

2020

**HOWELL CREEK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Annual Meeting

- Agenda

Lake Management Plan

- General Provisions & Scope of Services
- Community-Based Activities & Events
 - Recommendations
- Current Fiscal Year
 - Planned Treatments & Funding
- Next Fiscal Year
 - Projected Treatments & Funding
- Exhibits
 - Agenda & Notes Prior Year
 - Financial Summary
 - Historic Reports/Data
 - Roles & Responsibilities

HOWELL CREEK ANNUAL MEETING

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Date // Location | Monday, March 2, 2020 /2:45pm – 3:30pm/ 200 W. County Home Rd – LMP office |
| Formal Liaisons | Mary Munster; Jeannie Schiff |
| Liaisons Present | Mary Munster, Jeannie Schiff and Rory Trumbore |
| Seminole County | Thomas Calhoun, Tony Cintron, Joey Cordell, Gloria Eby, Kathy Moore, Lynda Reaves |
| City of Casselberry | Marissa Williams |

General Topics & Updates

Lake Management Program

- Welcome

MSBU Program & Resource Management Department

- Financial Summary [Refer to Exhibit B]
- BCC Resolution - MSBU Program Administrative Fee – 7% of Budgeted Assessment Revenue
- County Service Cost (WMDiv) allocation for “enhanced” service level cost
- Status Update - Administrative Code [22.10] and Consolidated Ordinance development

Lake Management Program

- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
 - FWC Rule change removes permit requirements on lakes smaller than 160 acres
 - Currently drafting County Shoreline Ordinance
 - Lake Waumpi has own ordinance with Orange County and City of Maitland, upstream is protected
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Monitor hydrilla and treat as necessary (early detection-rapid response)
 - Looking good but saw small amount of submersed plant cabomba surfacing parts of the creek
 - Hydrilla was tested to be genetically tolerant to certain herbicides (resistant strands)
 - Together, with FWC, City of Winter Park, City of Maitland, and Dr. Farrell from University of Florida, data was generated on herbicide tolerances to help with rotation selection for more robust results and reduce resistance. FWC funded program successfully expanded to include Howell Creek up to the weir but does not include other species. Will be doing other testing in the future.
- General recommendations for lake-community [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
 - Residents don’t want plants that impede view
 - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners
 - Jeannie needs more packages
- 2020 Shoreline Planting Event- dates available
 - To be coordinated via Thomas Calhoun
 - Mary will ask her neighbors to see if anyone is interested and then contact Thomas
- Other
 - Hydrilla- upstream sources and communications greatly improved
 - Email Address for routine communications and important announcements
 - Nutrient removal project
 - Pilot project downstream from weir to compare 3 media that absorb nutrients for a one year period- Sampling is complete, Report is pending
 - Winter Park purchased home on Temple Trail for passive park and creek access

HOWELL CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Scope of Public Aquatic Weed/Plant Control [AWC] Services

The scope of public aquatic weed control [AWC] services funded by non-ad-valorem assessment includes those services associated with managing aquatic plant communities as deemed beneficial and/or critical to restoring, developing and/or maintaining conditions that enhance the water quality and over-all health of the waterbody; with emphasis on providing public services for public purposes which by definition of public are limited to the waterbody and respective shoreline when/where noxious and/or invasive exotic vegetation could/would threaten or impede the waterbody.

Governing documents:

- Seminole County Ordinance 92-18
- Casselberry Interlocal Agreement (February 2013)

Methods for Aquatic Weed Control as authorized via County Ordinance

- Chemical (herbicides)

Targeted Invasive/Exotic Aquatic Vegetation

- Hydrilla, torpedo grass, water hyacinth, alligator weed, wild taro, lily pads, salvinia, and duckweed

Frequency of AWC Treatment

AWC services are performed at the direction of the Seminole County LMP as per the Howell Creek Management Plan reviewed at the annual planning session with the expectation that the Seminole County LMP may alter anticipated treatments on an as merited basis per changing/evolving conditions noted during site inspections.

Herbicide Treatments - Service Provider

- As determined by Seminole County

Funding

Financial management of the MSBU fund is provided by the Seminole County MSBU Program. Financial plans developed by the MSBU Program include eligible expense funding requests submitted by the Lake Management Program and other cost and revenue components typical to MSBU funds. Financial information inclusive of prior year actual outcome, current year working budget and next year budget proposal data is reported annually. Assessment levy is subject to Board approval and the standard procedures associated with non-ad valorem assessment. The financial plans may be adjusted by the County as merited per changing/evolving essential services as directed by the County and per financial planning considerations. The governing ordinance does not include assessment restrictions specific to annual adjustment amounts and/or assessment cap.

Lake Liaisons

Designated property owners (or their designated representatives) provide community representation at annual planning sessions with the County and serve voluntarily as the key point of contact for community inquiries and concerns. The liaisons for Howell Creek are: Mary Munster (mmunster@cfl.rr.com) and Jeannie Schiff (jschiff@cfl.rr.com).

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

LMP recommends/encourages homeowners to coordinate a resident-based volunteer event involving native plantings along the shoreline of Howell Creek. The intention of such an event is to plant beneficial native aquatic plants to key areas in need along the bank. It is especially important that as the aquatic invasive plants (such as torpedo grass) are being treated, native aquatic plants should be established within these areas.

The presence of the recommended native plant species along the shoreline provides habitat for fish and wildlife, helps impede invasive exotics from re-establishing and reduces erosion of the shoreline. All of these best management practices are essential to providing the conditions that promote an environmentally stable habitat to be enjoyed by generations to come. The key to success is dependent on strong participation of the Howell Creek community.

Continued recommendations for community initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Increase shoreline re-vegetation with beneficial native aquatic plants such as duck potato and pickerelweed where invasive plants have been treated to prevent shoreline erosion,
- 2) Continue to work together with other waterfront homeowners. Have *at least* one annual waterfront association meeting. Invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss creek specific issues, especially these management recommendations. LMP professional staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys, and
- 3) Implement educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) presentations, Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of residential pollution by using low fertilizer use; phosphorous free and slow-release nitrogen based fertilizers; keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants; keeping grass clippings out of your storm drains leading to the lake. All these activities aid in protecting your creek! Contact 407-665-5542 for more information and assistance.

Important to Note: When herbicides are applied along the shoreline to invasive plants (such as torpedo grass), overspray onto adjacent desirable vegetation may occur. In order to avoid damage to desired vegetation, manual (by hand) removal (by property owner) of the undesirable species from among the desirable species along the shoreline is advised. If the invasive plants are removed by this method, spraying the area can be reduced, thereby offering greater protection to the desirable species. The physical removal of dead/decaying aquatic plant material will reduce the volume of decomposing vegetation on the lake bottom (muck layer) and will increase the success of the efforts to limit the re-growth of the invasive plants. The presence of submerged aquatic vegetation (“SAV” such as hydrilla) should be communicated to your lake liaison for their reporting to the County so appropriate treatment of SAV can be provided.

COUNTY SERVICES – Lake Management & Supplemental Programs

While the MSBU assessment includes a nominal charge for administering the MSBU, the amount charged does not cover all the expenses incurred by the County on behalf of the waterfront property owners. Howell Creek is monitored by LMP to assess the aquatic plant growth. LMP provides continued evaluation of the aquatic plant species, such as hydrilla, and provides community updates on the status of treatments and waterbody bioassessment. In addition, LMP offers free aquatic plant material (as available) for sponsored restoration events and local community volunteers coordinated through the county’s Seminole Education and Restoration Volunteer (SERV) Program. Many of the services provided by the LMP are made available to support community riparian stewardship without additional charges being assigned to the MSBU budget.

Current Fiscal Year – Planned Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Monthly aquatic maintenance treatments continue to yield an improved outcome for invasive plant management in Howell Creek. Species that continue to be targeted include wild taro, alligator weed, hydrilla, water hyacinth, road grass, and torpedo grass. While wild taro exists on several banks, these areas are left untreated as this is the sole vegetation that is retaining the shoreline/bank with the established root system. Removal of these plants will result in greater shoreline/bank erosion. Hydrilla has been observed on several occasions and through routing monitoring by the county LMP, rapid response treatment to newly establish hydrilla assists in minimizing the management cost of this highly invasive species. While extensive growth of hydrilla is possible at any point in time; it is anticipated that routine spot treatments of hydrilla with herbicides will be sufficient to manage hydrilla re-growth during the current fiscal year.

Funding Expectations

Refer to current fiscal year data provided in Exhibit B.

Next Fiscal Year – Projected Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

The projected treatment plans for the next fiscal year remain consistent with the plans and expectations noted for the current fiscal year. Primary expectations are as follows:

- 1) Continued monitoring of aquatic plant species, and
- 2) Continued maintenance treatment of emergent non-native vegetation (such as torpedo grass) and floating lilies that may impede access via herbicides.

Funding Expectations

Refer to next fiscal year data provided in Exhibit B.

Exhibits

A – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Planning Session

B - Financial Summary

C - Historic Reports/Data

D – Roles & Responsibilities

Exhibit A – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Meeting

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Date/Time/ Location | : | February 22, 2019 11:00am | 200 W. County Home Rd – LMP office |
| Formal Liaisons | : | Mary Munster; Jeannie Schiff | |
| Liaisons Present | : | Jeannie Schiff and Mary Munster | |
| Seminole County | : | Thomas Calhoun, Joey Cordell, and Joe Saucer | |
| City of Casselberry | : | Marissa Williams (no attendance) | |

General Topics & Updates

Lake Management Program

- Welcome
- Fertilizer Ordinance- Passed on February 27, 2017 www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer
 - Restricted Months: no fertilizing June 1st- September 30th
 - Slow Release Nitrogen: at least 50%
 - Know How Much: www.seminolecountyfl.gov/calculator
 - Buffer Zone: 15 feet from all waterbodies
- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
 - FWC Rule change removes permit requirements on lakes smaller than 160 acres
 - Currently drafting County Shoreline Ordinance
 - LMP will send liaisons updates on draft for input and public hearings
 - Lake Waumpi has own ordinance with Orange County and City of Maitland, upstream is protected
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Monitor hydrilla and treat as necessary (early detection-rapid response)
 - Winter Park is currently treating Howell Creek via drip herbicide system
 - Winter Park is treating Lake Waumpi upstream, as needed, which also helps
 - Hydrilla was tested to be genetically tolerant to certain herbicides (resistant strands)
- General recommendations for lake-community [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
 - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners
 - No additional packages needed; Jeannie passed out packages to all residents
- 2019 Shoreline Planting Event- dates available
 - To be coordinated via Thomas Calhoun
 - Residents not interested in community event but interested in planting individual shorelines, perhaps using Mary’s shoreline as community example
 - Mary may attend another lake’s planting event to pick up plants for her shoreline
- Other
 - Hydrilla- upstream sources and communications
 - Request liaisons let us know if they see hydrilla
 - Liaisons asked if carp still present; there are still older fish in system
 - Email Address for routine communications and important announcements
 - Jeannie to send us contact for Ultra Vista HOA
 - Installation of nutrient removal project
 - Installation complete; lid to be constructed
 - NRCS tree removal activity
 - Residents want to be notified when contractor will be in the area
 - Winter Park purchased home on Timberland Trl for passive park and creek access

MSBU Program

Financial Status [Refer to Exhibit B]

MSBU FUND: HOWELL (CREEK)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Tax Year | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Assessment Per Benefit Unit | \$ 0.85 | \$ 0.75 | \$ 0.75 |
| Fiscal Year | FY18-19 | FY19-20 | FY20-21 |

| Revenue | Actual | Working | Proposed |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance | \$ 10,451 | \$ 11,390 | \$ 11,134 |
| Assessment Revenue | \$ 1,461 | \$ 1,292 | \$ 1,292 |
| Other (Interest) | \$ 239 | \$ 240 | \$ 240 |
| Other - Per Ordinance Cost Share | \$ 835 | \$ 1,788 | \$ 795 |
| Other - Per Interlocal Agreement | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Other | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| TOTAL Revenue | \$ 12,986 | \$ 14,709 | \$ 13,461 |

| Expenditure & Reserves | Actual | Working | Proposed |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Application Fee Recoupment | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| MSBU Program Administrative Fee [7% Rev FY20-21] | \$ 1,005 | \$ 1,075 | \$ 90 |
| Other County Services (Service Entity) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Fund Advance Repayment | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Contracted Services | \$ 591 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| <i>AWC Services (via AAM)</i> | \$ 591 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| <i>Chemicals (Non-AAM)</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>FAS/GEN Testing</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Shipping (Test Samples)</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>TGC Fish</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Fish Barrier Inspection/Minor Repair</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Fish Barrier Replace/Major Repair</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Nutrient Abatement (Product) - pending BCC approval</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Nutrient Abatement (Prof. Services) - pending BCC approval</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Harvesting (and/or Cattails/Eelgrass)</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Other</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Other</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Reserve/Contingency1 | \$ 11,390 | \$ 11,134 | \$ 11,871 |
| <i>Operating Contingency</i> | \$ 9,390 | \$ 9,134 | \$ 9,871 |
| <i>Reserve: Hydrilla (Whole Lake)</i> | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 |
| <i>Reserve: Barrier Replace</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| <i>Reserve: Other</i> | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |

1 Note: These funds are secured (1) for maintaining rate stability as annual cost are known to fluctuate, (2) in preparation of planned or anticipated future expenses, (3) to provide response to emergency and/or urgent needs for which planning was not feasible. These funds are not intended for expenditures that could be planned and included in annual budget planning processes.

| | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL Expenditures & Reserves | \$ 12,986 | \$ 14,709 | \$ 13,461 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| LM Program Enhanced Services Cost | Pending development & confirmation |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Reserve/Contingency Funds

The financial summary [Exhibit B] of the Annual Report was updated in 2019 to include additional information about contingency fund status. The MSBU Program has provided this additional information to improve transparency respective to the reason and intended purpose for these funds.

The primary purpose for establishing operating contingency funding is twofold – (1) To have funding on hand to accommodate unexpected essential aquatic weed control emergencies that cannot be reasonably foreseen, planned or identified in routine budget planning & forecasting and (2) To provide rate stability as costs for ongoing services often vary from year to year. By establishing contingency and reserve funds, such funding may be allocated temporarily from these funds to operating expenditures to avoid periodic spikes in assessment.

Contingency funds are developed by financial management planning decisions and by default when actual expenditures are less than budgeted expenses. Although reserve/contingency funds are not expected to be expended in any given year, these values are included under expenditures because they are “on hold” for future needs and are classified by accounting practices as expenditures.

In the financial summary (Exhibit B) the total dollars in reserve/contingency are identified in the expenditure section on a single line (darker shading). The total dollars in contingency are calculated by subtracting the other expenditures (typically “contracted services” and “administrative fee”) from the total revenue. Contingency funds may be used as deemed essential to meeting emergency needs of the waterbody; however, the overall intention of use is as per the noted sub-categories.

When a negative value is displayed in the sub-category labeled “operating contingency”, it is an indication that the other subcategories reflect targeted sub-category values that have not been fully developed. For the other sub-categories to be fully developed, the “operating contingency” sub-category must be zero or a positive value.

The sub-category labeled “Reserve: Other” is included for improved transparency as use of these funds is on hold for purposes that are subject to Board confirmation and subsequent evaluation of ordinance provisions (potentially ordinance amendment) before these funds can be budgeted and utilized for the proposed purposes.

Exhibit C - Historic Reports/Data

Additional information for Howell Creek can be found on the Seminole County Water Atlas website at:

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/river/?wbodyatlas=river&wbodyid=1009>
<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/resourceprogram.aspx?aid=15&wbodyid=1009>

Exhibit D - ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY

General Outline

COUNTY

Seminole County will

- ✓ Govern the MSBU
- ✓ Provide financial management of MSBU fund and assessment levy
- ✓ Ensure activities conducted with assessment funding align with the scope of services documented in the governing ordinance
- ✓ Ensure the lake is monitored and services are appropriately rendered
- ✓ Maintain decision-making authority relative to public services and will defer to best lake management practices when making such decisions
- ✓ Provide an ongoing lake management plan based on the defined service scope, permitting, conditions at the lake, funding parameters, and best lake management practices. The Lake Management Plan will be developed and maintained by the Lake Management Program with liaison participation.
- ✓ Initiate and manage service contracts, monitor results, and communicate updates on a routine basis
- ✓ Conduct annual meetings that offer opportunity for liaison discussion as to prior, current, and future action plans
- ✓ Encourage liaisons and assist with educational outreach efforts to protect the health and water quality of the waterbody

LIAISONS

Liaisons will

- ✓ Encourage communitywide awareness and participation relative to environmental stewardship recommendations and opportunities
- ✓ Provide communitywide communication and assist the County in the distribution of relevant lake information
- ✓ Attend annual lake management and budget planning sessions conducted by the County
- ✓ Serve as representatives of the community on lake issues; representing the respective lake community as a whole
- ✓ Monitor lake conditions and provide feedback to the County as to observations