



**Wekiva River Basin
Commission**

**Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2014
2:30 PM**

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
309 Cranes Roost Blvd. Suite 2000 Mayor John H. Land Board Room
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

1. Call to Order and General Business

The meeting was held at Wekiva Island. It was called to order by Chairman Constantine at 2:33 p.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called roll and announced there was a quorum. The following members were in attendance:

Chairman Lee Constantine – Chairman

Mr. William P. Battaglia – President and CEO, Battaglia Group Management LLC

Commissioner Brenda Carey – Seminole County

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

Commissioner Steve Wolfram – City of Altamonte Springs

Councilmember Dennis Wood – City of Mount Dora

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

Mr. Alan Hyman for Ms. Noranne Downs – District Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation

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

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

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

1. Call to Order and General Business

Chairman Constantine introduced new appointee Councilmember Denny Wood from the City of Mount Dora and re-appointments Mr. Bill Battaglia and Commissioner Brenda Carey. Chairman Constantine called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 12, 2014. A motion was made by Commissioner Carey and seconded by Mr. Charles Lee. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mary Sue Weinaugh of Wekiva Island welcomed the Commission and made some announcements about the Park. She discussed that The Travel Channel has contacted the State Park and Wekiva Island and will be doing a segment on the Park. Robert Brooks, Park Manager for the Wekiva River Basin State Park, stated that the title of the segment is “One of America’s Best Swimming Holes”. Another “Keep Seminole Beautiful” clean-up is scheduled with Rollins and UCF and other volunteers at one of the Wekiva Park areas.

2. Agency Activities and Legislative Report

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads Pursuant to Recommendation 6 of the Final Report – *Mr. Jeff Prather*

Mr. Jeff Prather reported that they are still waiting on information on the BMAP and its progress. The Secretary continues working with the Stakeholders in the area on strengthening the language, especially regarding septic tanks that are specifically close to the springs.

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

Chairman Constantine stated there was a handout in the Commission packet specific to the Department of Health’s Recommendation 9 of the Final Report on the On-Site Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study. There would be a much more in depth presentation at the next meeting in February.

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

Mr. Jody Lee reported that during the last meeting he had stated that DACS received \$5 million of Springs money for cost-share program. The Department had estimated approximately \$200,000 per cost share program focusing on water quality and nutrient and water management programs. Two programs were selected for our area. One program will be based out of the Marion County Conservation District, primarily for the Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs area for \$250,000. They also received one program for the rest of SJRWMD to be administered through the Volusia County Conservation District for another \$250,000. Currently they are in the process of hiring two technicians to help administer these two programs and to assist growers enroll in the BMP programs and get into the cost-share programs. The Department will also be revising their Vegetable Crop Manual which first came out in 2005, and are developing a new Dairy Manual. These should both be completed after the first of the year.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – *Mr. Tom Schupe*

Mr. Schupe updated the Commission on Regional Director Shannon Wright’s FFWC Wekiva Parkway Report (Attachment 1).

FFWC has been working with local governments and neighborhoods on the garbage issues and on general bear conflict resolutions. Seminole County BOCC has been a great help along with the Seminole County Sheriff Offices. FFWC did provide a \$20,000 grant to Seminole County to help supply garbage cans and approximately 200 people are using them. Mike Orlando, FFWC, has advised that he’s had inquiries from Lake County on doing a similar program. 100% of Waynefield North Subdivision is now using bear resistant cans. It is now mandatory in that community that bear resistant cans are used and they are now Florida’s first Bear Smart

Community. If anyone is interested, Human Wildlife Conflicts, predominately bears, is going to be a focus issue for discussion at the February Commission meeting in Jacksonville.

Jaime Doubek-Racine, National Park Service, the designated Federal Officer for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Systems, introduced the team working on the study and presentation on "Evaluating Movement and Behavior of Florida Black Bears". The presentation included:

- Better understanding of the dynamics of the bear populations – their movements and behavior in the urban areas such as how often they go into neighborhoods, the driving factors such as garbage and natural foods.
- Methods being used include GPS radio collars for tracking movements, where they go, what habitat they're using, frequency and movement paths. They will also be using cameras on collars to get the point of view of the bears. Samples of collars were passed around for review. The study includes 15 motion activated cameras, ten GPS radio collars and three camera collars.
- Locations for the study include Markham Woods Road, Longwood Markham Road, SR 46, Sorrento Road, Mt. Plymouth, Rock Springs Road and Wekiva Springs Road.
- Randomized trapping of bears – traps are set out every night with 20 set out to-date with only ten female bears trapped so far. Documenting of the bears include measurements, weight, whether they have reproduced, their teeth to get their age. They receive lip tattoos and of the ten, six were collared, the other four were cubs and too small. Traps are checked twice a day so they're not kept in the traps too long. The collars automatically blow off after 12 months.
- Benefits hoped to gain from the study include gathering useful information about the behaviors of the bears, such as their food selection and eating habits, spatial and temporal patterns of their movements and frequency and timing of trips between core and urban perimeter areas.
- FWC is also working on a bear population study statewide.
- Three future research questions include what is the effect of the abundance of natural foods, both seasonally and annually, on the frequency of movements between the wilderness core and the perimeter areas; what is the effect of implementation of the bear-proof trash receptacles on frequency of movements of bears into affected neighborhoods; and, how does population density and frequency of habitat use in the interior vs. perimeter areas of Wekiva River Basin park area differ as related to availability of human food sources.

Chairman Constantine read an update received from Shonna Green, Vice President, Communications and Community Resources, of the Central Florida Zoo:

"The Zoo is in the midst of fundraising to build the Black Bear Forest exhibit and has begun conceptual planning for the design of the exhibit. We hope to have fundraising and design completed soon so that we can break ground and open in 2015. We will begin bear education and outreach programs closer to that time."

Chairman Constantine stated the exhibit will also include holding pens for nuisance animals such as bears and other wildlife.

St. Johns River Water Management District – Mr. Casey Fitzgerald for Mr. Hans Tanzler

Mr. Fitzgerald gave an update on the Springs Projects for Wekiva River Springs, Volusia Blue Springs, Silver Springs and the Lower Santa Fe River/Ichetucknee Springs. In the Wekiva River Springs system, there are two septic tank projects: a retrofit for Orange County and a smaller septic tank project for Apopka; and in Silver Springs, there's a \$10 million well and septic tank reduction program. The SJRWMD will be reopening the cost-share program in January as well as having a workshop for educating staff of various local governments and consultants.

Mr. Charles Lee stated that in some remote areas you can't extend sewer lines to replace septic tanks but by simply replacing antiquated toilets with new standard toilets, it's possible to reduce the volume of the flow through the septic tank drain fields by about 50%. Every home or business built prior to 1993 is likely to have old style toilets in place which could be flushing between 3-7 gallons per flush as opposed to the 1.6 gallons that is the standard now. Hopefully, some strong attention can be paid to this as an option.

Florida Department of Transportation – Mr. Alan Hyman for Ms. Noranne Downs

Mr. Hyman reported there is a handout in the today's packet on the current Public Outreach Program for the Wekiva Parkway. Ms. Mary Brooks, the Public Information Coordinator, then gave a presentation on the update. She stated that in the future, there will be all electronic tolling and this will be the first expressway with a cashless system; the department has started the design on multi-use trail activity for sections 4A and 4B and 6 and 7A; the Public Outreach Program includes Elected Officials' briefings, Community Presentations, Public Meetings, Youth Outreach Programs, Charrettes and Special Events. The first section, 4A and 4B, is on track to open in Spring 2015 and the first CFX Sections, 1A and 1B, should begin construction the first quarter of 2015.

Mr. Hyman stated that he will do a presentation on 4A and 4B, the section in Lake County that is nearing completion, at the next meeting. Most of the roadway work is complete but work continues on the bridge.

Central Florida Expressway Authority – Ms. Alayna Curry for Michelle Maikisch

No updates at this time.

Mr. Charles Lee asked when the remaining appointments to the Authority Board by the Governor might be made. Ms. Curry stated that this will not happen until after the election of Governor.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity – Mr. James Stansbury

Chairman Constantine stated that Mr. Stansbury had sent a written report that nothing new has occurred regarding the Wekiva Protection Area since the last meeting. There might be one FLUM amendment up in the Mount Plymouth/Sorrento area.

3. Other Business

Legislative Report – *Mr. Charles Lee*

Mr. Charles Lee stated that many legislative items will wait to take place until after the vote on November 4th. He reminded everyone that they need to vote and especially for Amendment 1 regarding land purchase which. If it passes, it is not just money that will go to certain purchases of land, but potentially, because of the way it was written and the way it will be structured from legislation, will have the opportunity to do alternative water and land projects. These might be very beneficial to not only state agencies but also local governments as they start to tackle some of the changes when it comes to alternatives for water and spring legislation that may be coming up this year.

The St. Johns River Alliance is going to be doing a legislative initiative and educational program on water at Stetson University on January 29th and 30th. A number of different legislatures, including the incoming President and incoming Speaker of the House, will be there.

4. Public Comments

No public comments today.

5. Future Meeting Dates – *Chairman Constantine*

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 2015.

6. Adjournment

Chairman Constantine adjourned the Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting at 4:03 pm.

Attachment 1
Wekiva Parkway Update

- Section 4A & 4B which runs across portions of the Wekiva State Park is under construction.
 - Gopher Tortoise Relocations complete
 - Environmental Educational program ongoing for construction crews – environmental issues are discussed at weekly safety meetings
 - FDOT 3rd Party compliance scientist conducting regular inspections
- Surveys for sand skinks have been designed will be accomplished in Wekiva Parkway Sections 3A and 5.
- All other Wekiva Parkway segments are in the Design Phase.
- FWC has reviewed the following Wekiva Segments in terms of fish and wildlife resource impacts including listed species and provided the following Agency letters:
 - Wekiva Parkway Section 7A USACOE Wetland Permit for the SR-46 Bridge over the Wekiva River in Lake and Seminole Counties (submitted to USACOE July 1, 2014)
 - Sections 429-204, 205, and 206 in Lake County DEP Environmental Resources Wetland Permit (submitted to DEP May 8, 2014)
 - Section 3B SR-46 West of US-441 to East of Vista View in Lake County DEP ERP Wetland Permit (FWC Letter drafted August 27, 2014 but not finalized since DEP is waiting on additional information from applicant).
- FDOT will coordinate with FWC to identify bridges that cross suitable habitat for bats along the entire Wekiva Parkway. This is based on a commitment in the Wekiva Parkway Environmental Document to determine the location, and construct structural accommodations for bats either attached to bridges or pole mounted. Segments 4A & 4B which are now under construction have bat abodes as part of the design. Central Florida Expressway Segments 1A & 1B due to go to construction soon will be surveyed for suitable habitat, and free-standing bat abodes will be installed in appropriate habitat. All other Wekiva Segments will be addressed, and a “Bat Report” with the location and types of structures for all Parkway Segments will be completed very soon. (Source Federal Highway Department – Tallahassee 10-1-14).
- FWC has conveyed a small segment of land to FDOT in the form of an easement in perpetuity through the Board of Trustees in lieu of fee simple acquisition for Right-of-

Way for the Wekiva Parkway. The ownership of the parcel by FWC was discovered by FDOT consultants very late in the coordination process. (Coordinated with FWC Land Acquisition staff – Tallahassee 10-2-14).