

CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS INITIATIVE MEETING NOTES

June 10, 2020 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

South Florida Water Management District WebEx Meeting

WebEx: Kim Fikoski, SFWMD stated due to the pandemic, SFWMD offices are closed to the public until further notice and CHFI meetings will be held via WebEx. She asked all participants to Mute their audio unless they are a presenter and to ask questions at the end of each presentation via Chat.

SFWMD SWIM Plan: Lizanne Garcia, SFWMD presented a PowerPoint (ppt) update on their Draft SWIM Plan which includes their participation in the restoration of flow ways and hydroperiods in the CHFI. The Final Draft will go to their Governing board June 23, 2020 – to view the Draft Plan as well as the meeting go to their webpage calendar www.WaterMatters.org. There will be a 45 day review period by local & state agencies and the Final Plan will then go back to the Board for approval. Contact Lizanne at 813/985-7481 x2204 or Lizanne.Garcia@swfwmd.state.fl.us to discuss further.

FWC Yucca Pens Creek Restoration Concept Plan: Corey Anderson, AHCR, FWC presented a ppt conceptual restoration plan for the Yucca Pen Creek North Branch. Low water crossings and/or culverts are conceptually proposed, but funding is needed for E&D and permitting. Estimated cost is \$18,000. Contact Corey at 863-581-6898 or Corey.Anderson@MyFWC.com to discuss further.

City of Cape Coral: Roger Copp, Water Sciences Associates (WSA) presented a ppt on the emergency permit to move water from SW Aggregates Mine to the City via US 41 ditches/Gator Slough for 34 days to relieve City canals that were operating below minimum operating levels resulting in water pressure too low to operate 30% of the City's fire hydrants. Data was collected and a draft report will be provided to the City before the end of June.

Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrologic Restoration Planning Project: Roger Copp, WSA, presented a ppt overview of this CHNEP project objectives, tasks, schedule, and work completed to date. CHFI & CHNEP TAC will review/comment on the project throughout implementation. Study to be complete by July 2022. Contact Roger at (813) 431-4959 or roger@wsaconsult.com to discuss either presentation further.

FDOT District One Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study for Burnt Store Road from Van Buren Pkwy to Charlotte Co line - Kristin Caruso, Scalar Consulting Group provided an overview of the Study for the approximately 5.5 mile road widening & elevating from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway and bridge improvement

options over Gator Slough Canal. The purpose of the Study is to select a preferred alternative that will be advanced to the design phase. First public workshop meeting early 2021 and final public hearing early 2022. Final design anticipated mid-year 2022. Scalar has completed most of the natural resources data collection, including field work, and will be drafting the preliminary natural resource evaluation report this summer. The drainage engineer is David Bennett, CONSOR Engineering, who will be evaluating offsite stormwater ponds, floodplain compensation, the capacity and adequacy of cross drains, and a separate bypass ditch offsite to address deficiencies in the regional watershed drainage and to enhance historic flows. David noted “out of the box” projects to address surface water issues within the corridor will be considered (i.e. projects like the Yucca Pen Creek North Branch discussed above). It was noted this Study is a high priority with the Initiative, to make sure the design alternative takes into consideration our regional hydrologic restoration goal to re-establish the hydrological flow from the Babcock-Webb, through the Yucca Pens into the coastal creeks and tidal waters that flow to Charlotte Harbor and Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve. The project kickoff newsletter is attached. Contact Kristin at 813-988-1199 x209, kcaruso@scalarinc.net or David at 407-378-3903 dbennett@consoreng.com to discuss further.

SFWMD Updates: Kim Fikoski, SFWMD noted the Bond Farm HEI permit application has been deemed complete by DEP, the Corps is still reviewing, and upon receipt of the DEP permit Charlotte County entitlements will be pursued. The Florida Forever (FF) 2020 Work Plan was approved by the Governor and Cabinet May 31 so Kim and Laramie Ferry, FWC Land Conservation Coordinator will submit a one pager for Charlotte 580 and Stolle Ranch to DEP requesting they pursue the parcels for acquisition with FF funding. The June 1 CHNEP Watershed Summit had many presentations pertinent to the CHFI area and will be available for viewing on their website soon. The CHNEP Water Atlas CHFI webpage has been updated and Kim requested the partners review and provide her with any missing studies, presentations, plans and other pertinent information that should be included on the webpage. Contact Kim at (239) 851-3487 or kfikoski@sfwmd.gov to discuss further.

All of today’s presentation are available on the CHNEP Water Atlas CHFI Webpage:

<https://chnep.wateratlas.usf.edu/charlotte-harbor-flatwoods-initiative/>

Next Quarterly Meeting: September 16, 2020