



**Wekiva River Basin  
Commission**

**Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2016  
2:00 PM**

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

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**1. Call to Order and General Business**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Constantine at 2:03 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 Battaglia** – Battaglia Fruit Co.  
**Mr. Charles Lee** – Senior Vice President, Florida Audubon Society  
**Commissioner Brenda Carey** – Seminole County  
**Commissioner Steve Wolfram** – City of Altamonte Springs  
**Commissioner Leslie Campione** – Lake County  
**Commissioner Bryan Nelson** – Orange County  
**Ms. Erin Schaefer for Mr. James Stansbury** – Florida Department of Economic Opportunity  
**Ms. Laura Kelley** – Central Florida Expressway Authority  
**Mr. Jody Lee** – Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
**Mr. Bart Harriss for Mr. Gerald Briggs (retired)** – Chief Bureau, Onsite Sewage Programs, Florida Department of Health  
**Mr. Alan Hyman for Ms. Noranne Downs** – District Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation  
**Ms. Shannon Wright** – Regional Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
**Mr. Jeff Prather** – District Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
**Dr. Ann Shortelle** – Executive Director, St. John's River Water Management District  
**Mr. Harold W. Barley** – Executive Director, MetroPlan Orlando

A motion to approve the October 2015 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Brenda Carey and seconded by Mr. Charles Lee. The motion was passed unanimously. Commissioner Constantine stated that each of the Commission members have received a copy of the 2015 Annual Report which is a required progress report by the State of Florida for the Wekiva Commission.

## **2. Agency Activities and Legislative Report**

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Ms. Shannon Wright**

Ms. Wright updated the Commission on the Gopher Tortoise surveys for Sections 3A and 5. She also stated surveys have been completed on Sections 3B and surveys will be performed on Sections 6 and 7A at a later date. Sand Skink surveys are being performed on Sections 3A and 5 and there were no Sand Skink surveys necessary on Section B.

Commissioner Constantine stated that the State has put \$500,000 in the budget for the FWC with 60% of it going to those counties that have addressed urban bear management. Seminole County is the only one in the state that has done so and they are hoping to receive the entire 60%. He is not sure if the \$300,000 must be used for bear resistance containers or if there's any flexibility on what it can be used for and whether there are any other counties working on receiving funds other than Marion and Wakulla Counties who are putting something together. Commissioners Nelson and Constantine discussed issues with trucks and automated disposals for bear proof containers and the possibility of getting ones that don't need to be retrofitted for trucks. If the State of Florida could buy them in bulk, they could get a much better price.

Mr. Charles Lee discussed House Bill 1075 that passed on the last day of the legislature which is referred to as the Lands Bill and establishes a new regulatory opportunity focused on springs and the duties of the FWC. It creates a new section of law establishing protection zones for springs with focus largely on vessel operation in spring runs and springs themselves. It gives the FWC authority to establish zones and to administer rules that would propose restrictions on motor boats and any other vessels in the springs. Motorboat propellers damage submerged beneficial aquatic vegetation in the springs and these regulations and rulemaking should assist with these problems.

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

Mr. Harriss gave an update on their program. Mr. Ed Barranco has assumed the responsibilities of Mr. Gerald Briggs, as Environmental Administrator for the DOH Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs and Mr. Harriss will continue representing them but has recently changed positions to the Florida Department of Health in Orange County.

During the last meeting, Ms. Elke Ursin, FDOH, gave a detailed report on the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Report which was submitted to the Governor on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Department is now facilitating discussions on the implementation strategies for the Passive Nitrogen Removal Systems as outlined in the final 256-page report, available at [flhealth.gov/nitrogen](http://flhealth.gov/nitrogen).

Mr. Harriss discussed the Wekiva BMAPs and the February stakeholders meeting. In developing the BMAPs, the DEP will identify and delineate any priority focus areas for the outstanding Florida springs where onsite sewage treatment disposal systems are determined by DEP to contribute at least 20% of the nonpoint source nitrogen pollution or where DEP gains remediation of OSTDS nitrogen impact necessary. There are a lot of things the BMAPs must include but they also must include the incorporated OSTDS or the onsite sewage remediation plans from the nonpoint sources. They should also provide implementation plans to achieve the TMDL no more than 20 years after the BMAP adoption. As part of the BMAP process, the

OSTDS remediation plans shall be developed by the DEP, the DOH, relevant local governments, and relevant local public and private utilities. The DEP is the lead agency responsible for this process. Some of the prohibitive activities within those priority focus areas would be new wastewater treatment plants, new OSTDS on lots of less than an acre if conflicting with the remediation plans, new hazardous waste disposal systems, new agricultural operations that do not implement the BMAPs and land applications of bio-solids not in accordance with BMAPs. The BMAP should be completed in 2018.

The Department is working on Rule language for septic tanks and should have the first round of language may be done in September. A portion of the Rule will allow for the option to be able to design and install nutrient reducing systems.

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

Ms. Ferraro also discussed the BMAP stakeholders meeting and its effort to kick off the process Mr. Harriss just discussed, specifically remediation plans. Nominations for the Advisory Committee which will be putting together the remediation plans, was also requested and would include representatives from public utilities, several cities, private utilities, community development districts, the environmental interests, homeowner associations, and businesses, as well as Seminole, Orange, and Lake Counties, and the Department of Health. The nominations should be submitted by March 25<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be at the end of April or the beginning of May. Nomination submissions should be sent to BMAP coordinator, Moira Homann. Commissioner Constantine asked that the link for nomination submissions be sent to Tara McCue to distribute with all the nomination guidelines.

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

Mr. Jody Lee stated they now have a new Executive Director, Mr. Steve Dornell, from the Agriculture Environmental Services Division. In restructuring the department, two new Assistant Directors were added: Mr. Ray Scott moved up from the Water Supply Planning and Mr. Stan Posen was hired to oversee the BMAP staff in the field and the Implementation Assurance Program. They will also be able to hire ten new positions to help implement the program. The budget will be about \$54 million which is an increase from last year's budget.

Mr. Charles Lee mentioned the \$35 million that was appropriated to the Rural and Family Lands Conservation Easement Program administered by Forestry and DACS and which is a statewide program. He stated that the Wekiva could benefit from this by submitting sites in the Wekiva/Ocala connector and also in Lake County that meet the rural lands criteria on the list as the new list is developed.

**St. Johns River Water Management District – Dr. Ann Shortelle**

Dr. Shortelle gave an update on the cost share program. There are numerous active projects in the Wekiva area including projects for water conservation, offsets to ground water withdrawals-recharge, pending reclaimed water usage and others. The SJRWMD has a \$25 million dollar program recently advertised for the upcoming fiscal year. There will be a workshop this Thursday, 11:00 a.m. at the Maitland Service Center for local cooperators that might be interested in submitting this year. There will be \$50 million available for springs' funding over four districts with springs, including us. That funding will be recurring for 20 years. The Water

Bill requires that priority springs, which don't have MFLs, must have them set by July 1, 2017. Also the Central Florida Water Initiative approved the water supply plan which supplies another source of funding for district led projects and water resource development. Submissions for the Water Conservation solicitation within the CFWI have been reviewed by the WMDs and are now at the DEP for final ranking.

**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity – Ms. Erin Schaefer for Mr. James Stansbury**

Ms. Schaefer gave an update on the five amendment packages within the Wekiva River Study area, reviewed since October 2015, amendments including 208 acres and a land exchange resulting in a reduction of 833 dwelling units and an increase of over 4 million square feet of non-residential development. Also reviewed was the Apopka 16-1 amendment package, Wekiva Interchange Form-Based Code, which was the culmination of 12 years of coordination between the city and the county. The approval letter is due out this week.

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

Ms. Brooks provided an update on the Wekiva Parkway, which included electronic tolling, environmental protections, the Wekiva Parkway Trail, and schedule. The design of the Parkway is nearly complete. Acquisition should be complete by 2017 and the construction completed by late 2021.

Ms. Brooks continued discussing the Central Florida Expressway Authority sections including the aesthetic plans and updates on sections 1A & 1B, 2A, 2B & 2C. Also updated were the FDOT sections including the opening of sections 4A & 4B January 20th, sections 3A & 3B, section 5, sections 6 East & West, the Wekiva River Bridges, section 7A East & West, the Roundabout Concept, section 7B and section 8. Ms. Brooks concluded her presentation with what's next for CFX: the CFX construction on sections 2C & 2A starts in May and August, respectively; section 1 opens in the spring of 2017; and, the next FDOT construction which is on sections 3, 5 & 6 is scheduled for 2017. Recent news includes: CFX Section 2B construction started January 4; the FDOT Section 4 opened January 20; and, the FDOT Industry Forum was January 26.

Mr. Hyman stated that he will give an update on Section 6 at the next Wekiva meeting.

**Central Florida Expressway Authority – Ms. Laura Kelley**

Ms. Kelley stated that in April the CFX will be achieving two very large milestones including their first work plan that considers all four counties in the region and potential projects that are needed in the area, as well as their first master plan. All other projects are on schedule with tours provided in the fall.

**MetroPlan – Mr. Harold Barley**

Mr. Barley had nothing to report today.

### **3. Other Business**

- **Legislative Report**

- **Water Bill** – *Mr. Jeff Prather, Florida Department of Environmental Protection*  
Mr. Prather gave a presentation on an overview of the Central District and how the DEP is a resource for each of the six Regulatory Districts. He also discussed the Water Bill of 2016 highlights which include the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program and Consumptive Use Permits, as well as minimum flow and levels, BMAPs, monitoring and reporting on water quality and quantity, and conservation lands. Also was discussed was the enforceability of the BMAPs.

Mr. Charles Lee asked for further information on priority versus proximity as it has to do with permits. Mr. Prather stated there are still a lot of details that needs to be worked out before we know how the water bill will work and affect the Wekiva. They will be looking at ways to compare the competing applications.

### **4. Public Comments and Announcements**

Commissioner Constantine asked for public comments:

Dominique Buhot from Greens Environmental Services, asked about the ban on septage on land application. Commissioner Carey clarified that the issue is that in Seminole County, when a grease trap is cleaned, there is nowhere to dispose of the grease. Commissioner Constantine stated that as of July 1, Legislature did not extend the ban and this is something that needs to be addressed as the ban goes into effect July 1, 2016.

Ms. Nancy Prine gave an update on the Wild and Scenic River commission. The current budget was \$150,000. At the last meeting the budget was changed to \$230,000 with funding coming from congress. There is a letter now circulating in the Congress to support funding for the Wild and Scenic River for 2017. Commissioner Constantine added that at the last meeting, they allocated \$35,000 of the available \$90,000 for programs, with the largest percentage going towards the erosion at the State Park and \$10,000 as part of the well testing in Orange County. Commissioner Constantine asked Tony Matthews to put in some projects for Seminole County.

### **5. Future Meeting Dates** – *Chairman Constantine*

The next meeting will be scheduled for approximately late June or July 2016 at East Central Florida Regional Planning Council offices.

### **6. Adjournment**

Chairman Constantine adjourned the Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting at 3:25 p.m.