



# Lakes & Waterways Board Regular Meeting Minutes

**April 9, 2024 at 12:00 PM**

City Hall Commission Chambers  
401 S. Park Avenue

## **Present**

David F. March, Ed Webman, Justin J. Vermuth, Pamela L. Saffran, William H. Swartz Sr., Warren Bloom

## **Absent**

George T. Vietor

## **Staff Present**

Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability Gloria Eby, Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan, Administrative Assistant Victoria Tabor

## **Call to Order**

Mr. Vermuth called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

## **1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve the minutes of March 12, 2024

**Motion made by Ms. Saffran to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Webman. The motion carried unanimously with a 6-0 vote.**

## **2. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda):**

## **3. Public Hearings (Public participation and comment on these matters must be in person.)**

## **4. Action Items**

## **5. Non-Action Items**

## **6. Staff Updates**

- a. Winter Park Police Department
- b. Lakes Management
- c. Stormwater Management

Winter Park Police Officer Gordon Shyy updated the Board virtually. WPPD began patrolling the chain of lakes at the commencement of boating season which started the

first weekend in March. They conducted 64 vessel stops, 63 safety inspections, 5 citations and 39 warnings.

Ms. Saffron asked what the citations were for. Officer Shyy did not have the statistics, but stated, citations are usually for safety violations.

Gloria Eby presented the update for Lakes Management. There are several projects under the NRCS (National Resource Conservation Services) grant funding umbrella. The most relevant project is the update of the Howell Creek Stabilization project.

The dedicated project webpage is kept up to date with reports from our consultant as well as documentation that was distributed to the residents at the community meeting in March. The community meeting was well attended.

The stream assessment report lists priorities ranging from 0 to 5. We are concentrating and dedicating funding to priorities 3 through 5 as priorities 0 through 2 are for minor erosion issues. The next step is permitting through St. John's River Water Management District and Army Corp of Engineers. Due to the stay at the State level, FDEP's (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) 404 permitting process is now conducted at the Federal level; Army Corps of Engineers. A time extension was submitted and approved by NRCS per permitting delays. It was emphasized that the city does not want to lose any grant funding. Mr. Marsh asked if a decision from the Army Corps is expected before hurricane season. Ms. Eby believes that a determination will be received within weeks.

Treatments for algae were conducted on Lake Forest and Lake Midget. Lake Sue has great results from the hydrilla treatment conducted in April of 2023. Inspections will continue to monitor the needs of the lake.

Eight lake level telemetry stations out of 24 lakes are left to install. We're hoping to have the stations installed within the next 3 weeks.

A section of Venetian seawall is being repaired during early mornings before the Winter Park Boat Tour begins and before daily herbicide treatments scheduled as to avoid canal closings.

Mr. Webman asked Ms. Monahan for the status of the Venetian canal bypass. Don Marcotte answered explaining that the survey was completed. When the geotechnical analysis report is received, a plan will be initiated. The decision was made to install one bypass halfway between the bridge at Palmer and Lake Maitland.

Ms. Eby presented the aquatic plant of the month - Pondweed, a native plant that can act like a nuisance. Ms. Eby stated that pondweed is present in various lakes throughout the City. It is a beneficial native, providing habitat for aquatic life and helps with water quality as the plant can aid in the uptake of excess nutrients. The nuisance aspect of pondweed is related to boating especially when the water level drops suddenly which occurred on Lake Sue (by approximately one foot).

Hurricane effects and recovery are being seen throughout the chain of lakes water

quality data. Lakes division and the Water/Wastewater department are coordinating a maintenance policy for private lift stations.

Mr. Vermuth asked Ms. Eby if there is any regulation or standard on irrigation systems that pump out of the lake? Ms. Eby explained no regulation for intake when withdrawing from lakes for small residential use. She stated that lake intake is preferred to using municipal water by the regulatory agencies per water conservation. The concern from Mr. Vermuth is with oversized and unsightly buoys.

Shannon Monahan presented the Stormwater update and provided the updated CIP. One of the more exciting projects the team is working on is the Summer Way Pipe Replacement. A pipe outfall had failed on private property in a very interesting location. Mr. Marcotte added, the work on the replacement / installation is being done by very capable, in-house crews.

The largest project being worked on is the city wide basin studies. The city was split into 3 sections. The western basin is being studied by Geosyntec Consultants, the central basin is being studied by Singhofen & Associates and the eastern basin, draining to the Little Econ Baxter & Woodman. Public Works Department is working through model calibration, making sure the that the models match what was observed with Hurricane Ian. The next step is to look into possible projects to address flooding areas.

Mr. March asked why Lake Minnehaha was not included in the analysis. Ms. Monahan explained that Lake Minnehaha was included in the central basin study.

Mr. Vermouth questioned the location of the outfalls from the eastern side. Ms. Monahan answered, the eastern outfalls are Lake Corrine, the second is Crane strand, and the third outfall goes north into Seminole County. Mr. Marcotte interjected that the second and third outfalls both go into Seminole County, join at the Interlachen Country Club and split off to the east. Mr. Vermouth asked if an exfiltration system will be set up at Winter Park 18 like the one at the Winter Park Pines Golf course. Mr. Marcotte stated the groundwater is too high. There will be improvements in the future working with Orange County.

Ms. Eby stated they received an invitation to a coordination meeting with St. John's River Water Management District, all the stakeholders, the municipalities and the counties, to discuss each of their individual projects for collaboration and future outlook with respect to folding resiliency.

Video was presented showing the stocking of ~1,300 catfish at the MLK park pond for the annual Get Hooked event. There were ~200 participants last year (October 2023). Ms. Eby invited the board to other city events: Earth Day & Run for the Trees 4/27; 3 lake events where native aquatic plants will be installed; Lake Knowles and Lake Wilbar 5/11 and Lake Sylvan 5/18. Mr. Swartz encouraged everyone to attend the Run for the Trees. This will be the 31st year for Run for the Trees, 3rd year for Earth Day. Staff updated ended to state that this weekend the Lakes Division's Duck Derby will be held at Mead Gardens.

**7. Board Comments**

- a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

**8. Upcoming Agenda Items**

- a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Approved by the board on May 14, 2024  
/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator