

TOO FAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

December 2007 Volume 193

Meeting Notices

TOO FAR General Meeting
Thursday December 20 at 7 pm
East Citrus Community Center

TOO FAR Board Meeting
Thursday January 3 at 6 pm
TOO FAR office

Citrus County Task Force TBA

Withlacoochee Basin Board
December 13
at 9 am
Brooksville

SWFWMD Governing Board
December 18 at 9 am
Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners
County Courthouse
December 4 & 18
at 1 pm

Sumter County Commissioners
December 11 at 5 pm
Bushnell Courthouse
December 18 at 5 pm
Colony Cottage

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE HOLIDAY SEASON

Boy did this year go fast. I was trying to learn about our beautiful corner of the world and get things done like as if I had already learned. Things have not changed much, I am still learning but hopefully I have increased my knowledge and my effectiveness. The task of learning was eased by so many in TOO FAR and others in the environmental community. A particularly pleasant part of my education has been the help and lessons I have received from people in government. Sure there are closed minded functionaries in government, but there are also water-friends and environmentalists. There are also people, born and raised here that welcome and work with us newcomers that share their love of nature and the land.

We are working more closely with other groups that share some of our interests so we can work together when our interests overlap. TOO FAR gives up nothing but we multiply our power. The turnout by our fellow organizations and politicians at the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Board Meeting was exciting. Of course, no other organization was as well represented as TOO FAR. All showed that we believe in "local sources first" and we will support it.

Of all the water management district executive directors that I know or know of, Dave Moore is the best. He takes the time to listen to TOO FAR. He gave us the culverts at Flying Eagle. I will continue to try in the coming year to help him see the way and progress to better care of our lands and waters.

Lord, I ask you to bless our children, grandchildren, friends, relatives and TOO FAR members with health, happiness and prosperity. Bless our public servants with wisdom. Bless us with the strength to continue working to save our beautiful corner of your world. Thank you, AMEN

AI

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire.

Jack Frost nipping at your nose and toes.

What? Jack Frost in Florida?

Even with a frost, stay warm and cozy with all the warm wishes and good cheer coming your way from TOO FAR.

'Tis the Season!

Although it's been said, many times many ways
Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy New Year!



HILITES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

By Pat Brady

Thanks to the Provencals for the goodies and for manning the coffee room.

Call to Order—Al Grubman called the meeting to order and welcomed the large group of attendees from the west coast. Al and Larry led the Pledge and Invocation respectively. Minutes of previous meetings as well as Board Meeting minutes are available in the TOO FAR office. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read subject to an audit. Greg mentioned that the brick has been purchased and that the TOO FAR Christmas party is December 4th at 4 p.m. at the Outback. Super raffle of 100 tickets for a fishing trip for 4 people are \$25 each.

Speaker: Jack Sullivan, Executive Director of the WRWSA. Raised in central Florida, Hernando County. Asked to speak about the St. John's river proposal to use the Withlacoochee River for their water supply. 3 counties are in the regional area Citrus, Hernando and Sumter. Board members are elected officials (Joyce Valentino is a member). Mr. Sullivan noted tremendous number of demand areas - the Villages, Hernando County, the water supply authority, etc. Legal issues were discussed for inter-district transfer of water. Does the statue apply to surface water? Yes, but not if the water is used in the same county. There are rules to implement an inter-district transfer. Requires approval of each involved District. Has to be consistent with public interest.

The second legal issue is whether transfer is in the public interest. Have to consider many issues such as closer water, etc. Doesn't think the St John's District performed all the required tests. Certainly didn't consult other governments. All criteria of local sources first was determined to apply. They have always opposed moving water from its source to support growth in other areas. People closest to the source will protect it better. Want to continue using ground water as long as we can but there may come a time when an alternative source is needed.

Things to consider for the future: by 2060 the state's population will double — 30 plus million. In 2010-2030 the baby boomers will be retiring. Our region is in the economic orbit of Tampa and Orlando. There are changing development patterns. A cycle of hurricanes are predicted for coastal areas. Also historic draughts are occurring. Costs are rising for the coastal areas. Residents are predicted to move inland. Competition for water is becoming an issue among various users. A long range plan for using our water makes it harder for others to come in and take the water. So the first step is to create the plan, two have been done before but they were not accepted by the local governments due to some deficiencies. In 2005 the board began a multi-year plan for a long range plan in coordination with the water management district.

Growth from 60 to 100 % in the area. When matched up with all water uses by 2025 demand will be 192 million gallons per day. 80% will be for new residential growth. Fifty years 274 million gallons per day (100% more than today) will be required. Almost all use is now from ground water. Impact of minimum flows on ground water availability. Over the next 10 years the minimum flow will be set for the area sources. This will limit the ground water than can be taken. Conservation is trying to slow and shape downward the demand curve as are more aggressive rate structures, watering restrictions, dedicated staff at county level, and educational programs.

Potential water supply projects are seawater desalination at the Crystal River power plant (met with Progress Energy, president, David Moore and they were open to the idea) This would take a very long time but must get started. Storm water for irrigation systems. Waste water treatment plants. All water use sectors are predicted to increase Think current sources are sufficient for now but not for the future. Alternative supplies are very limited. Conservation may save up to 30%.

A Q&A session followed the presentation and included composting toilets, a halt to development, sustainable growth, zeroscaping, and fresh water springs in the Gulf.

Short break followed by an auction. Folks were reminded to attend the 16th Annual Pig Roast, December 1, 2007 held in conjunction with the Floral City Heritage Days. The Pig Roast is our main fund raiser. Twelve houses were restored and opened to see. Auctioned two tickets for the home tour for \$17

Winston Perry said he was proud of what TOO FAR has accomplished by not taking no for an answer. If we listen to the speaker tonight they will eventually grab our water for the future development and suck our state dry. He talked about work with Hometown Democracy and the petition.

Al read the nominations for next month's election. There were no nominations from the floor. Bullfrog drawing of \$38 was won by Al Grubman. Meeting adjourned.

Water

Folks at our last general meeting heard Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, talk about alternative water sources. Reprinted below are excerpts from a Southwest Florida Water Management District publication entitled: Water Supply, Developing Sustainable Water Supplies to Meet Current and Future Demands that describes alternative water sources.

According to SWFWMD, 85% of water used in the District comes from traditional groundwater sources and most groundwater is drawn from the Florida aquifer, a resource once considered inexhaustible. However, excessive pumping has lowered water levels in lakes and wetlands, reduced river flows and increase saltwater intrusion in the aquifer along the coast.

As our traditional water sources become exhausted, alternative supply sources will become more important. The following is a brief description of alternative water supply sources presented by SWFWMD in their referenced document.

Alternative Water Supply Sources

Conservation: The most effective alternative water source is conservation. Efficient water-saving practices including personal habits, Florida-friendly landscaping and low-flow fixtures. The most cost-effective way to accommodate increasing water demand.

Reclaimed Water: Used water that has received at least secondary treatment and is reused after flowing out of a domestic water treatment plant. Reclaimed water can be used for irrigation, groundwater recharge and industrial processes.

Rehydration: The application of storm water or reclaimed water to the surface of upland areas or wetlands to help increase the amount of water in the aquifer. The applied water undergoes additional cleansing as it filters down to the aquifer.

Surface Water Supplies: Water supplies drawn from creeks, rivers and lakes. The water source is limited by seasonal rainfall totals and pollution.

Reservoirs: Man-made areas where water is collected and stored. When needed, water from reservoirs can be treated for use.

Surface Water Supplies Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ARS): The process of treating water and injecting it into the aquifer for storage. When needed, the water can be recovered, treated, and then reused.

Desalination: The removal of salt from seawater or brackish water to produce drinking-quality water. Desalination had the potential to be a drought proof, inexhaustible alternative water source.

SWFWMD provides funding assistance to water projects that:

- Implement reuse, storage, recharge or conservation
- Provide substantial environmental benefits by preventing or limiting adverse impacts to water resources
- Replace existing sources to meet minimum flows and levels
- Support a sustainable water supply that would otherwise not be financially viable.

Copies of the referenced document are available by calling the SWFWMD Communications Department at 1-800-423-1476 ext. 4767. Visit their website at WaterMatters.org for additional publications and news.

Calling All Snowbirds!

Where are you? Come on now. Where are you? Here or there?

Let us know by phone, email or snail mail. We know you'd be heart broken to miss one Newsletter. The Newsletter is bulk mailed and is not forwarded by the post office. Do it now!

**RAFFLES, RAFFLES, WHO HAS THE RAFFLES?
TOO FAR Does!**

Get Your Tickets at our General Meetings or at the office.

If you haven't finished your holiday shopping and don't know what to get Uncle Teddy, Grand Mother Kathy or your wonderful spouse, how about a couple (two or three?) TOO FAR raffle tickets. TOO FAR has two different raffles so pick the one or both and get those tickets now.

**TOO FAR Super Raffle — \$25 per ticket
Winner gets a ONE DAY CHARTER
Inshore or Offshore Fishing Trip for Four
ANYWHERE IN FLORIDA
Only 100 tickets will be sold
DRAWING: April 2008 at the TOO FAR General Meeting
Earlier if tickets sold out
Winner need not be present
Trip Donated by
Texas Aquatic Harvesting, Inc.
Lake Wales, FL
Trip must be used by July 1, 2008**

Or if fishing isn't your thing, try your luck with our other raffle!

First Prize	\$200 Cash
Second Prize	\$100 Publix Gift Card
Third Prize	\$45 Outback Certificate
Fourth Prize	\$25 Enrico's Certificate

**Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 for 3 tickets
Drawing Thursday—February 27, 2008
at the TOO FAR General Meeting
You need not be present to win**

REMEMBER: Get your tickets early and often! Get you relatives, friends and neighbors to buy tickets. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

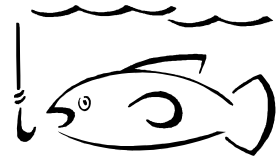
TOO FAR Mission Statement

TOO FAR is a grassroots organization dedicated to the best management and conservation of natural resources for present and future generations through public education and interaction with all entities charged with these responsibilities.

Thanks to all our members who give our mission statement life by sharing their energy, passion and commitment. TOO FAR is nothing without each of you.



THE CATCHING REPORT by Jerry Schneider



Hello Fellow Fishermen, as always I hope these words find you healthy and happy.

On the Salt:

“Just another day in Paradise.” This accurately describes the fishing along our section of the Gulf Coast. The only change between last month’s report and this one is that fishing has gotten even better. The trouts and reds have not moved. The only exception being the grouper, they are now being taken in twenty feet of water. The Spanish mackerel are becoming more numerous but haven’t started schooling yet. If you favor the flavor of flounder, fish farther north. The flat fish north of Yankeetown are large and plentiful. Sardines or a white jig tipped with shrimp are your best bet to boat big ones.

Getting Fresh:

The brutal summer heat is fading making a day on our lakes a pleasurable experience. With the dropping water temps the fish should become more active. The full parking lot at the Hwy 44 boat ramp is a good sign.

Our fearless leader Al Grubman managed a couple of short trips on Henderson. He said “I’m going to have to learn to fish this lake all over again, the drought has completely changed the weed lines and grass beds.” He still managed to boat a few nice bass.

Greg and June Schmulak tested June’s new Triton bass boat on Leesburg’s Lake Harris. Fishing was poor due to a large bass tournament that day but the new boat was perfect says June.

Mike Steele at Molly McGee’s deli/bait shop informed that his customers are reporting good catches of big crappie on Henderson and Spivey. No reports of big bass from his shiner customers says Mike.

That’s all there is for now. I wish you blue skies and tight lines, Jerry’s gone fishin’.

Fish Camp Philosophy: “If you need a piece Fishing is the chance to wash one’s soul with pure air,

In Memory of Nancy Reinholz

Long time TOO FAR member and supporter Nancy Reinholz passed away November 20, 2007 four days after her 99th birthday. Bud Rust visited Nancy often and kept her up to date on our activities. Please join TOO FAR and offer your prayers for Nancy and her family.

Memorial Gift In Memory of Mary Springer

Thanks to Alice and Herb O’Neal for their generous contribution in Mary’s memory.

TOO FAR OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSING

The office will be closed for Christmas and New Years —December 24 through January 1, 2008
Reopening on January 2, 2008

**TOOFAR INC
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**PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
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NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - DECEMBER 20, 2007
at 7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Mr. Jamie Adams
Outdoors with Adams
Chronicle Columnist

Lake Levels as of November 26, 2007		
Structure:	Current	Wysong Main Gate is closed at 39 ft Low Flow Gate is fully open at 38.7 ft 52 cfs total flow Floral City, Inverness and Hernando Pools— structures are closed Leslie Heifner gate open Please call Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD, at 800-423-1476 ext. 4515 for more information on the lake levels/structures.
Floral City	39.12	
Inverness	35.05	
Hernando	34.71	
Panasoffkee	39.45	
Wysong Upstream	39.15	
Wysong Downstream	34.91	
Leslie Heifner Outside	39.29	
Leslie Heifner Inside	39.30	
Levels are in ft. above sea level.		

Remember to recycle and deposit your cans and newspapers in our recycle bins. Newspapers in bin and cans in plastic bags on the porch. TOO FAR is located at 26 N Florida Avenue, Inverness. Thank you!