

**FINAL**

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

**September 9, 2005**

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was held at 9:00 AM on September 9, 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  
W. Thomas Brooks  
Keith Farner  
Robert Kaiser, P.E.  
Don Nicholson

**Members Absent**

Thomas A. Cook, MD, Secretary  
Rick Powers, P.G.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dave Davis called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Invocation was given by Councilman Bob Kaiser, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Davis called roll. Secretary Tom Cook and Councilman Rick Powers were absent. Vice (V.) Chairman Skip Goerner notified the Council that Secretary Cook was recovering from kidney surgery after being diagnosed with cancer. He said that his recovery is going well.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A call was made for discussion of the minutes from the July 8, 2005 meeting. One minor edit was suggested. A vote to approve the July Meeting Minutes with the suggested edit passed unanimously.

A call was made for discussion of the minutes from the August 5, 2005 meeting. A motion made by Councilman Kaiser to approve the actions of the committee formed during the

August meeting due to a lack of a quorum, as outlined in the meeting minutes and discussed during the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote. No changes or edits were suggested to the August minutes. A vote to approve the August Meeting Minutes and the actions taken on behalf of the Council passed unanimously.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Quarterly Budget Reports – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters 2004-2005, Councilman Tom Brooks**

Councilman Tom Brooks gave a brief overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly budget reports for 2004 – 2005 fiscal year saying that as of August 30<sup>th</sup> there was an actual fund balance of \$31,783.17 with \$8,934 being owed to Berryman & Henigar, Inc. (BHI) for Recording Secretary services; leaving a balance of \$22,849.17 for Council business. A motion made by Councilman Brooks to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Budgets passed by unanimous vote.

Gene Caputo of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) also reminded the Council that if they wanted to retain the services of Marilyn Bachmann of the University of Florida (UF) to maintain the Council's website, that her contract expires with the Council on September 30<sup>th</sup> and would have to be renewed. After brief discussion of the matter, a motion to approve a \$1,500 contract for Ms. Bachmann's continued services passed by unanimous vote.

### **Recording Secretarial Services Contract Finalization**

Mr. Caputo notified the Council that Patrick Hunter who has been providing services as the Recording Secretary to the Council would be leaving Berryman & Henigar, Inc. (BHI), the consulting firm he currently works with and starting a new position with Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc. (Applied Sciences) on October 1, 2005. He explained that Applied Sciences had submitted a proposal for the continued services of Mr. Hunter and that after their review, the SJRWMD recommends approval of the proposal.

V. Chairman Goerner suggested that as a matter of good business, the Council should put the Recording Secretary contract out to bid for the next fiscal year. Mr. Caputo reminded the Council of the overlap period of October – November between contracts for the preparation of the Council's annual report. V. Chairman Goerner said the Council should advertise the contract early next year.

Councilman Keith Farner asked if the Council holds fewer meetings through the course of a year, would they still be billed for the whole amount of the contract. Mr. Hunter explained that the Council would only be billed for the number of meetings attended.

After extended discussion on the acquisition of BHI by Bureau Veritas, an international conglomerate, and Mr. Hunter's move to Applied Sciences; a motion to accept the contract for Recording Secretary services by Applied Sciences passed by unanimous vote.

Preliminary Draft of the 2005 Legislative Report

Mr. Caputo said that the agenda package provided to the Council included the excerpts from the monthly meetings which would be an appendix to the annual report, in addition to the summary of projects the Council agreed to support.

Mr. Hunter explained that the excerpts provided do not include the minutes from the July and August meetings because they had not yet been approved. He went on to say that a draft of the entire report would be delivered prior to the October meeting.

Councilman Farner asked if the Council members would be responding to the draft report by suggesting edits individually, as they did last year. The Council and Mr. Hunter agreed to this method of review for the annual report.

Mr. Hunter said that final draft of the report would be provided prior to the November meeting and if issues still remained, then an additional meeting to discuss the report could be scheduled in November.

Councilman Farner suggested that the accomplishments of the Council should be included in the report. The Council agreed.

Mr. Hunter asked if the Council preferred to have the appendices on a CD supplied with the report as was provided last year or would they prefer that hard copies of the appendices be included in the report. The Council agreed that the appendices could be supplied on a CD with the report. V. Chairman Goerner added that the Council received criticism from a local newspaper that last year's report contained relatively few pages as compared to the amount paid for the report.

V. Chairman Goerner said the Legislative Delegation thought that Mr. Hunter was doing a good job on the annual reports and he requested that Mr. Hunter provide additional detail to the issues discussed at the monthly meetings. Mr. Hunter agreed.

2006 Council Plan, Programs, Projects, and Funding

The Council openly discussed the various projects that have been presented during their monthly meetings including; bass restocking, Lake Griffin access canal dredging, Lake Beauclair dredging, and the Apopka-Beauclair Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF). The discussions included the level of funding received and the amounts set aside by the sponsoring agencies. V. Chairman Goerner suggested that due to the multi-year duration for the larger projects, the Council could consider putting forth funding requests for those projects in consecutive years.

Mike Perry, Executive Director of the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) explained that to date, the LCWA Board of Trustees has not yet approved the NuRF and Lake Beauclair restoration projects, although they support and want to move forward with them.

Chairman Davis opened the Council to discussion of the projects for which the Council supports and will include in their Legislative funding request. The first project discussed was the Lake Griffin access canal dredging which the Council agreed to support. Mr. Perry said the LCWA would be able to provide matching funds to a request of \$2 million in order to complete the dredging. Chairman Davis put forth a motion to include \$2 million in their Legislative request for the access canal dredging. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Davis then opened the Council to a discussion of aquatic plant revegetation. V. Chairman Goerner said that revegetation is an important component of lake restoration that should be continued. He explained that the Council would prepare a funding initiative as they did last year that includes funding for several of the projects the support, which would be separate from their request for the access canal dredging.

Councilman Brooks asked how the funds of the initiative would be disbursed. Dave Walker (SJRWMD) explained that the funds would come to the water management district and either they could perform the work themselves or they could issue the funds to the LCWA and other agencies like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to perform the work. He said the Council would direct how the funds are disbursed.

V. Chairman Goerner said that in the past the Council's Legislative requests have been successful because they have been able to develop funding partners with the LCWA. He asked Mr. Perry if the LCWA would be able to match \$150,000 for revegetation efforts if the Council includes that amount in their initiative. Mr. Perry said yes.

Bill Johnson (FWCC) said that the aquatic plant surveys they have conducted on the Harris Chain of Lakes (HCOL) indicate that the aquatic vegetation coverage is good and his agency is only proposing to spend \$89,000 on those efforts next year. He suggested that funding the Council receives could be used for revegetation of the muck farms or other SJRWMD properties. V. Chairman Goerner agreed. Councilman Brooks put forth a motion to request \$150,000 for revegetation which passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Davis opened the Council to discussion of supporting the NuRF project. V. Chairman Goerner expressed his opinion that the Council should not support projects that have not been formally approved by the sponsoring agency. Although, he said that if the Council receives funding for the access canal dredging, that will offset funds the LCWA has set aside for the dredging, which they could then use for the NuRF and other projects.

A motion for the Council to not support the NuRF project with a funding request during the current Legislative session passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Davis then opened the Council to a discussion of supporting bass restocking in the HCOL. V. Chairman Goerner said that he believes bass restocking to be an important element of the restoration program. Councilman Farnier asked whether creel counts in the

lakes indicate the need for additional restocking. Mr. Johnson said that the FWCC has conducted creel counts in some of the lakes but not all of them. He explained that the majority of their efforts have focused on the gizzard shad harvests and studying the benefits of those efforts.

Dr. Dan Canfield of the UF and a member of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the Council said that in his opinion, the bass restocking efforts should continue for one or two more years in Lake Griffin while the FWCC evaluates the shad removal and fish stocking data. He added that Orange County has expressed an interest in a restocking program for Lake Apopka.

Chairman Davis asked if Dr. Canfield plans to continue his restocking efforts for more than two years into the future, to which he replied that he did.

Councilman Farner asked if creel counts that have been conducted indicate a need for restocking other lakes in the chain. Dr. Canfield explained that the population of fish in the other lakes in the chain besides Lake Griffin, are at minimal levels and restocking would improve those levels and aid in restoring the lakes.

Mr. Johnson reminded the Council that the renovations at the Richloam Fish Hatchery could be considered as part of the restocking efforts. He added that if a request included both the restocking and support of the fish hatchery, the Council could decide at a later date the amounts to be applied to each.

Councilman Brooks put forth a motion that the Council request \$300,000 for bass restocking and support of the Richloam Fish Hatchery. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Davis opened the Council to a discussion supporting mosquito and aquatic plant control.

V. Chairman Goerner asked Mr. Perry whether investing in a mechanical harvester could be beneficial for aquatic plant management and possibly managing the channeled apple snails in the lakes. Mr. Perry explained that mechanical harvesters would most likely not be effective in controlling the channeled apple snails. He also reminded the Council that mechanical harvesting is non-selective in that it will remove anything in its path. Mr. Perry cautioned that a harvester has annual operations and maintenance costs, in addition to the cost of purchasing one.

Councilman Farner asked how much it costs to contract a harvester to do work. Mr. Perry said that typically harvesting a small area costs in the range of \$10,000 – \$15,000.

Mr. Walker said that the SJRWMD will begin testing a suction dredge to harvest aquatic plants in the next several months. He explained that plant material is collected in a “sock”

for disposal and it may be effective for controlling hydrilla. Mr. Walker said that testing would begin in the Emeralda Marsh to evaluate its use in the lakes.

Dr. Canfield added that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is reviewing the use of a harvester in Lake County for when the lake level fluctuation program begins. He said that if LakeWatch personnel were to operate the harvester, there would be substantial savings over the \$4,000 – \$5,000 per acre that it costs to contract a harvester. Dr. Canfield also mentioned that Gary Warren (FWCC) is working with Shirley Baker (UF) in the study of channeled apple snails.

V. Chairman Goerner said that from his experiences, harvesters are very effective in managing hydrilla in the canals. He believes that spraying the hydrilla and allowing the plant material to settle on the bottom would cause additional problems and could lead to the need to dredge the canals again.

Councilman Kaiser asked how much a harvester would cost. V. Chairman Goerner said a used one could cost \$10,000 – \$15,000 and the cost of maintenance would not be all that substantial.

Councilman Brooks asked if harvesters only cost \$10,000 – \$15,000, why have neither the FWCC nor the LCWA bought a harvester in the past. Mr. Perry explained that the LCWA is not directly involved with aquatic plan management; that work is conducted by Lake County Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Control. He said that Lake County prefers the use of herbicides over mechanical harvesting.

Dr. Canfield added that the FDEP has spent \$1.5 million mechanically harvesting hydrilla on Lake Orange, a 12,000 acre lake north of the HCOL.

After further discussion the Council decided that additional information on mechanical harvesting would be needed and agreed that a funding request to assist Lake County in their efforts would be appropriate. A motion to support Lake County Mosquito and Aquatic Plant Control with a \$150,000 funding request passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Davis opened the Council to a discussion about supporting cyanobacteria monitoring. After a brief discussion it was determined that there had been no contact made with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) by Dr. Cook due to his illness, so it was unclear as to who would conduct the monitoring. Councilman Farner put forth a motion to table the discussion on this issue until the October meeting, which passed by unanimous vote.

V. Chairman Goerner requested that Mr. Caputo call Secretary Cook to ask if he would contact the FDOH. V. Chairman Goerner said that if Secretary Cook couldn't make the contact, that he would. Mr. Caputo agreed.

Chairman Davis asked the Council members if there were any additional matters that they would like to discuss with respect to their Legislative request. V. Chairman Goerner asked that the Council discuss the SJRWMD Funding Initiative, provided earlier at the meeting; at the October meeting. The Council agreed.

Mr. Caputo suggested the Council issue a resolution that would approve the transfer of the \$1 million they received from the Legislature for the access canal dredging. He then put forth Resolution No. 2005-1; A RESOLUTION OF THE HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL REQUESTING THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO TRANSFER \$1,000,000 IN 2005 STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CANAL ACCESS DREDGING EFFORTS ON LAKE GRIFFIN. A motion to approve the Resolution passed by unanimous vote. A copy of the resolution is provided as Attachment 1 of these minutes.

Mr. Walker explained that the SJRWMD has already transferred \$1.8 million to the LCWA and they will match the \$1 million from the Council appropriations, which would bring the total to \$3.8 million for the access canal dredging. He then suggested that the Council should consider preparing another resolution for the disbursement of the additional \$300,000 in funding received from the Florida Legislature. After brief discussion, a motion to prepare the resolution passed by unanimous vote.

#### Channeled Apple Snail

Mr. Caputo provided a written summary of the channeled apple snail, prepared by Gary Warren (FWCC) in the agenda packet for this meeting. The Council said that they would review the written summary. A copy of that summary is provided as Attachment 2 of these minutes.

Chairman Davis leaves the meeting.

#### Upper Ocklawaha River Basin State Funding Initiative

Mr. Walker gave an overview of the SJRWMD Draft Upper Ocklawaha River Basin State Funding Initiative saying that there had been a slight change in priorities since last year's initiative which included making the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) their second priority, as opposed to their third priority last year. He said that they have analyzed the proposed dredging or modifications to the Dora canal and have determined that a more viable solution to alleviate elevated water levels in Lake Dora would be to hold more water in the NSRA and release it more slowly to the canal. Mr. Walker then outlined all of the projects in their initiative based on priority:

- 1.) Enhanced Lake Level Fluctuations and Lake Management
- 2.) Restoration of the North Shore of Lake Apopka
- 3.) Apopka-Beauclair Canal Nutrient Reduction
- 4.) Control of Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation
- 5.) Nutrient Loading Reduction (for waters released from the NSRA)

- 6.) Lake Beauclair Aquatic Enhancement
- 7.) Wetland and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
- 8.) Habitat Restoration – Planting of Desirable Vegetation on Lake Apopka
- 9.) Silver River / Half Mile Creek Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan;  
and as a subproject,
- 10.) Development of Pollutant Load Reduction Goals for the Harris Chain of  
Lakes

After a discussion of the proposed methods of managing flows down the Apopka-Beauclair (A-B) Canal, Councilman Brooks asked if the purpose of Mr. Walker's presentation was to decide whether the Council was going to support or reject the initiative. V. Chairman Goerner said yes and that the Council needs some time to review the initiative. He noted that the draft initiative did not provide dollar amounts the SFRWMD was going to request for each of the projects. Mr. Walker said the amounts would be provided at the October Council meeting.

Councilman Kaiser suggested that the upgrades to the City of Leesburg wastewater systems had progressed to the point that they may no longer need updated to the Council. V. Chairman Goerner agreed and requested that Councilman Kaiser write a letter to that effect to be included in the annual report. Councilman Kaiser agreed.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

No formal presentations were given at the meeting.

### Agency Updates

Mr. Walker gave an update on the various projects the SJRWMD is involved with for the HCOL:

- Most recent water quality data for Lake Apopka indicates that phosphorus concentrations are 70 parts per billion (ppb) for the whole lake and 62 ppb in the center of the lake.
- A fifth discharge pump is being installed at the Lake Apopka Marsh Flow-way (LAMF) to increase flows out of the system during the rainy season. Since operation of the flow-way began, it has removed 1.4 metric tonnes of phosphorus, although there is an increased discharge of phosphorus in the summer.
- They continue to manage flows from the NSRA to decrease phosphorus in the discharges using alum treatment.
- They are completing work on the reconnection of the Emerald Marsh and Knights-North property by the end of this fiscal year. Early next fiscal year they will begin planting the areas where they have degraded the levees, in order to make the reconnection.

- The Sunnyhill Restoration Project continues to move forward. Two years ago the SJRWMD entered into a project cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) to assist in the funding of the restoration. However, the ACoE has never provided any funds and that agreement has been cancelled. The SJRWMD has entered into a new agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide matching funds for a scaled-down version of the project.
- The Double Run Swamp storage project is not currently moving forward because the surface elevation of the Double Run Swamp is approximately three feet higher than Lake Apopka which makes it difficult to discharge water from the lake and into the swamp. The current water level in Lake Apopka has an elevation of 67 feet and portions of the levee in the NSRA have an elevation 68.5 feet, while the water level at Double Run Swamp is at 70 feet of elevation, making it difficult to discharge water into it from Lake Apopka.

Councilman Nicholson expressed his concerns that with the forecasted frequency of hurricanes which may be expected over the next several years, there should be a plan to release water from Lake Apopka and store it in the Double Run Swamp. Mr. Walker explained that the SJRWMD has not identified a viable connection to the Double Run Swamp and it would take a large earthwork project to build a canal which could manage the flows. He said that they continue to look for solutions.

- The Harris Bayou project is progressing and they expect to complete permitting of the project this fiscal year and then construct it next fiscal year. Mr. Walker said that this project will provide improved water management for the upstream lakes in the chain.

Councilman Nicholson asked if the area received above average rainfall over the next 10 years, would the SJRWMD be able to manage the water in a manner that would be safe for area residents. Mr. Walker explained that they have substantial control over water levels in the lakes and if necessary, they could release large volumes of water from Lake Griffin through Moss Bluff. Additionally, he said the Harris Bayou will allow a greater flow of water into the Lake Griffin basin. When it comes to safety he explained, that this area would be safer than the area around the Clairmont Chain of Lakes, although he could not confirm that there would never be flooding around the HCOL.

Councilman Nicholson then asked whether the suction dredge method of aquatic plant control would also remove any of the bottom sediments or muck with the plants. Mr. Walker explained that suction dredging will target large stands of nuisance vegetation and removing muck is not part of that plan. He reminded the Council that they will begin testing of the suction dredge later this year. V. Chairman Goerner asked that the Council be updated on the success of the suction dredging. Mr. Walker agreed.

Mr. Johnson began his portion of the Agency Updates by offering to invite Gary Warren (FWCC) to give a presentation to the Council on channeled apple snails. He reminded the Council that Mr. Warren is the author of the summary on the snails provided in the meeting agenda packet. The Council agreed to make a decision of a possible presentation on the subject after reviewing the information provided.

Mr. Johnson then said that they were completing a block-net count of fish within the lakes and he will provide that data when it becomes available.

Councilman Farner asked if there are any nuisance species in the lakes that the Council should be concerned about. Mr. Johnson said that they are seeing an increased number of exotic species of both plants and animals that have been released by people who had purchased them in pet shops. He said that this issue is a growing problem, but did not elaborate on any particular species.

Dr. Canfield provided an update saying that Ed Philips (UF) and others are monitoring lakes in Tampa for toxic algae and the work is being funded by the Hillsborough County Stormwater Division. He said that Dr. JoAnn Burkholder of North Carolina State University is also involved in the study. Dr. Canfield then said that the study of toxic algae in Florida lakes is gaining momentum and that the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) is hosting a week of discussion on the subject during their annual conference later in the year.

Dr. Canfield also told the Council that the release of a “white paper” written on aquatic plant management after a meeting of experts from around the State has caught the attention of the FDEP. He explained that the FDEP is currently organizing another meeting with the same experts to present the information to them formally in October. At issue is that aquatic plants like hydrilla are becoming resistant to herbicides currently being used and other methods of control need to be found. Dr. Canfield explained that due to environmental concerns, over the past 15 to 20 years the industry has gone from spraying multi-action herbicides to single-action herbicides which only target one species. He said the plants appear to become resistant to the single-action chemicals faster than originally thought.

Councilman Farner asked if there was any ongoing research on the use of grass carp to manage hydrilla. Dr. Canfield explained that grass carp are being used in some lakes but only limited funding is available to study how to remove the fish after they are introduced into the lakes.

Mr. Perry provided an update on the progress of the Lake Griffin access canal dredging saying they have completed canals 9A and 9B, and are currently working on 9C. V. Chairman Goerner asked whether an eagle nesting in the vicinity of the canal where he lives will delay dredging in that area. Mr. Perry said they are working with the FWCC to make a determination if the dredging would be disruptive to the eagle.

Mr. Perry then asked the Council to caution boaters to remain clear of the dredge and dredging operation. Councilman Farner asked if there was any information about the dredging posted at local boat ramps. Mr. Perry said no, but thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Perry continued his update saying that the NuRF project should complete the final design and permitting stages by the end of the next fiscal year. He reiterated that the LCWA Board of Trustees has endorsed moving forward with the project, even though they have not voted to approve it.

He also notified the Council that the lakes cleanup program scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> had been postponed until Spring 2006. He said this was done because President George Bush had requested that Americans conserve fuel in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Perry also mentioned that the LCWA and other agencies are minimizing their travel in an effort to conserve gasoline.

Barbara Bess (FDEP) notified the Council of an upcoming Meeting on the Total Maximum Daily Load program on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Leesburg Cultural Arts Center. She said that Jim Sansalone, a professor of Environmental Engineering at the UF will be giving a presentation on stormwater management systems that the Council may benefit from.

In answer to a question asked by Councilman Nicholson a couple of months ago, Ms. Bess explained that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in conjunction with the SJRWMD are reviewing methods for locating springs in the state of Florida. She explained that they are using topographic maps to identify features outside of the area underlain by the impermeable Hawthorne Layer, which may indicate the presence of springs. Ms. Bess said that if possible springs are located, there is sometimes opposition from property owners to allow government personnel to survey the spring and other natural resources in the area.

Councilman Nicholson said that his concern is that there may be numerous springs that are either submerged in lakes or closed due to sedimentation for which the State has no record. Ms. Bess said she would research the issue further.

Ms. Bess also said that she had contacted the FDEP in Tallahassee to discuss possible sources of funding for the Council. She said that other than the 319 Grant Program which is used for earthmoving and construction projects, there was really no funding available through the FDEP for studies. She suggested that the Council may want to consider requesting funding from the Legislature for the blue-green (toxic) algae study proposed by the Council.

Ms. Bess then mentioned that with respect to channeled apple snails, she had recently heard about a fisherman in Highlands County who had released some of the snail eggs into a lake with the hopes of improving fishing in that lake. She agreed with Councilman Farner that there should be an increased effort to educate the public on the environmental effects of releasing exotics into the wild.

Ms. Bess also provided a brief update on the FDEP funded projects for the HCOL saying the LCWA is completing construction of the exfiltration system for the Mid Florida Lakes Mobile Home Park, for which the FDEP provided \$17,000. She also said the SJRWMD is in the process of acquiring a portable alum treatment system, using the \$80,000 provided by the FDEP.

No further agency updates were provided.

## **7. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

### Council Member Comments

V. Chairman Goerner discussed fishing tournaments on the lakes saying that ESPN would like to bring two additional tournaments to the HCOL. He also said that after two years of trying to contact them, FLW Outdoors called him that morning to discuss hosting a bass tournament on the lakes in 2007. V. Chairman Goerner explained that the FLW tournaments are typically bigger than the ESPN tournaments and together they bring substantial revenue to the area.

V. Chairman Goerner introduced the proposed appointment of Richard Royal as Ex-officio to the Council saying that the Council members have received and reviewed his resume / credentials. He then put forth a motion to appoint Mr. Royals as Ex-Officio to the Council. The motion was seconded and without further discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Councilman Kaiser asked Charles Clark (who was an ex-Council member attending the meeting as a private citizen) if he would be willing to serve as an interim Ex-Officio member of the Council while they sought a replacement for his position. Mr. Clark declined saying he was still of the same opinion about the Council as he was when he resigned. Mr. Clark did not elaborate further.

There were no additional comments made by the Council members.

### Discussion of October 7, 2005 Meeting

Mr. Caputo provided a summary of scheduled agenda items for the September 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting including:

- An election of Council officers for the next two-year term
- A discussion / approval of the September Meeting Minutes
- A discussion of the draft annual report
- A presentation / discussion of the Resolution transferring \$300,000 to the LCWA
- A presentation by Ed Taylor proposing fishing tournaments on the HCOL
- Further discussion on the Council funding initiative

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Canfield provided comments on decadal oscillations of weather patterns saying that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website offers maps tracking all of the Category 3 hurricanes that made landfall in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He noted that after the hurricane of 1928 which hit Okeechobee, that the levees were built around that lake. Then he said in the 1940s there were eight Category 3 storms, one of which flooded Orlando that lead to the dredging of the Kissimmee River. He said that Hurricane Donna struck Florida in 1960 and until Hurricane Andrew in 1992, there was only one major hurricane that hit the State. Dr. Canfield said that the frequency of these storms is increasing and may continue for 20 or more years into the future, and that this is something the Council and others should consider when discussing water management issues.

No other public comments were made.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Chairman Dave Davis

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Secretary Thomas Cook, M.D.

**Attachment 1**

**Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council**

**Resolution No. 2005-1**

5-D  
9-9-05

# **HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL**

## **RESOLUTION No. 2005-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL REQUESTING THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO TRANSFER \$1,000,000 IN 2005 STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO THE LAKE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CANAL ACCESS DREDGING EFFORTS ON LAKE GRIFFIN.**

**WHEREAS**, the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was created under Chapter 2001-246, Laws of Florida, and has the responsibility of recommending a restoration program for the Harris Chain of Lakes in Lake County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council had determined that an important component of restoration activities is the creation of a new management program that will allow lake levels to fluctuate within a broader range, and

**WHEREAS**, such a broader fluctuation program will cause a temporary lowering of lake levels that may inhibit lake access, and

**WHEREAS**, the dredging of access canals will provide improved boating access and public support, and

**WHEREAS**, the Lake County Water Authority has completed that design of, and has received a permit for the dredging of access canals on Lake Griffin, and

**WHEREAS**, the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council submitted a Community Budget Issue Request for canal access dredging needs to the 2005 Florida Legislature, and

**WHEREAS**, the 2005 Florida Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 to fulfill this request to the St. Johns River Water Management District for restoration of the Harris Chain of Lakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council hereby requests that the St. Johns River Water Management District transfer the above referenced \$1,000,000 in 2005 state appropriations to the Lake County Water Authority for the purpose of canal access dredging on Lake Griffin.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2005.

Harris Chain of Lakes  
Restoration Council

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
(Hugh Davis)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment 2**

**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

**Gary Warren**

**The Channeled Apple Snail in Florida**

SE  
9-9-05

## The Channeled Apple Snail in Florida

### Introduction

Recently the Channeled Apple Snail (*Pomacea canaliculata* group) has been receiving much media attention in Florida. This large, nonindigenous, freshwater snail is a native of South America and was most likely released in the in the early 1980s by persons in the tropical aquarium pet industry in the canal systems south of Lake Okeechobee. FWC biologists first observed these snails in 1987 and within the last ten years populations have rapidly expanded throughout the state. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Community Services (DOACS) has documented the spread of the snail from south Florida to as far north and west as Tallahassee. Large populations have been found near highly populated urban centers including Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee and FWC biologists believe they were established due to releases or escapes from aquariums and culture tanks. In addition to Florida, introductions have occurred in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Arizona, California, and Hawaii.

### Identification and Biology

Currently, three apple snail species are known to occur in Florida, only one of which, the Florida Apple Snail (*Pomacea paludos*), is native. The Channeled Apple Snail is distinguished from the others by deeply incised grooves, or channels, on the shell. The primary diet consists of rooted aquatic vegetation. Channeled Apple Snails have rapid growth rates and relatively short lifespans (approximately 12 to 16 months). Apple snails have separate male and female sexes. Mating and egg-laying begins in March and can continue through September. Females emerge from the water, usually at night, to lay bright pink egg masses containing approximately 200 eggs on stable substrates such as tree trunks, pilings, or seawalls. Unlike the native apple snail (which lay one white egg mass per season), females of the Channeled Apple Snail can lay many egg masses throughout the reproductive season. They are tolerant of a broad range of environmental conditions and it appears colder temperatures may prevent their spread into temperate latitudes. In response to adverse conditions apple snails may burrow into sediments, seal their shells with a large operculum, and remain isolated from their surroundings in this condition for several months.

### Potential Impacts

Although populations appear to grow unchecked, natural predators in Florida exist including limpkins, everglades kites, and alligators. In addition, redear sunfish most likely consume smaller immature snails. Impacts of Channeled Apple Snails in Florida aquatic ecosystems have not been scientifically determined, but damage to beds of rooted aquatic vegetation is a possibility. Significant damage to rice and taro fields in the Pacific islands and southeast Asia has been documented; however, no damage attributable solely to Channel Apple Snails has been noted in Florida, even with their presence in-state stretching back over 20 years. Eradication using chemicals has been

researched and attempted, however no effective chemical treatment has been developed to-date. Currently, the most effective control methods are hand or mechanical removal of snails and egg masses. Egg masses can be scraped off and allowed to fall into the water since eggs inundated with water will not hatch. **Only pink egg masses should be scraped or removed.** The larger white egg masses of the native Florida Apple Snail should be left undisturbed. **At no time should Channeled Apple Snails from aquaria be released in the wild!**

### **Agency Position**

Channeled Apple Snails are non-indigenous to Florida and have been present in the state for over 20 years. They are a potential threat to our aquatic ecosystems, although no serious impacts have yet to be documented. Their greatest impact appears to be how they interact and possibly disrupt populations of native Florida Apple Snails, and FWC will be conducting research in this area. The agency stresses to the public the illegality of releasing captive snails from aquaria into the wild and if control measures of snail eggs is attempted that care be taken to destroy only those pink egg masses of exotic Channeled Apple Snails.

### **FWC Contact**

Questions regarding Channeled Apple Snails or requests for assistance with snail identification should be directed to:

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