanobacteria is an emerging science and there are no standards for monitoring currently set forth by the federal government. He added that the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) is hosting their 25th annual convention later this year and one of the main topics of discussion will be cyanobacteria.

V. Chairman Goerner expressed his concerns regarding the poor water quality in the lakes over the past year and his desire not to allow further deterioration of the quality. He noted that just prior to the issue of alligators dying a few years ago, the chlorophyll content in the lakes had gone up, similar to the current situation in the lakes. He also mentioned that he has observed alligators that appear to be under nourished, which is similar to what he observed prior to the alligator deaths a few years ago.

V. Chairman Goerner suggested that it is better for the Council to be “proactive not reactive.” It is his desire that the LCWA continue their monitoring and that possibly the Council could help them secure the funding necessary to do so.

Councilman Kaiser suggested that the Council recommended that the LCWA “table” or wait to make a final decision on the monitoring until a scientific study is conducted to determine the necessity of monitoring and the most efficient methods. V. Chairman Goerner agreed with tabling the decision and said the Council has already made the recommendation to continue with monitoring.

Councilman Farner recalled that Dr. Andrew Reich (FDOH) said they were going to invest locally in the monitoring program. Mr. Perry said that the current commitment of the FDOH is to conduct the study of people who are exposed to bloom-like conditions. He explained that the study has been modified to only include the testing of people who either jet ski or fish from a boat in algal bloom conditions. Mr. Perry said that he has been notified that the FDOH has secured approximately 90% of the funds necessary to conduct the study.

V. Chairman Goerner suggested that the Council could assist in developing funding partners who would assist with the funding necessary to continue the monitoring program.

Mr. Perry said there were other issues of concern for the monitoring besides funding including whether cyanobacteria monitoring falls under the charge of the LCWA in their Charter. He said there is also an issue with the lag time to receive the sampling data versus the short duration of potentially harmful algal blooms. Additionally, the fact that there is a perceived liability on the part of the LCWA by the fact that they are conducting the monitoring has become a concern.

Mr. Perry also explained that in recent discussions with the Lake County Medical Society (LCMS) they have determined that convening a meeting for the discussion of cyanobacteria was not conducive to one of the primary purpose of their meetings; which is to earn continuing education credits. He said the LCMS is still interested in receiving information on cyanobacteria and to include that in their newsletters.

Councilman Powers said to put this issue into perspective; about 18 months ago he had asked the Director of Water Resources for the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) in Washington, D.C. where the issue of cyanobacteria was with respect to their programs. The Director said it was not an issue that they were reviewing at that time. Councilman

Powers went on to say that until the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes cyanobacteria as a public health issue, not much funding will be available for studies.

Councilman Cook asked Mr. Perry if he had any thoughts as to how the cyanobacteria monitoring should be conducted. Mr. Perry said that in his opinion, the monitoring should be conducted only in areas where algal blooms have occurred and people are frequently in the water, and suggested that Singletary Park and Venetian Gardens would be such areas. However, he is not certain how to use the data they collect. Mr. Perry pointed out that to date, there have been no reports of people in those areas being adversely affected by the blooms.

Councilman Farner suggested that if the data collected indicates a risk to public health, perhaps it may open opportunities for funding which may be used to help restore the lakes.

Mr. Perry also mentioned that the \$2 million the FDOH received from the Legislature will go entirely to the study of Red Tide off the Gulf coast. He explained that if one were to consider all the shoreline within the Harris Chain of Lakes (HCOL) and their canals, it would equal the distance for coastline from Cedar Key to Sarasota; however he realizes that vastly more people live along the coast.

V. Chairman Goerner suggested that the Council request funding from the Legislature to assist the LCWA in the monitoring efforts.

Councilman Cook put forth a motion that the Council request funding from the Legislature to assist with the monitoring.

Chairman Davis restated the motion saying that the Council request funding from the Florida State Legislature to assist with cyanobacteria monitoring in the HCOL.

Councilman Powers amended the motion to include “monitoring and research.” The amended motion was seconded.

Mr. Perry suggested that the funding should be directed to the FDOH who would be better suited to conduct the monitoring and research.

The motion that the Council request funding from the Florida State Legislature to assist with cyanobacteria monitoring and research in the HCOL, passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Davis asked Mr. Perry if their upcoming budget includes the funding the Council normally receives from the LCWA. Mr. Perry said that the proposed budget includes the \$40,000 to fund the operation of the Council.

Councilman Farner requested an accounting of how the \$300,000 in funding received from the Legislature on behalf of the Council will be spent.

V. Chairman Goerner said that the funds will be divided proportionately between the projects based on the amounts in the initial request. He explained that the SJRWMD will administer the funds with the majority going to the LCWA for the projects they are involved with and a smaller amount going to the FWCC for cypress tree plantings.

Mike Slayton, Deputy Executive Director of the SJRWMD confirmed that if the Council requested the \$300,000 in funds be divided proportionately between the various projects outlined in the funding request, the District would accommodate their request.

Mr. Slayton also said that during the past legislative session two major environmental bills were passed. In addition to SB 444, the Florida House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 360, both of which will greatly affect Floridians in the future, he said briefly.

Barbra Bess of the FDEP provided a brief update saying the District is providing \$17,000 to the LCWA for the construction of an exfiltration system at the Mid Florida Lakes Mobile Home Park, in an effort to improve the quality of stormwater runoff at the site. She also said that they had extended their contract with the SJRWMD to provide funding for a portable alum treatment system. Ms. Bess explained the system will initially be operated in the Emerald Marsh area and should be constructed by the end of the year.

Ms. Bess mentioned that there is an upcoming meeting of the Upper Ocklawaha River Basin (UORB) working group for the TMDL program on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Leesburg Cultural Arts Center, beginning at 9:30 AM. She encouraged Council members who did not hear Dr. Pearce Jones' (UF) presentation on low impact housing at the Council meeting earlier this year, to attend the August meeting.

V. Chairman Goerner asked if there was funding available from the FDEP to assist with the monitoring efforts of the LCWA. Ms. Bess explained that the only funds available would be through the Florida Forever Fund and that money is primarily spent on acquiring environmentally sensitive lands, and the monitoring would most likely not qualify. She suggested that the Council may want to request that funding directly from the Legislature.

V. Chairman Goerner requested that Ms. Bess research any available funding for the monitoring and she agreed.

Dr. Canfield (UF) gave an update of the recent large mouth bass restocking efforts saying that anglers continue to report catching the tagged fish released during the restocking. He also advised the Council that if they were going to provide funds for additional restocking efforts, they should do so through the FWCC. Dr. Canfield explained that permitting to release fish into the lakes is getting difficult to obtain for entities outside of the FWCC.

V. Chairman Goerner said that the Council should be notified if there are changes to the rules that affect fish restocking efforts.

Mr. Johnson (FWCC) explained that there are tighter controls in place that regulate the genetics of bass released into the lakes in an effort to populate the lakes with pure Florida largemouth bass. Over the years bass from outside the state have been used in restocking which has diluted the Florida strain and the Florida bass are the most sought after by anglers. He said that permits can be issued so long as those receiving the permits adhere to the rules.

V. Chairman Goerner asked if these requirements reflect changes in the rules. Mr. Johnson said no and that he would notify the Council if there are any proposed changes.

Councilman Farner asked Dr. Canfield if there was a final report on his restocking efforts and whether the relocation of the larger bass is an economically viable method of restocking the lakes.

Dr. Canfield said they had submitted the report to the LCWA and they continue to collect information provided by anglers who catch the tagged fish. With respect to the economics of relocation versus hatchery fish Dr. Canfield said that through his efforts they were able to stock fish in the lakes of the size that anglers like to catch and have a high survivability rate. In contrast, the hatchery fish have a much lower survivability rate and the hatchery is not able to produce the estimated 5 million fry per year that would be required to sufficiently restock Lake Griffin, he explained.

Dr. Canfield went on to discuss conditions in Lake Apopka saying that although chlorophyll levels in the lake have come down, they still remain above the 41 milligrams per liter (mg/l) which is considered as algal bloom conditions. He explained that in reviewing the historic water quality data collected by the SJRWMD during the period of 1995 – 2002, the lake received approximately 29 metric tonnes (32 tons) of phosphorus in runoff each year and both the District scientists and those in the UF community agree that approximately 14 – 15 metric tonnes (15.5 – 16.5 tons) can be attributed to runoff from the muck farms. Dr. Canfield explained that a goal for the lake is to reduce the nutrients in order to allow near-shore aquatic plants to flourish, which will in turn improve the sport fish populations. He said that the UF conducted a survey of Lake Apopka in late 2004 and estimated that the coverage of near-shore aquatic plants was equal to about 3% of the lake surface. He also said the number of plants that had been planted in the lakes had been greatly reduced, based on the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) locations provided. Dr. Canfield said when they surveyed the lake for fish populations, they noted a slight upward tick in populations of bass and other sport fish, but that the number of fish are about the same as they have been since the 1980s. The only increase they had noted was in the gizzard shad populations.

Dr. Canfield said they are continuing their gizzard shad studies on lakes Dora and Eustis. Additionally, he said that Mike Cowen (??) had attended a hydrilla conference recently and there is a report about the conference available on the LakeWatch website.

Dr. Canfield also briefly mentioned that Dr. Ed Philips (UF) is currently conducting a cyanobacteria toxin study in Hillsborough County and he is consulting Dr. Burkholder on the study.

No further agency updates were provided.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Comments

Councilman Kaiser asked permission of the Council to talk to either Siemens or General Electric Corporation and present the surface wind data he had received for Lake Apopka in order to evaluate the potential of use wind generated power at the Lake Apopka Marsh Floway (LAMF) and the NuRF.

V. Chairman Goerner said that he had heard that solar cells take approximately one-half the square footage of area to produce the same amount of electricity as wind powered generators.

Chairman Davis questioned the connection between wind generated power and the mission of the Council. Councilman Kaiser said that it not only has the potential to reduce operating costs of those facilities but also reduce the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere. Chairman Davis said that he didn't mind if Councilman Kaiser wanted to pursue his idea further. Councilman Powers said that he doesn't need the Council's permission to conduct a private research project.

Councilman Powers also said that he was no longer interested in receiving the video tape copies of the monthly meetings. Mr. Caputo asked how many Council members would like to continue receiving the video tapes. V. Chairman Goerner and Councilman Kaiser said they would like to continue receiving the tapes. Mr. Caputo said that since only two people would like to receive the recordings, he would check on the availability of providing them on DVDs.

Councilman Powers also suggested that the Council consider holding bimonthly meetings and to maintain a fuller agenda for those meetings. Mr. Caputo suggested the Council may want to consider holding the August – November meetings to work out the annual report. V. Chairman Goerner agreed that the Council should hold the next four monthly meetings, then make a decision for the number of meetings after the first of the year.

V. Chairman Goerner also said the Council should begin discussing the upcoming Legislative funding request and asked if Mr. Johnson could recommend someone from the FWCC to talk to the Council about the permitting requirements for relocating the larger

bass to the lakes. Extensive incidental discussions ensued regarding the philosophies of the FWCC on bass stocking and the desire of the Council to effectively restock the lakes.

Dr. Canfield suggested that the Council may want to invite Dr. Darryl Skovill and/or Dr. Jim Estes from the FWCC to discuss the matter of restocking permits further. V. Chairman Goerner asked that Mr. Johnson contact these gentlemen and ask if they would be available to attend the next meeting.

With respect to the future meeting schedule, Councilman Powers suggested that the Council should discuss their agenda and goals for 2006 during the November meeting, after the annual report has been approved.

There were no additional comments made by the Council.

Discussion of July 8, 2005 Meeting

Mr. Caputo provided a summary of scheduled agenda items for the July 8th Council meeting including:

- A discussion of the July Meeting Minutes
- A discussion of the draft annual report
- A presentation by FWCC on bass restocking permits
- A presentation by Dr. Larry Battoe on the TMDL program
- A presentation by Dr. Erich Marzolf and Mike Coveney of the SJRWMD on the Apopka – Beauclair issue
- An update on the Lake Level Fluctuation Program / Schedule by Dave Walker (SJRWMD)
- A discussion of the expenditure of the \$300,000 in legislative funding received and the upcoming funding request

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chairman Dave Davis

Secretary Thomas Cook, M.D.