

LAKE PLACID WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:30 AM

Board Member Bob Howard called the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board to order on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:30 AM

1. ROLL CALL:

Council Member Worley-Absent

Pam Fentress-Present

Bob Howard-Present

John Ruggiero-Present

2. CONSENT AGENDA (8:30 AM – 8:35 AM):

A. Approval of agenda

Motion – Moved by Board Member Fentress, seconded by Board Member Ruggiero, to approve the Agenda. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval

B. Approval of Minutes Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board, Wednesday March 19, 2014

Motion – Moved by Board Member Ruggiero, seconded by Board Member Fentress, to approve the minutes of the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board, March 19, 2014 8:30 AM. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval

3. Old Business:

A. Update on Lake McCoy Project

- Funds collected as of April 15, 2014 from the homeowners to apply to the grant match is \$5000, still waiting on two homeowners who have not paid as of yet, in addition, Duke Energy has also committed funding towards the project.
- Board Member Fentress reported the meeting with Highlands Soil and Water District and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the project went well and was passed to move to the third round for the application.
- Board Member Howard inquired where the Lake Placid Watershed Board stands in regards to the project.
- Board Member Fentress stated that the boards assistance in the project is done, Highlands Soil and Water District would be handling the project.
- Ms. Fentress has been keeping the homeowners updated on the project in which they are appreciative to receiving the updates.

B. Lake Clay Watershed/Park

- Board Member Howard stated, he has begun to gather information on the parcels of properties, has the base map, and has a contact person with the Audubon Society who has expressed interest who he plans on contacting.

- Board Member Ruggiero commented there is support with the Lake Clay homeowners. In addition, the Audubon Society does have funds available.

Other Old Business and Discussion:

- Ms. Fentress stated that the Lake June project is still being reviewed by legal.
- Ms. Fentress reported that in reference to Lake Placid, SWFWMD will be holding a meeting at the Lake Placid Conference Center.
- Mr. Howard stated if there is a date, there could be a notification to the homeowners. Often times Homeowners are the last to be notified or informed on projects. If they can be advised in the beginning and keep them included, although make them aware that projects take some time.
- Mr. Ruggiero commented, it would be a good idea to begin working with the newspapers, to have some positive article written about the lakes. Letting people know that there are concerned people working to keep our lakes healthy.
- Ms. Fentress added, there were three positive articles written about Lake McCoy. It is because of the involvement of the homeowners of Lake McCoy that they are taking a positive involvement for the project and their lake.
- Mr. Ruggiero noted that in the past, there have been two clean ups for Lake Jackson, and the volunteers were not the homeowners.

4. New Business/Discussion

- Mr. Howard discussed some direction or sequence events for the Board to work on.
- The first could be to request Clell Ford the County Lakes Manager do a presentation on what his group does, process and how to help the Town of Lake Placid, to either this board or Town Council.
- He stated the board could develop a list of groups and individuals who are involved with watershed issues. Comments from board are that over time, there has been a reduction in the interest and volunteers, some reasons were lack of issues and reductions in budgets.
- Ms. Fentress said that Lake Henry homeowners are very active, and suggested contacting them.
- Mr. Howard stated he would like to see the board have the ability to determine who and what groups are doing work on these issues; it would assist us to know where there may be areas we can get involved, which could lead to possible funding sources if there is an area not being addressed.
- Ms. Fentress stated it would be beneficial to have a technical person as part of the Watershed Advisory Board, and who that staff person could that be.
- Mr. Howard wants to make sure that the board is working with the Town Council.
- Ms. Fentress added, the process as part of this board is to develop the presentation, bring it back before the LPWAB and once approved, have the Town Administrator approve and then be presented to Town Council.

- Mr. Howard stated that some of the information he has been working on is in GIS format and CAD. He is finding a lot of information available. His intention is to have a draft presentation available by the next meeting.
- The approach for Town Council is to ensure they have the necessary information they would need to make any decisions.
- Mr. Howard will be out of town for the next meeting. He will supply the board with the presentation information to review, and get feedback at the following June meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2014.

LAKE PLACID WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:30 AM

Chair-Council Member Debra Worley called the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board to order on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:30 AM.

1. ROLL CALL:

Council Member Worley – Present

Pam Fentress – Present

Bob Howard – Absent

John Ruggiero – Present

2. CONSENT AGENDA (8:30 AM – 8:35 AM):

A. Approval of agenda

B. Approval of Minutes Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board, Wednesday
April 16, 2014

Motion – Moved by Board Member Fentress, seconded by Board Member Ruggiero, to approve the agenda for June 18, 2014 and the minutes of the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board for April 16, 2014 8:30 AM. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval.

3. Old Business:

A. Update on Lake McCoy Project

Board Member Fentress reported that the Lake McCoy project was fully funded due to the support and efforts of the Land Owners Association. The Association raised the final \$7000 needed by contacting owners and getting donations. She also thanked many organizations and business that donated money for the local matching funds, such as W&W Lumber, Duke Energy, Town of Lake Placid and SWFWMD. Board Member Fentress expressed appreciation for the volunteer efforts of the Lake McCoy land owners.

Chair Worley stated that the Land Owners Association has set the standard for community effort and support for future projects.

B. Update Lake June Watershed Project

Board Member Fentress stated this project was started a long time ago and involved storm water retrofit to protect Lake June. Current status is that the contract between SWFWMD and the engineers is being negotiated. Ms. Fentress will follow-up and try to help move the process along. DOT will be responsible for all maintenance once the project is completed.

Chair Worley suggested the Watershed Board write a letter to Town Council asking them to send a letter of support for this project.

Motion – Moved by Board Member Fentress, seconded by Board Member Ruggiero, to ask Bob Howard to draft a letter from the Watershed Board to the Town Council requesting the Town Council send a letter of support for this project. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval.

The letter would be addressed to SWFWMD with copies to all organizations involved with the project – Florida Wildlife Commission, Lake June Owners Association, et al. The idea is to apply a little pressure to elevate the priority of this project and keep it moving forward.

Board Member Ruggiero reported that the lake levels are up and there have been no recent complaints about the Illinois pond weed. The Board discussed the issue of decaying vegetation that is now coming to the surface.

C. Lake Clay Park & Watershed

Chair Worley reported that Board Member Howard could not attend today and give his presentation on this project. The Board discussed the importance getting the input and support of the land owners around and using Lake Clay. Projects should not be forced on the community, but should begin with owner input and requests.

4. Board Comments

Board Member Fentress said that DEP has earmarked an additional \$5 million for projects in Highlands County which will be available beginning July 1. She hoped that the Board could get additional funding for projects. Ms. Fentress recommended the Board take time to set priorities and goals so they can be ready to take advantage of any available funds. She said the Board successfully responded to the Lake McCoy project and the Lake June Illinois pond weed issue, but a more planned approach is needed for the future. There are issues with Lake Rachard, Lake Pearl, and Lake Sirena. These projects need grass roots support and public input.

The Board discussed the Highlands County rule that they will not fund a lake project unless the lake has a public access boat ramp. Further research will be done to determine if this is a state rule or a Highlands County rule.

5. Discuss agenda for next meeting.

The Board agreed that the next agenda will include the Lake Clay Park & Watershed presentation and a discussion of priorities and goals. Members asked that the presentation be emailed to them prior to the meeting date.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 am.

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2014.

LAKE PLACID WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:30 AM

Chair-Council Member Debra Worley called the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board to order on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:30 AM.

1. ROLL CALL:

Council Member Worley – Present

Pam Fentress – Present

Bob Howard – Absent

John Ruggiero – Present

2. CONSENT AGENDA (8:30 AM – 8:35 AM):

A. Approval of agenda

B. Approval of Minutes Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board, Wednesday
April 16, 2014

Motion – Moved by Board Member Fentress, seconded by Board Member Ruggiero, to approve the agenda for June 18, 2014 and the minutes of the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board for April 16, 2014 8:30 AM. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval.

3. Old Business:

A. Update on Lake McCoy Project

Board Member Fentress reported that the Lake McCoy project was fully funded due to the support and efforts of the Land Owners Association. The Association raised the final \$7000 needed by contacting owners and getting donations. She also thanked many organizations and business that donated money for the local matching funds, such as W&W Lumber, Duke Energy, Town of Lake Placid and SWFWMD. Board Member Fentress expressed appreciation for the volunteer efforts of the Lake McCoy land owners.

Chair Worley stated that the Land Owners Association has set the standard for community effort and support for future projects.

B. Update Lake June Watershed Project

Board Member Fentress stated this project was started a long time ago and involved storm water retrofit to protect Lake June. Current status is that the contract between SWFWMD and the engineers is being negotiated. Ms. Fentress will follow-up and try to help move the process along. DOT will be responsible for all maintenance once the project is completed.

Chair Worley suggested the Watershed Board write a letter to Town Council asking them to send a letter of support for this project.

Motion – Moved by Board Member Fentress, seconded by Board Member Ruggiero, to ask Bob Howard to draft a letter from the Watershed Board to the Town Council requesting the Town Council send a letter of support for this project. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval.

The letter would be addressed to SWFWMD with copies to all organizations involved with the project – Florida Wildlife Commission, Lake June Owners Association, et al. The idea is to apply a little pressure to elevate the priority of this project and keep it moving forward.

Board Member Ruggiero reported that the lake levels are up and there have been no recent complaints about the Illinois pond weed. The Board discussed the issue of decaying vegetation that is now coming to the surface.

C. Lake Clay Park & Watershed

Chair Worley reported that Board Member Howard could not attend today and give his presentation on this project. The Board discussed the importance getting the input and support of the land owners around and using Lake Clay. Projects should not be forced on the community, but should begin with owner input and requests.

4. Board Comments

Board Member Fentress said that DEP has earmarked an additional \$5 million for projects in Highlands County which will be available beginning July 1. She hoped that the Board could get additional funding for projects. Ms. Fentress recommended the Board take time to set priorities and goals so they can be ready to take advantage of any available funds. She said the Board successfully responded to the Lake McCoy project and the Lake June Illinois pond weed issue, but a more planned approach is needed for the future. There are issues with Lake Rachard, Lake Pearl, and Lake Sirena. These projects need grass roots support and public input.

The Board discussed the Highlands County rule that they will not fund a lake project unless the lake has a public access boat ramp. Further research will be done to determine if this is a state rule or a Highlands County rule.

5. Discuss agenda for next meeting.

The Board agreed that the next agenda will include the Lake Clay Park & Watershed presentation and a discussion of priorities and goals. Members asked that the presentation be emailed to them prior to the meeting date.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 am.

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2014.

LAKE PLACID WATERSHED ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:30 AM

Board Member Bob Howard called the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board to order on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:30 AM

1. ROLL CALL:

Council Member Worley-Absent

Pam Fentress-Present

Bob Howard-Present

John Ruggiero-Present

2. CONSENT AGENDA (8:30 AM – 8:35 AM):

A. Approval of agenda

Motion – Moved by Board Member Fentress, seconded by Board Member Ruggiero, to approve the Agenda. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval

B. Approval of Minutes Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board, Wednesday March 19, 2014

Motion – Moved by Board Member Ruggiero, seconded by Board Member Fentress, to approve the minutes of the Lake Placid Watershed Advisory Board, March 19, 2014 8:30 AM. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous approval

3. Old Business:

A. Update on Lake McCoy Project

- Funds collected as of April 15, 2014 from the homeowners to apply to the grant match is \$5000, still waiting on two homeowners who have not paid as of yet, in addition, Duke Energy has also committed funding towards the project.
- Board Member Fentress reported the meeting with Highlands Soil and Water District and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for the project went well and was passed to move to the third round for the application.
- Board Member Howard inquired where the Lake Placid Watershed Board stands in regards to the project.
- Board Member Fentress stated that the boards assistance in the project is done, Highlands Soil and Water District would be handling the project.
- Ms. Fentress has been keeping the homeowners updated on the project in which they are appreciative to receiving the updates.

B. Lake Clay Watershed/Park

- Board Member Howard stated, he has begun to gather information on the parcels of properties, has the base map, and has a contact person with the Audubon Society who has expressed interest who he plans on contacting.

- Board Member Ruggiero commented there is support with the Lake Clay homeowners. In addition, the Audubon Society does have funds available.

Other Old Business and Discussion:

- Ms. Fentress stated that the Lake June project is still being reviewed by legal.
- Ms. Fentress reported that in reference to Lake Placid, SWFWMD will be holding a meeting at the Lake Placid Conference Center.
- Mr. Howard stated if there is a date, there could be a notification to the homeowners. Often times Homeowners are the last to be notified or informed on projects. If they can be advised in the beginning and keep them included, although make them aware that projects take some time.
- Mr. Ruggiero commented, it would be a good idea to begin working with the newspapers, to have some positive article written about the lakes. Letting people know that there are concerned people working to keep our lakes healthy.
- Ms. Fentress added, there were three positive articles written about Lake McCoy. It is because of the involvement of the homeowners of Lake McCoy that they are taking a positive involvement for the project and their lake.
- Mr. Ruggiero noted that in the past, there have been two clean ups for Lake Jackson, and the volunteers were not the homeowners.

4. New Business/Discussion

- Mr. Howard discussed some direction or sequence events for the Board to work on.
- The first could be to request Clell Ford the County Lakes Manager do a presentation on what his group does, process and how to help the Town of Lake Placid, to either this board or Town Council.
- He stated the board could develop a list of groups and individuals who are involved with watershed issues. Comments from board are that over time, there has been a reduction in the interest and volunteers, some reasons were lack of issues and reductions in budgets.
- Ms. Fentress said that Lake Henry homeowners are very active, and suggested contacting them.
- Mr. Howard stated he would like to see the board have the ability to determine who and what groups are doing work on these issues; it would assist us to know where there may be areas we can get involved, which could lead to possible funding sources if there is an area not being addressed.
- Ms. Fentress stated it would be beneficial to have a technical person as part of the Watershed Advisory Board, and who that staff person could that be.
- Mr. Howard wants to make sure that the board is working with the Town Council.
- Ms. Fentress added, the process as part of this board is to develop the presentation, bring it back before the LPWAB and once approved, have the Town Administrator approve and then be presented to Town Council.

- Mr. Howard stated that some of the information he has been working on is in GIS format and CAD. He is finding a lot of information available. His intention is to have a draft presentation available by the next meeting.
- The approach for Town Council is to ensure they have the necessary information they would need to make any decisions.
- Mr. Howard will be out of town for the next meeting. He will supply the board with the presentation information to review, and get feedback at the following June meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned

Next Regular meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2014.