



Jacksonville Waterways Commission Lynette Self, Chair

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order on Thursday, November 11, 2005 by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes of the October 6, 2005 were approved.

Pat O'Connor, Supervisor, DEP, and Tom Kallemeyn, Environmental Specialist, DEP, gave a PowerPoint presentation *Fecal Coliform Source I.D. & Reduction in St. Johns Tributaries, Duval County*. The *Florida Times-Union* had recently run a front-page article focusing on heavy concentrations of bacteria in the river and tributaries.

Fecal coliform was defined bacteria that lives in the large intestine of warm-blooded animals. The bacteria did not cause disease in humans. In addressing how Duval County was addressing the issue, it was disclosed that the City of Jacksonville's Water Quality Division initiated sampling the quality of the river in 1991 (Dana Morton), that multi-agency meetings were held in 2001 (DEP, City of Jax Water Quality Division, Duval County Health Dept. and JEA), and that a Tributary Pollution Assessment Project was held in 2004. DEP studies of pollution and the quality of water were based on data provided by the City of Jacksonville's Water Quality Division. The multi-agency meetings focused on getting the message of potential pollution hazards out to the public, posting signs at some tributaries and ranking tributaries by highest count. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was defined as the maximum amount of pollution a stream can handle and still maintain its use. St. Johns River Basin sampling 2002 indicated 51 potentially impaired tributaries in Duval County. A Reasonable Assurance Plan developed by DEP., COJ, JEA and Duval County Health Department would keep the 51 potentially impaired tributaries off of the TMDL list. There are numerous, possible sources of fecal coliform bacteria. Man-made contributions include: failure of onsite sewage disposal systems; the failure of wastewater infrastructure including sanitary sewer overflows. (Duval

County is inundated with septic tanks, though work is underway to provide septic tank users with opportunities to get hooked up to the JEA's water/sewer system). Some of the natural sources for fecal coliform are wildlife/pets and pasture animals. Compounding factors include the growth of coliform in sediments. Storm water is the vehicle that carries the coliform into streams and tributaries. It is important for parties involved to raise the level of awareness of the problem, implement additional participation and community involvement, create realistic goals and emphasize the benefits of clean water. At the conclusion of the PowerPoint presentation, a discussion ensued on various streams and tributaries throughout the county.

On the proposed Parks Rules Ordinance 2005-917, the Commission moved a substitute with changes in the 11/3/05 draft be recommended to the Committee on Economic Development and International Development. In public comments, Scott Shine had concerns with the bill. Could baby food glass jars be barred from parks? John Nooney raised concerns. Council Member Graham provided a brief history and purpose of the bill, explaining that the bill was drafted (as a result of the work of the subcommittee on park rules that he chaired) to make it easier for JSO to enforce park rules. Commissioner Bryan noted that a definition of *beach* (in 28.501) was needed (or needed clarification), seeing how there are numerous parks whose waterfronts are referred to as beaches. The Commissioner expressed concerns regarding the Director of Parks & Recreation's powers and authority. The private vessel issues were resolved (e.g. what you do on your own boat and in your own dock). Commissioner Lamb raised a concern with the authority of a Parks & Recreation Director; a concern about swimming and other activities within 300 feet of a city pier or jetty. Greg Radlinski, Attorney with the Office of General Counsel suggested dropping "jetties" since there are no City-owned jetties. Attorney Crowe, Office of General Counsel, announced that the reference to "jetties" would be deleted. "Pier" is in the text for safety purposes. Commissioner Copeland suggested that 28.510 (firearms and weapons) should be deleted, that enforcement was a nightmare. We need to delete the section or re-write it. The Chair, Council Member Self, suggested that we might add the language "with an attempt to create a crime"; Commissioner Pitman was unhappy with the proposed ordinance citing that many of the proposed laws are already on the books.

Commissioner Lowe raised a concern with the reference to firearms. Wanting "to possess" removed. Commissioner Anderson likes the intent of

the bill. Commissioner Bailey likes the proposed bill, does not see the holes and problems that others see. Commissioner Grey would like "prohibited" in 28.510(a) taken out. Commissioner Bryan wants *beaches* defined as the Atlantic Ocean. Commissioner Lamb observed that we are regulating ourselves to death.

By a vote of 9-0, the Commissioners voted to recommend withdrawal of Ordinance 2005-475 (restrictions on fishing on City property).

Ed Lukacovic, Environmental Planner, Planning & Development Department reported on a Local Government Meeting on the Manatee Protection Plan.

Dr. Gerard Pinto, JU, gave the Commission the monthly Manatee update. The 2005 manatee update was distributed for the Commissioners' perusal and comments (and ultimately, approval). From a November 9, 2005 aerial, 6 manatees had been sighted, south of the Buckman Bridge. There have been 4 watercraft-related deaths this year, to date. Less and less manatees are being seen as our water temperature drops. No manatee deaths reported in October (or September). There was a November 1st watercraft-related manatee death reported, near Fort Caroline. A manatee was sighted near the old JEA Southbank substation, but it did not stay very long. The new manatee brochure is being prepared, with the proof being printed for review before the actual printing. The Chair, Council Member Self, would like to see the brochures mailed out in the spring, when the manatees are back.

On pending legislation, **2003-1132** Ord Amend Changing Manatee Protection Motorboat Speed Zones, **deferred; 2005-1378**, ORD relating to Fishing Creek - Special Tax Assessmt Dredge Proj **recommended for approval. 2005-1387** ORD concerning Spec Assessmt for Tarpon Cove dredging **recommended for approval.**

In Old Business, the derelict vessel in the Intracoastal waters in the vicinity of Queens Harbor has not been removed. A funding issue has to be resolved.

In New Business, there was a discussion of property for a proposed Fort Caroline Boat Ramp. The City is looking at the property; a consultant is analyzing the property for a proposed dock.

FIND Subcommittee appointments include Commissioner Lowe, Chair; Commissioners Pitman and Lamb. New FIND meetings begin in January.

There will be a special presentation of a ceremonial check to FIND Commissioner Mesiano at the December 13th City Council meeting. David Roach is expected to attend and the Jax Waterways Commissioners were invited to attend.

It was announced that the December Waterways Commission meeting is canceled and that the next scheduled meeting of the Commission is January.