

HUGH A. DAVIS, II, CHAIRMAN
HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL
9161 SILVER LAKE DRIVE
LEEBSURG, FL 34748
(352) 326-3455

November 20, 2008

The Honorable Ray Sansom
Speaker, The Florida House of Representatives
420 Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: November 25, 2008 Report to the Florida Legislature from The Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council.

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to submit to you the enclosed Annual Report to the Legislature from the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council, in accordance with Chapter 2001-246, Laws of Florida.

The waterbodies that make up the Harris Chain of Lakes lie primarily within Lake County, but they are of regional and statewide significance because they form the headwaters of the Ocklawaha River. Lake County's character, economic vitality, and attractiveness to visitors and residents (not to mention its name) are largely defined by the lakes that make up the Harris Chain. Historically, our recreational opportunities, our tourism industry, and our high quality of life were driven and supported by the clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and scenic vistas that characterized our lakes. The Harris Chain was recognized throughout the nation and beyond as a top destination for those seeking the highest quality Largemouth Bass and Black Crappie fisheries.

The council has a good mix of backgrounds and expertise, and we have had many spirited debates about the complex projects and proposals that have been presented to us. The attached Report summarizes the information we have gathered so far, lists the conclusions we have reached, includes several recommendations, and identifies restoration efforts that should receive funding.

The Council wishes to express its gratitude for the administrative and financial support of the Lake County Water Authority, the St. Johns River Water Management District, and the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.

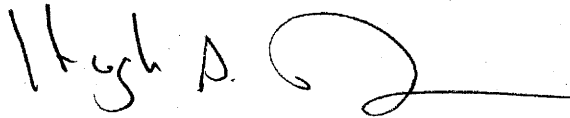
We are also grateful for the technical advisory staff support from the University of Florida, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Department of

Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The work of the Council is ongoing. We will continue to work closely with our technical advisors and the Legislature to further our understanding of the issues related to restoration of the Harris Chain of Lakes, and to further develop a plan to return the lakes to their rightful position of environmental and economic importance.

We look forward to your review of this Annual Report, and are ready to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

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Hugh A. Davis, II, Chairman
Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council

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The Honorable Jeff Atwater
President, The Florida Senate
Suite 409, The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

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