

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

October 4, 2013

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was held at 9:00 a.m. on October 4, 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
Don Nicholson
Keith Truenow
Lloyd Woosley

Members Absent

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Goerner called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Nicholson gave the invocation. 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 and Councilman Schlein were absent.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 6, 2013, meeting minutes were approved as amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

6. PRESENTATIONS / ACTIONS

- Dennis Renfro, Fisheries Biologist, Florida Wildlife and Conservation Commission (FWC) gave a Lake Apopka legislative funding and project update. Mr. Renfro stated that the on-going projects include planting desirable aquatic plants and installing fish attractors. The projects under development include the north shore habitat creation, brush wave attenuators and largemouth bass stocking. Mr. Renfro stated that the goal is to increase quality fish and wildlife habitat by expanding the coverage of desirable aquatic plants and habitat. In order to achieve these goals FWC has planted approximately 317,000 bulrush and 29,984 spatterdock plants to date and an additional 120,800 bulrush and 65,000 spatterdock plants are scheduled to be planted in fall 2013 and spring 2014. Mr. Renfro's presentation included pictures of the locations of planting on the north shore of Lake Apopka, the planting scheme and the planting of bulrush and spatterdock planting zones. He stated that 41.25 acres of brush fish attractors were installed in Lake Apopka during 2013. His presentation showed an overall view of fish attractor sites on Lake Apopka, which included the northern, southern, and western shorelines of Lake

Apopka. Mr. Renfro stated that the north shore habitat creation project would create a desirable depth and substrate to support submersed aquatic vegetation along the north shore of Lake Apopka. The presentation included diagrams showing the project areas littoral area with and without fill material. Mr. Renfro stated that another project under development by FWC includes the utilization of woody brush structures to attenuate wave energy and allow increase plant survival and expansion. This project is being coordinated with the north shore habitat creation project. The presentation included maps showing the proposed area for brush wave attenuators and design of the wave attenuator and fish attractor. Mr. Renfro stated that another project under development by FWC includes largemouth bass stocking in Lake Apopka. Mr. Renfro stated that Dr. Mike Allen, University of Florida (UF) will evaluate current information and collect additional data to determine the timing for stocking largemouth bass. He continued and stated that the phase II stocking of largemouth bass will begin in the spring of 2014. The presentation included a picture of the operation for coded wire tagging of largemouth bass.

- Mike Allen, Ph.D., UF discussed largemouth bass stocking. He stated that the largemouth bass stocking will be done with hatchery fish. FWC and UF will tag and stock the fish. UF will evaluate what happens to the fish over a five-year period. Dr. Allen indicated that the stocking method being implemented has worked in Lake Talquin (west of Tallahassee) with great success, and he hopes that Lake Apopka project will have the same result. UF will evaluate, track, and compare hatchery and native bass. The hatchery fish are slated to be placed in Lake Apopka in late April or early May of 2014. Dr. Allen stated that he does not think that stocking will restore fisheries in Lake Apopka. He continued and stated that habitat is what is needed to restore the lake.
- Vice Chairman Goerner stated that he disagreed with Dr. Allen's comment about stocking will not restore the lake. He stated that the same conditions that are in Lake Apopka were in Lake Griffin. Vice Chairman Goerner stated that the Council recommended to the Legislature that access dredging and bass stocking worked on Lake Griffin and that he wants to recommend the same for Lake Apopka.

Steve Fitzgibbons, Intergovernmental Planner, St. Johns River Water Management District (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 the revisions he received since the September meeting. Each revised section of the report was presented by Mr. Fitzgibbons and discussed in detail by the Council.

- Mr. Fitzgibbons stated that the annual report's appendices will include the Clean to Green, Inc., report as well as reports from Dr. Canfield and others that were provided to the Council in 2013. He continued and stated that the map of the Chain of Lakes was revised to identify those lakes that were considered part of the superpond. The Council asked for the map to be revised to show the location of the Burrell, Moss Bluff, and Apopka-Beauclair lock and dam structures.
- Vice Chairman Goerner asked Robert Hendrick, Clean to Green, Inc., to discuss his edits of the demonstration dredging project that was done at Lake Apopka. Mr. Hendrick provided the Council a summary of his demonstration project.
- The Council discussed section 3.3.2 of the annual report (Lake Apopka Dredging at Magnolia Park) in detail and directed Mr. Fitzgibbons to incorporate several edits into the annual report.
- Councilman Woosley stated that section 3.3.2 of the annual report summarized a presentation by Dr. Canfield, but that Dr. Canfield was not present to address the proposed changes.

- Councilman Nicholson stated that the Clean to Green Project could be beneficial in the future and that the report should reflect the positive benefits information of the things learned.
- Councilman Woosley stated that the Council could include benefits of the project in the report. He stated that Mr. Hendrick's report that was provided to the Council should be located in the appendices.
- Mr. Grow left the meeting, as previously communicated.
- Mike Perry, Executive Director, Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) stated that limiting the information from the Magnolia Park Project to the elements of the project that did not work out as expected would hinder the usefulness of the report. He cautioned the Council not to make this section of the report into a marketing piece. Mr. Perry stated that the Council only heard from Dr. Canfield and maybe Orange County and others need to be heard.
- Vice Chairman Goerner stated that more reports and presentations need to be provided to the Council from various organizations about the Lake Apopka dredging at Magnolia Park. The Council agreed that the annual report should indicate that additional reports may be conducted for the Magnolia Park project in the future, and that the Council will discuss and evaluate those reports.
- The Council discussed in detail section 3.4 (Fisheries) of the annual report. Vice Chairman Goerner stated that bass stocking is important to the Harris Chain of Lakes. He continued and stated that FWC and SJRWMD should continue to work together to provide more public access to the lakes. Vice Chairman Goerner stated that the annual report should reflect the data being collected for fisheries does not represent the lakes well. The report should request additional funding needs for broader fisheries monitoring of the Lakes.
- Councilman Woosley suggested that the report should include that fisheries lake sampling has been done. He further added that the Council should build upon that information provided and the annual report should reflect that the Council feels that future sampling should incorporate marshes and canals in the Harris Chain system.
- The Council concluded that the annual report recommendation for Section 3.4 should indicate that funding needs to be provided to broaden monitoring to all lakes in the Harris Chain of Lakes to accurately document trends in fish populations and in the success of fish stocking efforts. In addition, the Council agreed to include in the recommendation that canals and marshes should be included in FWC's fishery resource sampling efforts.
- Mr. Fitzgibbons provided the Council with a numerical listing of potential photographs for the annual reports cover page. The Council suggested pictures 12, 13, 17, and 25 be used for the cover page and for pictures 19 and 21 to be used as a backup.

7. COUNCIL & AGENCY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Dave Walker, SJRWMD stated that the District has reorganized and he will no longer be working in the Lake Apopka and Upper Ocklawaha River basins. He introduced Jay Brawley as his replacement. He continued and stated that Jay will need to appoint a SJRWMD Technical Advisory Council member, because Walt Godwin has announced his retirement for approximately December 2013.

- Jay Brawley, SJRWMD stated that he will be working with the Council as the replacement of Dave Walker. He stated that he is a professional engineer and a certified land planner.
- Walt Godwin, SJRWMD stated that he has worked with the Council and that he will be doing volunteer work and he enjoyed his time working with the Council.

8. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Comments

B. Discussion of Next Scheduled Meeting:

Kraig McLane, SJRWMD requested the Council to confirm if they will be at the November 2013 Council meeting to vote on the Legislative Report. Vice Chairman Goerner, Councilman Nicholson, Councilman Truenow, Councilman Woosley (via telephone) indicated they would attend. Councilman Johnson stated that he would not be able to attend in person or by phone. There was no information for Chairman Davis, Councilman Grow, Councilman Powers, or Councilman Schlein. Mr. McLane added that he would work on arrangements for Councilman Woosley to join the meeting via telephone. Mr. McLane confirmed with the Vice Chairman that the only presentation agenda item would be the 2013 annual report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.