

CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATWOODS INITIATIVE

December 11, 2019 Meeting Notes

South Florida Water Management District, Fort Myers Service Center

SFWMD Updates - Kim Fikoski, SFWMD

- Florida Forever Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC): In Oct. ARC voted to include Stolle Ranch & Charlotte 580 addition into the Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods (CHF) project area. Kim thanked all the partners who spoke in support of CHF this year at the ARC meetings and for all the Letters of Support sent to DEP & ARC.
- Bond Farm – Conducting additional borings. Preliminary results late Dec/final report Jan 2020/Anticipate final design March 2020.
- FDOT District One Burnt Store Road PD&E Study: Contract awarded to Scalar Consulting Group. Execute contract late January 2020. The Study will evaluate increasing Burnt Store Road from Van Buren Parkway to Charlotte County line from 2 to 4 lanes.
- C-43 Reservoir Water Quality Feasibility Study public meeting – January 21, 2-4pm at Hendry County Ag. Ext. Office
- RESTORE Funding: Funding Priorities List (FPL 3) approves projects and programs for “Bucket 2” funding. In mid-2020 focus on FPL 3b where Bond Farm construction funding will be pursued. Council vote on FPL 3b anticipated early 2021.
- Hudson Creek: resubmitted to SFWMD as conceptual vs previous C&O. Barraco & Passarella working on permitting.

Project Updates – Roger Copp, Water Sciences Associates

- An aerial indicating the location of a new nested well and existing SWA wells/staff gauges was presented and is attached.

CHNEP Updates - Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

- Deep Water Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) FDEP grant “Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrological Modeling & Strategic Restoration Planning Project” RFQ to be advertised late Dec. on Punta Gorda website. Copies of the SOW and one-pager summary were available, and are attached.
- Jennifer presented on the newly completed Habitat Restoration Needs Plan (HRN). The Presentation and a one-pager summary are attached. Partners to send Jennifer contact info of other stakeholders that would be interested in the report.
- Jennifer discussed HB 791, FL NEP Act which would require DEP to give funding consideration to estuaries identified under NEP; require funds to be used for specified projects; require programs receiving funding to submit reports to Gov, Legislature, DEP & WMD's. She encouraged partners to send letters of support to DEP. This is important to the CHFI because it would allow CHNEP to administer grant funded projects for the Initiative without having to carry the cost of the project while waiting for grant reimbursements. Please contact Jennifer if you would like to discuss further or see a copy of the letter CHNEP sent to DEP.

2019 Accomplishments

- WSA Hydrogeologic Survey of Yucca Pens WMA Technical Memorandum funded by Charlotte County
- FDEP/SFWMD/CHNEP \$636,500 NRDA grant for Data Collection and Comprehensive Regional Modeling
- Over 40 Letters of Support for CHF Florida Forever Project & representation at ARC meeting assisted with the inclusion of the Charlotte 580 boundary Amendment & Stolle Ranch into the CHF Florida Forever boundary and

subsequent to the meeting the CHF project was increased in ranking from Low to Medium and is one of the top ten projects in the “Partnership” category.

- FWC Bond Farm DEP/USACE permit applications submitted
- Submitted updated RESTORE placeholder request for Bond Farm construction funding

2020 Goals/Projects

- Update CHNEP Website
- FDOT PD&E Study for Burnt Store Road – address drainage issues and leverage opportunities to restore flow ways across the watershed
- Complete Bond Farm permits
- Submit FPL3b application when available for Bond Farm construction funding
- Initiate NRDA Grant project and start thinking about on the ground projects and next funding sources for design/construction of projects
- Vital Tidal Creeks – continue to pursue lands – update aerial
- Funding to design, permit and restore sheet flow for the Durden Creek and Yucca Pens Creek units of CH State Park. Bring multiple ATV-rutted trails up to grade and restoring the (currently blocked) flow way of North Branch Yucca Pens Ck
- Pursue CHF lands for acquisition through Florida Forever
- Partners to review the attached Nov 2018 Yucca Pens Hydrological Study Recommendations and determine items they could take the lead on and share their efforts with the other CHFI partners at quarterly meetings.

Next Quarterly Meeting: March 18, 2020