

**DRAFT**

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

The regular meeting of the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council (Council) was a tour of the Lake Apopka North Shore held at 8:56 a.m. on July 12, 2019, beginning at the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Apopka Field Station, 25633 County Rd 448A, Mt Dora, FL 32757

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Grow called the meeting to order at 8:56 a.m. and gave some brief introductory remarks.

**2. COUNCIL ROLL CALL**

Chairman Grow called the roll.

**Council Members present**

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

**Council Members absent**

Robert Johnson, Secretary  
Don Nicholson

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

Scott Bisping, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)  
Jason Danaher (for Mike Perry), Lake County Water Authority (LCWA)  
Mark Hoyer, UF  
Mary Paulic (for Kevin Coyne), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)

**TAG Members absent**

St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)  
Vacant, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Vacant, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

**3. FOR INFORMATION**

Tour of the Lake Apopka North Shore (LANS), SJRWMD staff.

Lisa Kelley, SJRWMD Assistance Executive Director provided a safety briefing prior to departure on the 3-hour tour, conducted aboard the SJRWMD eco-tour buggy. Chairman Grow called for introductions of all participants. Participants included seven Council Members, seven members of the public, four TAG Members, six SJRWMD staff and one administrative staff. Erich Marzolf, Ph.D., SJRWMD Director of Water and Land Resources, acted as the guide for the tour of the Lake Apopka North Shore. Dr. Marzolf provided an overview and history of Lake Apopka and the LANS as the tour got underway. Dr. Marzolf noted the goals of the LANS Project are to reduce phosphorus in Lake Apopka, thereby reducing plankton concentrations, which will allow for more submerged aquatic vegetation and improved recreational fishing opportunities.

The tour entered the LANS at the Duda property and visited the new public boat ramp on the McDonald Canal. Ms. Kelley noted this particular ramp was designed to provide ADA access for kayaking. The location also houses the rough fish (gizzard shad) landing facility, though it was not operating at the time of the tour.

The tour group then traveled to the bridge over the Apopka-Beauclair Canal. The tour group exited the eco-tour buggy at this site to view the F & G cells from the bridge. The F&G cells are where sediments from the Lake Apopka sump dredging projects are deposited. The sump, constructed offshore from the Apopka-Beauclair Canal, is approximately 2,000 feet wide with a maximum depth of 5 feet. The sump is expected to collect mobile sediments, which can be subsequently removed. Also noted were the recovering submerged and floating-leaf vegetation in the canal, reflecting the improving conditions of Lake Apopka.

The tour returned to the Duda property and viewed a newly renovated pump station that provides alum treatment to water returning to the lake. Dr. Marzolf discussed the capture of alum flocculent in the Duda west pond at this location. The group then travelled east to the Lake Level Canal. The tour group was able to see the relative elevation differences of water on the LANS and the canal still connected to Lake Apopka. Dr. Marzolf noted the approximately five feet of subsidence that occurred on the LANS as the result of over 5 decades of farming operations which resulted in oxidation of the highly organic soils. Dr. Marzolf and Council members discussed levee maintenance and the overtopping of the perimeter levee after Hurricane Irma.

The tour continued north on Lake Level Canal Road and Lindsey Porter, P.E., SJRWMD Project Manager, reviewed the site details for a new pump station to connect the Duda property and phases east of the Lake Level Canal. The actual pump site was identified by Ms. Porter as the tour group travelled north along the levee. There was general discussion of projects to raise the elevation of internal levees to increase water management flexibility on the LANS and maintenance work on the perimeter levee to bring the levee height back to original specifications. Dr. Marzolf observed the levee height had significantly decreased over time due to subsidence.

The tour continued north to the Unit 1 pump station which also includes an alum treatment system. Dr. Marzolf discussed the capture of alum floc in the sand farm pond at this location. The tour concluded by traveling east on McDonald Canal Road back to the Duda boat ramp. Ms. Kelley discussed the public use of the wildlife drive, noting more the 100,000 visitors in the past

year. The tour group observed more than a dozen vehicles, as well as bicyclists on the wildlife drive as the eco-tour buggy exited the LANS and returned to the Apopka Field Station.

**4. AGENCY UPDATES**

There were no agency updates

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no official public comments. Seven members of the public attended the tour and discussed Lake Apopka issues in an ad hoc fashion with Council Members, TAG Members, and SJRWMD staff.

**6. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

No specific Council Member comments.

**7. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS\* REQUESTED DURING MEETING**

\*New Action Items are highlighted in bold in the text

No new action items were identified during the tour.

**8. DISCUSSION OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.**

Chairman Grow requested Council Members review minutes from the past year and prepare recommendations for inclusion in the Annual Report. Recommendations should be sent to Council Administrative Support for discussion at the August Council meeting

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.