

The Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida, met in a special joint session with the City of Crystal River on the above date in the Lecanto Government Building, to discuss water quality issues concerning the Crystal River and Kings Bay.

The First Vice Chairman called the Board to order and the Mayor called the Council to order. Following the calling of the roll, the Board and Council proceeded with its business:

<b>BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>CRYSTAL RIVER CITY COUNCIL</b>
<b>COMMISSIONERS:</b> Roger Batchelor, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman; Jim Fowler, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman; Gary Bartell, and Vicki Phillips (Brad Thorpe-absent)	<b>CRYSTAL RIVER COUNCIL MEMBERS:</b> Joe Chrietzberg, Paula Wheeler, Mike Gudis, Ray Wallace, and Alex Ilnycky
<b>ATTORNEY:</b> Larry M. Haag <b>ADMINISTRATOR:</b> Gary W. Kuhl <b>CLERK:</b> Elicia A. Kuhl, Deputy	<b>MAYOR:</b> Curtis Rich <b>MANAGER:</b> David Sallee <b>PUBLIC WORKS:</b> John Letow David Locke <b>CLERK:</b> Shirley Carroll

Mr. Maidhof stated that staff from the County and City worked jointly to prepare the Crystal River/Kings Bay Action Plan-2000, then he proceeded with the presentation as follows:

<b>CRYSTAL RIVER/KINGS BAY SWIM PLAN GOALS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Achieve and maintain water clarity that would provide an annual average horizontal Secchi reading of 45 feet.</li> <li>◆ Stabilize or remove the sediment from areas which demonstrated a contribution to the reduced water clarity as a result of sediment resuspension.</li> <li>◆ Revegetate denuded areas with desirable submerged aquatic vegetation.</li> <li>◆ Restore vital aquatic habitat.</li> </ul>	
<b>POTENTIAL PARTNERS IN THE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
City of Crystal River Citrus County S.W. FL. Water Mgmt. District (SWFWMD) Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Department of Health Department of Transportation Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services Department of Community Affairs Florida Sea Grant Program U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Department of Interior U.S. Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Coast Guard U.S. Department of Commerce

(Commissioner Phillips entered the Board meeting.)

<b>ACTION PLAN STRATEGY</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👍 Wastewater Service</li> <li>👍 Stormwater Retrofitting</li> <li>👍 Sediment Removal/Stabilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👍 Habitat Restoration</li> <li>👍 Aquatic Weed Control</li> <li>👍 Water Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>

<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	
\$ Optional Sales Tax	\$ DEP's Mitigation Program
\$ Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU)	\$ Economic development grants
\$ Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU)	\$ Citizen initiated partnerships
\$ SWFWMD Cooperative Grants	\$ State revolving loan funds
\$ Legislative Appropriations:	
➤ Florida Water Advisory Panel had been established to review projects.	
➤ Projects submitted - Kings Bay Restoration, Indian Waters Sewer District, Homosassa Area Wastewater Collection System, Chassahowitzka Drinking Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection System, and Cooter Pond Restoration.	
<b>PROJECTS</b>	
✓ Removal of accumulated sediment from targeted areas of Kings Bay.	
✓ Revegetation following sediment removal.	
✓ Improvement of stormwater management systems for sediment and debris control.	
✓ Water Quality Monitoring.	
✓ Removal of accumulated <i>Lyngbya</i> from targeted areas of Kings Bay.	
✓ Indian Waters Special Sewer District.	
✓ Stormwater Master Plan Update.	

Mr. Maidhof explained the Crystal River/Kings Bay Action Plan 2000 Implementation Matrix which included water quality categories, project proposals, funding sources, lead agencies, etc. He referenced the progress of current grants and pending applications.

Mr. Haag explained the process for establishing a MSBU or MSTU, the need to establish a benefit to the individual property, concerns with over-lapping assessments and the City limits, a special millage, etc.

Mr. Kuhl expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts, requested direction to set priorities, and stated staff would bring back a final product to the Board and Council.

Wes Stow, Vice Chairman, Coastal Rivers Basin Board, advised that the Basin Board would be prioritizing the cooperative funding projects on April 4, and would appreciate feedback regarding projects submitted by the County and City.

Mr. Hammond, SWFWMD SWIM Program Manager, stated that the Coastal Rivers Basin Board approved initiation of a pilot project to physically remove *Lyngbya*, replant native vegetation, review the different densities, and monitor the success for eradication of *Lyngbya*. He referenced Helen Spivey's project for removal of *Lyngbya* and the reappearance and reproduction of hydrilla.

Tom Dick, Aquatic Services Director, responded to Councilman Ilnycky explaining that Sonar was a popular application for use in lake situations, which had been used in the Hunter Springs Canal system, but not in the open bay area. He further stated that the method was successful with hydrilla, and that there was limited herbicidal

application performed in Crystal River, that submerged vegetation was mechanically harvested.

Commissioner Fowler stated that the implementation of the Plan should be based on available science and wanted priorities to be recommended by staff.

Messrs. Kuhl and Sallee commented on "doable" projects, the Indian Waters project being a priority, funding mechanisms, County/City Agreement, etc.

Commissioner Bartell provided a status of the legislative funding requests.

- ✧ Senate Committee on Appropriations: \$750,000 for Homosassa project and \$1,000,000 for Chassahowitzka project.
- ✧ House Committee on Appropriations: \$525,000 for Chassahowitzka project and zero dollars for the Homosassa project.

He further stated that the projects should have been ranked instead were moved forward from the Florida Advisory Panel as meeting the criteria and that the only hope to salvage the funding would be through the Conference Committee. Commissioner Bartell articulated that, if the County or City were going to obtain funding for water quality projects, there would need to be a unified front and Mr. Sallee agreed.

Discussion from the Council and the Mayor included hiring a lobbyists, water quality changes during the summer months, idle speed zone in Kings Bay, etc.

Mr. Kuhl advised of a rural development grant for Indian Waters which could provide potential funds, e.g., a combination 40/60 split between loan and grant monies, and that a successful project would illustrate the merits for these types of projects. Commissioner Fowler desired a decision be made and to move forward with the necessary steps.

Mr. Stow responded to Commissioner Batchelor stating that the Coastal Rivers Basin Board funding of \$210,000 could possibly assist any of the Indian Waters' stormwater issues.

Commissioner Phillips referred to the Indian Waters project acknowledging funding assistance seemed scarce, that the City and County should move forward with the project, then continue to seek funding sources, etc.

Mr. Maidhof mentioned the Reynolds, Smith, Hills, Inc. report for Indian Waters which targeted 250 parcels at a costs of approximately \$1,300,000. He alluded to the County/City Agreement which provided an option for the City to send a written request to set the process in motion, and then funding alternatives would continue to be explored.

**Consensus from the Board and the Council to rank the Indian Waters project as the number one priority. Mr. Kuhl stated a letter needed to come from the City to start the process.**

Discussion continued regarding funding options.

**Consensus from the Board and the Council that priority number two would be stormwater projects. The perspective staff's are to review and agenda for the Board and Council to consider, as well as advise Mr. Stow.**

Commissioner Bartell stated the Board and Council needed to bite-the-bullet and move forward, that cost would continue to increase, and that Commissioners and Councilman are the best lobbyists for their own cause. (II)

Discussion continued regarding the Indian Waters project, i.e. cost, financing options, engineering design, public hearings, construction drawings, etc.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman requested a third priority be selected.

Mr. Maidhof outlined items that could be done easily as a priority number three project, of which would be presented later to the respective governing bodies for approval.

PROJECT	ACTION
<b>BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</b>	
1. Letter to SWFWMD withdrawing the County's Kings Bay request for funding.	SWFWMD allocating funding within their budget.
2. S.E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Court stormwater retrofit; large facility overgrown with hyacinth.	Authorize Department of Public Works (DPW) to utilize the spider equipment to perform work.
3. Bicentennial Park Pond was overgrown with hydrilla; use as a nursery or pilot project to restore native vegetation.	Authorize Aquatics Services Division to eliminate the hydrilla with a chemical application, then replant with native vegetation
4. Lake Panasoffkee Plant Salvage.	Authorize DPW to prepare fish hatcheries (2 ponds), clean out vegetation and create a sand bottom for plants from the salvage project.
5. Interlocal Agreement with SWFWMD regarding <i>Vallisneria</i> grass salvage for Lake Panasoffkee at the fish hatchery.	Utilize the fish hatchery as the nursery.
<b>CRYSTAL RIVER CITY COUNCIL</b>	
1. SE Court property contains a small pond which would be ideal to transplant <i>Vallisneria</i> grass as an educational pilot project.	Authorize the project to be done by the Environmental Science Academy (ESA).
2. Letter of authorization to harvest <i>Vallisneria</i> grass from the upper Magnolia Creek.	Authorize the ESA to harvest the <i>Vallisneria</i> grass.

**Consensus from the Board and the Council that priority number three would be as outlined above.**

Councilman Wheeler and Gudis expressed concern for the cost and citizens being responsible for those cost.

Discussion continued regarding time-frame for joint meetings and workshops advising citizens of the Indian Waters project, the process, anticipated cost, a citizen task force, etc. Commissioners and Council Members agreed with Mr. Kuhl's suggestion of an informational workshop be held in June advising the citizens of the proposed Indian Waters project.

There being no public comment and no other business to come before the Board, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting. (11/5:00 P.M.)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman