

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

July 2010 Volume 224

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mischief

The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, WRWSA, is the way to avoid Local Sources First. Yes, most of you remember or have heard of the water wars and the fight against a water pipe from the Tsala Apopka Lakes to Tampa. We won and our then Senator Nancy Argenziano led the fight to stop the long distance water piracy. The roadblock was Local Sources First which still gets a lot of lip service but the stealth forces came up with a new approach. It was patterned after Tampa Bay Water the public co-operative that built and put together a massive combination of water facilities including the desalination plant and the reservoir. Ignoring the years of delay and design flaws, it is finally functioning. The project was so big that it made sense to combine the multiplicity of governments into a regional authority.

Now zoom into the Citrus, Hernando, Sumter and Marion - 4 county area: the WRWSA. After years and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent they generated a plan. The first part of the plan was submitted to their board for implementation on June 16th. Their board members are representatives of the various cities and counties that make up the authority. None of the board members are elected to the board by the public.

TOO FAR has members in all 4 counties but Citrus County was in the barrel for this first phase. Citrus County has 4 representatives on the board. Ken Hinkle Councilman from Inverness missed the meeting on June 16th. The other three are County Commissioners and all were present.

An 8 page memo supported the budget to "implement" the plan. The plan shows a new well-field in south-central Citrus County with a "proposed interconnect" to Hernando County. Citrus County was well represented in the audience filling most of the chairs in a full house. TOO FAR had four members there, including me. Citrus County Council had six members there including Teddi Rusnak, President. Norman Hopkins, Director of the Amy Remley Foundation and Jim Bitter, President of the Homosassa River Alliance were also there. Some belonged to more than one organization. The guests begged, pleaded and instructed the Commissioners to no avail. The Executive Director assured the Commissioners that the "interconnect" from Citrus County to Hernando County would carry no ground water but only Alternative Water Source (AWS) water in the distant future. This was in spite of the fact that the plan drawings clearly show that the "interconnect" (read "pipe") will exist before any AWS is available.

Hopefully the Citrus County Commissioners as well as the other board members will wake up and see this is a real danger and protect the resources of their areas.

This is just the beginning - Jack Sullivan and Pete Hubbell (you remember him) have the Withlacoochee and Lake Rousseau in their sights. Their plan includes a four foot diameter pipe taking water out of Rousseau potentially to the detriment of the Gulf estuary and the lower Withlacoochee River.

I pray that the vision of the board members clears up.

AI

HILITES OF THE JUNE MEETING

By Jan Grubman

Call to Order – Al Grubman, President
Pledge & Invocation – Larry Hartman
Secretary’s Report - Minutes available from the office.
Treasurer’s Report – June Schmukal

President’s Welcome: Our prayers for Joyce & Sal Valentino and family because their daughter remains seriously ill.

Guests: Gary Bartell, Chairman County Commission (Commissioner District 2)
Rebecca Bays, candidate County Commission (District 4)
Don Sterling, candidate County Commission (District 4)
Mike Bartlett, Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tonight’s Speaker: Philip Rhinesmith, Senior Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD
Phil spoke about the Lake Panasoffkee restoration which was completed in November, 2008. Over 1,700 acres of lake area was dredged with removal of 8.3 million cubic yards of sediment and 900+ acres of tussocks, 174+ acres of hard bottom was restored, open water lake area was increased by 37%, and set back lake aging by 450 years. This restoration achieves increased suitable fish spawning areas and open water habitat, improvement in fisheries, improved bottom (substrate) to support desirable native submerged vegetation (Eelgrass). Changes to the lake include increased lake volume; increase in the time water entering the lake stays in the lake until it leaves the outlet river and increased depth.

A question & answer period followed.

President’s Report: Al updated various items, including Potts berms: looked great at last check, tie-back berm: still fighting, Lake Bradley: delayed, WRWSA /The pipe: see July President’s message, Operational Guidelines for the Tsala-Apopka Chain Structures: revised as of 6/15 (TOO FAR reviewing, Al’s board appointment: still stalled. He also reminded everyone to remember our furry friends and bring pet food for Pet Meals on Wheels.

Thanks to June Schmukal and Jan Grubman for the goodies and working the coffee room.

Bullfrog drawing - Meeting adjourned.

Lake Levels as of June 29, 2010

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level
Floral City	39.10	Wysong Main Gate at 34.05 ft.
Inverness	39.02	Low Flow Gate at 34.03 ft.
Hernando	37.54	75 USGS total cfs flow
Panasoffkee	37.94	Leslie Heifner closed
Wysong Up	35.69	Floral City closed, Golf Course closed
Wysong Down	35.67	Moccasin Slough open, Brogden Bridge closed
Leslie Heifner Up	38.12	Brogden culvert closed, Bryant Slough closed
Leslie Heifner Down	39.14	Van Ness closed, S353 gate closed

FISHING –N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING

(WRITTEN BY Flub-A-Dub)

ON THE TOURNAMENT TRAIL:

It is 4 a.m., June 5, 2010 and after only 3 hours sleep (late night out); the team was on their way to the Rodman Reservoir. The team for the tournament consisted of Greg (Big Bass) Schmukal and his female partner (June). Ron (I'll Catch-um) Zarn was out of town visiting family, so Greg had to fish with a substitute. This was June's chance to show the guys how to do it. As you will see after reading this that the substitute was a real "FLUB-A-DUB".

The morning of the tournament was quite humid and windy. 17 boats left the launch site shortly after 6 a.m. Our team left 17th. June had the first fish on, but it jumped off before getting to the boat. Another tug on June's line, bigger fish this time, but that one too got off. Then about 11 a.m. Greg caught a bass, not real large, but it was legal size and in the boat. (Score: Greg 1 June 0). Greg caught another legal bass and June lost another 1. (Score: Greg 2 June 0). Greg caught legal bass #3 and yes June lost another one (4 lost if you are counting). (Score: Greg 3 June 0). Greg is now really getting upset with his partner and he is raising his voice a little louder.

Weather was changing and storm was coming in. Rain/thunder/lightning and wind. We headed back to launch, but stayed in the water. After the storm past, we again went out to the main water and fished for another 1-1/2 hours.

Shortly after 2 p.m. more lightning and rain started so we decided to go back to launch for weigh in. Big Bass weighed in his 3 fish; total weight 4.65 lbs. IF June had only caught the fish she had on, we would have had our 5 fish limit. Even IF only one of them would have made it to the livewell, we would have finished higher than 15th place, but as history reads we only had 3 fish to weigh in. Greg was very disappointed in his partner, he will be glad to have Ron back for next tournament.

June figures that she lost the 4 bites because Greg was raising his voice (yelling) and that scared all the fish away. (Right Ladies???)

First Place Wt: 25.84 lbs.

Second Place Wt: 23.98 lbs.

Third Place Wt: 17.55 lbs.

Out of 27 teams, the team of Schmukal and Zarn are currently in 16th place for the season. One more tournament to go. July 17th at Lake Rousseau.

How Big is the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes?

According to the Florida FWC, the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes is 19,111 acres of shallow, heavily vegetated marshes intermingled with pools of open water. Water control structures separate the lake into three main pools named after nearby towns: Floral City, Inverness and Hernando.

Check out the Florida FWC website: <http://www.myfwc.com> for other great information!

FISHING-N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING

ON THE HOMEFRONT:

Report from Captain Mike of Molly McGee's

Well summer is in full bloom! The lakes are still up, ready for all of us to get out and fish. Bluegill, Crappie, Spec's, Bass and Catfish etc. are calling your name. Saying **COME AND CATCH US IF YOU CAN!**

A few of us went out fishing the other morning on Lake Henderson. We caught many good size bluegill in the marsh and weeds using Super Red's (worms from our shop). Dave caught a 9-10 lb. bass (a beauty). But not as big and beautiful as the one Greg caught. Great Job Greg!! We hope you and June did well in the tournament. (No Captain Mike, Greg and June did not do well in the tournament).

“SO COME ON” LET’S GET OUR FAMILY TOGETHER AND GO FISHING!!

NOTE: All of us here at Molly McGee's and Capt. Mike Baits want to thank all of you at TOO FAR, for fighting and helping to protect and conserve our beautiful lakes and rivers. Thank you so much! Great job!!

CAPTAIN MIKE - OUT

Meeting Notices

Citrus County Commissioners

Dates & agendas at: http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commissioners/board_meeting_dates.htm

Sumter County Commissioners

Dates & agendas at: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov/CurrentEvents.aspx#CID26>

Dates & agenda for the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, SWFWMD Governing Board
SWFWMD's (Swiftmud) website: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar>

Find out about the Citrus County Task Force by calling
Josie Guillen at (352) 796-7211 x4227 or email josie.guillen@swfwd.state.fl.us
Let SWFWMD know you are concerned about our water.

**Get Involved!
Be Heard!
Keep Our Water Here!**

Thank you for your continued support of the Pets Meals on Wheels

**Your contributions keep man's best friends in their homes. Many pet owners can't afford to feed their pets. Please help them keep their best friends by donating food for this important program. When you come to our meetings, drop some food off in the kitchen. Every bite helps!
You can make a difference.**

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.

**WE NEED YOU NOW!
PRESERVE OUR WATER!**

Plans are being made to put in wells to pipe water south into Hernando County and east to the Villages. Where and when will it stop? Stand up and fight for your rights and way of life.

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

How Long is the Withlacoochee?

According to The Florida FWC, the Withlacoochee River is a 157-mile stretch stream that originates in the Green Swamp in Hernando County and flows north to the Gulf at Yankeetown. The stream has many limerock areas and associated swamps. Water levels fluctuate except in Lake Rousseau and the area just above the influence of Rainbow River. Water color is dark during the rainy season and clear during low water.

Important Email Information

Letters to the Chronicle: letters@chronicleonline.com
Governor Charles Crist: charlie.crist@myflorida.com
Senator Charles Dean: dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Mike Fasano: fasano.mike@flsenate.gov
Representative Ron Schultz: ron.schultz@myfloridahouse.gov
TOO FAR: toofarinc@earthlink.net

**TOO FAR INC
PO BOX 2709
INVERNESS, FL
34451**

**PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 31
INVERNESS FL
34451**

**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - July 22, 2010
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Ron Schultz
Florida House of Representatives**

Board Meeting at 5 pm