

**Environmental Science Forum (ESF)**  
**Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center**  
**St. Petersburg, FL**  
**Thursday, March 6, 2008**  
**4:00 pm to 6:30 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Approved by Forum at April 3, 2008 Meeting

**Attendees:**

1.	Cathy Harrelson	Forum Member, Co-Chair
2.	Doug Robison	Forum Member, Co-Chair
3.	Holly Greening	Forum Member
4.	Joe Maier	Forum Member
5.	Tom Muntz	Forum Member
6.	Bruce Hasbrouck	Forum Member
7.	Ann Paul	Forum Member
8.	Jake Stowers	Forum Member
9.	Ray Wunderlich	Forum Member
10.	Howard Rutherford	Forum Member
11.	Barbara Hoffman	Forum Member
12.	Mark Mueller	Forum Member
13.	Dr. Randy Runnels	Forum Member
14.	Jewel White Cole	Pinellas County Attorney
15.	William Davis	Pinellas County Environmental Management
16.	Andy Squires	Pinellas County Environmental Management
17.	Dr. H. Bruce Rinker	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
18.	Dr. Steve Harper	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
19.	Lisa Baltus	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
20.	Lynn Smith	Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division
21.	Gordon Beardslee	Pinellas County Planning Department
22.	Liz Freeman	Pinellas County Planning Department
23.	Phil Compton	Citizen
24.	Theresa Blackwell	<i>St. Petersburg Times</i>
25.	Bob McConnell	Citizen
26.	Sidney Crawford	Citizen
27.	Cathie Foster	Citizen
28.	Tom Reese	Citizen

**Hand outs:** Pinellas County Environmental Science Forum Agenda, ESF Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2007, List of Voting Members and Alternates, Project Timelines for Pinellas County Environmental and Park Lands, Brooker Creek Preserve Proposed Future Land Use Map, Proposal to Protect the Brooker Creek Preserve, Resolution NO. 2008-0XX, Progress Energy Potential Transmission Opportunity Areas Maps, Progress Energy Get Connected.

**I. Welcome and Introductions:**

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison called the meeting to order. He welcomed Forum members and the public to the meeting.

## **II. Additional Agenda Items:**

- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison added an agenda item with reference to new Forum members and noted Dr. Gabe Vargo has stepped down. Since Dr. Vargo is an academic, it was suggested his replacement should be the same to keep the membership balanced. Mr. Tom Muntz asked if Dr. Vargo's alternate would be willing to serve. Mr. Andy Squires informed the Forum that in the past when a member retired from the Forum, the alternate departed as well. On behalf of the Forum, Mr. Squires will check with Dr. John Ogden to see if he would be interested in a Forum position.
- Co-Chair Mr. Doug Robison took the opportunity to note that Mr. Bob McConnell, a citizen in attendance and employed by Tampa Bay Water, is interested in a position. Mr. Andy Squires informed the Forum that there is a process that includes a review of his résumé and approval by the Interim County Administrator.
- Ms. Holly Greening made a motion to request that the Interim County Administrator consider Mr. Bob McConnell and then circulate his résumé to the Forum membership. Mr. Tom Muntz seconded the motion. Ms. Cathy Harrelson asked if the motion could be amended to ask Dr. John Ogden if he might be interested in serving as a Forum Member. Ms. Greening agreed. A discussion followed about policy compared to science backgrounds with regard to Forum membership. Co-Chair Mr. Robison called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Robison requested that once the questions of Forum membership for Mr. McConnell and Dr. Ogden were settled, a future agenda item be scheduled to discuss the composition of, and need to expand, the existing Forum membership.

## **III. Approval of November 1, 2007 Meeting Minutes:**

- Ms. Barbara Hoffman made a motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Jake Stowers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **IV. Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan (William Davis, Env. Mgmt.; Gordon Beardslee, Planning):**

- Mr. Will Davis discussed the future land use zoning component to be folded into the Brooker Creek Preserve Management Plan. Upon approval, the land use component will be inserted into the final draft of the management plan. Mr. Davis explained how the Pinellas County Utilities Department intends to distinguish between the uses of its properties north and south of Keystone Road. South of Keystone will be designated with a PWR-1 overlay for those acres zoned as Preservation/Resource Management. North of Keystone Road will be designated with a PWR-2 overlay, allowing for 200 "floating" acres for the development of vertical water supply infrastructure – in addition to the 60 acres already established for the blending facility and other existing facilities.
- Mr. Gordon Beardslee with the Pinellas County Planning Department informed members about corroborating definitions and other changes in the County's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Beardslee explained the significance of both overlays for the Brooker Creek Preserve.
- A discussion followed and members were concerned with some elements of the draft land use and zoning proposal. Forum member Ms. Barbara Hoffman made a motion to create a subcommittee to discuss, review, and comment on the definitions and other issues apropos to the proposal by the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve, Inc. to protect the Brooker Creek Preserve. Ms. Holly Greening seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously in favor. Subcommittee membership includes Ms. Barbara Hoffman, Mr.

Jake Stowers, Ms. Ann Paul, and Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck. They will meet and provide their findings to Mr. Andy Squires by Thursday, March 27, 2008.

**V. Fertilizer Ordinance (Jewel White Cole, County Attorney's Office):**

- Ms. Jewel Cole discussed the issue of improper uses of fertilizers in the County and State noting how such chemicals affect the local ecology and economy. The two major issues include application and labeling. Pinellas County is considering an ordinance to limit the indiscriminate application of fertilizers in residential areas. Ms. Cole explained that the County also wishes to retain its home rule authority in order to deal with local issues effectively. She encouraged Forum members to inform the Board of County Commissioners of their opinions on the fertilizer issue including the need for a County ordinance to protect water bodies.
- A discussion followed among members and staff about issues of enforcement and education. Member Ms. Ann Paul made a motion for the co-chairs to prepare a letter in support of the proposed Resolution No.2008-0XX and further support the adoption of a local ordinance to protect surface waters. Mr. Jake Stowers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Progress Energy Transmission Line (Dr. H. Bruce Rinker):**

- Dr. Rinker attended the Progress Energy informational meeting at Crescent Oaks Country Club on February 25, 2008 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Dr. Rinker summarized his perspective on the Progress Energy proposal to build a nuclear power plant in Levy County (along with an accompanying 200 miles of expanded transmission lines) in anticipation of increased local demands on the energy grid (25%) over the next decade. Paralleling this effort by Progress Energy is FL Senate Bill #1506 that might dramatically change the manner of review/approval for proposed utility transmission lines, especially for conservation lands across the region. The bill also affects the authority of local government with regard to zoning issues. More information can be found at [www.progress-energy.com/transmission](http://www.progress-energy.com/transmission) and [www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning](http://www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning).

**VII. Public Comment:**

- Mr. Sidney Crawford also attended the recent Progress Energy informational meeting at Crescent Oaks Country Club. He expressed his concerns about how the meeting was conducted and how citizens were engaged.
- The Forum members requested Progress Energy present on this topic at the April meeting. Mr. Squires indicated such a presentation was tentatively scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.