



Lake Killarney Board Work Session Meeting Minutes

May 02, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.

City Hall, Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Jeanne Wall, William Voecks, David Dickerson, Carolyn Minear, Joyce Cunningham, and Ellen Hencken; Board Coordinator Tatia Ghviniashvili.

Absent

Jason Ellison.

Staff Present

Director of Natural Resources & Sustainability Gloria Eby; Assistant Director of Public Works Don Marcotte; Public Works Engineer Shannon Monahan; Lakes Division Manager Joseph Cordell; Natural Resources & Sustainability Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor.

Also Present

Vice Chair of Orange County Lake Killarney Board Conrad Necrason.

1) Call to Order

Chair Jeanne Wall called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

2) Discussion Item(s)

a. Stormwater Management Flood Control Draft Discussion

Ms. Wall gave opening remarks about the purpose of the work session, which is to discuss Lake Killarney and the connecting water body flood control policy. Photos and a video were presented that highlighted the extent of flooding during the September 2022 hurricane. Ms. Wall passed around a fill-in-the blank worksheet to help in guiding the conversation along and answering questions pertaining to flood control.

Staff and board held an at-length discussion about weir management on Lake Bell and drainwells on Lake Killarney. A cone of the September 2022 hurricane was presented from the National Hurricane Center (NHC). This was used to guide the remainder of the discussion in terms of determining the timeline for adjusting the lake level.

Ms. Eby highlighted that a sub-section will be made for the Lake Killarney sub-basin within the draft manual. She also noted that several scenarios were ran, using different hurricanes, to help in composing a timeline for controlling lake level; it was iterated how difficult it is to make predictions, so the focus should shift to active management during hurricane season.

A discussion ensued about whether lake level should be decreased (from 82 ft. to 81 ft.) during the entirety of the hurricane season to allow for extra capacity during an active hurricane. Staff noted that lowering the lake prematurely might cause many residents to face difficulty in getting their boats out from the dock (approximately twenty boathouses would be affected). A consultant will be engaged to conduct a study and draft a report and staff will be scheduling a scope of service kick-off meeting with the consultants by the end of this week, to get the process started. A draft report could take upwards to a year to complete, but due to the urgency of the matter, staff will work to gather data with the analysis team to fast-track the process.

Lake Bell weir management was discussed, and staff suggested this board review the scope for Lake Bell, along with all other interconnects. A further discussion of lake level management ensued and staff recommended maintaining the lake at 82 ft. (the permitted level), because managing the lake at 81ft would entail redesigning the drainwell collars, which will require permitting. Commissioner DeCiccio commented on the importance of taking some action steps while awaiting a draft report from the consultant.

Staff will move forward with an intermittent plan to approach St. Johns Water for the purpose of replacing collars 2 ft high to 1 ft high in order to lower the lake to 81 ft during hurricane season. This intermittent plan will continue until there is further data to indicate otherwise. This will be brought in front of the regular Lake Killarney Board meeting on May 3 for approval and staff will reach out to St. Johns in the next two weeks. Lake Bell levels were further discussed, and staff will measure the level of the lake prior to the next Lake Killarney Board meeting, and will note how many panels can be taken off. An at-length discussion about weirs on Lake Killarney ensued, and whether or not they can be adjusted and remain operable.

Ms. Wall suggested for Ms. Cunningham volunteer to meet with staff and review the City's/County's street cleaning contracts, to determine if the actions in the contract are being carried out. Staff explained that they are actively working with the street sweeping team to attain GPS tracking, and track their locations. However, at this point in time, staff is under the impression that each street is swept biweekly. The outfall cleaning review was discussed, and staff explained that the

process is completed internally and on an as-needed basis. A discussion ensued about a report containing data on all outfall cleaning and debris removal, and a motion to approve will be made at the next Lake Killarney Board meeting for staff to provide the report for what has been completed in the 2023 calendar year.

The board discussed the potential of using a smart gauge on all the City's lakes. Specific to Lake Killarney, staff would be the ability to monitor the lake's level remotely. Ms. Eby gave an update that a vendor was found that can incorporate water/wastewater telemetry at a low cost to the City, with twenty stations for around fifty thousand dollars. This would include the device along and the subscription that staff would have access to through the Wastewater Department. Staff will try to attain a spec sheet by the next Lake Killarney Board meeting, however, does not guarantee that something will be provided on such short notice.

The board spoke on the benefit of having 24/7 contact (hot line) with staff during hurricane season in cases where communication is critical. A brief discussion about the benefits and uses of this proposed hot line ensued, and the subject will be brought forward in the next Lake Killarney Board meeting for approval. Mr. Dickerson noted that the Police Department has asked for a volunteer list of Lake Killarney residents, who are capable of picking up EMT'S at the Shake Shack dock and transporting them to any location on the lake. Ms. Wall will compile a list in time for the next Lake Killarney Board meeting.

A further discussion took place about the logistics and timing involved with lowering the lake when using the cone of the hurricane as a guide. Staff explained that whenever the five-day projected cone touches any part of Florida, it is advisable to take that as a cue to pull six collars from six drainwells on Lake Killarney, and manage Lake Bell accordingly. Once the risk has passed, staff will replace the collars as they were.

A brief discussion about grants and the Climate Vulnerability Study ensued, with staff highlighting that money for the study has already been acquired, and it will incorporate the Lake Killarney area. Closing statements were made about the city-wide Hurricane Preparedness Plan, and staff will present the Lake Killarney portion of that plan at the June meeting (if available) for board review.

3) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

/s/ Tatia Ghviniashvili, Board Coordinator