



Minutes

WATER RESOURCES ANALYSIS COALITION

Recreation Issues Forum

June 18, 2018, 5:00 PM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions and Purpose - Newton Cook

Mr. Cook opened the meeting at 5:00 PM. An around-the-table discussion took place, wherein stakeholders introduced themselves. FWC Biologist, Wes Seitz announced that Waterfowl Permitting in the STAs will remain the way the program has been managed the previous year. Representative from the Osceola Airboat Association suggested that an airboat ramp be built on land off Cypress Lake. Staff from the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge thanked everyone for participating in their public meetings relating to the development of their Visitors Service Plan, and staff stated there will be an additional public meeting in August

2. Overview of the Florida Trail Association - Fred Davis, Vice President, Loxahatchee Chapter

Fred Davis, Vice President of the Florida Trail Association provided an update on the FTA volunteer statewide organization which serves to maintain the Florida National Scenic Trail. Mr. Davis stated that their mission is to develop, maintain, protect and promote scenic hiking trails. Mr. Davis thanked the District for their continued partnership with the Association.

Comments are recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1890&Format=Agenda>

3. Prescribed Burning Update - Gene Colwell, Land Stewardship Section, SFWMD

Gene Colwell, Scientist in the Land Management Unit provided a fire conditions report. Currently during this fiscal year District-wide 21,423 total acres have been burned. These numbers reflect collaborative efforts with other agencies.

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4. Update on the C-139 Annex, Rob Hopper, Land Stewardship Section, SFWMD

Rob Hopper, Senior Scientist in the Land Stewardship Section provided an update on the Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie C-139 Annex Restoration project located in Hendry County. The entire property is approximately 18,000 acres in size, of which 7,800 acres is being used for the Sam Jones – Abiaki Prairie project. Restoration goals will include taking existing citrus groves and restoring them into productive wetlands. Phase 1 site leveling was completed in 2017. Installation of native plants has occurred from 2017 to 2018. The project is estimated to be completed by 2030.

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5. Recreational Program Updates - Dan Cotter, Land Stewardship Section, SFWMD

Dan Cotter, Land Stewardship Section Leader presented the following Recreational Program updates:

- Lakeside Ranch STA Phase II Public Access
- S-46 Fishing Platforms, proposed partnership with the Town of Jupiter
- CREW Bird Rookery Swamp Boardwalk phased renovations
- S333N Water Control Structure future construction and Public access
- Volunteer Projects: Kissimmee Chain of Lakes picnic table replacements and repairs, Kissimmee River sign posting, and debris removal on the Kissimmee River and WCA1
- Lainhart and Masten Dams Refurbishment project

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6. Recreational Discussion, Updates and Future Meeting Topics

Participants commented on fill located in front of the S333N boat ramp rendering the ramp inaccessible. Participants also commented on potential vehicle visibility issues along the temporary construction access route. Jerry Krenz, Public Use & Wildlife Unit, responded that the parking areas will be expanded to accommodate future public use. The Florida Trail Association also thanked the District for their volunteer coordination efforts. Participants requested that while working on projects with the Town of Jupiter, the District revisit the operation of the C-18 boat ramp by the Town.

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7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM