

Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Initiative
September 19, 2018 Meeting Notes by Kim Fikoski

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

- Charlotte County will fund new monitoring wells, fire wells and surveys at Yucca Pens with Burnt Store Widening Mitigation Funds.

Bond Farm Updates- Jeffrey Vollat, ADA Engineering & Barry Lenz, HDR Engineering

- The draft 60% design was presented – PowerPoint attached.

Project Updates- Roger Copp, Water Science Associates

- Roger presented on monitoring in Yucca Pens funded by Cape Coral and Charlotte County Burnt Store Widening Mitigation Funds - PowerPoint attached.
- Jeff Pearson, Cape Coral Utility Director, reported a Water Reuse 30-year agreement has been reached between Fort Myers and Cape Coral. The collaboration is a win-win for both cities as Cape Coral will receive reclaimed water for irrigation use during the dry season, and Fort Myers will reduce FDEP-permitted treated water discharges to the Caloosahatchee River.

Yucca Pens Analysis- Mike Kemmerer, FWC for Kevin Erwin, Kevin Erwin Consulting Ecologist

- SFWMD and SWFWMD staff have been working with Kevin Erwin to conduct an evaluation of the historical conditions of the Yucca Pens Study Area using NRCS (SCS) 1953 aerial photographs to understand the historic locations of wetland and upland habitats and hydro patterns, and to conduct an evaluation of the existing conditions of the study area using 2017 aerials with the existing SFWMD FLUCCS dataset to understand existing conditions of wetland communities and areas of development that have an impact on the Yucca Pens Study area and its hydro patterns. The historic and existing conditions maps have now been completed. At the December quarterly meeting, Kevin will present findings of the final report with conclusions and recommendations related to future activities to be undertaken by CHFI partners to restore and sustain water and wetland resources within Yucca Pens.

SWFWMD Updates- Lizanne Garcia, SWFWMD

- Charlotte Harbor SWIM Plan in process of being updated – goal is fall 2018 completion.
- SWFWMD provided the following 2020 Cooperative Funding Program (CFP) website:
<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/finance/cooperative-funding-initiative>

CHNEP Updates- Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

- Nicole Iadevaia is the new Research and Outreach Specialist

South Florida Water Management District Updates- Kim Fikoski, SFWMD

- No SFWMD Cooperative Funding Program (CFP) funding allocated for FY19.
- SFWMD, SWFWMD and CHNEP met with FDEP Division of Water Restoration Assistance (WRA) staff in late August. The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Draft Plan which includes the CHFI Hydrologic Restoration Planning Initiative proposal submitted April 2018 requesting \$635,500 will go for public comment in October 2018 with final plan approval by January 2019. The project was listed as “preferred”. Grants will be awarded early 2019. The FDEP Resources & Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunity and Revived Economies (RESTORE) Council will accept applications next May/June 2019. The funding is very competitive, 5 states and 6 agencies, vying for funds. Funding for Bond Farm construction has been requested and was cited as a good regional restoration project for our area. It was noted that having the project shovel ready by May/June 2019 will enhance its opportunity for RESTORE funding which is anticipated by May 2020.
- Next CHFI meeting December 13, 2018