

**WRAC RECREATION ISSUES WORKSHOP SUMMARY  
FOR WRAC MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2007  
DAVID LITHGOW, CHAIR**

- **Chair: This group should meet throughout the District a few times/year**
- **Workshop participants and staff agreed this would help reach others not now participating.**
- **Workshop participants pleased to see SFWMD Governing Board/Collier County agreement on ORV use. It is excellent progress on a difficult issue.**
- **Group also pleased to learn that according to FWCC the Lake Trafford fishery is in good shape. The FWCC plans to stock large-mouth bass and threadfin shad in Lake Trafford, and will revegetate the littoral zone.**
- **Group pleased to learn about the Div. of Land Stewardship's Recreation Management and Partnership Plan that is working its way through senior management. The Division is doing good job administering the vacant lands policy. Working through some issues.**
- **Stakeholders need to work with the FWCC on establishing a Wildlife Management Area at Allapattah Ranch and on the waterfowl and other appropriate hunting regulations for that area.**
- **SFWMD has agreed that there should be a boat ramp at Taylor Creek Reservoir.**
- **Group pleased to see District using new rules to open vacant lands to recreational use, including fishing, on an interim basis.**
- **WCA-3B at S-12D: boat ramp access and possible reopening of old air boat ramp. Need to ask contractors to help remove boulders and other debris preventing access to boat ramp and to remove boulders from the roads and from the water at the boat ramp.**
- **Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Issues Assessment Report by Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium: Stakeholders and SFWMD identified many issues that will be addressed. First stakeholder meeting will be 2/22/07 at River Ranch.**

**WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop  
Summary, Continued; 2/8/07:**

- **Some participants requested hunting approval on STA-1E. STA-1E is wholly within the City of Wellington and coordination with Wellington would be required.**
- **Three Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) public access sites will be ready in Fiscal Year 2008. American Bald Eagle nest in STA-2 is an important issue for the duck hunt next season. Will need FWCC and U.S. FWS approvals. Hope to have alligator hunts on STAs 5 and 1W next year.**
- **Acceler8 Projects: This is an important time for recreational interests to provide advice on the design of Acceler8 projects re: recreation. SFWMD staff looking for local partners to help with operation and maintenance of recreation facilities.**
- **Fishing on SFWMD areas:**
  - **Has become a hot issue because fishermen are not seeing plans for creating new fishing areas for loss of access (L-67s and L-67 Extension)**
  - **EAA Reservoir will be 5<sup>th</sup> largest body of water in FL when both phases are completed. Will be very bad if those areas cannot be used for fishing and other recreation.**
  - **SFWMD needs to quickly evaluate possibility of boardwalk/pier fishing in deepwater parts of STAs**
  - **Need a quarterly update on fishing at this meeting and need EPA and DEP staff knowledgeable about the water quality issues to be present and explain what needs to be done to move forward**
  - **Precedent has already been set: Stick Marsh and Anton/Garcia. EPA and DEP need to be made aware of this**
  - **Need to know why only 4 miles of L-67 Extension was removed.**
  - **Need to know results of modeling that was to have been done on options for continued access to L-67s.**
  - **Need littoral zone/fish habitat enhancements built into design of SFWMD/USACE CERP and other projects.**
  - **Need full access to exterior, rim canals.**
  - **Need more than one boat ramp on EAA Reservoir**
  - **Need alternatives for possible loss of access at L-67s as part of Decomp project**
  - **Need better aquatic plant management**

- **Staff will provide an e-mail update on fishing to WRAC Recreation group and others interested, well-before the April 2007 meeting, and will ensure a quarterly fishing update is provided on the agenda.**