

**Big Sand Lake Advisory Board Regular Meeting
Chain of Lakes Middle School
Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

Board Members Present: Phil Morrill, Ed Grunloh, Alan Charron, Victor Jaworski

Board Members Absent: John Jennings, Christopher Scott

Staff: David Hansen, Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

Guests: Nikki Cabani, Alexey Martins, Ariel Martins, Carol and Larry Lauer

I. Call to Order:

With a quorum present, the meeting of the Big Sand Lake Advisory Board (Advisory Board) was called to order by Vice Chair Ed Grunloh at 5:35 PM.

II. Approval of the September 10, 2019 Agenda:

Upon a motion by Alan Charron, seconded by Phil Morrill and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote, with Christopher Scott and John Jennings being absent; the Advisory Board approved the September 10, 2019 Agenda as presented.

III. Approval of the July 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Before approving the minutes, Alan Charron asked that a sentence be added to the minutes to acknowledge his request for water quality data to be presented to the Advisory Board at each meeting.

Upon a motion by Alan Charron, seconded by Phil Morrill and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote, with Christopher Scott and John Jennings being absent; the Advisory Board approved the July 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes as amended.

IV. Public Comment on Propositions Before the Advisory Board:

There was no public comment.

V. EPD Report:

1) Statement from District 1 Commissioner VanderLey

David Hansen read aloud a statement from Orange County District 1 Commissioner VanderLey. The statement is included here in the minutes in its entirety:

“I’m sorry I am unable to personally attend tonight’s advisory board meeting. To date, attending has been a challenge due to these meetings typically being held on Board of County Commissioner meeting Tuesdays, but tonight’s absence is specifically due to my recent out of country hiking mishap which resulted in a broken and dislocated leg. I am obeying doctor’s orders which requires me to remain immobilized for at least the next month. Be assured that although I am physically unable to be at the office, I am still engaged in all District 1 matters at hand.

With that, I wanted to take a moment to express my support for a full lake study of Big Sand Lake. I believe this is important, not only to identify potential areas in need of remedy but also provide a base line understanding of the current state of the lake in order to use as a comparison for future lake impacts. A hydrologic and nutrient assessment of Big Sand Lake will provide a baseline of the physical and chemical characteristics of the lake. Physical characteristics include lake water residence time, seepage and other inflow, evaporation and other water outflows. Chemical characteristics include sources and types of nutrient inputs that may promote algal and other vegetative growth. Big Sand Lake is impaired for lead and a more thorough understanding of its presence and impact may allow for targeted remediation, if warranted. The data collected and analyzed as part of this assessment will be used to identify and prioritize areas of concern for pollutant loading. Overall, a hydrologic and nutrient assessment will point toward recommendations, both structural and non-structural, to maintain and possibly improve the water quality in Big Sand Lake. This assessment is EPD’s first step in understanding the nature of a lake prior to implementing water quality projects, and I believe it will be a valuable tool going forward. This strategy has been successfully used county-wide on a number of Orange County lakes including the Butler Chain, Conway Chain and Lake Pickett, and I would fully support implementing such a strategy for Big Sand Lake.”

Alan Charron indicated that he was not interested in another expensive study and that the Advisory Board had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on similar studies. David Hansen offered that these studies were performed and funded by the Orange County Stormwater Division, rather than the Big Sand Lake MSTU. Mr. Charron went on to add that if staff would present water quality data at each meeting, Advisory Board members could follow trends in water quality to decide when any action needed to be taken to protect water quality. Phil Morrill asked if this was the same study that David Hansen had proposed at previous meetings. Mr. Hansen confirmed that it was and reiterated some of the points in Commissioner VanderLey’s statement. Mr. Morrill indicated that he also was not interested in the study since data was already available, but had not been presented in a usable manner to the Advisory Board to then decide if any actions needed to be taken. David Hansen responded that the proposed study would take into account past water quality data as well as generate new data which would identify trends in water quality.

2) Budget Update

David Hansen reported that there was currently \$2,052,007 overall in the Big Sand Lake MSTU budget as of September 9, 2019. The current annual revenue is \$214,082 with \$1,359,429 in reserves. He also mentioned that two current developments would be brought into the MSTU and would be assessed the additional ad valorem tax for Big Sand Lake.

3) Aquatic Plant Management Update

David Hansen distributed copies of the August 28 - 30, 2019 vegetation survey of Big Sand Lake. He mentioned that some areas of hydrilla in the Bay Vista cove would be treated as blocks. Phil Morrill asked if any pondweed had been treated in the Bay Vista cove portion of the lake. David Hansen responded that this was one area where hydrilla treatments would probably also have an effect on the pondweed. A brief discussion ensued about general herbicide tactics in Florida. Ed Grunloh suggested that some agencies and individuals were over-applying herbicides. Mr. Hansen mentioned that herbicide use was being closely tracked by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and that one could view this usage on their website.

Alan Charron brought up a seawall issue at the Vizcaya property. He suggested that it may not have been engineered correctly and it was introducing black sand into Big Sand Lake. David Hansen offered that he would touch base with the EPD Permitting and Compliance Section to see if there were any historic issues.

3) Water Level Update

David Hansen reported that water level in Big Sand Lake was 95.07' as indicated on the Orange County Water Atlas. He mentioned that the display on the Atlas was now correct.

4) Current Projects

David Hansen distributed copies of an e-mail he had received from the Orange County Stormwater Division about progress on the lowering of the main outfall from Big Sand Lake. He reminded members that the outfall lowering was a joint project with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as part of the I-4 Beyond the Ultimate construction project and there would be no cost to the MSTU. It would result in a lowering of the outfall allowing water to flow from the lake sooner than currently possible. He reiterated that the project was in the hands of FDOT.

Mr. Larry Lauer offered that he was under the impression that this project would not occur for several years and that the water in the lake was currently high and may need to be addressed. He also suggested that the County may want to consider lowering the lake during the dry season when there may be no opposition to draining water to the south.

Alan Charron suggested that boat owners on the lake should be strongly encouraged to move their boats out of roofed docks prior to major storm events during periods of high water. The thought was to prevent possible damage and sinking with fuel on board that could escape into the lake. David Hansen suggested sending a cautionary letter to lakefront residents to advise them of potential problems of boats sinking. A brief discussion ensued that the Bay Vista community boat ramp was currently the only usable ramp and there may be some liability issues involved with its use. Phil Morrill, a Bay Vista resident, offered that he had stepped in to keep watch on the ramp prior to Hurricane Dorian if non-residents wanted to remove their boats.

5) Future Projects

No future projects were discussed.

VI. Member Reports:

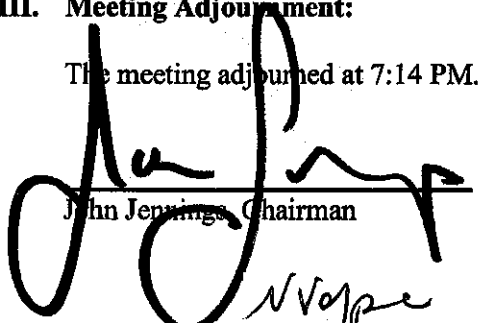
- John Jennings: not present
- Ed Grunloh: no report
- Alan Charron: no report
- Victor Jaworski: no report
- Phil Morrill: no report
- Christopher Stone: not present

VII. Non-Agenda Items


There were no non-agenda items.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment:

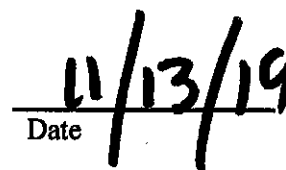
The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.



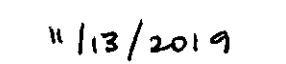
John Jennings, Chairman



David Hansen, Minute Preparer



Date



Date