

LAKE PANASOFFKEE
RESTORATION COUNCIL
MEETING PACKET

September 8, 2008
5:00 p.m.

Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Center
West Wing



Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council

John Springstead, Chair

Jim W. Veal, Sr., Vice Chair

George Buhmeyer, Secretary

Dan McCormic, Member

Joel A. Merritt, Member

Howard Solomon, Member

David Starnes, Member

AGENDA

Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council

Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Center
West Wing
1582 County Road 459
Lake Panasoffkee, Florida

September 8, 2008 -- 5:00 p.m.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
1. Call to Order and Roll Call	John Springstead
2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation	John Springstead
3. Approve June 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes	John Springstead
4. Election of Officers	John Springstead
5. Project Status Update	
a. Dredging	Mike Holtkamp
b. Coleman Landing Second Channel Update	Mike Holtkamp
c. Snail Seeding	Marty Hale
6. 2008 Report to the Legislature	Mike Holtkamp
7. Project Completion:	John Springstead
a. Coleman Landing Plaque	John Springstead
b. Final Dedication and Recognition of Council Members	John Springstead
c. Other	John Springstead
8. Public Input	John Springstead
9. Schedule Next Meeting(s)	John Springstead
10. Agenda for Next Meeting	John Springstead
11. Adjournment	John Springstead

SUMMARY AGENDA

Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council Meeting

September 8, 2008

5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Chair will call the meeting to order and ask Ms. Tahla Paige to call the roll.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

The Chair will offer the Pledge of Allegiance and ask another member of the Council to deliver the invocation.

3. **Approve June 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

The Chair will ask for a motion and second to approve the draft June 19, 2008 meeting minutes. See Exhibit 1.

4. **Election of Officers**

The Chair will request nominations and preside over the election of officers.

5. **Project Status Update**

a. **Dredging**

Mr. Holtkamp will provide an update on the dredging.

b. **Coleman Landing Second Channel Update**

Mr. Holtkamp will provide an update on the cost of dredging a second canal at Coleman Landing.

c. **Snail Seeding**

Mr. Hale will provide a report on the feasibility of seeding snails into Lake Panasoffkee.

6. **2008 Report to the Legislature**

Mr. Holtkamp will review the content of the 2008 Report to the Legislature.

7. **Project Completion**

a. **Coleman Landing Plaque**

The Chair will preside over discussion and/or action taken to issue a plaque to be displayed at Coleman Landing.

b. **Final Dedication and Recognition of Council Members**

The Chair will preside over discussion on the appropriate way to recognize the Council's efforts.

c. **Other**

The Chair will ask the Council for additional input on the completion of the project.

8. **Public Input**

The Chair will provide an opportunity for the public to address the Council. Those members of the public should complete a "Request to Speak" card, located at the sign-in table. The Chair may wish to suggest a time limit of three minutes for comments from each member of the public.

9. **Schedule Next Meeting(s)**

Council members will discuss a schedule for upcoming meetings.

10. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Council members and the Advisory Group will provide input for the next meeting agenda.

11. **Adjournment**

If there is no additional business or announcements, the Chair will adjourn the meeting.

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council
Bushnell, Florida June 19, 2008

The Lake Panasoffkee Restoration Council met at 2:05 p.m. on June 19, 2008, at the Sumter County Government Offices, Commission Board Room 142, Bushnell. The following individuals were present:

Council Members

Jim Veal, Sr., Vice Chair
George Buhmeyer, Secretary
Dan McCormic, Member
Howard Solomon, Member
David Starnes, Member

Members Absent

John Springstead, Chair
Joel A. Merritt, Member

Advisory Group Member

Marty Hale, FFWCC

SWFWMD Governing Board Member

Ronald E. Oakley

Sumter County Representatives

Lilla Holt

SWFWMD Staff

Bruce Wirth
Mike Holtkamp
Lizanne Garcia

Recording Secretary

Tahla Paige

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is filed in the permanent files of the Council, and the numbers preceding the items listed below correspond with the published agenda.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Veal called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Ms. Paige called the roll and noted a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Vice-Chair Veal led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and offered the invocation. (CD Track 5/0:00 – 1:26)

3. **Approve February 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Following consideration, **Mr. Starnes moved, seconded by Mr. Buhmeyer, to approve the February 22, 2008 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.** (CD Track 5/1:27 – 3:08)

4. **Project Status:**

a. **Dredging**

Mr. Mike Holtkamp, Director, Operations Department, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), gave a brief presentation. He stated as of June 16 approximately 1,646 acres or 95 percent of the project had been dredged and there were only 125 acres left to dredge. Mr. Holtkamp added the dredge was averaging 2.3 acres a day and the work on Lake Panasoffkee (Lake) could be completed in 57 days by mid-August. (CD Track 5/3:09 – 7:04)

b. **Canal Clean-up**

Mr. Holtkamp reported Sumter County had conducted the Substantial Completion Inspection on April 30. He stated there was a "punch-list" of minor items to be completed and the final walk through is scheduled for June 23. Mr. Starnes agreed that essentially the project is complete and there are just a few staging areas requiring clean up.

Vice Chair Veal asked for verification that the canal clean-up was complete. Mr. Starnes replied affirmatively and said the contractor had gone to extraordinary efforts to clean areas that were difficult to access and had done an excellent job cleaning the canals.

Vice Chair Veal thanked Mr. Ronald Oakley, SWFWMD Governing Board Member, and Ms. Lilla Holt, Director, Division of Community Services, Sumter County, for attending the meeting and representing the County. (CD Track 5/7:05 – 10:23)

c. **2008 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Mapping Update**

Mr. Holtkamp informed the Council that, based on the August 2007 mapping, the SAV looked great, and he did not see a need for additional aerial photography to map SAV this fall. Mr. Holtkamp stated that due to the tight budget, he felt the money would be better spent in other areas of the project. Mr. Starnes asked what plans were for maintenance, as some areas of the Lake had very thick SAV and made boating difficult. Mr. Holtkamp replied there were no plans for controlling desirable SAV. However, Hydrilla and exotic plants will be treated. Vice Chair Veal asked how fertilizer/nutrient runoff from residential areas could be prevented from polluting the Lake. He wanted to maintain a vegetative buffer in order to filter the nutrients before they reach the Lake. Mr. Holtkamp stated the submerged vegetation is effective in absorbing nutrients. Mr. Wirth added the issue is education of the residents about plants and fertilizers. He said the District could look into hosting a workshop to educate the residents. Mr. Starnes stated the former Lake Panasoffkee Celebration was an excellent venue for education. (CD Track 5/10:23 – 18:13)

d. **Request to State for Sale of Shell at Spoil Area**

Mr. Holtkamp stated a letter was sent to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from Chair Springstead and one was sent from Governing Board Member Ronald Oakley in support of Chair Springstead's letter requesting the waiver of severance fees for the sale of shell, outlining the need for funds to dredge a second channel at Coleman Landing and for the additional fuel adjustment costs not included in the current budget totaling approximately \$1.4 million. The Department of Transportation (DOT) Aggregate Lab from Gainesville tested the quality of shell to determine if it met DOT specifications. Mr. Holtkamp added trucking and shell businesses had been contacted to gain insight to running the operation, and the District was moving forward on selling the shell whether DEP did or did not approve the waiver. Mr. Holtkamp noted the waiver of the fee was contingent upon public use of the funds. He felt payment for unexpected fuel costs and the second channel at Coleman Landing was for the public's benefit. Discussion continued on the waiver of the fee for shell. Mr. Starnes asked if the test results on the shell had been received. Mr. Holtkamp said the results showed the quality was excellent for fill and stabilization material, but did not meet the DOT specifications for road base material. Mr. Starnes asked if an agreement had been made to amend the contract with the dredging company. Mr. Holtkamp replied an amendment had been sent to the company, but a response had not occurred. (CD Track 6/0:00 – 8:59)

e. **Legislative Update**

Mr. Wirth gave an update stating the request for \$1 million to cover the additional fuel costs did not occur. He said the Legislature had looked to eliminate various restoration councils due to the tight budget; however, no action was taken. (CD Track 7/0:00 – 3:02)

5. **County's Request for Sanitary Sewer Funding Update**

Mr. Holtkamp stated the County had made a request to the Legislature for \$250,000, and due

to the budget shortfall, no funding was granted. Vice Chair Veal said a wastewater disposal plant was needed in the Lake, which went hand in hand with the Lake restoration. He asked if grants existed to fund a wastewater facility on the Lake. Mr. Wirth replied it was outside the scope of the Council's duties, but the Council could voice its support of the issue. (CD Track 8/0:00 – 4:11)

6. **Canal Water Quality Testing Update**

Ms. Lizanne Garcia, Senior Environmental Scientist, Resource Data and Restoration Department, SWFWMD, gave a review of the types of bacteria and nutrients for which the Lake was tested. They included Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, and Enterococci bacteria, along with ammonia, nitrate plus nitrite, and phosphorus nutrients. Ms. Garcia stated Enterococci was specifically related to human waste. The District analyzed the samples for over 30 parameters including nutrients, chlorophyll and metals. Monthly monitoring of eight canals and two additional in-lake sites began in March 2008. She stated Canals 32, 33 and 34 show relatively higher concentrations of nitrate than the other canals and in-lake sites. Also, Canal 13 had a higher Fecal Coliform level. None of the levels exceeded State standards. The cause of the higher levels could not be specifically pinpointed, but it is possible the dredging in the area could have affected the levels. Mr. Starnes asked if the other nutrients besides the Total Coliforms had met State standards. Ms. Garcia stated there are no hard concentration limits for nutrients in the State standards for fresh water. It is all related to having a healthy, well-balanced system.

Mr. Jim Simons, resident of Lake Panasoffkee, asked how far back in the canals were the test water samples obtained. Ms. Garcia replied approximately half way back in the canal. Mr. Frank Leisner, resident of Lake Panasoffkee, asked, since the current levels are within State standards, were the sewage systems or septic tanks doing a good job. Ms. Garcia stated it was hard to determine until after a rainy season when there is more wastewater run off and ground water infiltration. She said this report has only three months of data. Mr. Veal stated additional testing needed to occur and recommended to the Council that an update be made at the next meeting. Mr. Starnes asked if were initial plans for the testing to occur for a full-year cycle. Mr. Wirth replied a commitment was made, possibly for more than one year, to obtain clear representation of nutrients and bacteria in the water. Mr. Starnes asked if a copy of the test results had been forwarded to the County. Ms. Garcia said the information was available and could be sent to the County.

Vice Chair Veal asked that any additional comments/questions from the public be addressed by submitting a completed Request to Speak card. (CD Track 9/0:00 – 22:21)

7. **Coleman Landing Second Channel Update**

Mr. Holtkamp stated he received a quote from the sub-contractor, Mr. Don Fletcher, Fletcher Marine, Inc. for approximately \$75,000; and that Subaqueous Services, Inc. would add approximately five to ten percent for bond, insurance and administrative costs. He said he was waiting for the formal quote for an exact amount.

Mr. Holtkamp stated the funds saved by not having aerial photos taken to map SAV could be used towards the expense. He recommended the Council request the Withlacoochee River Basin Board approve amending to the contract to have the second channel dredged at Coleman Landing with final approval from the Governing Board at its August meeting.

Following consideration, **Mr. Starnes moved, seconded by Mr. McCormic, to approve the staff recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.** (CD Track 10/0:00 – 2:22)

Mr. Wirth stated there is an outstanding issue with the current contract and until the issue is resolved, he would not be able to recommend the Boards approve the amendment for second canal. Mr. Veal noted the second canal was an add-on to the contract, and the Council would need to prioritize expenses for the restoration project to be prepared for a possible funding shortage. Mr. Starnes asked if the August 13, 2008 completion date included cleanup of the hill created at Mr. Buhmeyer's, at Warnell Creek, and working back to the south to Bass Water. Mr. Holtkamp replied it should include everything on the punch list. He clarified the work at Bass Water was a verbal agreement with Mr. Fletcher and not part of the contract. (CD Track 10/2:22 – 8:42)

Mr. Holtkamp stated funds had been slated for the Coleman Landing improvements and the decision was made to wait until the dredging was completed before starting the improvements. He asked Marty Hale, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), to give an update. Mr. Hale stated he spoke with Patricia Barrel, Waterways Improvement Section Leader, FFWCC, and she stated that once dredging was completed the ramp would be refurbished and a small aluminum dock would be installed at the site. Mr. McCormic asked if funds could be obtained for upgrading of the ramp to have the Council informed what FFWCC planned to install at the site. Mr. Hale said, after FFWCC staff made an inspection and it was determined what size dock would be installed, he would give an update to the Council once the inspection was completed. Vice Chair Veal noted additional funds would be needed for parking lot and road improvements. Mr. Wirth added that discussion with County staff should take place on the types of improvements the County would like to occur. Mr. Wirth added the District did not fund parking or roads, but may be able to assist with the costs of stormwater run-off from the parking area. Mr. Starnes asked Ms. Holt which department would handle the work to be done. She replied the Department of Public Works. This item is to be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion. (CD Track 11/0:00 – 6:46)

8. **Invertebrate Testing Report**

Mr. Hale gave a report on the content of invertebrates in the Lake. He stated that extensive sampling was done from July 2000 through January 2002 by Gary Warren, Invertebrate biologist, FFWCC, to determine the level of invertebrates before dredging began. Mr. Hale said the most important snail was called *Elimia*, which was historically found in substantial amounts in the Lake and drives the shell cracker fishery industry on the Lake. *Elimia* was found in small populations only in the Little Jones Creek area in 2002. The main body of the Lake contained midge larvae. On March 11, 2008, Mr. Warren sampled the same locations and no snails were found in the Lake. However, in the vegetative areas there were an abundant diverse population of invertebrates; such as, grass shrimp, dragon fly, damselfly and midge larvae which supports blue gill and bass fish. In the bottom sediment area of the Lake, there was low diversity and was virtually 100 percent midge larvae. This indicates low degraded habitat. Mr. Hale explained that Mr. Warren said a more extensive testing would be required before he could determine the reason for the absence of snails. Mr. McCormic asked if it was possible to seed the snails in the Lake. Mr. Starnes asked for the criteria needed for the sediment to maintain a healthy population of snails. Mr. Hale stated that invertebrates were not his area of expertise, but he would contact Mr. Warren and obtain information to answer both questions. Mr. Veal stated there was a commercial cast netter working on the Lake that had found very few snails in 2007. Discussion of the Lake's previous snail population took place. (CD Track 12/0:00 – 15:41)

9. **2008 Report to the Legislature**

Mr. Holtkamp stated the same format as the last report would be used for the 2008 report. He stated instead of a progress report this will be more of a completion report, since the dredging

should be completed in the next 60 days. Mr. Holtkamp asked for input from the Council. Vice Chair Veal asked if the Council would be able to review the report. Mr. Wirth replied the report is due to the Legislature on November 25, 2008, and traditionally the Council schedules a meeting in September which allows the Council the opportunity to review the report before it is submitted to the Legislature. Mr. Wirth added it would be the appropriate time to discuss whether the Council had any reason to continue or should be dissolved. It takes a Legislative Act to dissolve the Council. If action was taken by the Legislature during the upcoming session, it would go into effect by July 1, 2009. A letter to disband the Council could be included in the Report to the Legislature. Mr. Starnes felt the Council's purpose had been completed, and that SWFWMD, FFWCC, and DEP would continue the maintenance of the Lake. He felt an official entity was no longer required. Mr. Starnes stated his only concern was that the improvements at Coleman's Land be completed. Mr. McCormic agreed with Mr. Starnes. (CD Track 13/0:00 – 8:54)

10. **Public Input**

Vice Chair Veal opened the meeting for public comment. Mr. Starnes said he wanted to stress the individuals who have worked on this Council in the beginning which included Chair Springstead, Vice-Chair Veal, and Mr. Buhmeyer should have their names on a plaque at Coleman Landing. Mr. Wirth felt anyone who participated on the Council should be included on the plaque. Mr. Starnes requested the plaque issue be added for discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Gladys Jeffcoat, resident of Lake Panasoffkee, asked if it was possible the snails were being dredged with the shell. Mr. Veal stated the snails were currently non-existent in the Lake. Ms. Jeffcoat added the Lake front property has reverted to the condition before dredging with an excessive amount of cattails. Mr. Veal stated that would be a Lake maintenance issue. Ms. Jeffcoat stated a harvester was needed to remove the excessive cattails along the shoreline. Mr. Veal stated SWFWMD would be able to handle the maintenance of the Lake. Mr. Oakley stated the District would maintain the Lake, and anyone could speak at the Governing Board or the Withlacoochee River Basin Board. Mr. Veal stated he appreciated the support Mr. Oakley gave the Council. Mr. Oakley noted he grew up on the Lake. (CD Track 14/0:00 – 12:25)

Mr. Veal brought up an item not on the agenda regarding a well permit being issued for bottled water on the north end of the Lake. Mr. Starnes stated it is a small permit of 500,000 gallons per day. But he found it disturbing because it affects several hundred households; the water will be shipped out of state and is pumped out of the aquifer just before it reaches the Lake. Mr. Starnes felt it would impact the Lake. He stated the County Commission had not yet voted on the permit and felt the Council had an obligation to send a letter to the Commission opposing the issuance of the permit. Mr. McCormic agreed but stated the permit had been issued; it was doubtful the County could prevent the issuance of the permit. Mr. McCormic found it upsetting the water could be pumped and sent out of state when he would get a fine for watering his tomato plants more than once a week.

Following consideration, **Mr. Buhmeyer moved, seconded by Mr. Starnes, to send a letter to the Southwest Florida Water Management District opposing the issuance of well permits for water being shipped out of state.**

An extended discussion took place about the bottling water permit located at the end of Little John's Creek and the permitting process. Mr. Wirth noted he could not write a letter for the Council as it was a conflict of interest. Discussion continued about water issues within the District. Mr. Wirth stated he would voice the Council's concerns to the Governing Board at its next meeting.

After consideration, **the motion and second was withdrawn.** (CD Track 14/12:26 – 47:08)

11. **Schedule Next Meeting(s)**

The Council decided to have the next meeting scheduled in September at 5:00 p.m. at the Lake Panasoffkee Recreation Center, preferably on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday depending on the Center's availability. (CD Track 14/47:09 – 49:37)

12. **Agenda for Next Meeting**

The next meeting agenda will include the following items: (1) Completion Report of the Dredging, (2) Report to Legislature, (3) Coleman Landing Facility and Plaque, (4) Sale of Shell, (5) Second Canal at Coleman Landing Update, and (6) Snail Seeding Pilot Project. (CD Track 14/49:37 – 50:51)

13. **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Veal announced there was no further business or discussion to come before the Council and adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m. (CD Track 14/50:52 – 51:10)