



Lakes & Waterways Board Regular Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

David F. March, Ed Webman, George T. Vietor, Justin J. Vermuth, William H. Swartz Sr., Clark Sprinkel

Absent

Matthew Johnson

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources and Sustainability Gloria Eby, Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan, Lakes Specialist Daniel Barber, Administrative Assistant Victoria Tabor, GIS Manager Mark Medley, GIS Analyst Daniel Ball

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 am.

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of February 11, 2025

Motion made by Mr. Swartz to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Vietor.

Motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda)

4. Public Hearings (Public participation and comment on these matters must be in person.)

5. Action Items

6. Non-Action Items

- a. Lakes Webpage Development

Ms. Eby announced the GIS team is working on developing the Lakes webpage, where staff is planning to publicly display real-time data related to the lakes. GIS Manager Mark Medley introduced himself along with GIS Analyst Daniel Ball. Mr. Medley explained that a significant amount of data is collected by the city on various topics. Much of the data capture is being automated, such as lake elevation levels. Awareness of these levels has improved, especially before and after storms. Additionally, there has been an effort in refining the processes for water quality samples from all the lakes and

how the data is integrated into the systems. The final step is to display it so people can see it or, if they're curious, explore the city's information.

He presented a draft webpage that will initially feature a map of the city of Winter Park. By clicking on any of the waterbodies, users will see a popup displaying the latest elevation level. It can also include text to seamlessly integrate the most recent data on water quality sampling.

The webpage will feature dynamic color coding: if phosphorus levels are unhealthy, the indicator will turn red; if the levels are good, it will turn green. This color change will occur automatically as soon as new data is updated by staff collecting quality information at the lakes.

In addition to the map interface, we have specific data that indicates where you can access information about a lake or other water bodies. You can view elevation changes over time and set your own custom date ranges. This allows you to analyze seasonal changes and observe the full range of data within those dates. Additionally, we have a similar interface for monitoring water quality levels. You can select different waterbodies, and the interface will show whether the quality is within acceptable limits for each specific body of water. It also provides graphs that display the data over time.

Mr. Medley explained that the elevation level is updated as frequently as needed. There is a slight manual process involved in retrieving data from the sensors. Once the data is collected and placed in the appropriate location, there are several backend scripts that process the data and bring it into the database, where it is displayed. Whenever information from Compass is gathered from the sensors located on the waterbodies, the data is updated in the system immediately.

Mr. Webman inquired whether the nutrient data comes from the County. Ms. Eby responded that the laboratory is the Orange County laboratory, but staff handles the sampling. The lab provides the report which staff uploads, so the data will always be reported in arrears.

It was explained that, in addition to the data section of the new webpage, the landing page is also under development. This process requires significant time to review the period of record data and format it for automation. The automation proved to be the most challenging aspect. The next step involves creating the splash page, where each lake will have a tile featuring drone imagery. Users will be able to click on the lake directly or access it through a web-based map. The splash page, along with the images, will include a narrative detailing the history of each lake.

Mr. Webman expressed gratitude to the staff for their efforts on the webpage. Ms. Eby mentioned that the webpage will resemble the public art collection page; however, instead of showcasing various art pieces around the city, it will feature the different lakes.

Mr. Sprinkel suggested that the charts should indicate when there are spikes caused by hurricanes and include information about how water quality was impacted during capital projects.

Mr. Medley offered to compile a list of important dates along with the events associated with them, such as policy changes and hurricanes, that could influence future developments.

Mr. Vietor inquired about the difficulty and time required for inputting the incoming data. Mr. Medley responded that setting up the system was more challenging than maintaining it. Although manually entering data can be somewhat tedious at times, he noted that most of the tedious work had already been completed.

7. Staff Updates

a. Winter Park Police Department

Sergeant Hofer was absent

b. Lakes Management

Mr. Barber provided updates on the lakes treatments. Phase one of the hydrilla treatment for Baldwin has been completed, with phase two possibly scheduled for April. Lakes team is also addressing hydrilla in Minnehaha and Nina, treating Temple for salvinia, and Tuscan for burhead sedge. Additionally, Lakes continues to treat Howell Creek.

Mr. Vietor inquired about the yellow debris barriers located under the Sterling Bridge, mentioning that they were full of leaves, making it impossible to see the water. As of yesterday, the barriers were about 90% cleared out. He wanted to know if this was something the city managed. Ms. Eby explained that the debris barriers are part of the NRCS Howell Creek construction work. Both Lakes team and the contracting team are responsible for clearing them out. Although the recent storm event may have helped flush some debris away, the barriers are generally cleared every three days or so.

Ms. Eby informed that a message was sent to the Lake communities stating that the results for hazardous algae blooms came back negative.

Mr. Barber informed that the Plant of the Month is the Arrowhead Vine. This plant is considered invasive in the U.S., where it ranges from Mexico to Ecuador. It can cover the ground completely, which can kill any other plants that need sunlight underneath it. One leaf, as it matures, can grow into 7 leaves. If you cut the vine, it can propagate from cuttings, so it's important to bag them and dry them out.

The nutrient levels in all the lakes were displayed and it was advised to omit the TSI because the chlorophyll data has not been received yet. A brief discussion was held on the implications of impairment shown on the charts.

Staff updated that it is conducting a joint inspection with the city of Maitland.

c. Upcoming Events

- Orange County Lake Killarney Advisory Board Meeting - 3/13 5pm @ Public Safety Building (500 N Virginia Ave.)
- Weed Wrangle - 3/15 9a @ Mead Gardens
- Shoreline Restoration - 3/22 9am @ Lake Berry
- Candlelight Yoga - 3/22 7pm @ Mead Garden
- The Great Duck Derby - 3/29 10am @ Mead Gardens

Ms. Tabor stated that the Household Hazardous Waste event had a total of 475 cars. The Candlelight Yoga event is sold out.

d. Stormwater Management

Ms. Monahan provided updates on CIP projects. Permit applications were submitted for the new Old England and the Killarney Drive outfall replacements and drainage improvements. Ms. Eby reported that \$700K was awarded in grant funding to restore the Interlachen canal system in response to the Mayflower flooding caused by Hurricane Milton. Construction is expected to begin in about three months. Ms. Monahan will provide an aerial map for reference of this project and mentioned that the CDS unit on Lakeview Drive treats a significant amount of runoff from many residential areas and effectively captures debris.

8. Board Comments

Mr. Sprinkel observed a private buoy on Lake Osceola. Ms. Eby stated that they will investigate the matter further. Additionally, Mr. Sprinkel shared that he and his daughter successfully caught several fish and conveyed their enjoyment of fishing in the lakes.

a. Discussion of Public Comments Received

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

a. Discussion of Upcoming Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Approved by the board on May 13, 2025

/s/ Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator