



**Wekiva River Basin
Commission**

**Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2012
1:30 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 1:41 pm. Ms. Tara McCue called roll and announced there was not a quorum. The Chairman stated that the Commission meeting will continue without the quorum.

Chairman Lee Constantine – Chairman

Mr. William Battaglia – President, Battaglia Fruit Company

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

Councilmember Yatsuk – Councilmember, City of Mt. Dora

Ms. Michelle Maikisch for Mr. Max Crumit – Executive Director, Orlando/Orange County Expressway Authority

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

Mr. Brett Blackadar – Seminole County Expressway Authority

Mr. Bart Harriss for Mr. Gerald Briggs – Chief Bureau, Onsite Sewage Programs, Florida Department of Health

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

Mr. Dennis David – 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

2. Current Agency Activities and Legislative Report

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

Mr. Jody Lee discussed the outreach of the Department and the presentation made at the Wekiva Basin Working Group meeting concerning the nursery and cow/calf manuals as well as wetland and springs protection features. The adoption of the Citrus Manual is anticipated to occur at the end of the year and the Nursery Manual should be adopted in 2013.

Mr. Charles Lee thanked the Department for their efforts to move forward in the Kissimmee Basin with their request for additional funding to develop BMPs.

Chairman Constantine discussed the Department of Agriculture leadership role in obesity, exercise and school lunches. He asked Mr. Lee to please tell the Secretary how proud he is of his efforts. Mr. Lee responded that it is a big priority for the Secretary.

Discussion continued on the preemption of fertilizer regulations from local governments. Mr. Lee will report on this topic at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the progress of the WMD and DEP to integrate the CUP/ERP process at a state level.

Discussion moved to Silver Springs and the CUP request from a ranch in the area. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that they have not received a complete application and the ranch has requested an extension into November. He stated that the application will move to the board in January or February unless challenged. Discussion concerning stocking rates and the ranch operations continued.

Florida Department of Transportation-Ms. Noranne Downs

Ms. Noranne Downs reported updates on the Wekiva Parkway permit process stating that sections 4a and 4b should have construction permits in December, the Army Corp of Engineering permit has been obtained, DEP issued a draft permit with the intent to issue and the Gopher Tortoise and Burrowing Owl permits are in process. Ms. Downs noted that the design build team will have biologists on site during clearing. Other parkway section statuses are as follows: Sections 3A and 3B have been advertised, Section 5 is in presentation phase, Section 6 has been short listed, and Section 7A should be advertised in December. The interchange will be the last section to move forward.

Orange Orlando Expressway Authority –Ms. Michelle Maikisch

Ms. Michelle Maikisch updated the Commission on the OOCEA Parkway Segments noting that the OOCEA segments are all in the design phase with one section in negotiations. Parkway design is anticipated to take approximately 18 months.

Discussion changed to Pine Plantation and Ms. Downs stated that the authority has agreed to purchase 143 of the 243 and will use 40 – 50 acres for construction with the remainder for conservation. The Department and OOCEA are working with SJRWMD and owners regarding the last 50 acres to be purchased at the same price per acre OOCEA agreed to. An invitation was extended to DEP to attend an upcoming meeting.

Chairman Constantine discussed the conservation requirements and Seminole Woods.

Mr. Charles Lee asked about the purchasing opportunity of the 3 other parcels known as the scrub parcels which ROW will go across. Ms. Maikisch responded that it has not gone to board, is not under contract, and there is no other update concerning those parcels.

Councilman Yatsuk announced that there is a meeting tonight about the widening of SR 441 to SR 46. He discussed the concerns of the Lake Sumter MPO BPAC for trail access and the at-grade intersection at Round Lake Road. Ms. Downs stated that she will pass the information to staff who will be attending.

Mr. Charles Lee discussed the concerns over the contractor proposals shortening bridge spans.

Ms. Downs stated that they have issued intent to award and there has been an informal inquiry by another contractor. The Department is currently in the middle of the inquiry. Thus far, the winning bidder has met all the criteria through the PDE and have not short-cut anything based on the study. The Department is looking at what the one contractor pointed out as inconsistent.

Ms. Nancy Prine spoke to Section 4a, the floodplain crossing. She discussed that to shorten the bridge will restrict wildlife crossing in certain conditions. Mr. Prather discussed that the permit is driving the project, not the proposal. Mr. Lee discussed the need for terrestrial crossing and that the design was to have edge to reach onto upland for dry crossing.

Chairman Constantine placed the topic on agenda for next meeting.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – *Mr. Dennis David*

Mr. Dennis David provided an update for the FFWCC stating the Commission continues to work with the permits for gopher tortoise and burrowing owl permits. Mr. David confirmed the concept of the wildlife bridge reaching into the banks and if there are issues they will be addressed in the design process. Mr. David introduced Ms. Shannon Wright, the new Regional Director.

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

Chairman Constantine recognized the attached report from Mr. James Stansbury. According to the report, Eatonville is set to pass amendments in November.

Florida Department of Health, Rulemaking Activities Related to On-Site Disposal Systems Treatment Standards Pursuant to Recommendation 9 of the Final Report – *Mr. Bart Harriss*

Mr. Bart Harriss provided an update on the septic tank evaluation program. Mr. Harriss stated that 16 counties and one city opted out of the 5 year evaluation. An update for the Nitrogen study will be provided at the next meeting.

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 announced that the BMAP has been sent to various stakeholders for review and the draft BMAP will be finalized shortly. A date has not been set for next meeting.

Mr. Charles Lee discussed the concerns over the Mid FL. Materials CMD disposal facility permit application near the parkway and the Kelly Park DRI. Discussion continued citing environmental and development concerns, landfill class, and the current process being undertaken.

4. Other Business

The Florida Conservation Collation 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

Chairman Constantine recognized Mr. Dennis David and his contribution to the development of the Parkway and the protection of the Wekiva River Basin. Mr. David was presented with a plaque for his efforts and congratulated on his retirement.

6. Public Comments

None

7. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be scheduled for February/March 2013.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Constantine adjourned the Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting at 2:44 pm.