



**Wekiva River Basin
Commission**

**Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2013
1:30 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 3:08 p.m. Ms. Pegge Parker called roll and announced there was a quorum. The following members were in attendance:

Chairman Lee Constantine – Chairman

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

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

Commissioner Steve Wolfram – City of Altamonte Springs

Commissioner Leslie Campione – Commissioner, Lake County

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

Mr. Brett Blackadar – Seminole County Expressway Authority

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

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

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

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 29, 2013. A motion was made by Commissioner Wolfram and seconded by Mr. Charles Lee. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Welcome to Wekiva Island – *Mary Sue and Bill Weinaugh*

Mary Sue and Bill Weinaugh welcomed the Commission and spoke about the island's history, present and future, as well as the Wekiva Paint Out. Commissioner Constantine and Mr. Charles Lee also discussed the importance and appreciation of Wekiva Island.

3. 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 noted that there is timeline for the adoption of the BMAPS as the Secretary wants stronger language of requirements in the BMAPs in addressing septic tanks. They are currently working with stakeholders to do this.

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

Mr. Bart Harriss stated that the Nitrogen report will be completed in January 2016 and there are no further updates.

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

Mr. Jody Lee updated the Commission that the DACS is working with other agencies to discuss the effectiveness of the application BMPs on springs. DACS has requested \$5 million through the legislature for BMP programs this year. Mr. Lee discussed the various efforts they are undertaking to address irrigation efficiency and management as well as working with land owners including education concerning crop rotation to reduce run off. The Department is working with IFAS and the SJRWMD on other water management projects and educating growers by showing them the efforts of other growers which then grows into additional projects.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – *Commissioner Lee Constantine*

Commissioner Constantine addressed how the efforts of all the agencies to protect the springs are highly recognized. He discussed the efforts of the FFWCC in working with bear/human issues and the grant program for bear proofing garbage cans.

Mr. Charles Lee discussed his experience with human/bear interactions and efforts and programs in other areas of the U.S in dealing with the issue. He spoke about having strong local ordinances and referenced ID., MT., and Alaska, among others. Mr. Lee recommended that local jurisdictions look into these types of ordinances.

Commissioner Constantine noted that the FFWCC is working on policies and other tactics and that Seminole County may make recommendations for ordinances because of the large amount of bear habitat in the county.

Commissioner Constantine provided an update from the FFWCC. The update was provided to each commission member as part of their packet and is attached to the minutes.

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

Mr. Casey Fitzgerald gave a presentation on the District's Cooperative Funding Program highlighting various projects completed in 2013 and those planned for 2014 which includes working with 3-4 entities on septic tank conversions. The main target springs of the Springs Protection Initiative are the Silver, Blue and Wekiva Springs. Further discussion occurred on the types and number of projects for spring recovery, matches and funding under the Initiative.

Commissioner Constantine updated the Commission on the A-First Project and noted that the project is moving forward as everything has been approved. Commissioner Constantine also discussed policy versus monetary solutions for the protection of natural resources.

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed working with UF on a study to determine what types of projects and policies address the nitrogen conduits the best and this will help to guide future steps, projects and fertilizer management.

Commissioner Constantine discussed the public concerns about CUPs and the need to have flexibility of issuing CUPs. He asked if anyone in the Districts is talking to the legislature about changing the CUP process to include more flexibility. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the WMDs do not interact directly with the legislature and everything goes through FDEP. The WMD responds as requested.

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

Mr. Hyman presented information and illustrations concerning the main Wekiva Bridge Crossing. FDOT made a commitment in the PD&E to work with NPS and stakeholders to create a bridge that blends in with the river. The design must be approved by the NPS in order to obtain the permits to build the bridge. The focus of the Bridge Charrettes is on aesthetics and not engineering. The theme of the bridge, as determined by the stakeholders at the charrette, is "The Celebration of Trees". The Wekiva Trail will be accommodated on all bridges.

Other main components of the bridge include double piers to keep the work out of the river and will allow inspections to be performed from the top of the bridge; the trail/railing is open and may include possible design treatments. The final renderings were presented Feb. 12th and the tentative permit submittal will occur the first week of March with a public information meeting on April 29th.

The Commission discussed the temporary access to the parkway from CR 435. Commissioner Campione discussed the adoption of a resolution which requests that FDOT and OOCEA review whether this could be a permanent interchange. She stated that Lake County has strict land use regulations already in the area, it is not feasible to expand CR 435 and closing the temporary access may put a burden on the community.

FDOT discussed that the access is planned to be open for 4 years and current funding does not allow them to change the priority of the roadway construction and the statute limits the number of interchanges allowed.

Mr. Charles Lee provided a suggestion that the roadway may remain closed until the connecting pieces are completed. Mr. Hyman stated that the segment is the first to be completed because no ROW was needed to be obtained and the Department does not want the roadway sitting unused for 4 years. More discussion occurred on the data and analysis that was used to

develop the legislation which is guiding the parkway development and that for any changes to the legislation to build another interchange would need to be studied and discussed, especially by the WRBC. Discussion also addressed the funding process for the parkway which drives the construction of the parkway.

Orlando/Orange County Expressway Authority – Ms. Michelle Maikisch for Mr. Joseph Berenis

Ms. Michelle Maikisch updated the Commission that their segments are 90% completed in the design phase. Sections 1A and 1B will be completed by 2015-2016; Section 2 is currently in the design phase and will be constructed by 2019.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity – Mr. James Stansbury

Chairman Constantine noted that DEO has no current updates for the Commission. He also discussed that Mr. Stansbury stated that many sector plans are approaching their efforts using the “Wekiva Approach” as a model.

4. Other Business

Legislative Report / Springs Protection Initiative – Mr. Charles Lee

Mr. Charles Lee provided a legislative report, focusing mainly on Springs Protection Initiative. He discussed that the issue will be brought up next year instead of this year. Mr. Lee noted that \$55 million is in the governor’s budget for spring protection.

Chairman Constantine asked Mr. Prather if there was any update on the surplus land program. Mr. Prather responded that there is no update. Mr. Prather introduced Mr. Scott Taylor who discussed the 155 acres DEP has agreed to purchase that was once called the St. Johns Preserve with a PUD designation. The property will now be held in conservation. Mr. Taylor also addressed the Water Legacy issue that will appear on the November ballot.

5. Public Comments

Mr. John Nystrom discussed the noise issue associated with the bridge. He stated that noise abatement should take precedence over aesthetics. He also discussed his concern of the message that is sent to the public by having the Commission Meeting at Wekiva Island. Chairman Constantine stated that FDOT is working on noise abatement. Mr. Hyman stated that the FDOT is currently doing a study on the noise and that the NPS also address noise as a concern. He stated that the removal of the joints and the increase of bridge height will decrease the noise on the river, but this is currently being studied.

Mr. Charles Lee announced that Chairman Constantine received the 1000 Friends of Florida prestigious Bill Sadowski Award and thanked the Chairman for his leadership and efforts in the protection of the Wekiva River.

Chairman Constantine thanked everyone and reminded them of the Wekiva Paint Out. He also noted the Wekiva River Basin Commission 2013 annual report and discussed the lack of state funding for the ECFRPC and yet, they continue to serve as support for the WRBC.

6. Future Meeting Dates – *Chairman Constantine*

The next meeting will be scheduled for June 2014.

7. Adjournment

Chairman Constantine adjourned the Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting at 5:14 pm.