

## **CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2006**

Council held a greet and meet for Colonel Grosskruger and Pete Milam, Army Corps of Engineers from 10:30 a. m. to 11:00 a. m.

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 11:00 a. m.

Members present: Mayor Johnston, Vice Mayor Denham, Councilman Brown, Councilman Jennings and Councilman Rothman.

Vice Mayor Denham gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Discussion with Colonel Grosskruger, Commander of Jacksonville District Office of Army Corps of Engineer regarding matters of the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule and actions to protect the Caloosahatchee River from damaging levels of water releases experienced in 2004 and 2005**

Colonel Grosskruger spoke to the following:

- Senior levels of the administration and ACOE behind Colonel Grosskruger
- ACOE reforming itself
- LORRS (Lake Okeechobee Regulation Study) a long-term plan to fix regional issues
- Best deal with regulation schedule today and in the future
- Long-term fix for the Hubert Hoover dike
- Long-term plan for Everglades Restoration Plan
- 404 Clean Water Act permit
- Challenges to manage watersheds better
- Challenges to balance all projects
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement out for public comment
- Over 2,000 comments
- Current plan to be published January, 2007
- Reopening the plan and extend the period required for best solution through March, 2007
- Final plan submittal June, 2007
- Implementation for July, 2007
- Incorporate lands the SFWMD had for storage
- Hubert Hoover dike fix being expedited
- Could have deviation if necessary before plan approved
- Sending water east and west to take 1 inch of water off Lake Okeechobee

Discussion ensued regarding the need for shared adversity, very little water goes south, Colonel Grosskruger stated that lands were identified to take water off the lake, and the need for policy at the state level, shorter term solutions where water could be diverted, what did Colonel Grosskruger see as the 2 main barriers to sending more water south, Colonel Grosskruger answered quantity of water that could be sent was finite due to water quality, quantity to flood interest, such as agriculture interest, could impact storage treatment area or the infrastructure, Pete Milam spoke to treatment ETA constraint and 2004/2005 did a lot of damage to STA using submerged aquatic vegetation, conveyance impact and the importance of getting mod waters built, which was tied up in the water bill, Colonel Grosskruger stated the water pools north of Tamiami, current plan escalated to over \$500 million dollars worth of work, he stated working with SFWMD, Missosukee interested in working and the need to clean-up to get the flows, concern over the health of Lake Okeechobee and getting it to flow in the natural meandering way, the need for culvert clean-outs, support on the Tamiami Trail clean-out, Everglades Ecosystem Council that meets quarterly, 20 loads

of dead fish removed from the beach and hauled off the island, red drift algae on the beach, manatees dying, work on the technical aspects of the new release schedule, follow the maximum load of 2800 cfs as recounted by biologists, SFWMD had committed that they have the ability to take the equivalent of 1-foot of water from Lake Okeechobee, the need for a provision of where the SFWMD water would go, Colonel Grosskruger spoke to the trail of paperwork between the City and SFWMD, and SFWMD provide the ACOE with the proposed lands for water storage, he stated those lands would be incorporated into the schedule, and the need for conveyance systems.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Valiquette spoke to the need to build storage facilities to filter the water from Lake Okeechobee.

Barbara Cooley spoke to the need to build storage facilities to filter water released from Lake Okeechobee.

Rae Ann Wessel spoke to the system being a connected system, requesting ACOE address concerns, over drainage of the upper Kississimee basin, addressing storage needs, old plan endorsed in 1996 by the ACOE, new system being implemented (Coastal Observatory) for water quality, and the need watershed specific inputs.

Discussion ensued regarding the SCCF water sensors identifying certain elements in the water, Council thanked Colonel Grosskruger and Pete Milam for attending the Council meeting.

Sam Bailey spoke to Sanibel Island being unique.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pamela Smith, CMC  
City Clerk