

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

November 2009 Volume 216



President's Message

What's Happening

At the October Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) Board Meeting I spoke of three main points. I argued against their first ground water proposal to make a well field in south-central Citrus County supplying 15 million per day, half of it to Hernando County. I argued against their first Alternative Water Source to take water out of the Withlacoochee River upstream of the Tsala Apopka Lakes to recharge the aquifer at the east end of the Pasco County-Hernando County line.

Jack Sullivan, the Executive Director, called me down for picking alternatives that he said I knew were poor, or changed and unlikely to survive next year's eliminations. I explained how industry handles similar development programs where they can't get lazy and just suck up more tax money. By-the-way, WRWSA is another one of those Florida organizations that can tax us but has no directly elected representatives accountable to taxpayers. Commissioners from several counties and city representatives serve on the board but are a small part of the board and the board is a small part of what they were elected to do. But back to how industry does it. Alternatives are generated then are culled as quickly as possible to focus on the best alternatives. WRWSA or their consultants generated alternatives then maintained them for years. Alternatives were nurtured, names were changed to gain more public support, cost estimates and beautiful charts were made and consultants were kept busy (and well funded) keeping all the balls in the air.

I explained to Jack that culling poor choices would save time and money. I also told Jack that TOO FAR would continue to protest until these and other poor alternatives are taken off their lists!

Discussions indicate optimism about some dikes but no announcements yet – stay in touch.

TOO FAR Water and Natural Resources Foundation Inc. is moving closer with its parent TOO FAR, Inc. Tax deductible contributions can be made. Contact the office, Greg or me.

The drought is not over. I think we have all seen the lack of rain since the good start in early summer. There is still some hope (as of this writing) of a tropical storm and a wet winter (Capt. Mike says it is in the Farmers' Almanac). Let's keep wishing and we will continue working with government to maximize river input to the lakes as available.

Have a great Thanksgiving – we have so much to be thankful for.
Comments welcome,
AI



HILITES OCTOBER MEETING

By Pat Brady

Call to Order, Pledge & Invocation: Al

Secretary's Minutes are available from the office or from Pat

Treasurer's Report by Greg, approved as given

Report Ad Campaign - Jan Grubman & Jenny Brockman - in spite of these terrible business times, ads are selling for next year. They have covered the losses of the businesses that have failed. November will have the new ads. Some of our old friends are gone. Many of our old ones are still with us, but please notice when you get your newsletter all of the new advertisers. Be sure to visit the advertisers and mention your affiliation with TOO FAR. Even Senator Charlie Dean is advertising with us. Make sure you let them know you are a TOO FAR person. Speaker: Mark Edwards, Director of Citrus County Aquatics and Frank Almack, Citrus County Aquatics.

Mark is now over 20 years with the county. He passed out charts of 50 years of long term and 14 years of short term level data. Inverness is 2- 4 feet below normal. Mark was born and raised in the county and covered the county history first settled by Indians. 1887 the county was created as the 44th county. Two cold fronts in 1895 nearly wiped out the citrus but phosphorus was another boom. In 1920's land speculation was a boom. 773 square miles, 25% is water. 1954 and 1957 severe droughts caused massive changes in the water as land was drained or diked. In 1960s came under the corps of Army Engineers. In the 1960s and early 1970s Fish & Wild Life had responsibility for aquatics. Water here moves from the south to north.

In 1884 the Orange State Canal put in to move big citrus boats. Leslie Hefner was constructed in 1958 to get more water into the lake. In the 1950s the water conservation structures were put in to put water into the lakes and keep it there. Only one flood control structure was built. There are 13 structures on the chain.

Currently, 9 people work for the aquatics to manage nuisance plants, etc. They maintain about 25,000 surface acres. Also have the salt water and fresh water artificial reef programs. Putting out fish attractors in the lakes. \$1 from every fishing license sold comes to the department. The budget was 2.2 million dollars and spent it all. This year the budget is 2.8 million. Will see a lot of activity this year to remove tussocks. Replacing a lot of signs and pilings with a grant. Some of the goals are to expand public awareness of the programs. Provide established trails not new trails for new builds in remote area. Actively remove derelict vessels. Navigational signs, and artificial reefs. Maintenance control of noxious plants and treating when small rather than out of control.

Citrus County Task Force cooperation. There's a lot happening behind the scenes with cooperation with other agencies.

Frank reported on how the harvesters have been working. Lots of people calling them as we recover from the drought. Had 15 harvesters running in Inverness and Hernando. Some areas get water faster and they concentrated on the deeper areas first. Inverness is pretty much done.

Phones ring off the hook when water starts up with people who want the harvester in their back yard. But they work in a systematic method. Tussocks start to rise as the drought ends and the cookie cutter helps clear these faster.

Q&A: Why not clear to the natural shoreline? Because it has become habitat and can't get permits for this type of clearing. Only concerned with navigation for property owners.

Why is there such a big difference in the lake levels? Why do they spray causing more muck? Why does it go down so fast? Mark indicated the muck comes from natural death of plants and spraying can reduce muck by controlling the plants. All three pools can't be held at the

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same level because of the land levels. They have minimum levels to meet before they let water from one area to another. As the river drops they close the structures to keep the water from back flowing. Let water flow as long as each lake stays at minimum.

Commented about watering grass from the lakes? Outlaw St. Augustine grass, stop drawing from lakes. Still have 1 day watering restrictions. Joyce commented that there is legislation to require Homeowner's Associations to change their grass species requirements. Will be developing reuse water systems for watering lawns.

What is a tussock? Muck in the bottom of these lakes becomes buoyant after a drought and pop to the top as a floating island because of gases from rotting roots. They move with the wind as a big or even little island. They become navigation hazard. They had over 2000 of these in Hernando Lake in 2005.

Who takes care of the river? SWFWMD does. It would be duplication of effort for the county to go there, but do pay them to do the canals that join into the river from the county. They don't use harvesters. They spray. But they will remove debris that goes against property or structures.

Stimulus money is coming here. Snagging project for the river for navigation - remove trees, limbs, tussocks and other hazards to navigation in the next week or two.

Guest said he can't get out of canal because of tussocks. Mark said he will create a work area to look at the problem and fix it. Homeowners can get permits to do work on their own as well. Bullfrog drawing of \$15 was won by Jerry Robinson.

Meeting adjourned.

TOO FAR Christmas Party

What? The TOO FAR Christmas Party

When? Friday December 18, 2009 at 4:30 pm

Where? Enrico's Italian Ristorante

439 US Hwy 41 S

Sign-up sheet at November 19, 2009 General Meeting

Call Norm at 726-4257 or June at 860-2762 to sign-up of with questions

See you there!

Lake Levels as of November 3, 2009

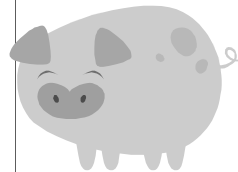
| | Current Level |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Floral City | 39.54 |
| Inverness | 37.88 |
| Hernando | 36.11 |
| Panasoffkee | 39.09 |
| Wysong Upstream | 38.54 |
| Wysong Downstream | 35.80 |
| Leslie Heifner Upstream | 39.12 |
| Leslie Heifner Downstream | 39.54 |

Lake structures closed

For more information call

Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD

1-800-423-1476 ext. 4515



It's Here!

TOO FAR Pig Roast

December 5, 2009

Enjoy the Floral City Heritage Days and
the TOO FAR Pig Roast

Roast Pig or Chicken for \$8

Combo platter for \$10

Beverages available

Be there! Support TOO FAR!

Thanks for all you do.

TOO FAR Pig Roast

Our 18th Annual Pig Roast

December 5, 2009

11am—3pm

At the Church of Christ Pavilion

Marvin Street & Church Street

Just off Hwy. 48

Floral City

**Enjoy the Floral City Heritage Days
and support TOO FAR**

Menu

BBQ Pork or Chicken

**Corn Bread, Hoppin John, Rice and
Dessert**

Pork or Chicken \$8

Combo \$10

Carry-out available

Beverages available

Everyone Welcome!

WE'VE GOT WATER. BUT FOR HOW LONG?

This is a critical question we face and our actions now matter. The Water Wars are real and will continue. With your support **TOO FAR** is working to protect our natural waterways and prevent the transfer of water to other areas. We face two major threats: development of areas without consideration for the fragile ecosystems and expansion to our east with developers and water districts searching for water. All too often their searches end with us. They are searching for ways to take our water for their own use, instead of "**Local Sources First**" as required by Florida law.

TOO FAR was instrumental in stopping the proposed pipeline to Tampa a decade ago. With our active support "**Local Sources First**" was passed into Florida law, requiring other counties to make every effort to reclaim their own water, including desalinization, before looking to tap other areas for water.

TOO FAR MISSION

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.

YES, I'll join the fight to protect, preserve and conserve our most precious water resources and to preserve our way of life for future generations.

TOO FAR Membership Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone 1 : _____ Telephone 2: _____
Email: _____ Family Size: _____
Snowbird Address: _____
Snowbird Months in Florida: _____
What are you willing to do to help? _____
Special Skills: _____

Dues are \$20 a year for Family Membership and \$200 for a Lifetime Membership

**Mail to: TOO FAR, Inc.
PO Box 2709
Inverness, Florida 34451**

Thank you for your support.

**TOOFAR INC
PO BOX 2709
INVERNESS, FL
34451**

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MEETINGS THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2009

At the East Citrus Community Center

BOARD MEETING at 5 pm

PIG ROAST MEETING at 6 pm

GENERAL MEETING at 7 pm

Speaker: Robert Knight

Water Resources Director

Citrus County

**NEW LOCATION
SKOORS MOVED
To
130 N Pine Ave
Formerly Helen's
Consignments**

Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation

TOO FAR

PO Box 2709

Inverness, FL 34451

352-726-5004

Email: toofarinc@earthlink.net

Check out our website: www.toofarinc.com

Real-time lake level data available at SWFWMD site

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/data/scada/>

Happy Thanksgiving!