

Friends of Lake Jackson, Inc.  
Minutes of regular meeting of Board of Directors  
May 10, 2017  
7:00 P.M. at Lake Jackson Community Center, 3849 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee

Board members present:  
Alan Niedoroda, President  
Terri Carrion  
Robert Daniels  
Pam Hall  
Tom Kwader  
Steve Mirowitz  
Frances Rentz  
John Snakenberg  
Jeff Swain

A quorum was present. Also present: George E. Lewis II, Attorney for FOLJ, and Lee Norris and Reggie Diaz, bass fishing guides who work on Lake Jackson. Additional members in attendance were Sophie Wacongne-Speer, Sherry Carpenter, Audrey Bevan, Laura Bevan, and Wilson Wright. Alan asked all present to introduce themselves. The Board approved the minutes of its meeting of April 12, 2017, and of the Annual Membership meeting on April 9, 2017, as circulated by Email earlier.

Terri said that she and Bob Walsh were working through a problem with the PayPal account on the web page, involving a card swipe issue with the web page interface. John said that his boat had been out of service too, delaying his LakeWatch sampling. He expected to be back in service soon.

Robert reported that FWC is trying some new chemicals on trying to keep the boat trails open. So far, the areas treated last spring are mainly open. Steve said that he has been trying to follow the County's plans for improving the boat landings, but that funding for those items is problematical. He thinks that the County may be trying to include those projects in a five-year plan for capital improvements. Alan announced that Leigh Davis, the head of the County Parks Department, has been invited to make a presentation on the County's landing improvement plans, and may be able to do so at the June Board meeting. Steve also reported on running a booth for FOLJ at the Downtown Market on Park Avenue last Saturday. He said that there were a number of people who stopped by, many with questions about the condition of the lake. Some said that they had not been back to the lake since the 1999 drydown, and some thought it impossible that the lake held water now. Steve said that improving public access to the lake should play an important part in getting various state departments to look favorably on efforts towards lake water quality restoration programs. Along that line, there was some discussion of seeking removal of the vegetation on the causeway on the east side of North Monroe Street north of Jackson View Landing.

Alan next brought up the proposed Development Agreement between the County and Eddie Mitchell, coving his property on the east side of Meridian Road at John Hancock Drive. He reported that Board members had spoken at the first public hearing on the agreement on May 9<sup>th</sup>, primarily to acknowledge that the site was a long-term problem for the County, with the vested rights that Mr. Mitchell pursued when the Comp Plan was adopted in 1990, and that the County should use the opportunity to improve the water quality flowing through the property into Fords Arm. The concern is that the present proposal plays lip service to water quality improvement, but that the

agreement really centers around flood control for Meridian Road and over to John Hancock Drive area. Alan reported that approximately one-fourth of the nitrogen that flow into Lake Jackson comes through the Fords Arm sub-basin. Alan, Francis, and Pam met with five of the seven County Commissioners before the public hearing. This is the first time in years that there seems to be an opportunity for significant funding to assist with stormwater problems in the Lake Jackson Basin, and FOLJ would like to see water quality improvements receive high consideration in the planning for the improvements included in this overall project. The next public hearing for the Development Agreement is set for June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. Terri agreed to post the information from the County on the Development Agreement on the FOLJ web site.

Pam next presented an extensive PowerPoint in the intricacies of funding structures, including the anticipated revenues from the Blueprint sales tax extension. This covers general allocations for various aspects of funding and the process of division of the revenues for different purposes and between the County and the City. She also covered some of the information on 319 grants to governmental entities that are managed by DEP, and raised questions about the implementation of the Florida Forever programs, where the Florida legislature is frustrating the intention of Amendment 1. Pam said that the information she presented would be added to the FOLJ web site.

Alan then made a presentation on the water budget and stormwater nutrient loading for Lake Jackson, based on the S.W.I.M. modeling described in the 1992 L.J Stormwater Retrofit Plan. a, Stormwater loads usually deliver greater nutrient loads than the normal flow conditions after storm-flows have abated. Streams flowing in such normal conditions are supplied by groundwater seepage. Based on data from 1958-1984 given in the report, direct rainfall into the lake and run-off from the watershed nearly equal losses to evaporation and leakage to the deep aquifer and the leakage is nearly equal to the run-off. Nutrient loading from stormwater was dominantly from the watershed of Meginness Arm with that going into Fords Arm a close second. If the treatment from the stormwater facility at Meginness Arm is assumed to be 50 % effective (just a hopeful guess as no measurements have been made) then the nutrient load to Fords Arm would be substantially large. This load originates from sub-basns both east and west of Meridian Road. It was also noted that the county samples Lexington Branch quarterly on a fixed schedule so that most samples reflect base-flow rather than stormwater conditions. Therefore, the county's data are not appropriate for estimating the rate that nutrient loading due to stormwater. In addition, the lake is also impacted by the failure of numerous on-site septic systems in the basin. Pam pointed out that over 50% of the nitrogen loading in Wakulla Spring appears to be coming from individual septic systems in Leon and Wakulla Counties. She explained that there are technical alternatives to the individual systems that have historically been built. Francis moved, and it was seconded and passed that FOLJ will support going forward with the wastewater treatment facilities and engineering plans, which are projected to cost around \$500,000.00 for restoration needs for Wakulla Spring and other water bodies.

Terri reported that she had attended First Fridays on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Railroad Square, where she set up an FOLJ table in front of Tally Yakkers, and received some interest in Lake Jackson information. Alan announced that he would try to arrange for County staff who will be dealing with the plans for the Mitchell Development Agreement to make presentations to the Board at our June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. If staff prefers, the meeting could be moved up to 3:30 that day.

Alan Niedoroda 6/12/17 3:56 PM

**Deleted:** available data from 1958 through 1984. He also took nutrient information from the S.W.I.M. Plan for Lake Jackson.

Alan Niedoroda 6/12/17 4:13 PM

**Deleted:** The information he has been able to capture indicates that there is a need for more information than that currently being collected in the County's water quality testing program, in particular to go beyond base flow checking, which limits the information that could be generated from catching and analyzing samples from larger stormwater events.

Alan Niedoroda 6/12/17 4:19 PM

**Deleted:** to the nutrients that come in through Fords Arm

**The next FOLJ Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at the Lake Jackson Community Room, 3840 North Monroe Street, beginning at 7:00 P.M., unless the President circulates notice of change later.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

George E. Lewis II, Scribe