

Bill No. CS/HB 161, 2nd Eng.

Amendment No. ____ Barcode 603048

1 Representatives. The council shall consist of representatives
2 as follows:

- 3 a. Waterfront property owners from each county,
- 4 b. An attorney from each county,
- 5 c. A member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber
6 of Commerce from each county,
- 7 d. An environmental engineer from each county,
- 8 e. An engineer from each county, and
- 9 f. A person from each county with training in biology
10 or another scientific discipline.

11 (3) The council members from each county are to form
12 two separate county task forces from the council to review and
13 make recommendations on specific waterways. The Hernando
14 County Task Force shall develop plans for the restoration of
15 the Weeki Wachee River and Springs. The Citrus County Task
16 Force shall develop plans for the restoration of the
17 Tsala-Apopka Chain of Lakes.

18 (4) There shall be a technical advisory group to the
19 council and the two county task forces which shall consist of
20 one representative each from the Southwest Florida Water
21 Management District, the Department of Environmental
22 Protection, the Department of Transportation, the Fish and
23 Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Coastal Rivers Basin
24 Board, the Withlacoochee River Basin Board, and the United
25 States Army Corps of Engineers, each of whom shall be
26 appointed by his or her respective agency, and each of whom,
27 with the exception of the representatives from the
28 Withlacoochee River Basin Board and Coastal Rivers Basin
29 Board, shall have had training in biology or another
30 scientific discipline.

31 (5) Immediately after appointment, the council shall

Bill No. CS/HB 161, 2nd Eng.

Amendment No. ____ Barcode 603048

1 meet and organize by electing a chair, a vice chair, and a
2 secretary, whose terms shall be for 2 years each. Council
3 officers shall not serve consecutive terms. Each council
4 member shall be a voting member. Additionally, the two county
5 task forces shall elect a chair and a secretary whose terms
6 shall be for 2 years each.

7 (6) The council or the county task forces shall meet
8 at the call of its chair, at the request of six of its
9 members, or at the request of the chair of the governing board
10 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

11 (7) The council shall have the powers and duties to:

12 (a) Review audits and all data specifically related to
13 lake and river restoration techniques and sport fish
14 population recovery strategies, including data and strategies
15 for shoreline restoration, sand and other sediment control and
16 removal, exotic species management, floating tussock
17 management or removal, navigation, water quality, and fish and
18 wildlife habitat improvement, particularly as they may apply
19 to the Citrus/Hernando waterways.

20 (b) Evaluate whether additional studies are needed.

21 (c) Explore all possible sources of funding to conduct
22 the restoration activities.

23 (d) Report to the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives and the President of the Senate before
25 November 25 of each year on the progress of the
26 Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration program and any
27 recommendations for the next fiscal year.

28 (8) The Southwest Florida Water Management District
29 shall provide staff to assist the council in carrying out the
30 provisions of this act.

31 (9) Members of the council shall receive no

Bill No. CS/HB 161, 2nd Eng.

Amendment No. ____ Barcode 603048

1 compensation for their services, but are entitled to be
 2 reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses incurred during
 3 execution of their official duties, as provided in s. 112.061,
 4 Florida Statutes. State and federal agencies shall be
 5 responsible for the per diem and travel expenses of their
 6 respective appointees to the council, and the Southwest
 7 Florida Water Management District shall be responsible for per
 8 diem and travel expenses of other appointees to the council.

9 Section 2. The Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration
 10 program.--

11 (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and
 12 the Southwest Florida Water Management District, in
 13 conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection,
 14 pertinent local governments, and the Citrus/Hernando Waterways
 15 Restoration Council, shall review existing restoration
 16 proposals to determine which ones are the most environmentally
 17 sound and economically feasible methods of improving the fish
 18 and wildlife habitat and natural systems of the
 19 Citrus/Hernando waterways.

20 (2) To initiate the Citrus/Hernando Waterways
 21 restoration program recommended by the Citrus/Hernando
 22 Waterways Restoration Council, the Fish and Wildlife
 23 Conservation Commission, with assistance from the Southwest
 24 Florida Water Management District and in consultation and by
 25 agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection and
 26 pertinent local governments, shall develop tasks to be
 27 considered by those entities for the enhancement of fish and
 28 wildlife habitat. These agencies shall:

29 (a) Evaluate different methodologies for removing the
 30 extensive tussocks and buildup of organic matter along the
 31 shoreline and of the aquatic vegetation in the lake.

Bill No. CS/HB 161, 2nd Eng.

Amendment No. ____ Barcode 603048

1 (b) Conduct any additional studies as recommended by
2 the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council.

3 (3) Contingent on the Legislature's appropriating
4 funds for the Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration program
5 and in conjunction with financial participation by federal,
6 other state, and local governments, the appropriate agencies
7 shall, through competitive bid, award contracts to implement
8 the activities of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways restoration
9 program.

10 Section 3. The sum of \$45,000 is appropriated from the
11 General Revenue Fund to the Southwest Florida Water Management
12 District for the purpose of paying administrative, per diem,
13 and travel expenses of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways
14 Restoration Council.

15 Section 4. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation
16 Commission is authorized to conduct a demonstration
17 restoration project on the Tsala-Apopka Chain of Lakes for the
18 purpose of removing, with proper permits, overlying
19 undesirable vegetation and associated organic material down to
20 mineralized soils, thus allowing for the establishment of a
21 more desirable aquatic plant community on hard, sandy
22 substrate and creating better habitat for fish and wildlife.

23 Section 5. The Southwest Florida Water Management
24 District is authorized to conduct a demonstration restoration
25 project on the Weeki Wachee River, with proper permits, to
26 improve the water flow by a sand containment and erosion
27 control project, including other restoration activities
28 related to this problem.

29 Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
30 law.

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