

Lake Okeechobee Interagency Task Force Meeting Proceedings

The following individuals attended the Lake Okeechobee Interagency Task Force meeting on Wednesday, 07 August 2013 at the USACE South Florida Operations Office, in Clewiston FL.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Jon Morton
Jeremy Crossland
David Lattuca

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Brent Bachelder
Zach Welch
Susanna Toledo

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

Mike Bodle

Other Attendees

Dr. Mike Netherland (USACE)	PJ Myers, AAM
James Boggs, Helena	Kurt Ramsey, AAM
Dean Jones, UF (phone)	Jerry Renney, AAM

Public Comment Period

No Public participation, no comments.

AAM Status Report

Kurt Ramsey reported that 5845.75 acres of target plants were treated since the last interagency meeting. The treatments were conducted primarily in the Eagle Bay Island area, Fisheating Bay/McTush Canal, Bird Island and the Rim Canal near Moore Haven.

Aerial Survey Report of Floating Vegetation

Aerial survey of Lake Okeechobee occurred on 30 July 2013 with flight participants (Bodle, Smith, Bachelder, Ramsey, Morton) observing an average of **1720.40** acres of target plants (down from 2064 on 27 SEP 2012). The majority of the target plants (459 acres, 27%) were located from Kissimmee River to Taylor Creek. The West Wall – Whidden saw an average of 342 acres, 20%

USACE

Current lake level is 16.03 as of 12 August 2013.

Currently, USACE is utilizing 8 crews (300 man-hours weekly) on Lake Okeechobee. (Currently, this crew amount is only available due to funding). USACE plans to increase crew number to 12 when more funding is available in the next week or two. Treatments will be concentrated around Eagle Bay Island and Fisheating Bay through Bird Island. USACE used Penoxsulam and Flumioxazin treatments in Eagle Bay Island, due to movement of target plants out of bulrush stands; USACE/FWC will continue to look for another site for Penoxsulam/Flumioxazin treatments. The USACE acknowledged treatments need to be followed up with Diquat because of plant movement.

USACE gave group their RAG operations Update. Discussion occurred between IA members and FY13 RAG Funding, and FY 14 Rag Forecast. FWC is willing to help out with crews and problem areas. FWC will expand their work area for floating weeds down to Harney Pond Canal through the next couple of months to aid USACE with funding issues.

There is also potential for Aerial Treatment in Chancey Bay, Monkey Box, and Cochran's Pass to Bird Island.

FWC

FWC is currently utilizing 4 crews and have been treating mostly floating plants in the priority areas.

FWC has agreed to fund aerial treatment acreage to assist with large expanses of plants including Cochran's Pass, Bird Island, West Wall, and Chancy Bay. They have rough estimates and maps showing possible future aerial treatment sites. IA groups have a snail kite nesting update. There are 2 snail kite nests that must maintain buffer, but FWC are not actively looking for new nests. FWC Personnel update- introducing Susanna Toledo (Invasive Species, Aquatic Plants) FWC would like to get after the weeds before the fisherman/waterfowl hunters arrive.

SFWMD

Proposed aerial treatments of cattail (locations, size, etc). Discussion between SFWMD & FWC for priority area name change to help with public misunderstanding.

Other/Old Business

Lake Okeechobee SAV Mapping – Dr. Mike Netherland (USACE), Dean Jones (UF).

*** Next Interagency **Flight** is not currently scheduled.

***Next Interagency **Meeting** is not currently scheduled.

Lake Okeechobee Interagency Flight

Date 30 July 2013

Lake Elevation 15.80
Summary of Estimates

<i>Area of Lake</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>SFWMD</i>	<i>FCW1</i>	<i>FCW2</i>	<i>AAM</i>	<i>USACE</i>
1. Torrey & Kreamer	64.00	4%	105	100	25	75	15
2. Ritta	64.00	4%	65	150	25	42	38
3. East Wall - Coot Bay	48.00	3%	25	100	50	20	45
4. West Wall - Whidden	342.00	20%	525	500	155	285	245
5. Fisheating Bay	174.00	10%	165	200	250	130	125
6. Harney - Indian Prairie	163.40	9%	145	200	200	137	135
7. Indian P. - Kissimmee	128.00	7%	105	200	100	140	95
8. King's Bar	76.00	4%	65	75	100	75	65
9. Kissimmee - Taylor Cr.	459.00	27%	575	300	250	800	370
10. Taylor Cr. - Chancey	202.00	12%	235	200	250	140	185
TOTALS	1720.40	100%	2010	2025	1405	1844	1318

Participants: SFWMD, Mike Bodle
 FWC1, Jackie Smith
 FWC2, Brent Bachelder
 AAM, Kurt Ramsey
 USACE, Jon Morton