



**Wekiva River Basin
Commission**

**Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2016
2:30 PM**

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
455 N. Garland Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

1. Call to Order and General Business

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Constantine at 2:35 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 Leslie Campione – Lake County
Commissioner Bryan Nelson – Orange County
Mr. James Stansbury via phone – Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Ms. Laura Kelley – Central Florida Expressway Authority
Mr. Jody Lee – Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Mr. Bart Harriss – Florida Department of Health
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
Ms. Lisa Kelley for Dr. Ann Shortelle – Executive Director, St. John's River Water Management District
Mr. Harold W. Barley – Executive Director, MetroPlan Orlando

Commissioner Constantine welcomed everyone to the Lynx Building, the new home of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council and stated that the next Commission meeting might be at Wekiva Island, if available. Commissioner Constantine then reflected on Secretary Downs and her involvement with the Wekiva River Basin Commission and the success of the Wekiva Parkway. Ms. Downs accepted the award presented by Commissioner Constantine and spoke about her experience on the Board, the efforts from the beginning and the collaboration that made everything happen.

A motion to approve the August 2016 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Nelson. Commissioner Carey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

During the request for Public Comments, Mr. T.J. Fish, Executive Director for Sumter County introduced himself. His update would be presented later in the meeting during the transportation section of the Agenda. There were no other Public Comments at this time.

2. Agency Activities

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. Harris provided an update from Mr. Ed Barranco regarding the date/time for the next Technical Review and Advisory Panel which is Friday, December 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at the Florida Department of Health in Orange County at the Lake Ellenor office. Rule issues will be discussed.

The next Wekiva Spring Basin Management Action Plan Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting will be December 14, 2016. Leaders from the local county health departments will also attend the meeting. This is in accordance with Chapter 373.807, FS. "Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act", which requires FDOH to work with FDEP to develop a remediation plan for addressing the nitrogen loads from onsite sewage treatment disposal system (OSTDS) to Wekiva Springs. The upcoming meeting will be focused on approaches to control OSTDS nitrogen loads and factors that influence the choice of different approaches. The OSTDS regulation in Lake, Seminole, and Orange Counties will be influenced by the OSTDS remediation plan development for this basin. The meeting will be held at the Public Works West Altamonte Operations Facility, 950 Calabria Drive, Altamonte Springs, FL.

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

Mr. Prather provided a follow up on the air sampling at the Seminole rest area. He then discussed the FDEP regional ambient air quality measuring sites and discussed the 22 regional ambient air quality measurement sites. He stated that, in general, air quality in central Florida is good. Site specific monitoring can be done by the Health Department of Orange County because they have the appropriate equipment. According to Mr. Prather, the Health Department of Orange County would be willing to assist with this request. Commissioner Carey stated the area along Markham Woods Road may be a good site as it is the western boundary of the rest area nearest the population. She also asked if it is in DOT's purview to ask for the monitoring assistance. Mr. Alan Hyman stated he will provide an update on the process and time frame. Mr. Bart Harriss stated he will talk with David Overfield at the Health Department of Orange County concerning the request. Comm. Carey stated that it would be good to show that data does, or does not, support the idea of bad air quality from the rest area.

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

Mr. Jody Lee discussed the legislative approval and hiring of eight new field staff to help BMP enrollment and implementation assurance. He discussed the impacts of the new water bill mandates for rules for implementation assurance. The department is shifting efforts to

verification through a survey sampling program. He also provided information regarding their cost sharing programs. Projects are currently in the Marion and Putnam Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

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

Ms. Lisa Kelley, on behalf of Dr. Shortelle, gave an update on the 2017-18 Cost Share Program which will be going to the government board in January and will roll out in March or April. She discussed the Blue School Grant Program which focuses on water quality and conservation projects for high schools. They hope to expand the program in the future.

Ms. Claire Muirfield and Mr. Andrew Sutherland gave a presentation on the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) and Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) located within the CFWI. Ms. Muirfield stated that the department has started the data collection and stakeholder process for the 2020 plan. The plan will include a focus on alternative water supply and funding sources. Commissioner Constantine commented that they have heard that there is not enough emphasis on conservation. He stated that we are in a critical spot for water and conservation is the best approach. He also complimented the reclaimed water project in Apopka and Altamonte Spring for being innovative and asked if there are other examples in this state to replicate. Secretary Downs responded that she did have a request to replicate that project. The presenters said that they are available to give presentations to various public stakeholder groups such as Homeowners Associations (HOA), if needed. Ms. Muirfield said she would forward her information to the Board for their use.

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

Mr. Tom Shupe, presenting on behalf of Ms. Wright, provided the following updates:

- FWC Chapter 327.45 Authority Provisions – Mr. Tom Shupe stated that Chapter 325.47 information is not available at this time and requests that it be placed on the agenda at a future meeting.
- Parkway Permitting and Wildlife Survey Status – Mr. Shupe gave an update on sections including: 3a and 5 – permitted with FDEP, sand skink and gopher tortoise surveys being performed now; 3b - permitted with FDEP, sand skink and gopher tortoise surveys complete; 6 – FDEP/USACE permits currently under review, gopher tortoise surveys to be responsibility of Design Build firm; 7a – FDEP permit issued, USACE permit pending, gopher tortoise surveys to be done at a later date; 4a/4b – construction complete and road is open; FWC reviewed and submitted an agency letter on the ERP Wetland Permit for Section 8 of the Wekiva Parkway from Orange Blvd. to Reinhart Road in Seminole County on 9/30/2016.
- Bear Update – Mr. Shupe then gave an updated on the bears including the information available on the MyFWC.com which has lots of bear specific general information as well as outreach material for organizations and citizens. There are also several “Living With Bears” videos and other outreach materials on the website; there is money available from the State and Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida for bear projects; Commissioners decided not to have a bear hunt this year and a decision on future hunts will be made at future Commission meetings; regarding statistics on bear conflict calls to

FWC, Seminole, Orange, Lake and Volusia counties, all saw a decrease in numbers from 2015 to 2016.

Florida Department of Transportation – Secretary Noranne Downs

Secretary Downs stated that all sections of the Wekiva Parkway are on schedule and provided an updated on individual sections including Section 6 which should be open for bid in March, 2017 and Section 7A December 7. The parkway will be open for business in 2021.

Commissioner Carey asked if the cash payment from the CFX can move the parkway completion ahead of schedule. The CFX original agreement called for equal payment installments through 2024. The CFX Board decided to pay one large final payment of outstanding funds in hopes of advancing the DOT sections. Secretary Downs stated that she will look into this with the State. Mr. Charles Lee discussed the impact that the missing link will have on local traffic on SR46. Commission Constantine requested there be an update concerning this at the next meeting. Laura Kelley stated that she will send Alan Hyman a copy of the CFX letter. Mr. Charles Lee stated that this discussion should be had at the legislative level as there will be a public safety consequence and the Governor and Transportation Secretary should be engaged. Commissioner Carey stated that the letter was sent to the Secretary and that everyone should place this item as one of their legislative priorities.

Central Florida Expressway Authority – Ms. Laura Kelley

Ms. Mary Brooks gave a presentation on behalf of the CFX on the Wekiva Parkway construction. There are five projects under construction totaling ten miles that are 44% complete: Section 429-202 (1A), from North of US 441 to North of Ponkan Road, started June 8, 2015, 68% complete; Section 429-203 (1B), from North of Ponkan Road to North of a New Kelly Park Road Interchange, started August 3, 2015, 77% complete; Section 429-204 (2B), Systems Interchange extending Wekiva Parkway northeast toward Sanford and SR 453 toward Mount Dora, started January 4, 2016, 35% complete; Section 429-205 (2A), Wekiva Parkway from the Systems Interchange east to FDOT's completed Section 4A at CR 435, started August 1, 2016, 11% complete; and Section 429-206 (2C), Northwest leg of the Wekiva Parkway extending from the Lake County line to SR 46 toward Mount Dora, started May 2, 2016, 26% complete. The Wekiva Parkway Opening Plan: Mid-2017 – open Wekiva Parkway from Connector Road to Kelly Park Road; Early 2018 – open remainder of CFX Wekiva projects.

Ms. Brooks volunteered to give the Board a tour of the CFX sections of the Wekiva Parkway under construction. Commissioner Constantine asked Ms. Brooks to continue the updates as they are very helpful.

MetroPlan – Mr. Harold Barley

Mr. Barley had nothing additional to report.

FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity – James Stansbury

Mr. Stansbury discussed the four proposed amendments that were reviewed by the DEO: the Oakland Amendments 16-1, 16-2, 16-3 included a 58-acre parcel changing from agriculture to mixed used activity center but will focus more on retirement and multi-family housing. Commissioner Constantine questioned whether the Oakland proposal means it will be developed in a less intense manner. Mr. Stansbury said yes, it would be less intense. The St. Johns River Water Management District provided comments and suggested the adopted amendment include a site-specific policy limiting the development potential on the subject property. The DEO reviewed the proposed amendment and had no comment.

The Winter Garden Amendment 16-1 dealt with multimodal changes. The proposed changes include requiring the City to plan for the implementation of a multimodal road alignment along Dillard Street to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections and a new policy proposed to require certain pedestrian and bicycle improvements to the Dillard Street corridor. The DEO reviewed the proposed amendment and had no comments.

4. Other Business

Legislative update – Commissioner Constantine suggested each county place the prioritization of expediting the Wekiva Parkway in their transportation priorities.

Charles Lee restated the importance of expediting the completion of the missing link of the Parkway.

5. Public Comments and Announcements

Mr. T. J. Fish, Lake Sumter MPO, discussed projects that are a result from the Wekiva Parkway project. These include the extension of Round Lake Road to SR 44 to help create a grid system for the county. Plymouth Sorrento Road (CR 437) is being realigned on southern side of SR 46 to get to Kelly Park. SR 46 is being four-laned in Mt. Dora and SR 44 six-laned; he also discussed the Wekiva Trail which will connect Camp Challenge to Seminole and south to Kelly Park connecting with Orange County by 2020.

6. Future Meeting Dates – *Chairman Constantine*

The next meeting will be scheduled for late February or early March 2017 at Wekiva Island, which is the same time as the Wekiva Island Art Festival. Commissioner Carey suggested that it might be easier to meet some place other than the Lynx building in downtown Orlando and suggested other locations with easier access and which are located in the Wekiva Basin.

7. Adjournment

Chairman Constantine adjourned the Wekiva River Basin Commission Meeting at 4:30 p.m.