



South Florida Water Management District

SFWMD RECREATIONAL FORUM MINUTES

June 17, 2019, 5:00 PM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Introductions and Purpose of the Forum - Newton Cook, Facilitator

Mr. Cook called the meeting to order at approximately 5:01 PM.

Barron Moody, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Representative, commented on the necessary partnership between FWC and the District stating that this partnership allows stakeholders to access District lands for recreational activities. Mr. Moody asked that recreational users help support the mission of the District and FWC by complying with the rules and regulations and maintaining safety standards so that lands remain open for recreational activities.

Bishop Wright, Florida Airboat Association, commented on vessels on the Kissimmee River Flood Plains and asked that staff consider a flag requirement to keep the flood plains safe for all boaters.

Pete Quasius, Angler Action Foundation, reported that the Land and Water Conservation Fund was available to support District projects.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1981&Format=One>

2. Lake Cypress Boat Ramp Area Improvements

Susan Gosselin, Natural Resources Manager from Osceola County, provided an update on the Lake Cypress Boat Ramp Area including the current and planned improvements contingent upon approval of the County's 2019-20 budget.

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1981&Format=One>

3. Kissimmee River Restoration Project Update

Ms. Monica Sovacool, Senior Project Manager in the Restoration Planning and Coordination Unit provided an update on the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. Work is planned to start back up in the Fall and be completed by Summer 2020.

Mr. Cook inquired about the total costs for this project to which Ms. Sovacool committed to providing that information in the future.

Comments were provided by:
Bob Mooney
Bishop Wright, Florida Airboat Association

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4. Overview Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Services Plan -

Steve Henry, Deputy Project Leader of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee North West Region provided an overview on the Refuge's Visitor Services Plan which was approved in May 2019. Mr. Henry informed the group that certain activities would need to go through the Federal Registry before implementation.

Comments were provided by:
Bishop Wright, Florida Airboat Association
Barron Moody, FWC
Cary Bisle
Fred Davis, Florida Trail Association

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5. Public Use Project Updates

Jerry Krenz, Senior Planner in the Land Resources Bureau provided an update on the A1 Flow Equalization Basin and expanded vehicular access. Mr. Krenz also provided an update on the new S141 weir crossing which provides pedestrian and bicycle access along the Water Conservation Area 2B greenway trail.

Comments were provided by:
Scott Sommer, Florida Airboat Association
Mark Dombroski, Florida Sportsmen's Conservation Association
Pete Quasius, Angler Action Foundation
David Denham, Florida Trail Association

This item is recorded at:

<http://sfwmd.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1981&Format=One>

6. Recreational Facility Updates

Dan Cotter, Land Resources Bureau Section Leader, gave an update on CREW Flint Pen Strand and the additional parking areas, expanded access, and the updates and changes that will be implemented this Fall at the DuPuis Equestrian Campground. The recent volunteer project to remove debris along the Kissimmee River Flood Plain was also presented.

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7. Recreational Discussion, Updates and Future Topics

Mr. Cook requested the District provide a presentation on the District's aquatic spray program. A participant requested to give a presentation on the Land and Water Conservation Fund and possible funding opportunities available for the District. Mr. Cook requested a stakeholder give a presentation on the Everglades Headwater National Wildlife Refuge.

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8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM