



**Wekiva River Basin
Commission**

**Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2013
3:00 PM**

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
309 Cranes Roost Blvd. Suite 2000 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

1. Call to Order and General Business

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Constantine at 3:32 pm. Ms. Tara McCue called roll and announced there was a quorum. The following members were in attendance:

Chairman Lee Constantine – Chairman

Mr. William Battaglia – President, Battaglia Fruit Company

Mr. Charles Lee – Senior Vice President, Florida Audubon Society

Mr. James Yatsuk – City of Mt. Dora

Commissioner Brenda Carey – Commissioner, Seminole County

Commissioner Steve Wolfram – Commissioner, Altamonte Springs

Mr. Max Crumit – Executive Director, Orlando/Orange County Expressway Authority

Mr. Brett Blackadar – Seminole County Expressway Authority

Mr. Jody Lee – Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Ms. Noranne Downs – District Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation

Mr. Tom Shupe for Ms. Shannon Wright - Regional Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Mr. Jeff Prather – District Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Casey Fitzgerald for Mr. Hans Tanzler – Executive Director, St. John's River Water Management District

Mr. Harold Barley – Executive Director, Metroplan Orlando

Chairman Constantine called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October and June of 2012. A motion was made by Mr. James Yatsuk and seconded by Mr. Charles Lee. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Current Agency Activities and Legislative Report

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) – Mr. Jody Lee

Mr. Jody Lee provided an update on the various Statewide Manual processes which included the adoption of the Statewide Citrus Manual and enrollment into the statewide manuals. The nursery manual is expected to be next year.

Mr. Lee discussed that there are currently no fertilizer pre-emption bills being presented. He also discussed localize fertilizer certification training which is currently in conceptual stage.

Commissioner Carey announced Project Amoeba in Seminole County and its impact of 750 jobs in the Heathrow area.

St. Johns River Water Management District –*Mr. Casey Fitzgerald*

Mr. Fitzgerald announced that there are no updates pursuant to the Districts responsibility under the act. Mr. Fitzgerald then discussed the new spring initiative focusing on Wekiva, Blue and Silver Springs to determine the real effects of loading versus what is released from the springs. This initiative includes 2-3 science investigations and implementation projects. Mr. Fitzgerald provided the Commission copies of the press release from the District concerning the initiative.

Discussion continued concerning a project with Altamonte Springs and the I-4 widening project. The proposed system builds a pipeline to Apopka and eliminates discharge into Little Wekiva from Cranes Roost and I-4 widening. Apopka is building the infrastructure. This project will result in the expansion of 4.5 million gallons of reclaimed water per day. The project partners include FDOT, SJRWMD, DEP and the City of Altamonte and cost approximately \$12.5 million. Apopka will have the ability to store water during wet seasons. Discussion continued on the project, retention ponds, coordination and the benefits for all involved.

A recommendation was made for Mr. Ed Torres, Public Works Director of Altamonte Springs, to provide a report on the project. Mr. Fitzgerald offered to present on the spring protection initiative at the next meeting as well.

Florida Department of Transportation-*Ms. Noranne Downs*

Ms. Noranne Downs reported that 5 out of 8 contractors have been selected, 2 more are in process, leaving one remaining. All sections except for the I-4 interchange are under contract or negotiation. The Design-Build process is moving along well. Section 4A (435 to SR 45) is under contract for Design-Build. The Gopher Turtles and owls have been relocated and the ROW is clear in order to begin the building in the coming week. The contract for the County Road 46A realignment has just been executed. Negotiations are continuing for Segment 6 (SR 46 and wildlife crossings) and Segment 7a should be executed in the coming months as presentations from the 3 short listed companies will take place tomorrow. Ms. Downs stated that the preferred alignment near Red Tail subdivision will be reviewed again. Mr. Charles Lee addressed his concern for moving the alignment to the east as it will effect wildlife. Mr. Lee requested to be on the stakeholder list as FDOT has made the commitment to reanalyze the alignment.

Commissioner Leslie Campion expressed concerns over the projected traffic counts and functioning of the roadway and the need to make sure that it is done correctly. Ms. Downs stated that it is an inclusive project and the consultants will be able to get into the depths of the project.

A copy of a project synopsis was provided to the Commission.

Orange Orlando Expressway Authority –*Mr. Max Crumit*

Mr. Crumit provided an update on the design sections under contract and the acquisition of ROW parcels, specifically Kelly Park Crossing which was just acquired. Mr. Crumit discussed the draft legislation package being filed this week concerning the idea of a regional tolling

authority which would create a 4 county expressway authority consisting of 9-11 members. He stated that the agency submitted comments with the understanding they would have the ability to review the final draft. However, he was told there would not be enough time for a second review.

Chairman Constantine discussed how other counties, including Seminole, provided suggestions and the legislation will be fully vetted because if it's done, it needs to be done right. Further discussion occurred concerning the make-up of the board according to the proposed legislation and the comments provided by the counties concerning this.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Mr. Tom Shupe

Mr. Tom Shupe provided an update for the FFWCC stating the Commission continues to work with providing comments and technical assistance through all stages of the project including permits for relocation and the wildlife underpass design. Mr. Shupe announced that the permits for Section 4a and 4b, the Neighborhood Lakes area, were issued in December 2012. In January the nesting owl permit was issued.

3. Discussion of Key Reporting Timelines and Legislative Report

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Land Development Regulations Pursuant to Recommendation 14 of the Final Report

No Update

Florida Department of Health, Rulemaking Activities Related to On-Site Disposal Systems Treatment Standards Pursuant to Recommendation 9 of the Final Report

No Update

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads Pursuant to Recommendation 5 of the Final Report – Mr. Jeff Prather

Mr. Jeff Prather provided a brief BMP update stating that they are expecting to deliver a draft to the stakeholders by Friday.

4. Other Business

The Florida Conservation Coalition is working to organize another event to bring awareness to the protection of springs. The date is not confirmed but it may be held on Feb. 16 at Wekiva State Park.

5. Announcements

Mr. Charles Lee announced that the Governor has included in the budget proposal additional funding for Florida Forever, between \$ 25 and \$75 million dollars. This includes projects already identified in Wekiva area and other properties which will be examined in the Wekiva River area for acquisition. Chairman Constantine discussed a bill by Senator Haze which will include a number of criteria a property must possess before purchasing is allowed. Chairman Constantine requested that the ECFRPC track SB 584.

The Wekiva Paint Out – Wekiva Island – March 3-10 – feature artists painting vistas of the Wekiva. Proceeds to go Keep Seminole Beautiful and another trust.

March 11 – Lou Frey Institute at UCF- water management seminar.

Discussion took place on Pine Plantation and Rock Wood Groves. The current agreement states that all 4 parties will participate and OOCEA negotiated with the owners and agreed to sell 50% of the remainder of the property after purchase of the ROW. The WMD recognizes that this is not the most environmentally sensitive land but it is part of the 17 recommendations so it is included in the agreement.

Ms. Nancy Prine thanked the commission for their work and bringing to light many issues that impact the Wekiva River Basin.

Commissioner Wolfram discussed the incubator program in 7 schools in Seminole County which focuses on water, environment and infrastructure.

Mr. Charles Lee discussed the figure 15b in the 2012 WRBC Annual report noting that wherever there is a bridge, there will be the service road. The ECFRPC will work to obtain an updated figure.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be scheduled for June 2013.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Constantine adjourned the Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting at 4:45 pm.