

**Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative**  
**March 27, 2019 Meeting Notes by Kim Fikoski**

**CHNEP Updates** - Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

- Anticipate NTP for drill borings, monitoring wells, fire wells and surveying at Yucca Pens with Charlotte County Burnt Store Widening Mitigation Funds (\$148,000) in a week. Southwest Engineering and Design is the prime contractor. This work will provide more detailed info on hydro-geology, more accurate surface and groundwater info, and cross sections for creeks, sloughs and flow-ways in Yucca Pens and surrounding area.

**SFWMD Updates**- Kim Fikoski, SFWMD

- Drew Bartlett is the new District Executive Director as of April 1, 2019. Chauncey Goss is a new District Governing Board Member and Board Chairman representing Lee, Charlotte, Collier and Hendry Counties. Charlette Roman is a new District Governing Board Member At-large for Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee, Orange Osceola, and Polk Counties.
- The CHFI Hydrologic Restoration Planning proposal submitted April 2018 to Deepwater Horizon - Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDA) was one of 23 restoration projects selected for funding and implementation in the Final Restoration Plan 1 and Environmental Assessment (Executive Summary attached). The funding request is for \$636,500 for data collection, modeling, and development of a Strategic Hydrological Planning Tool for future Webb/Yucca Pens WMA's restoration projects. CHNEP will administer the grant/funds.
- CHFI submitted the Bond Farm Regional Hydrological Enhancement Project proposal in January 2019 to Deepwater Horizon - Resource and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunity, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States (RESTORE) for consideration of Bond Farm construction funding in the Draft Funding Priority List (FPL) currently in development. The Draft FPL has been delayed from spring to fall 2019. After approval of the Final FPL anticipated in early 2020, funding would be available May 2020 at the earliest.
- Division of State Lands agreed to pursue the south approximately 150 acres outside of the SLD C&D Facility project footprint for Florida Forever acquisition. The parcel allows for connectivity from Bond Farm to Yucca Pens. It could take 6 months to a year for potential acquisition.
- Ron Inge, Billy Rollins, Lee County/FWC/SFWMD staff toured Stolle Ranch (aerial attached). Laramie Ferry, FWC Land Conservation Coordinator, has prepared an application for Stolle's inclusion in the Florida Forever (FF) boundary. It will take over 1 year to include the parcel in the boundary if it is approved by the FF Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC). If accepted into the boundary, then it could be considered for acquisition at the earliest mid-2020.

**Bond Farm Updates**- Jeffrey Vollat/Stephanie Long, ADA Engineering & Barry Lenz, HDR Engineering

- The 60% design is in final steps of QA and value engineering review by District staff. Anticipate permit submittal in April. Design team coordinating with Dept. of Corrections PG prior to permit submittals.

**Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program (FIM)** - Dave Blewett, FWC- FWRI

- FMRI has changed its name to FWRI - Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
- Presentation on Long-term Fisheries Monitoring and Restoration in Charlotte Harbor (attached) which provides good baseline data for the Initiative.

- Dave noted the enhancement of Zemel Canal is an important project for consideration for fisheries habitat improvement.

**Other Issues/Projects/Comments**

- Debi Osbourne, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, has updated the land ownership for the Priority 1, 2 and 3 parcels (attached) listed in the August 2015 Vital Tidal Creeks Land and Conservation Prioritization Analysis produced by the Tidal Creek Restoration Sub-Committee. If any members of the Initiative know of parcels on the list that have willing sellers please contact Larame Ferry, FWC Land Conservation Coordinator (Charlotte or Lee County parcels): [larame.ferry@myfwc.com](mailto:larame.ferry@myfwc.com); Cathy Olson, Lee County Conservation 20/20 Manager (Lee County parcels): [colson@leegov.com](mailto:colson@leegov.com). If the Division of State Lands decides not to pursue a parcel for Florida Forever acquisition, then the Conservation Foundation could explore an option agreement on the parcel until funding is available. Debi's organization can also look for additional funding partners for a parcel, especially since additional funding partners improves the chances of Florida Forever acquisition. The next step is to verify these Priority 1, 2 and 3 parcels are still the highest priority acquisitions for the Initiative.
- Kevin Kalasz, USFWS, discussed several Federal grant opportunities. See attached summary with guidelines and Kevin's contact email. Contact Kevin if you have a project for consideration.
- Corey Anderson, FWC discussed the new Southwest Estuarine Restoration Team (SWERT) working group and their mission/vision. Contact Corey for more info: [Corey.Anderson@MyFWC.com](mailto:Corey.Anderson@MyFWC.com)
- Kim Dryden, USFWS, suggested the Initiative working group review the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study's detailed project GIS and spreadsheets. It was noted these documents are not readily available on the web. Kim Dryden and Kim Fikoski will attempt to locate the information and share with the working group. If anyone has these documents, please contact Kim Fikoski. The Southwest Florida Comprehensive Watershed Plan (SWFCWP) did not maintain the detailed project info. Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP also noted the Water Atlas website as a resource for existing studies and data for Charlotte Harbor: <https://chnep.wateratlas.usf.edu>

**Next Quarterly Meeting..... SAVE THE DATE..... June 19, 2019**