

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative
June 20, 2018 Meeting Notes by Kim Fikoski

Lake Hicpochee Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) Hydrologic Enhancement

- Phil Flood narrated a PPP on this 670-acre FEB designed to store 1,280 acre-feet of water at 1.5 feet, enhance the lake's wetlands hydrology and aid in reducing nutrient loading into the Caloosahatchee. This Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) project is expected to be complete by October 2018 and will be open to the public for passive recreation.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Updates- Mike Kemmerer, FWC

- Charlotte County has funded the installation of groundwater monitoring wells, fire wells and gathering other pertinent information at Yucca Pens with Burnt Store Road Expansion mitigation funds.

Bond Farm Updates-Stephanie Long & Jeffrey Vollat, ADA Engineering

- A second pre-app with FDEP/COE to be scheduled to discuss design revisions as a result of additional FWC funding allowing for the design change from 2' to 4' of storage as originally conceptualized. The 60% design should be available for presentation at the next quarterly meeting.

Project Updates- Roger Copp, Water Science Associates

- Roger presented a PPP overview of the CHFI projects and the late spring 2017 test results of using SW Aggregates (SWA) as a water storage reservoir for excess waters impacting Webb WMA while providing water to Cape Coral in the dry season. He noted current modeling results suggest Bond Farm FEB capacity is inadequate to address excess water in Webb WMA and potentially additional storage beyond Bond Farm & SWA may be needed. Cape Coral is working on additional studies/modeling to determine the hydrological needs of Yucca Pens as part of their due diligence for the SWA reservoir and pipeline and have committed to only take water into SWA when Bond Farm is full and Webb WMA still has too much water.
- Jeff Pearson, Cape Coral Utility Director, noted a second water supply trial run did not occur this dry season due to the record breaking May rainfall. The pipeline from SWA to Gator Slough is currently in the due diligence phase and he estimates 18 months for design, engineering and permitting. Jeff reiterated the SWA reservoir will only store water that is flooding Webb WMA and is not needed for Yucca Pens hydrological restoration and that the City will partner with the CHFI to determine the hydrological needs of Yucca Pens.

Yucca Pens Analysis- Kim Fikoski SFWMD for Kevin Erwin, Kevin Erwin Consulting Ecologist

- Volunteers/Kevin working on mapping 1953 historical and 2017 existing conditions – Kevin to present findings of final report at next quarterly meeting.
- Kim Fikoski asked members to send any pertinent Yucca Pens studies, reports or data to her.

SWFWMD Updates- Lizanne Garcia, SWFWMD

- Charlotte Harbor SWIM Plan in process of being updated – goal is fall 2018 completion.

CHNEP Updates- Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

- Update on FWS Southeast Region Coastal Program grant for CHFI hydrological modeling next quarterly meeting.

South Florida Water Management District Updates- Kim Fikoski, SFWMD

- Update on CFP funding allocated for FY18 and FY19 at next quarterly meeting.
- McNew Ranch has submitted a conceptual ERP that includes a northern conveyance ditch to assist in moving water from Bond Farm to the Yucca Pens.
- SLD C&D Landfill owners have indicated a willingness to work with CHFI for a fee conveyance easement. Funding an issue.

South Florida Water Management District Updates- Kim Fikoski, SFWMD (cont'd)

- Jim Beever suggested forming a small working group to discuss conveyance opportunities from Bond Farm to Yucca Pens. Kim will contact Jim to discuss further and provide feedback at the next quarterly meeting.
- Per FDEP Division of Water Restoration Assistance (WRA) staff, the Deepwater Horizon NRDA Draft Plan which includes the CHFI Planning Initiative proposal will go for public comment around August 2018 and final plan approved by January 2019. Grant awarded early 2019. Requesting for \$541,500.
- FDEP RESTORE Council will accept applications next May/June 2019. The funding is very competitive, 5 states and 6 agencies, vying for funds. Bond Farm needs to be shovel ready to be competitive. Need to complete Bond Farm permitting by May/June 2019 to enhance opportunity for RESTORE funding and FWC grant monies must be spent by June 31, 2019.
- FDEP WRA would like to meet with SFWMD and SWFWMD in Fall 2018 to discuss other Gulf Coast Restoration Projects priorities for funding opportunities. Please contact Kim Fikoski to discuss all potential projects.
- Next CHFI meeting September 19, 2018