

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP  
OF THE HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES RESTORATION COUNCIL  
TO DISCUSS 2019 COUNCIL AGENDA PRIORITIES**

A workshop of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was held at 9:05 a.m. on January 19, 2019, at the Blue House at Sunnyhill Restoration Area.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Grow called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL**

Chairman Grow called the roll.

**Council members present**

Sid Grow, Chairman  
Keith Truenow, Vice-Chairman  
Skip Goerner  
Joe Dunn  
Stephanie Bishop  
Wade Boyette  
John Stump

**Council members absent**

Robert Johnson, Secretary  
Don Nicholson

**Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Member present**

Mike Perry (LCWA)

**TAG Members absent**

Kevin Coyne (FDEP)  
Scott Bisping (FWC)  
Mark Hoyer (UF)  
Rolland Fulton (SJRWMD)  
FDOT  
ACOE

**4. FOR INFORMATION**

Council members input by roll call regarding 2019 agenda items to be requested of the Technical Advisory Group.

**Chairman Sid Grow**

Chairman Grow provided a list of five topics to Council, as follows:

1. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to make a presentation on the Lake Apopka Innovative Total Phosphorus Removal Project for \$1.16 million. Update Council on how the P will be removed.
2. Identify septic systems around Lake Apopka with the potential of the systems to release harmful effluents into Lake Apopka (Florida Department of Environmental Protection - FDEP?). In the future identify other septic systems that put harmful effluents in the rest of the Harris Chain.

Chairman Grow noted a recent news article reporting 2-3 million septic tanks in Florida with a 10% annual failure rate.

3. Update Council on the Doctors Lake projects presented by the District in Aug. 2018, that improves water quality entering the Doctors Lake from septic systems, etc. FDEP to collaborate with results obtained year-to-date with the SJRWMD's Doctors Lake Water Improvement Project presented to the public on August 15, 2018, at Orange Park, Florida. Funding for the Doctors Lake Project was \$4.5 million. Information and results obtained by the SJRWMD can be applied to the Harris Chain to provide onsite nutrient reduction in septic systems and utilize new technology to reduce nutrients in wastewater effluent.

Chairman Grow suggested obtaining the FDEP records list.

4. Make a presentation to Council on the SJRWMD's issuance of a new memorandum on Water Quality (Update to Memorandum 56 authored by Roland Fulton).
5. Review SJRWMD projects not only from a financial perspective, but also from the science behind why the project was proposed. Discussion to include if results expected were the results obtained. Council would review projects bi-annually.

#### Council member Stephanie Bishop

Council member Bishop did not have a specific list of items, but suggested focusing on specific areas. Council member Bishop queried Chairman Grow about the list of SJRWMD projects, noting there were 40-50 projects listed. Chairman Grow reported his interest in seven specific projects, initially proposed for 5-10-minute updates at the February Council meeting, listed below.

1. Lake Apopka North shore Levee Improvements - \$1,160,000
2. Lake Apopka Restoration Projects Placeholder - \$1,160,000
3. Lake Apopka SAV Restoration - \$250,000
4. Lake Apopka Unconsolidated Floc Removal - \$562,000
5. Lake Apopka Vegetation Restoration - \$200,000
6. North Shore Infrastructure Improvements - \$1,050,000
7. Lake Apopka Sump dredging - \$1,971,706

Council member Goerner suggested Council was getting away from the legislative purpose, and that Council should re-focus on reviewing SJRWMD proposed projects before they are approved, not once they have been contracted.

Vice-chairman Truenow discussed the local Anuvia plant nutrient company that is converting waste to fertilizer. Vice-chairman Truenow suggested reviewing the Anuvia processes for

possible application to nutrient removal from the Harris Chain of Lakes, and possibly getting a tour of the facility.

Council member Goerner agreed with this suggestion, and further, suggested septic systems (as nutrient sources) also need to be investigated. Council member Stump discussed with Council member Goerner the possibility of federal assistance in dealing with septic systems. Council member Goerner discussed a paper by Richard Osgood titled: "Inadequacy of best management practices for restoring eutrophic lakes in the United States: guidance for policy and practice" to Council for review. Council member Goerner discussed particulars of the paper in relation to Lake Apopka.

Vice- chairman Keith Truenow

Vice-chairman Truenow referred to the previous discussion on the Anuvia facility. Vice-chairman Truenow expressed interest in where the funding for the project was coming from, as perhaps the funding source could be tapped to solve other local problems. Council member Stump noted the Anuvia facility is only three miles from the north shore which could make it feasible to tailings from Lake Apopka dredging. Council member Stump volunteered to go to the facility to obtain background information and perhaps set up a tour of the facility. Council member Stump queried whether SJRWMD had any information about Anuvia. SJRWMD Assistant Executive Director Lisa Kelley noted FDEP was likely the permitting source, and the best source for details on the plant itself, as their programs deal with air and waste. Council member Stump indicated he would come back to Council in February with an update.

Council member Wade Boyette

Council member Boyette agreed with Council members Goerner and Bishop on focusing the review process on priority projects as Council does not have time to review everything. Council member Boyette suggested keying in on specific projects and reviewing objectives, projects and methods. Council member Boyette indicated a desire for Council to be impactful even if it only on one project. Council member Bishop requested that an updated spreadsheet be provided to her.

Council member Joe Dunn

Council member Dunn provided a handout listing five priorities for 2019 as follows:

1. Hydrilla Control (all lakes)
2. Innovative technologies
  - a. e.g. Barley Prize
  - b. Screening committee

Council member Dunn suggested innovative ideas may be a good way to go. Council member Dunn noted Scott fertilizer company established the Barley Prize, a competition to identify potential fixes for Lake Okeechobee. Council member Dunn suggested putting out a call for ideas similar to the Barley prize that could be reviewed and possibly recommended by the TAG.

3. Lake Apopka water clarity

Council member Dunn noted water clarity in Lake Apopka is still down and addressing the lack of water clarity is a priority.

4. Lake Apopka muck (dredging, etc.)

Council member Dunn Lake Apopka dredging is an important topic that relates directly to water clarity issue.

5. Septic tanks

Council member Dunn reviewed available septic tank information in the Harris Chain and noted a need to create a map of septic tanks throughout the system. Chairman Grow suggested asking municipal systems which properties are on septic tanks. Council member Stump questioned how the Council can take such information and use it. Council member Dunn noted the importance of identifying the magnitude of the problem. Chairman Grow stated SJRWMD is doing some of that work with \$1.5 million dollars allocated for individual contracts.

Council member Goerner

Council member Goerner distributed copies of the paper by Richard Osgood to Council members, reiterating his comments on the inadequacy of best management practices for restoring eutrophic lakes. Council member Goerner also distributed the final judgment against the South Florida Water Management District requiring them to apply for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from FDEP. The judgement noted back-pumping pollutant-containing waters from canals into Lake Okeechobee is a violation of the Clean Water Act. Council member Goerner discussed the Lake Harris bayou project and Lake Griffin. Council member Goerner noted the Council pressured SJRWMD into closing down the flow-way and opening what is now the Emerald Marsh project. Council member Goerner suggested the Lake Apopka marsh flow-way introduces more dissolved organic phosphate into the lake. Council member Stump and Council member Goerner discussed the similarities between Lake Griffin and Lake Apopka. Council member Dunn suggested the need to address each lake individually.

Council member Goerner suggested using some of the north shore property as a reservoir in dealing with hurricane surcharges. Council member further discussed connection between Lake Harris and Lake Griffin, and the need for improved conveyance.

Council member Stump

Council member Stump reported one main objective to be considered by Council as follows:

1. Plans to control Lake Apopka surcharge in an emergency.

Council member Stump noted there appears to be no real plan in place. When hurricane season starts there should be a plan to reduce lake levels. Council member Goerner suggested the operation of the regulation schedule is the issue. Council member Goerner agreed with the need for additional or alternative conveyance. Council member Stump was unsure of the Council's

purview in the matter but wanted to encourage SJRWMD to develop a plan to better control lake levels.

Council member Stump discussed the Anuvia plant and their funding sources, a Council field trip, and obtaining information on the chemical composition of Lake Apopka dredge material. Lisa Kelley reported the Lake Apopka dredging project at the mouth of Apopka-Beauclair Canal may be complete. Ms. Kelley reported SJRWMD would report back to Council on the current status.

Ms. Kelley discussed the use of the TAG by Council, noting it is a group that should be utilized by Council, not just the actions of TAG agencies such as SJRWMD. Requests for information should be for the TAG as a whole. Ms. Kelley noted in the near-term, Council would need composition of sediments in dredging and that Lindsay Porter would be the appropriate SJRWMD contact. Council member Stump noted he would contact Ms. Porter directly for the information.

5. **FOR INFORMATION**

Technical Advisory Group input by roll call regarding agenda items to be considered by Council.

Mike Perry

Mr. Perry noted the Richard Osgood paper reported that the United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA) had been pushing hard for watershed treatments (BMPs) that address flow to lakes. Mr. Perry reported that paper indicated working in watershed only will not improve lake water quality, but that lakes need to be addressed directly, with things like sediment removal, etc.

Mr. Perry indicated he had no further specific agenda items to add.

6. **AGENCY UPDATES**

a. Lake County Water Authority

Mr. Perry noted Lake County Water Authority (LCWA) priorities for 2019 include focusing on hydrilla and working with the Lake County legislative delegation to dedicate more funding. Mr. Perry reported LCWA is continuing to study Lake Yale and may initiate discussion with TAG to review current conditions. There is an estimated 33 million cubic yards of flocculent material on the bottom, in which nutrients are constantly re-suspended. Removal is too expensive, so alternatives such as alum treatment are being considered.

LCWA is working to ensure the nutrient reduction facility (NuRF) is back fully on-line and operating before the next wet season. Mr. Perry noted the LCWA Board may review NuRF operations and make changes, including possible new capital expenditures in next year or two.

Council member Goerner discussed the cost of NuRF operation and storage and suggested Council should promote seeking additional funding because LCWA does not have enough money. Council member Goerner suggested seeking some type of budget funding in partnership as a way to increase the budget.

In closing, Mr. Perry noted possible changes proposed for the Lake Apopka regulatory schedule, such that schedules will be reviewed prior completion of the minimum flows and levels process.

b. St. Johns River Water Management District

Chairman Grow noted Mark Hoyer, University of Florida (UF), has retired, and may no longer represent UF on the TAG. Lisa Kelley reported SJRWMD District contractor should contact UF to identify the next technical advisor for Council. Denis Frazel was requested to provide follow-up. Ms. Kelley also reported SJRWMD Intergovernmental Coordinator Jim Troiano would be assuming the SJRWMD Council responsibilities from Susan Davis. Mr. Troiano introduced himself to Council.

7. **DISCUSSION OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Council member Bishop suggested summarizing the major topics discussed in the workshop, then prioritizing them at the February meeting. Council member Dunn suggested focusing on three or four top priorities would be reasonable to work on over the next six months.

Lisa Kelley noted it would be helpful to know what the TAG schedule would look like. Ms. Kelley reiterated that moving forward TAG should be engage as a whole, not for a single agency input. Council member Bishop noted for example, if Council would like input from TAG on Anuvia, they would ask for input from all TAG at one time. To be most effective TAG would need to have questions provided up front so they could then come back with the appropriate data and information. Council member Bishop noted off the cuff responses might be convenient but are not necessary. Council member Goerner and Vice-chairman Truenow discussed TAG participation and delays in getting information if members are not present at every meeting.

Council member Bishop reviewed her notes on possible priority topics and queried Denis Frazel about the list he had so far developed in the draft minutes. Council members summarized the top items for discussion and prioritization at the next Council meeting as follows:

1. Anuvia Plant: Discussion of the Anuvia Plant Nutrient facility.
2. Septic systems: Identify septic systems around Lake Apopka with the potential of the systems to release harmful effluents into Lake Apopka (Florida Department of Environmental Protection - FDEP?). In the future identify other septic systems that put harmful effluents in the rest of the Harris Chain.
3. Hydrilla control
4. Doctors Lake project: Update Council on the Doctors lake projects presented by the SJRWMD in Aug. 2018, that improves water quality entering the Doctors lake from septic systems, etc.
5. P removal project: SJRWMD to make a presentation on the Lake Apopka Innovative Total Phosphorus Removal Project for \$1.16 million. Update Council on how the P will be removed.

6. Update on Water Quality Memorandum: Make a presentation to Council on the SJRWMD's issuance of a new memorandum on Water Quality (Update to Memorandum 56 authored by Roland Fulton).
7. Dredging updates: SJRWMD to brief Council on Lake Apopka dredging activities.
8. Lake level control: Control of lake levels during hurricanes, including alternative conveyance systems.

Council member Bishop suggested narrowing down the list at the February meeting. The narrowed down list will allow Council to potentially have multiple TAG agencies discuss the topic at the same time.

Council member Dunn noted it seemed like every meeting the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was to provide stocking results on the 1.5 million fish stocked in Lake Apopka. He would like to see that information on the agenda. Council member Goerner noted a report of that nature could take place as part of agency updates on the agenda.

Next meeting date is scheduled for February 1, 2019. Council member Stump polled Council members about conflicts for an Anuvia site visit in mid-February after 3 p.m. There were no reported conflicts. Susan Davis noted the public noticing requirement for such a visit.

Council member Bishop requested Council member Stump to provide a couple of possible tour dates for Council consideration. Council member Bishop also requested the Microsoft Outlook program be utilized for notification/invites to pending meetings/activities.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Workshop adjourned at 11:13 am.