

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

September 6, 2013

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was held at **9:00 a.m.** on **September 6, 2013** at the Lake County Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

Members Present

Skip Goerner, Vice Chairman
Sid Grow
Roberts (Bob) Johnson
Keith Truenow
Lloyd Woosley

Members Absent

Hugh (Dave) Davis, II, Chairman
Richard (Rick) Powers, P.G., Secretary
Don Nicholson
Edward Schlein, M.D.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Goerner called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Goerner called for a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL; REMINDER FOR OTHERS TO SIGN IN

Vice Chairman Goerner called the roll. Chairman Davis, Councilman Powers, Councilman Nicholson and Councilman Schlein were absent. Councilman Truenow arrived shortly after the start of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 4, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- February 1, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- March 1, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- June 7, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- August 2, 2013 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Grow abstained.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Hendrick, Clean to Green, Inc., stated that the Council's draft annual report contained inaccuracies relative to dredging project that Clean to Green, Inc. was responsible for at Magnolia Park. He continued and stated that he will send the Clean to Green, Inc., project report via email to Kraig McLane to pass along to the Council. Mr. Hendrick requested to present his report to the Council at the October meeting. Councilman Woosley noted that he had recommended substantial changes to that section of the draft annual report that addressed the Magnolia Park dredging project. The council requested that a copy of the revised draft annual report be provided to Mr. Hendrick so that he could review the changes and provide any recommended edits.

6. PRESENTATIONS / ACTIONS

Dave Walker, Basin Program Manager, Bureau of Project Management, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) gave a presentation on water resource conditions. He stated that his presentation would review lake levels, water quality and an overview of minimum flows and levels. Mr.

Walker stated the Moss Bluff, Apopka Lock and Dam and the Burrell structures have had zero discharge since April 2012. He continued and stated that there has been over 20 inches of rain since June 1 that has caused the levels to rise. Lakes Eustis, Harris and Dora are at the minimum desirable levels. Lake Griffin is close to the minimum desirable level, but Lake Apopka remains a foot below the minimum desirable level. Lake Apopka, Superpond Lakes, and Lake Griffin have risen 1.5 feet since May. The lake stages are beginning to return and the lake levels have not been this high in a while. NOAA's three-month outlook of December 2013 - February 2014 is predicting a dry winter and lake levels could be affected. He continued and stated that the adoption process for minimum flows and levels (MFL) may begin in February 2014. The lake level regulation schedules will be developed in parallel.

Mr. Walker also provided an up-date on water-quality conditions for the Chain of Lakes at the September Council meeting. He noted that total phosphorus (TP) levels for lakes Dora, Eustis, Harris, and Griffin started coming down in May before the summer rains. The TP level in Lake Griffin in August is about 38 parts per billion (ppb); the TMDL target for the lake is 32 ppb. TP levels in Lake Dora are close to the TMDL target of 31 ppb and TP levels in Lake Harris are 17 ppb, below the TMDL target of 26 ppb. TP levels in Lake Eustis are 21 ppb, below the TMDL target of 25 ppb. Compared to the TP concentrations reported in the BMAP, *chlorophyll-a* levels in Lakes Dora, Eustis and Griffin are lower, whereas, the *chlorophyll-a* levels in Lakes Apopka and Harris are higher. There are algal bloom conditions occurring in September, particularly in Lakes Dora and Harris. Mr. Walker stated that a combination of factors cause this with the long retention times of water in the lakes being the most important factor. He concluded that the basin is showing major improvement with water levels and water quality.

- Responding to questions from the Council, Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, stated that water-quality samples are taken at mid-depth at each lake sampling station and currently, samples are being collected at only one station in all the lakes each month except for Lake Apopka where three stations are sampled each month. Historically sampling was conducted at several stations in each lake.

Vice Chairman Goerner stated that single location testing is not acceptable protocol to determine anything. Councilman Woosley stated that trend analysis could be conducted using single site data, but diagnostic analyses would be limited. Concerns were expressed about the reduction in water-quality data for the Chain of Lakes adversely affecting future assessments of water-quality conditions and trends.

- He continued and stated that the annual report needs to address this issue.
- Vice Chairman Goerner stated that SJRWMD usually provides the Council a list of what is needed for their report. He continued and stated that the report needs to reflect that more funding is needed to test and monitor more areas of the lakes. The Council agrees that full sampling sites should be reestablished.

Steve Fitzgibbons, Intergovernmental Planner, SJRWMD, reviewed the draft Harris Chain of Lake Restoration Council 2013 Report to the Florida Legislature. He stated that the draft report being presented to the Council included Councilman Woosley's recommended revisions. Each section of the report was presented by Mr. Fitzgibbons and discussed in detail by the Council.

- Vice Chairman Goerner requested that the Council be provided with paper copies of the draft report and for the report to contain track changes that identifies whom any edits were made by.

- Councilman Grow stated that he wants to see more information about the mechanical harvester in the executive summary. The Council reviewed the section of report that addressed the harvester and draft recommendation. The council discussed the level of detail that should be reflected in the body of the report verse the executive summary.
- Vice Chairman Goerner stated that state statutes require Technical Advisory Group members to have a representative at all Harris Council Meetings. The Council discussed in detail the need for a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) representative to be present at council meetings.
- Councilman Woosley stated that he would like hydrographs of the Lake Level Regulation Schedule Scenario A and A1 to be included in the report. Mr. Fitzgibbons provided the Council with illustrations of Scenario A and A1 from the Council's 2012 annual report and noted that these figures would be included in the next version of the draft report.
- Councilman Grow requested that the report contain a map of the chain of lakes. Discussion followed about identifying the area known as the Superpond on the map.
- Councilman Johnson stated that the report should show that the Council does not support a national wildlife refuge in the North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA). The Council reviewed the section of the draft report that addressed the NSRA and discussed changes to the recommendation to indicate that the Council does not support the establishment of a federal wildlife refuge in the NSRA. Mr. Fitzgibbons indicated that he would insert a transition sentence into the body of the report that relates to the revised recommendation.
- Councilman Johnson discussed whether the annual report should include a recommendation to use money from the trust fund for a mechanical harvester. The Council discussed whether a specific account or funding source needed to be identified by the council or whether such a decision was more appropriately made by the legislature.
- Dave Walker, SJRWMD stated that the remaining legislative funding is being used by FWC on several Lake Apopka efforts, including habitat creation and wave attenuation. He continued and stated that the habitat creation and wave attenuation projects include using a 24-acre area of lake bottom as a deposit site for sand-filled Geo-tubes. Mr. Walker stated that SJRWMD would be involved with a navigation improvement project the includes better boat access and a public dock. He continued and stated that there are also plans for more fish attractors and planting areas.
- Vice Chairman Goerner stated that he would work on the draft report and have suggestions for the next meeting.

7. COUNCIL & AGENCY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Mike Perry, LCWA updated the Council on the rainfall surplus and/or deficit. As of August 2013, Lake County is still five inches below average. He continued and stated that the Council has funds within the LCWA budget.
- Christianne Ferraro, DEP, updated the Council on the Ocklawaha BMAP 5th annual meeting that will be held in early October. She stated that the TMDL's will be discussed for area lakes. Ms. Ferraro briefly discussed the water quality numeric nutrient criteria.
- Walt Godwin, SJRWMD, stated that the lakes are improving.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Comments

Councilman Woosley stated that he could call-in for report approval purposes, but he will not be at the November meeting.

Councilman Johnson stated that he would not be at the November meeting and would not be able to call into the meeting.

Councilman Grow asked that the report be reviewed and voted on first at the next meeting due to the fact that he would have to leave early.

B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting:

Kraig McLane stated that there is a possibility to call-in for a vote of the annual report.

Kraig McLane stated that presentations that can be slated for the next few months would be Lake Apopka legislative funding update by FWC and a joint presentation by Mike Allen, UF and Dennis Renfro, FWC to provide an update on large mouth bass stocking.

Vice Chairman Goerner stated that those reports should take place after the Council has finished the annual report review and finalization. He continued and stated that October meeting agenda should include the annual report and a presentation from Robert Hendrick, Clean to Green, Inc.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.