

Lake Okeechobee Interagency Task Force Meeting Proceedings

The following individuals attended the Lake Okeechobee Interagency Task Force meeting on Wednesday, 22 February 2012 at the USACE South Florida Operations Office in Clewiston, FL.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Angie Huebner	Jon Lane
Bill Zattau	Jon Morton
Jeremy Crossland	Nichoel Church
Jeremy Preston	Rachel Nuetzel

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Don Fox
Brent Bachelder
Jackie Smith

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Steve Smith

Additional Attendees

James Boggs (Helena)
Kurt Ramsey (AAM, Inc)

Public Comment Period

No public comment.

AAM Status Report

Kurt Ramsey reported that 1020.75 acres of target plants were treated since the last interagency meeting on 18 January 2012. The treatments were conducted primarily in the Harney Pond Canal, Bird Island, Monkey Box, and Fisheating Bay areas.

Aerial Survey Report of Floating Vegetation

Flight on 15 February 2012

During the flight participants estimated that an average of 766.25 acres of target plants were present on Lake Okeechobee. The 13 January flight estimated an average of 791.5 acres. Don Fox asked what primary target plant covered West Wall-Whidden Pass. Kurt Ramsey and Jeremy Preston responded that water lettuce was the primary target plant and dense mats were located in Cochran's Pass.

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<i>Area of Lake</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>FWC</i>	<i>SFWMD</i>	<i>AAM</i>	<i>USACE</i>
1. Torrey & Kreamer	22.50	3%	10	25	45	10
2. Ritta	25.00	3%	30	15	35	20
3. East Wall - Coot Bay	27.50	4%	20	30	50	10
4. West Wall - Whidden	307.50	40%	200	450	430	150
5. Fisheating Bay	78.75	10%	75	85	50	105
6. Harney - Indian Prairie	73.75	10%	100	95	75	25
7. Indian P. - Kissimmee	25.00	3%	30	50	15	5
8. King's Bar	26.25	3%	30	25	25	25
9. Kissimmee - Taylor Cr.	122.50	16%	150	100	100	140
10. Taylor Cr. - Chancey	57.50	8%	30	25	75	100
TOTALS	766.25	100%	675	900	900	590

FWC: Brent Bachelder, SFWMD: Mike Bodle, AAM: Kurt Ramsey, USACE, Jeremy Preston

USACE

The current lake level is 13.12ft. Nichoel Church explained that there are currently 12 Snail Kite nesting sites on Lake Okeechobee according to the location map that Zach Welch from FWC sent out. Bill Zattau explained that he has a meeting with FWC supervisor Jeff Shardt to discuss future spending.

FWC

Brent Bachelder mentioned that FWC has resumed floating plant treatments around Kings Bar. He listed upcoming spoil island plantings in Buckhead Ridge and Tin House Cove; as well as upcoming bulrush and maidencane plantings. Brent said about 8 acres of maidencane will be planted in the NW marsh but bulrush plantings will be dependent on water level. Jackie Smith and Brent are working together to create a work plan for the FY12-13.

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Snail Kite Nesting Activity - February 18th, 2012



The yellow potential coordinate represents two Snail Kites in courtship but crews could not find a nest.

SFWMD

A few days before the meeting Gary Ritter, SFWMD, informed Nichoel Church that Taylor Creek Locks will be closed for maintenance starting 01 April 2012. Steve Smith said he would get a copy of the public notice and email it to Nichoel Church to be distributed to the interagency group.

*** Next Interagency **Flight** is not scheduled at this time.

***Next Interagency **Meeting** is scheduled for **25 April** 2012, at the SFWMD Okeechobee Service Center in Okeechobee, FL.