

November 2, 2021
Workshop Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Workshop Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioners Clint Erickson, Jeff Good, Phillip Music, Brandon Newsom, and Commissioner Earl Stafford, Chairman of the Board.

Brandon Young, County Attorney, and David Corbin, Project Director, were also present.

Leigh Ann Ennis, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The only Agenda item was Dogwood Lakes. Don Smith, Friends of Dogwood Lakes, thanked the Board for opportunity to speak and thanked all those in attendance. Mr. Smith turned the floor over to Susan Curby, Friends of Dogwood Lakes.

Susan Curby, Friends of Dogwood Lakes directed the Board to the Dogwood Lakes Directory and the committees listed within the directory.

Anne Rodgers Trepanier, Friends of Dogwood Lakes, presented a packet of talking points. Ms. Trepanier discussed the following:

- Lake is not spring fed and does depend on rainfall
- The current lake water level
- Historic lake water levels
- Flow over the spill way now
- Historic water flow over the spill way
- The lake has been termed a stormwater facility on certain documents
- The desire to return to water level in the lake to pre-dam failure level
- There is no water flow between the large lake and the small lake as there once was
- Requesting a fresh set of eyes look at the situation and help decide how to move forward

(Information Packet & Directory)

Cliff Knauer, Dewberry Engineering, discussed the following:

- The lake was not permitted before being built originally
- The permits required to repair the dam and restore the lake were issued by the Department of Environmental (DEP)
- The lake was restored to parameters set forth by DEP as per the permitting issued
- Widening the spillway will likely raise the lake water level
- He does not disagree that the lake was probably higher before the dam was rebuilt
- There is 40 feet of lake frontage to widen the spillway so the spillway can take more water

- If the spillway is widened the Emergency Action Plan will have to be updated
- The County has started the process of permitting to widen the spillway
- The Water Management District likes there to be “freeboard” which is space between the peak water elevation and the spillway height
- There is little freeboard space currently
- There are two spill ways to the big lake, the emergency spillway and one into the little lake
- DEP has an extensive history documented on the lake including enforcement actions as well as correspondence specific to the lake not meeting standards

Katie Taff, Liberty Partners, discussed a grant opportunity that could fund the widening of the spillway through the Love Your Lakes Program. Ms. Taff explained that Dogwood Lakes is a good fit for the grant, and she can have the application turned in by the December 1, 2021 deadline.

David Trepanier, Friends of Dogwood Lakes, discussed aquatic plant management funds and criteria that may make weed eradication funds available from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to fund weed control, which has become an issue due to the lake being shallower.

The Board agreed by consensus to have the lake elevation shot by Melvin Engineering.

The Board agreed by consensus that the Friends of Dogwood Lakes can work with Liberty Partners to obtain funding to assist with lake improvements as needs become more defined.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.



Clerk

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Chairman

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