



Harris Chain of Lakes RESTORATION COUNCIL

The Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council was established by the Florida Legislature in 2001 (Chapter 373.467 Florida Statutes) with the powers and duties to:

- review and audit all data specifically related to lake restoration techniques and sport fish population recovery strategies;
- evaluate whether additional studies are needed;
- explore all possible sources of funding to conduct restoration activities;
- report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives before November 25 of each year on the progress of the Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program and any recommendations for the next fiscal year.

Lake Apopka Restoration Summit





The Council consists of nine voting members representing a broad spectrum of individuals with diverse expertise and interests.

2011 Council Members

<u>Member name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. Skip Goerner (Chairman)	Sport Fishing Industry
Mr. Hugh Davis (Vice Chairman)	Legal Profession (Attorney)
Mr. Don Nicholson	Waterfront Property Owners
Mr. Rick Powers (Secretary)	Environmental Engineering
Dr. Ed Schlein, M.D.	Medical Profession (Physician)
Mr. Lloyd Woosley	Engineering
Mr. Jon VanderLey	Member at Large
Vacant	Member at Large
Vacant	Science/Biology





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Section 2. Chapter 373.468 F.S. – The Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program.

(1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the St. Johns River Water Management District, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection, pertinent local governments, and the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council, shall review existing restoration proposals to determine which ones are the most environmentally sound and economically feasible methods of improving the fish and wildlife habitat and natural systems of the Harris Chain of Lakes.

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Section 2. Chapter 373.468 F.S. – The Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program (cont.)

- (2) To initiate the Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program recommended by the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, with assistance from the St. Johns River Water Management District and in consultation and by agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection and pertinent local governments, shall develop tasks to be undertaken by those entities for the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. These agencies shall:
 - (a) Evaluate different methodologies for removing the extensive tussocks and buildup of organic matter along the shoreline and of the aquatic vegetation in the lake.
 - (b) Conduct any additional studies as recommended by the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council.

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Section 2. Chapter 373.468 F.S. – The Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program (cont.)

- (3) Contingent on the Legislature's appropriating funds for the Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program and in conjunction with financial participation by federal, other state, and local governments, the appropriate agencies shall, through competitive bid, award contracts to implement the activities of the Harris Chain of Lakes restoration program.

Section 3. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is authorized to conduct a demonstration restoration project on the Harris Chain of Lakes for the purpose of creating better habitat for fish and wildlife.





Funding Received from the Legislature as a Result of Requests from the Harris Chain of Lakes Restoration Council

Issue	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07	Total
Lake Griffin Access Canal Dredging	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 850,000		\$ 2,350,000
Aquatic Plant Management and Weed Control		\$ 56,250	\$ 73,900		\$ 130,150
Revegetation of Aquatic Habitat, Wetland Habitat and Cypress Trees		\$ 56,250	\$ 147,800		\$ 204,050
Sport Fish Restocking		\$ 187,500	\$ 147,800		\$ 335,300
Totals:	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,219,500	\$ -	\$ 3,019,500

Note: The Legislature initially approved funding for the Council's 2006-2007 request that was ultimately vetoed by the Governor





Expenditures Distributed by the
Lake County Water Authority on Behalf of the
Harris Chain Restoration Council

Aquatic Plant Harvester - \$ 25,000

Bass Stocking - \$ 449,500

Habitat Enhancement - \$ 185,000

Unencumbered - \$ 10,000

Total: \$ 669,500





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Administrative Support

Also supported administratively by the SJRWMD and the LCWA in accordance with Chapter 373.467 F.S.

	District	LCWA	Total
FY 2003/04	\$ 9,095	\$ 5,589	\$ 14,684
FY 2004/05	\$ 9,004	\$ 21,431	\$ 30,435
FY 2005/06	\$ 8,970	\$ 17,192	\$ 26,162
FY 2006/07	\$ 6,517	\$ 17,813	\$ 24,330
FY 2007/08	\$ 6,967	\$ 17,690	\$ 24,656
FY 2008/09	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,553	\$ 22,553
FY 2009/10	\$ 14,799	\$ -	\$ 14,799
FY 2010/11	\$ 10,055	\$ -	\$ 10,055
FY 2011/12	\$ 6,073	\$ -	\$ 6,073
Total:	\$ 81,480	\$ 92,267	\$ 173,747

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2011 Recommendations

Lake Apopka and North Shore Restoration

- The Council recommends that the SJRWMD continue with its restoration effort to the extent that the North Shore Restoration Area (NSRA) becomes a usable tool for the restoration of Lake Apopka.
- The Council also recommends that options be investigated to connect the entire NSRA to Lake Apopka in a timely manner.



2011 Recommendations

Lake Apopka Dredging

- There is Council consensus that Lake Apopka would benefit from dredging in select areas because internal nutrient cycling appears to contribute to the lake's impairment.
- The Council recommends that the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) continue to look for areas of the lake to dredge, determine the cost of the dredging, estimate the quantity of material that could be removed, and identify locations for sediment disposal.



2011 Recommendations

Lake Apopka Dredging (cont.)

- The Council further recommends that the appropriate local, state, and federal agencies review the information provided by the TAG to determine project feasibility and report back to the Council.



2011 Recommendations

Lake Water Level Management

- The Council requests that the SJRWMD in cooperation with appropriate state, local, and federal agencies focus its efforts to maintain the highest water levels achievable in the Harris Chain of Lakes during critical sport fish spawning seasons.



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