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**JACKSONVILLE
WATERWAYS
COMMISSION**

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November 4, 2004

9:00 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, November 4, 2004, in the Council Chamber by the Commission's Vice-Chair, Council Member Sharon Copeland.

The Commission minutes for September 2 and October 7, 2004 were approved, after a correction in the October 7th minutes, raised by Commissioner Grey was noted.

Commissioner Bryan reported on the meeting he attended that addressed the issues concerning White Shell Bay. A major concern was the training wall issue, whether or not the training wall should be removed or repaired. It would take three years for the Army Corp of Engineers to study the training wall issue. Moreover, a sponsor would be needed. One of the conclusions was that the training wall needed to be marked with markers. Recommendations included having the Jacksonville Waterways Commission get the project started; that White Shell Bay be put back on the EcoSystem list for dredging; that the we acquire/purchase our own dredging equipment. (The EcoSystem Subcommittee is to look into this. The Council Research Division is surveying a number of counties in the State to see if other counties are acquiring their own dredging equipment).

Kelly Boree, Planning & Grants Coordinator, Parks, Recreation & Entertainment Department, gave the Commission an update on the status of FIND grant applications and awards.

In providing the Commission with the monthly Manatee Report, Dr. Gerald Pinto reported that no manatee fatalities in the month of October. On the last aerial flight, 25 manatees had been sighted. The numbers of manatees sighted are starting to

decline as the temperature in the waters begin to cool. The annual manatee update is impending. In October, Dr. Gerstein was here in Jacksonville finalizing his manatee study. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has increased patrols of Goodby's Creek. It is a very shallow area and it was observed that dredging would reduce hazards to the manatees. C/M Self and Office of General Counsel's Greg Radlinski had met with Kipp Frohlich, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Mr. Frohlich's October 4, 2004 letter to the Commission's Chair regarding manatee deaths in the County had triggered considerable discussion on Goodby's Creek. On signage regarding enactment of idle speed zones in Goodby's Creek, Florida Fish & Wildlife has to approve the speed change *before* it can be enforced and only then can we have the Public Works Department put manatee buoys in the creek. Dr. White and C/M Self will be meeting with State officials later in the month to discuss the manatee deaths issue.

On pending legislation, the Commission voted to defer Ordinance 2003-11323 - Ord Code, Changing manatee protection motorboat speed zones from year-round to seasonal.

In new business, Commissioner Grey advised the Commission that in the St. Johns River, south of the Fuller Warren Bridge, recent storms and hurricanes may have contributed to the misplacement of commercial fishermen's crab trap floats. These crab trap floats have drifted into the designated channel to the extent that you cannot identify where the channel should be. Florida Fish & Wildlife should apprise of this situation.

John J. Jackson
Council Research Division