

LAKE REGION LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

"COMPREHENSIVE PLAN"

Adopted 10/17/89
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SECTION ONE

"JURISDICTIONAL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION"

The Lake Region Lakes Management District (District) is an independent special taxing district established in 1919 and includes 59 lakes within its boundaries. The charter mandates that the District protect water quality, provide safe and convenient navigation, construct launching basins, control lake pests, construct and maintain navigation and drainage canals, aid in flood control and lake level management, and all other things necessary and proper for the general convenience and safety of those using the lakes and canals.

The present boundaries of the District lie within Polk County and include all or parts of the cities of Lake Alfred and Winter Haven. The water shed, or drainage basin, area of the District also includes portions of Auburndale, Eagle Lake and Lake Hamilton. The District's responsibilities are exercised in conjunction with other agencies including, but not limited to, the County of Polk, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Polk County Health Department, the City of Lake Alfred and the City of Winter Haven. Therefore, it is imperative that the District staff be very knowledgeable of the rules of these agencies and continue to maintain a close working relationship with these agencies. The relationship has been mutually beneficial and effective in promoting the public good.

SECTION TWO

"GOALS AND OBJECTIVES"

GOAL ONE

**PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY IN THE LAKES
WITHIN THE DISTRICT'S BOUNDARIES.**

OBJECTIVE 1.1 - "CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE VEGETATION"

OBJECTIVE 1.2 - "MINIMIZE URBAN ENCROACHMENT UPON THE
BANKS OF THE LAKE AND ESTABLISH A
'GREEN BELT' PLAN"

OBJECTIVE 1.3 - "PRESERVE WILDLIFE HABITATS AND
RESOURCES"

OBJECTIVE 1.4 - "MONITOR UPLAND ACTIVITIES THAT
AFFECT WATER QUALITY AND COORDINATE
THESE EFFORTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES"

OBJECTIVE 1.5 - "CONSERVE AND CONTROL LAKE WATER
LEVELS WHERE POSSIBLE"

GOAL TWO

PROVIDE THE PUBLIC A SAFE BOATING ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVE 2.1 - "MONITOR NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS AND
BOATING SAFETY"

OBJECTIVE 2.2 - "MONITOR CONSTRUCTION AND PLACE-
MENT OF DOCKS AND SEAWALLS"

GOAL THREE

**PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL NAVIGABLE BODIES OF WATER
IN THE DISTRICT**

OBJECTIVE 3.1 - "IMPROVE AND INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS
TO ALL LAKES IN THE DISTRICT"

"CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE VEGETATION"
OBJECTIVE 1.1

- A. Coordinate with other agencies to identify and control the growth of undesirable vegetation. This will include submerged, emergent and floating weeds, such as water hyacinths, hydrilla, cattails and others. This control will be directed at the entire lake, as well as points of public access, such as canals, canal entrances, boat ramps, parks, and other public areas.

- B. Educate private property owners' concerning local, county and state lakefront clearing laws.

- C. Seek financial assistance from state and federal sources for aquatic vegetation studies and/or eradication.

**"MINIMIZE URBAN ENCROACHMENT UPON THE BANKS OF THE LAKE AND
ESTABLISH A 'GREEN BELT' PLAN"
OBJECTIVE 1.2**

- A. Request the Southwest Florida Water Management District complete the survey of all lakes within the District's boundaries and establish the various water levels for each lake.

- B. Assist the cities and Polk County in establishing and enforcing the following minimum standards for all new construction adjacent to surface waters:
 - 1. Dwellings: All new structures will be at least fifty feet back from the "ten-year flood" elevation and two feet above, the "one-hundred year flood".
 - 2. Accessory structures not used for living quarters: All new construction will be at least forty feet upland from the "ten-year flood" elevation.
 - 3. Seawalls: Construction of seawalls or the use of rip-rap to be in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection rules and regulations.
 - 4. All new construction shall be at least 20 feet back from District canals, seawalls and drainage ditches in normal soil conditions and 30 feet in poor soil conditions.
 - 5. Request that all permits requiring a variance on the minimum setbacks or elevations in paragraph "B" be approved by the District.

- C. Work with Polk County and the SWFWMD to reclassify the Peace Creek watershed as "stressed" instead of "open" or "closed", in order to reduce the amount of water going down the Peace Creek and increase water recharge.

- D. Encourage Polk County and the SWFWMD to develop a uniform set of rules affecting development in floodplains which would act as standards for Polk County and other local municipalities.

"PRESERVE WILDLIFE HABITATS AND RESOURCES"
OBJECTIVE 1.3

- A. Assist the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the enforcement of state aquatic plant laws to help retain some fish and wildlife habitat around the shoreline.

- B. Assist the Department of Environmental Protection to help enforce state water quality laws to help insure a better aquatic habitat in the lakes.

- C. On that lakefront land owned or controlled by the District, establish a diversified plant population and possibly provide areas for wading birds.

- D. Continue to provide trash receptacles at boat launch facilities, at the mouth of canals for use of boaters, and other appropriate locations.

- E. Monitor construction activities adjacent to lakes and canals to avoid destruction of littoral zones and aquatic habitats.

**"MONITOR UPLAND ACTIVITIES THAT AFFECT WATER QUALITY AND
COORDINATE THESE EFFECTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES"**

OBJECTIVE 1.4

- A. Work with the Southwest Florida Water Management District in developing and establishing their minimum flows and levels program for the local water bodies. This should be done from the viewpoint of water conservation, flood protection and health of the water body.

- B. Provide a representative to attend all zoning and variance hearings that affect water quality on the lakes.

- C. Monitor all discharges (direct and indirect) which might have an adverse effect on water quality. Determine that all discharges are permitted by the appropriate agencies and, if not, report it.

- D. Assist other governmental agencies in the cleanup of existing stormwater run-off. Work with other agencies to secure funding to help finance these activities.

- E. Conduct water quality tests on all lakes in this District and coordinate with Polk County and other agencies.

- F. The District may explore and develop new methods to improve water quality in the lakes. These efforts may be done by the District or with other governmental groups.

"CONSERVE AND CONTROL LAKE WATER LEVELS WHERE POSSIBLE"
OBJECTIVE 1.5

- A. Construct, repair and maintain control structures to allow for maximum conservation of water during times of high rainfall.

- B. Do a hydrologic study evaluating existing structures for maximum removal of water during and prior to times of flooding. (These studies would include establishing lake levels to coincide with the ability of the structures.)

- C. Work with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Polk County and others to increase water storage in both above ground and below ground areas in order to help maintain and restore the aquifer.

- D. Actively participate in the development and adoption of "Minimum Flows and Levels" that will affect or impact the District.

**"INCREASE WATER STORAGE, AQUIFER RECHARGE, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND RECREATION"
OBJECTIVE 1.6**

- A. Acquire outsourced funding for the Wahnetta/ Eloise project.
- B. Procure detailed engineering for the Wahnetta/Eloise project.
- C. Secure property for the Wahnetta/Eloise project.
- D. Work with Universities on new methods of improving water quality.

**"MONITOR NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS AND BOATING SAFETY"
OBJECTIVE 2.1**

- A. Encourage local government agencies to adopt uniform boating rules for the lakes and canals within the District.
- B. Where possible, remove or mark navigational hazards.

**"MONITOR CONSTRUCTION AND PLACEMENT OF DOCKS AND SEAWALLS"
OBJECTIVE 2.2**

- A. Encourage local government agencies to adopt uniform rules to control construction and placement of docks and seawalls within the District.

"IMPROVE AND INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL LAKES IN THE DISTRICT"
OBJECTIVE 3.1

- A. Survey existing public access facilities and establish a priority list for future boat launch facilities and additional canals between lakes.

- B. Construct and maintain canals, boat ramps, boat landings and launching basins and bases and any and all other works necessary or proper for the purpose of maintaining or providing access to the canals and lakes and any and all other property and facilities of the district, as provided in the charter.

- C. Acquire the land necessary for the implementation of item "B" by purchasing, leasing, maintenance agreement, or any other legal means.

- D. Maintain all canals in a manner that allows for optimum public usage.

SECTION THREE

"LONG-TERM STUDIES AND PROPOSALS"

- A. Evaluate present stormwater drains to see if alternative methods of clean up or treatment would be more effective, ie: retention ponds or detention work on stormwater easements.
- B. Evaluate re-opening the canal between Lake Smart and Lake Fannie to:
 - 1. determine the cost of restoring this waterway to a more navigable canal.
 - 2. determine options of boat lifts to overcome the elevation difference.
 - 3. rebuild present dam to accommodate more rapid removal of larger volumes of water when needed.
- C. Initiate and encourage research to be done on the District's lakes by the various universities or colleges (be willing, when possible, to provide boats and office or storage space).

NOTE: It would appear that a possible alternative for handling overflow in the south chain would be to re-route it into the north chain (which needs more water) as opposed to directing it into the Wahneta Drainage District.

SECTION FOUR

"CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN"

NOTE: These projects are to be given all possible attention and every effort should be made to see them completed.

NEW CANALS

CANALS TO BE SEAWALLED

Lake Eloise to Lake Winterset
Lake Howard to Lake Cannon
Lake Jessie to Lake Idylwild
Lake May to Lake Shipp
Lake May to Lake Howard
Lake Roy to Lake Lulu ****More work to be done****
Lake Shipp to Lake Lulu

LAKES ON WHICH TO BUILD BOAT RAMPS

Lake Cummings
Lake Dexter
Lake Florence

NEW WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES

Lake Ida
Lake Dexter
Lake Idyl

OLD WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES TO BE RE-BUILT

Lake Lulu

PROPERTY TO PURCHASE/CONTROL

Land located at the Lake Mariam structure
Property adjacent to P7 canal

INCREASE WATER STORAGE, AQUIFER RECHARGE, WILDLIFE HABITAT AND RECREATION

Wahneta/Eloise Project