

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
Recreation Issues Workshop Report To WRAC – October 7, 2010
Recreation Issues Workshop, September 20, 2010
Coconut Creek Community Center Auditorium
1100 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Meeting Report: Mr. David Lithgow, Recreation Issues Chair**

- **Item 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks – David Lithgow, Chair**
 - Coconut Creek Mayor Lisa Aronson welcomed everyone.
 - Agenda Changes: Biscayne National Park item was summarized by Rick Smith (Ms. Theresa Woody could not attend); and Item 5 was presented by Dan Cotter (Jerry Krenz could not attend).
 - Biscayne National Park Mooring Plan summary was handed out.
 - The Park Service extended the public comment period.
 - Comments should be provided to Mark.Lewis@NPS.gov
 - Rick Smith, SFWMD WRAC Facilitator was recognized in appreciation of services provided to the WRAC-RIW.

- **Item 2: Recreation Discussion: Updates, Future Meeting Topics:**
 - Biscayne National Park Mooring Plan (need to schedule for next meeting)
 - South Florida boat ramp ownership and repairs (e.g. WCAs, Holey Land/Rotenberger, etc.) – maintenance responsibility; FWCC to present information at next WRAC-RIW meeting
 - Presentation on the use of lead shot on SFWMD lands will be made at October 13, SFWMD Governing Board Workshop
 - Update on New Wildlife Refuges Proposed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (including any involvement of SFWMD lands), to be provided by FWS at next meeting
 - Planning for recreation uses of U.S. Sugar Lands, once acquired

Discussion Included:

 - Lake Kissimmee Property Owners Association: Issue re: Nature Conservancy and Lightsey Cattle Co. buying small lots and closing off access
 - Need to create vessel landing ports at appropriate places
 - Question about adjacent landowner access to SFWMD lands
 - Request that SFWMD and FWCC coordinate on youth hunts
 - Interim use of EAA Phase I Reservoir lands for recreational use
 - SFWMD staff will follow up on:
 - Status of land swap with TNC in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL)
 - Issuance of letter regarding Lake Cypress fence issue
 - Access to SFWMD lands by adjacent landowners on KCOL (sub-lease and easement issue)
 - Interim recreational use of EAA Phase I Reservoir

- Reedy Creek/Dead River land swap and cabin repairs
 - Access to SFWMD lands by adjacent landowners on KCOL (and easement issues); and,
 - Interim recreational use of EAA Phase I Reservoir.

- **Item 3: Overview of State of Florida’s Land Leasing Program – Scott Woolam, FDEP, Chief, Bureau of Public Land Administration (FDEP) via conference phone:** Mr. Woolam explained the state lands leasing process. Discussion Included many questions about leasing of Curry Island to the Lake Okeechobee Habitat Alliance (LOHA):
 - Use of fees generated from hunting and related activities on leased lands
 - Criteria for leasing lands
 - Public participation in decision-making; why notice not provided to other groups?
 - Purpose of lease?
 - Assessment by FDEP of financial capacity of organization to meet lease requirements?
 - Management plan requirements
 - Who is authorized to regulate uses waterward of the Ordinary High Water Line? Other Sovereign State Lands?
 - Enforcement of lease provisions – who is responsible?
 - Similar leases awarded by Governor and Cabinet?
 - Memorandum of Understanding with Glades County
 - Outreach to recreational groups needs to be done for future leases

- **Item 4: Linear Parks on SFWMD Rights of Way – Dan Boyar, Sr. Scientist, Right-of-Way Div., Operation and Maintenance, SFWMD:** Discussion Included:
 - Are utility easements granted on SFWMD ROWs? SFWMD: No easements, but have limited utility crossings (done through permitting process).
 - Need to maintain public access areas (e.g. remove trash, etc).
 - Need to repair boat ramps on SFWMD ROW. SFWMD: FWCC had inventory done and results have been provided. Need to “ground truth” results and bring presentation to group; set priorities on ramp repairs, especially in Dade County. SFWMD: Will work with FWCC and Dade County and bring back presentation.
 - L-8 Canal access: Access improved in July. Need loop to Road 5; Road 6 very wet and can only go in with a buggy. SFWMD: Need to get with FWCC and request amendment.
 - Question about carrying loaded weapon across ROW – some people have been ticketed. SFWMD: Needs to be addressed by FWCC.
 - Questions about permitting a planned Marriott (that was never constructed) in Sunrise along L-35 Canal near Markham Park and Sawgrass Expressway – SFWMD staff advised such use was not permitted or authorized.

- **Item 5: Public Use Projects Update – Dan Cotter (for Jerry Krenz), Div. of Land Stewardship, Operation and Maintenance, SFWMD:**

Discussion Included:

- Site 1 Impoundment: SFWMD will evaluate for recreational opportunities consistent with the Boat Ramp White Paper, and after operational testing.
 - Question about when G-444 Roller Gate will be completed? SFWMD: It will be approximately three years before access can be provided.
 - SFWMD: There will likely be restrictions, including levee access restrictions, in STA-5 this waterfowl hunting season due to Snail kite nesting.
 - Shady Oaks Boat Ramp: SFWMD: Construction complete by end of December 2010, then need to do punch list. Cannot confirm when it will be open. Request to try for 3rd week in February.
 - Chair: Waterfowl Summit well attended and had good presentation on SFWMD STAs by Kathy Pietro, SFWMD. Talking about eventual waterfowl hunting on Lake Apopka. Good attendance by SJRWMD, SFWMD, FDEP, Ducks Unlimited and United Waterfowlers.
 - Gardner-Cobb Airboat Crossings: Notice to Proceed issued 9/7/10; expect substantial completion within 60 days, final in 90 days.
 - Gardner-Cobb Marsh restoration: SFWMD staff working with FWCC to investigate use of FWCC Lake Restoration funding to plug ditches and hold more water back between Cypress and North Cove.
- **Next Meeting:** December 13, 2010, at SFWMD, Building B-1 Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.