

FINAL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the
HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL
July 13, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was held at 9:01 a.m. on June 13, 2018 at the Lake County Board of County Commissioner Chambers, 315 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida.

- **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Grow called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

- **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

- **COUNCIL ROLL CALL; REMINDER FOR OTHERS TO SIGN IN**

Chairman Grow called the roll.

Council Members Present

Sid Grow, Chairman
Keith Truenow, Vice-Chairman
Stephanie Bishop
Skip Goerner
Robert Johnson
John Stump

Council Members Absent

Don Nicholson, Secretary
Vacant, Attorney
Vacant, Physician

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Goerner requested that more detail on Council discussions during the June 1, 2018 presentation by Mike Perry be included in the June minutes. Approval of June minutes was deferred to the next meeting pending revision.

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS (fill out speaker card and hand to a staff member prior to public comment period)**

Mr. Richard Royal, former Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council member, addressed the Council regarding grass carp for hydrilla control in Lake Yale. Mr. Royal noted using grass carp for hydrilla control has been used successfully elsewhere. The control of grass carp was accomplished through bowfishing tournaments Mr. Royal provided a series of web links to Council, included as part of the meeting documentation. Councilman Goerner noted there is currently no vegetation in Lake Yale for carp to eat.

Mr. John Hecimovich, Venetian Village subdivision, discussed issues with the Apopka-Beauclair (AB) Canal. Mr. Hecimovich noted the canal he lives on, which is connected to the AB Canal is clogged with floating clumps of muck. Mr. Hecimovich reported the canal is almost clogged to the point where boats cannot get in or out. Mr. Hecimovich queried the Council about their knowledge of the issue. Chairman Grow noted the Council is aware of the issue, and reported Mike Perry, Lake County Water Authority would be discussing the issue later in the meeting.

Ms. Linda Moss, Venetian Village resident, also discussed issues of muck in the Tammy Canal which discharges to the AB Canal. Ms. Moss expressed dismay over the condition of the navigability of the Tammy Canal. Ms. Moss showed an image dated 07/02/2007, purportedly of none feet of muck in the Tammy canal, included as part of the meeting record. Ms. Moss reported an estimated three feet of surge in the canals on February 8th, when water was released at a high rate out of Lake Apopka.

Chairman Grow suggested Ms. Moss put together a video and present it to the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) and St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).

- **PRESENTATION**

Lake Apopka Dredging Update, Bob Naleway, P.E., SJRWMD

Mr. Bob Naleway, SJRWMD, introduced the Lake Apopka Dredging Project Update, noting the presentation was prepared by Lindsey Porter, SJRWMD project manager, who was unavailable to make the July presentation. Mr. Naleway noted on October 6, 2017, SJRWMD staff presented to the Council about the status of several projects in the Lake Apopka area, including the Sump Dredging Project, and the Council's 2017 Report expressed support of dredging in Lake Apopka to create areas for vegetation

Mr. Naleway reported the goals of the project are to test the concept of using a sump to capture mobile surficial sediments and remove accumulated phosphorus from the lake and increase water clarity by removing captured sediments. The initial dredging includes creation of a sump to collect unconsolidated flocculent sediments (UCF) and the dredging of a connection between the sump and the mouth of the AB Canal. Removal of UCF is a priority the material is re-suspended into the water column during storms, thus reducing light availability necessary for growth of submerged aquatic vegetation. Increases in nutrients also occur in the water column during the resuspension of UCF.

The sump will collect UCF for future removal and placement in Cells F and G of the North Shore Restoration Area. It is anticipated the dredging will remove phosphorus (P), reduce turbidity, help protect downstream water quality, and improve access to Lake Apopka from the AB Canal. Chairman Grow questioned whether the F and G cells were connected to the AB Canal. Mr. Naleway noted no direct connection to the AB Canal.

Mr. Naleway noted sump dredging started in December 2017, and is expected to be completed by November 2018. Mr. Naleway estimated the project was currently about 50% complete. Councilman Stump queried about the duration of dredging. Mr. Naleway reported dredging take place during daylight hours, about 10 hours per day. The dredge contractor limited dredging to daylight hours only, citing safety concerns about nighttime operations.

Councilman Goerner queried Mr. Naleway about the depth of the organic layer to mineral sand. Mr. Naleway indicated the sump was five feet deep, with an estimated 8-10 feet in the dredge layer. Councilman Goerner suggested that if consolidated flocculent (CF) is exposed during dredging it may re-suspend as UCF. Mr. Naleway noted the accumulated UCF is primarily dead algae, whereas the CF is decomposed vegetation accumulated over centuries. Mr. Naleway did not believe the CF will become UCF because of dredging. Councilman Goerner suggested because of hydration experience in past one could end up having floating islands that would be impossible to maintain. Mr. Naleway was unaware of any studies on re-hydration timing. However, Mr. Naleway noted SJRWMD scientists have analyzed the CF in the lake and it is morphologically different than the UCF. Underlying muck (CF) is primarily dead vegetation.

Councilman Stump queried how freeboard walls are maintained in the sump. Mr. Naleway reported initial dredging started dredging in center of the project site. Once material stopped flowing into the sump at a 20-1 slope, the dredge site was expanded. Final slope is currently at 200-1, with the dredge area essentially cone-shaped.

Mr. Naleway noted the FWC revenue agreement currently expires in January 2019. Both the sump dredging, and the navigation dredging are expected to be complete by the end of 2018. To monitor the project a pre-dredging survey was completed, with monthly soundings being made to track construction progress. A post-dredging survey and sampling will occur 1 to 3 months after sump completion to track UCF accumulation.

Councilman Stump noted FWC has funding only until 2019. Mr. Naleway reported no additional funding has been secured for construction of the second or third sump as the legislature zeroed the funding for the project.

Councilman Johnson queried whether the \$5 million from Senator Hays was part of the funding cut. Mr. Naleway indicated that funding was cut and encouraged any support the Council could provide for the project. Councilman Stump suggested Council should strongly advocate for funding.

Councilwoman Bishop queried Mr. Naleway about additional funding for monitoring. Mr. Naleway noted only 3 months of follow-up monitoring was provided in the budget.

- **FOR INFORMATION**

Review of available platforms and associated costs to advertise Council vacancies. Information presented by Chairman Grow.

Chairman Grow presented a document (included as part of meeting materials) showing costs to advertise the Council information in the Leesburg Commercial and Villages Daily Sun newspapers twice in a single week (Sunday and Thursday) each month, extending from August to November. The cost for the Leesburg Commercial was \$599.20. The cost for the Villages Daily Sun was \$870.20. The total for both papers was \$1469.75.

Chairman Grow suggested participation by Villages residents might be limited because of the travel distance. Councilman Johnson noted there is \$10,000 available for use by the Council.

- **CONSIDERATION**

Approval of selected platforms and associated costs to advertise Council vacancies.

Councilman Johnson moved to place advertisements in the Leesburg Commercial and Villages Daily Sun newspapers as reported by Chairman Grow. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stump and unanimously approved.

- **AGENCY UPDATES**

Mike Perry, LCWA, presented an Apopka-Beauclair Canal sediment update based on discussions about sediment and silt from the AB Canal impeding flow in adjacent canals at the June Council meeting. Mr. Perry reported the LCWA took sediment cores at seven stations along the AB Canal extending from Lake Beauclair south toward the Nutrient Reduction Facility (NuRF) project. An additional core was obtained from Lake Beauclair at the mouth of the AB Canal. Mr. Perry presented photographs of the sediment cores from each of the stations (included in meeting materials). The goal was to determine if there was any residual alum flocculent material collecting in the AB Canal. Alum flocculent would appear as a grey material in a sediment core. The sediment samples showed varying amounts of unconsolidated flocculent material, but no material consisting of alum.

Two additional samples taken within the adjacent canals in question showed no material from the NuRF but did contain high amounts of peaty material not found in any of the samples from the AB Canal. Mr. Perry suggested the material is coming into the canals from runoff from upland portions of the canals themselves, not from the AB Canal.

Councilman Goerner noted that high flows from Lake Apopka keep the canal clear, but queried Mr. Perry as to whether the peaty material is from Lake Apopka, deposited during flows associated with Hurricane Irma. Mr. Perry did not think so since virtually all flows from Lake Apopka were treated through the NuRF. Mr. Perry noted however, that concentrations of total suspended solids were not measured at the time.

Councilman Goerner suggested that LCWA had previously dredged the canals in question as material accumulated. Mr. Perry reported LCWA had previously dredged to five feet or mineral sand within 100 feet of the AB Canal intersection. The dredging was done as a one-time effort under a maintenance exemption as a courtesy to residents.

Councilman Goerner queried whether any UCF was found upstream in the canals. Mr. Perry indicated no samples were collected upstream in the canals as his goal was to determine if NuRF UCF was accumulating in the canals not to assess the whole canal system.

Councilman Goerner suggested that if sediment buildup in the canals was caused by material from Lake Apopka somebody has to take responsibility. Mr. Perry noted a sediment assessment of the canals could be contracted out to see if material form wetland areas rather than material coming from AB Canal, but that he did not staff for such work.

Public speaker John Hecimovich returned to the podium to discuss his perceptions of the status of the canal system. Mr. Hecimovich noted there is no flow in the canals as they are both dead-end waterbodies. Mr. Hecimovich observed boat traffic in the canals to churn up clumps of muck and vegetation all the way to the AB Canal. This material then re-submerges after boats have gone by.

In concluding his discussion of AB Canal sediments, Mr. Perry reported the LCWA staff has received no direction from the LCWA Board to work on residential waterbodies.

Mr. Perry continued the LCWA agency update. Mr. Perry presented a summary of NuRF operations for the 286 days since Hurricane Irma, noting near-continuous flows through the NuRF (supporting documents included in the meeting minutes). Mr. Perry noted Lake Apopka stages have been above regulatory schedule since May, with the spillway opened during the first week in July to reduce lake levels. Water levels in Lakes Eustis, Harris and Dora are at or above regulation schedule, with Lakes Eustis and Harris above the max desirable elevation. As result, the Burrell spillway has been open since May with flows ranging from 200-1000 cubic feet per second,

Mr. Perry noted the NuRF has treated 44 billion gallons of water since March 2009 and removed 10 tons of phosphorus out of system. Mr. Perry concluded his presentation with a graph of loadings to Lake Beauclair from Lake Apopka. Mr. Perry noted since 2009 the total maximum daily load for total phosphorus has been met, and chlorophyll concentrations have decreased, except right after Hurricane Irma.

Councilman Goerner queried Mr. Perry whether the LCWA is responsible for releases from Lake Apopka. Mr. Perry indicated SJRWMD has control of releases, and historically virtually 100% of released water moves through the NuRF.

Councilman Goerner suggested problems in the AB Canal were associated with high rate of flow during Hurricane Irma. Mr. Perry indicated there was only 1 day in which the spillway bypassing the NuRF was opened. The past week was only other time the spillway has been opened.

Lisa Kelley, SJRWMD, Assistant Executive Director, substituting for Susan Davis, provided an update on SJRWMD activities since the last Harris Council meeting. Ms. Davis reported on invoices paid, and Florida Administrative Report noticing was completed for the meeting. The Harris Council website received 455 visits, with 23 visits to the Council vacancy link.

Ms. Kelley noted Susan Davis emailed Council on SJRWMD Governing Board items of interest for the July Governing Board meeting. One item of interest was the Lake Apopka vegetation planting at the Lake Apopka North Shore. The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for August 14th. Ms. Kelley also reported Ms. Davis had shared a news release of a Village Sun article about the Harris Chain of Lakes, and she informed Council that SJRWMD has recognized July as Lakes Appreciation Month.

Councilman Johnson discussed his request to obtain water quality from the mid-1990s to present for all Harris Chain lakes except Apopka. Councilman Johnson informed Ms. Kelley he was directed to an SJRWMD web link that he could not get to work. Councilman Johnson requested a printed copy of emailed copy of the data. Ms. Kelley noted SJRWMD has staff to respond to technical difficulties. S. Keely discussed the general SJRWMD information request procedure. All information requests are routed through the SJRWMD clerk to the appropriate staff. **Ms. Kelley agreed to assist Councilman Johnson in getting him in contact with the appropriate SJRWMD staff to direct him through the website process for obtaining water quality data.**

Chairman Grow reported on a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission open house at Lake Sumter Community College on June 28th. Chairman Grow noted about 90% of comments were related to hydrilla in the lakes.

Kevin Coyne, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, had no comments.

Mark Hoyer, University of Florida, reported the annual Florida Lake Management Society technical symposium was being held August 28-31 in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Hoyer presented the draft symposium agenda (include as part of the meeting materials) noting a special session on Lake Apopka Restoration Science and Management was scheduled for August 30.

Councilman Johnson queried Mr. Hoyer as to whether reports from the August meeting would be available. Mr. Hoyer reported the final agenda and meeting packet would have abstracts published for all presentations, but full reports would only available (if any) from individual presenters.

- **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Council members-Has there been any ex parte communication?

Denis Frazel, Council Administrative Support, defined ex parte communication for Council as “an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not provided”.

Chairman Grow

Chairman Grow noted the opening of the McDonald Canal project which was the only time he saw other members of the Council outside the meeting. It would not be considered ex parte as it was a public meeting.

Vice-Chairman Truenow

No comments

Councilman Goerner

Councilman Goerner remarked the only people Council are required to talk about are people that either approached you. Councilman Goerner reported he talks every day to someone about the Harris Council, and water quality and the fishing. Councilman Goerner indicated these communications do not have to be reported.

Councilman Goerner noted Mr. Perry suggested there was only one time flow capacity exceeded NuRF operations. Councilman Goerner reported there was also a breach of the dike during Hurricane Irma suggesting flow into the AB Canal far exceeded what passed through the NuRF and queried whether anyone knew how much flow. Ms. Kelley Lisa noted SJRWMD staff member Steve Miller presented that information at the last meeting. said could go back and review emergency management with Steve Miller. Ms. Kelley suggested reviewing the video or minutes from the last meeting to obtain the information. Councilman Goerner reiterated his suggestion that the actual amount of water released far exceeded the recorded releases from the NuRF and the lock and dam. Ms. Kelley noted the water from the breached dike flowed into the North Shore not the AB Canal. Councilman Johnson noted there was also a breach on the AB Canal. Vice-Chairman Truenow noted this breach provided flow out of the AB Canal into his property not vice versa. Also, because it took 7 weeks to pump the water out of his property and return flow was minimal.

Councilman Johnson

Councilman Johnson reported Senator David Simmons and former Senator Alan Hays had met with SJRWMD staff and that it was a negative meeting from their perspective, suggesting no change in Lake Apopka.

Councilman Johnson discussed technical advisory group (TAG) member attendance at Harris Council meetings, expressing concern that since Council cannot talk to TAG members outside of Council meetings, TAG members should attend Council meetings. Councilman Johnson suggested by Florida Statute TAG members are required to attend Council meetings. If not, Councilman Johnson suggested amending the statute to require attendance. Councilman Goerner agreed that TAG members should attend Council meetings.

Councilman Johnson noted he had talked to various legislators over the last year about various subjects pertaining to the Council, and he intended to include TAG attendance in future discussions.

- **REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS REQUESTED DURING MEETING**

- Lisa Kelley agreed to assist Councilman Johnson in getting him in contact with the appropriate SJRWMD staff to direct him through the website process for obtaining water quality data.

- **DISCUSSION OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Chairman Grow suggested Denis Frazel, Council Administrative Support, review the 2018 Harris Council Annual Report schedule.

Chairman Grow indicated Dr. Ann Shortelle is scheduled to discuss questions posed to her by Harris Council at the August meeting.

Chairman Grow requested brief presentations on three projects from Table 5 of the 2017 Harris Council Annual Report as follows:

FY17 - Lake Apopka Targeted Lake wide restoration-dredging \$500,000

FY18 - Apopka Flowway-10 pack rehab \$750,000

FY 18 - Lake Apopka Newton Park dredging project \$3,596,000

Councilwoman Bishop queried whether the presentations would be updates that Lisa Kelley could provide or was Chairman Grow requesting full presentations. Chairman Grow requested updates limited to 10 minutes each. Ms. Kelley indicated the updates could be presented at the August meeting. Ms. Kelley suggested simple updates of all listed projects could also be provided at a later meeting as part of Annual Report development. Chairman Grow suggested presenting updates on several more projects in September. Denis Frazel noted status updates on all projects would be needed for the Annual Report.

Council members- do you anticipate attending the next Harris Council meeting?

No Council members present indicated they would not attend the next meeting

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09AM.