

**BoCC Meeting
January 22, 2008
Waterways Master Plan Presentation**

Motion by: Commissioner Byerly
Second by: Commissioner Pinkoson
Motion passed: Unanimously

Motion:

Recommendation 1: Maintain restrooms and improve lighting at County boat ramps and water-based public facilities.

Recommendation 2: Improve waterway conditions at boat ramps by keeping channels clear of debris, trash, and muck when necessary.

Recommendation 3: Install more trash receptacles and schedule more trash pick-ups at County boat ramps and water-based public facilities.

Take no action on Recommendations 1, 2 & 3. (Good idea but no funding available)

Recommendation 4a: Study the impacts on people of noise caused by the power loading of boats onto trailers.

Recommendation 4b: Study the impacts on wildlife of noise caused by the power loading of boats onto trailers.

Take no action on Recommendation 4a & 4b. (No funding, Can't do anything about it)

Recommendation 4c: Study the effects that power loading of boats onto trailers may have on the structural integrity of boat ramps and determine if improved ramp design, or other strategies, can alleviate negative effects.

Staff to provide a report on Recommendation 4c.

Status: Report completed and sent to the Manager to forward to the Commission.

Recommendation 4d: Educate the public about proper procedures to follow when using boat ramps.

Staff to bring back recommendations on how to implement Recommendation 4d. (signage at ramps?)(same for 7a & 13a)

Status: Letters have been sent to appropriate agencies and organizations requesting any information or recommendations they may have on this subject.

Recommendation 5: Provide waterway access for all user groups.

Take no action on Recommendation 5. (Don't understand recommendation)

Recommendation 6a: Determine how to practically measure noise from motorized watercraft.

Recommendation 6b: Determine the extent to which noise from motorized watercraft, particularly airboats, impacts Alachua County shore side residents and wildlife.

Recommendation 6c: At a minimum, strictly enforce the existing State noise statute and the County's noise ordinance of 90dB at 50 feet for boats and watercraft.

Recommendation 6d: Mechanical and sound level tests/inspections should be conducted more frequently at boat ramps, as watercraft enter the water.

Send a letter to the Sheriff asking for their comment on Recommendations 6a, 6b, 6c, & 6d. (Same for 8a & 8b)

Status: Letters from the Commission Chair have been sent.

Recommendation 6e: Consider as a more restrictive option than Recommendations 6c or 6d, the imposition of a nighttime curfew for airboats. Current regulations would not likely allow for signage of a curfew not based on safety. Thus, if a curfew is desired, the most defensible approach would be to enact it on entire water bodies or countywide.

Staff to further investigate Recommendation 6e to recommend what form/format a curfew might take. (Consider all users: hunters, frog gigging, night fishing, night use for livelihood)

Status: No action by staff has been taken at this time.

Recommendation 6f: Encourage government entities that operate airboats on Alachua County waterways to set an example by (1) incorporating technology and design features that reduce noise impacts and (2) training operators on proper and respectful behavior while on the water.

Send a letter for Recommendation 6f to appropriate agencies recommending they read the Waterways Master Plan and respond to the County regarding what they are doing to set the example for others.

Status: Letters have been sent.

Recommendation 7a: Educate user groups on boating behaviors, etiquette, and technology that can minimize noise impacts from motorized vessels.

Staff to bring back recommendations on how to implement Recommendation 7a. (signage at ramps, etc.)(same for 4d & 13a)

Status: Letters have been sent to appropriate agencies and organizations requesting any information or recommendations they may have on this subject.

Recommendation 7b: Support the development of cost-effective technology that can abate watercraft noise.

Take no action on Recommendation 7b. (Not the County's responsibility)

Recommendation 8a: Increase law enforcement presence on the County's high use water bodies, particularly on weekends and holidays.

Recommendation 8b: Increase collaboration and coordination between law enforcement entities (e.g., the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement) and, in particular, between Alachua County and its neighboring counties.

Send a letter to the Sheriff asking for their comment on Recommendations 8a & 8b. (Same for 6a, 6b, 6c, & 6d)

Status: Letter has been sent.

Recommendation 9: Create an advisory board, composed of waterway stakeholders, to inform and advise the Alachua County Commission and enforcement agencies on matters relating to the use and protection of County waterways.

Take no action on Recommendation 9. (Need to be convinced of need for an advisory board)

Recommendation 10a: Implement greater enforcement of existing regulations.

Take no action on Recommendation 10a at this time. (This is a budget issue)

Recommendation 10b: Do not implement new regulatory zones (such as, zones for environmental protection, safety, or speed) without sound justification that is based on appropriate scientific data and/or information.

Refer Recommendation 10b to staff to determine if data is available, if regulatory zones needed and determine what other counties are doing.

Status: No action by staff has been taken at this time.

Recommendation 11: Standardize regulations to reduce confusion.

Refer Recommendation 11 to staff to consider during the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process.

Status: Recommendation provided to appropriate staff for consideration during EAR process.

Recommendation 12: Alachua County should remove all waterway markers for the Melrose Bay speed zone that do not comply with the requirements for uniform waterway markers in Florida and add the proper number of compliant signs per Alachua County's permit #94-081 for this zone. The County should then report the latitude/longitude location of each sign to the FWC. The information for the FWC should also include a copy of ordinance 95-5 as part of the legal basis for this speed zone.

Staff to act on Recommendation 12 and take appropriate action to correct.

Status: Staff working with FWC to bring Melrose Bay waterway markers into compliance with current requirements. Working with DEP for approval to install support structures for the signs. Scope of Services prepared for installing the signs.

Recommendation 13a: Post signs at boat ramps that explain existing regulations and contain contact information for law enforcement agencies.

Staff to bring back recommendations on how to implement Recommendation 13a. (signage at ramps?)(same for 4d & 7a)

Status: Letters have been sent to appropriate agencies requesting any information or recommendations they may have on this subject.

Recommendation 13b: Help user groups develop self-regulation programs that facilitate greater respect for and awareness of others.

Recommendation 13c: Promote voluntary training and education of boaters by the boating industry (e.g., dealerships or rental outlets).

Take no action on Recommendation 13b & 13c. (No funding available)

Recommendation 14a: Determine if current setbacks and standards outlined in the Comprehensive Plan are sufficient to minimize impacts from development and associated activities near water bodies.

Refer Recommendation 14a to staff to consider during the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process.

Status: Recommendation provided to appropriate staff for consideration during EAR process.

Recommendation 14b: Encourage educational programs that teach proper application of fertilizers and pesticides.

Take no action on Recommendation 14b.

Recommendation 15a: Determine the effects of water quality on fish populations.

Recommendation 15b: Determine the effects of fishing pressure on fish populations at various times of the year.

Send a letter referring Recommendation 15a & 15b to appropriate agencies.

Status: Letters have been sent to appropriate agencies requesting any information or recommendations they may have on this subject.

Recommendation 16: Provide residents and visitors with passive and active educational opportunities that promote environmental ethics and conservation.

Take no action on Recommendation 16.

Recommendation 17a: Educate waterway users and residents about invasive/exotic vegetation.

Recommendation 17b: As an alternative to herbicide spraying, implement “eco-friendly” harvesting methods to remove invasive/exotic vegetation.

Send a letter referring Recommendation 17a & 17b to appropriate agencies and requesting information on the recommendations.

Status: Letters have been sent to appropriate agencies requesting any information or recommendations they may have on this subject.

Recommendation 18: Develop intergovernmental agreements within the North Central Florida region to retain and conserve local water resources.

Take no action on Recommendation 18. (already doing this)