

**Lake Ola MSTU Advisory Board Meeting**  
**December 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Tangerine Improvement Society**

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Hurlburt III (Chairman), David McDonald (Vice Chair), Sharlee Hollingsworth, and Kevin Harbin, Henry Land II

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Staff and Guests:** John McKenna, Florida Permitting Inc. (FPI), Melissa Lavigne, Wanda Parker, Ilka Bundy, Jennifer Thomson, Lysbeth Perze-Leon, Robert Renk, and Marissa Herron, Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

**Residents:** Kimberly Buchheit, Ned Bowers, Thom Hollingsworth, Tom and Sue Murrell, BJ Rapp, Charles Goodwin, Garrett Potter, Charles Grinnell Jr., Terrell New, Cindy and Marvin Sonne, Steve Mellich, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Zdeb, Justin Zdeb, Ted Wolff, Molly Duerig, David Nye Sr., Deborah and Thodore Farabee, Tom Hawley, Linda Bramer, Zachary Delgado, David Nye Jr. Stephen Blanton, Cynthia Breed, Claire Nardone, Kenneth Marcks, Jeff Fritz, John Grinnell, and other residents who did not sign in.

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**I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Thomas Hurlburt III called the meeting of the Lake Ola Advisory Board (Advisory Board) to order at 6:39 p.m.

**II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

**Upon a motion by Henry Land II, seconded by David McDonald and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote; the Advisory Board approved the July 9, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted.**

**III. Public Comment**

Thomas Hurlburt III opened the floor for public comment and received 11 requests. Jeff Fritz, Justin Zdeb, Kenneth Marcks, and David Nye Jr. expressed their concerns over the flooding resulting and associated property damage the residents have endured from the expansion of Amerigo Farms and requested further action from Orange County. Charles Goodwin presented concerns regarding water quality, including the impacts to Lake Ola from the flooding associated with Amerigo Farms. Carlene Beckner inquired about the taxing district millage rate and what future goals are. Ted Wolff presented concerns for water quality impacts from potential drainage from Jones Ave properties. John Grinnell and Garrett Potter discussed their concerns for runoff and drainage entering Lake Ola and potential water quality impacts. Travis Kuhn presented concerns for increased drainage through the Sadler canal which threatened his property. Mr. Kuhn also discussed concerns regarding a new development, Sadler Estates, that may add additional drainage to this canal and any water quality implications. Cindy Sonne supported the concerns that were presented by Mr. Kuhn regarding the Sadler Estates.

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Thomas Hurlburt III stated further discussion will be held during the Non-Agenda Item and closed public comment.

#### **IV. Water Sample Presentation by Florida Permitting Inc (FPI.)**

Mr. John McKenna and Ms. Kim Buchheit presented the water sample analysis project performed by FPI, which was funded privately by Mr. Ned Bowers. The presentation included drainage plans around the Zellwood area and the water sample results from FPI's project. Mr. McKenna recommended for further sampling and monitoring to develop comprehensive data.

Discussion ensued from the Advisory Board and residents. Ms. Herron provided insight to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) process for determining the impairment of lakes, Orange County's sampling frequency on the lake, and the taxing district's ability to utilize their collected funds for aquatic plant management and water quality improvement projects.

#### **V. Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Report**

Introductions were made by all EPD staff in attendance.

##### **Replicative Water Sample Data Results**

At the Advisory Board's request, Orange County contractor WSP was hired to replicate FPI's water sample project utilizing the same sample locations with one additional site (Lake St.). Ms. Herron advised that the water quality standards used in both FPI and WSP reports apply to lakes and streams, and do not apply to the sample sites as they are drainage conveyances. Ms. Herron presented the results from the WSP report. Ms. Herron advised that while both FPI and WSP results do provide direction, further research is required to establish areas of interest and to determine any potential project recommendations.

##### **Resident Concerns for Odor and Drainage**

Ms. Herron provided a summary of responses that EPD programs Air Quality Management (AQM), National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Environmental Permitting, and Lakes Management have performed to address concerns received in July/August 2024 regarding two properties off Jones Avenue. The Advisory Board posed questions for AQM and NPDES, which Ms. Parker, Ms. Bundy, Ms. Thomson and Ms. Perez-Leon addressed. Ms. Herron provided a map that displayed the Lake Ola taxing district and available drainage basin information. Discussion ensued regarding the drainage basin information.

##### **Blue Green Algae Discussion**

Lake Ola has received two reports of blue green algae blooms in 2024, with the recent denoted as a harmful algal bloom with 0.41 parts per billion toxin concentrations. Mr. Renk discussed FDEP's sampling and monitoring program, that the State of Florida has not recognized a minimum threshold for toxin concentrations, and that the presence of blue green algae does not always include the presence of toxins. Mr. Renk further discussed that algae are a natural presence in the ecosystem and can serve as food for other organisms. For health-related

concerns, please contact the Department of Health. Ms. Herron included that to reduce the potential for blue green algae blooms, individuals can maintain vegetated shorelines and fertilize properly.

#### **Septic Tank Upgrade Feasibility**

Ms. Herron discussed the Orange County project that identified areas where the groundwater will arrive to a waterbody within 5 years plus a 150 feet buffer coupled with septic tank densities. Lake Ola was identified as one of these waterbodies. Orange County requested a grant for septic system upgrade assistance through FDEP that would offer cost-share opportunities to the property owners or their installers for upgrades to advanced systems. Ms. Herron stated that Orange County is still awaiting a response from FDEP, and she will follow up once more information is received.

#### **Aquatic Plant Management Update:**

Two routine aquatic plant management surveys have been conducted since the previous meeting, occurring on September 18<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The native vegetation species observed included small and large nitella (*Nitella* species), Illinois pondweed (*Potamogeton illinoensis*), and bacopa (*Bacopa caroliniana*). Both surveys showed a substantial growth in native species, which provides excellent competition for hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). One area of the invasive species limnophila (*Limnophila sessiliflora*) was identified and recommended for treatment. Orange County intends to stock 450 triploid grass carp in the beginning of 2025. Ms. Herron informed the Advisory Board that the grass carp fence was removed on October 12, 2024 due to flooding concerns and was re-installed on December 6, 2024.

For future budget considerations, Ms. Herron provided two estimates for a full lake hydrilla treatment using different herbicides: \$399k utilizing Aquathol, or \$499k utilizing Airstream (Bispyribac).

#### **Budget Update:**

The current account balance is approximately \$457K with \$194K of non-encumbered funds in the operating budget and \$263K in reserves. The expenditures for last fiscal year totaled approximately \$22,600. The anticipated MSTU revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 is \$104,000.

#### **Comprehensive Lake Study Proposals:**

In attempt to address concerns regarding drainage and water quality concerns, Ms. Herron presented two proposals for comprehensive lake studies which scopes included establishing the drainage basin, calculating internal recycling, groundwater infiltration, determining areas of highest nutrient loading and providing potential project recommendations for the Advisory Board. Discussion ensued regarding the potential outcomes of the items included in the scopes. The scope provided by contractors WSP ranges from \$156,365 to \$398,471 depending on which options the Advisory Board wishes to include. The scope provided by Environmental Research and Design (ERD) is a lump sum of \$341,002. Discussion ensued.

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The Advisory Board questioned the need for additional research prior to conducting an evaluation for implementing a structural nutrient reduction project, like a baffle box. The Advisory Board discussed desires for establishing the drainage basin and evaluating one to two inflows for project recommendations. The Advisory Board determined further discussion is required before a decision can be made. Ms. Herron stated she will request revised scopes from both consultants to include field reconnaissance to establish the drainage basin and quantities to evaluate one to two inflows for potential project recommendations.

## **VI. Meeting Schedule**

Discussion ensued for the next routine meeting. The Advisory Board decided to schedule a special Advisory Board meeting for:

- January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Thomas Hurlburt III stated he will coordinate with Ms. Herron at a later date to specify the topics to be addressed during the special meeting. The Advisory Board requested for postcards to be mailed to the Lake Ola residents prior to the upcoming meeting.

## **VII. Member Reports**

David McDonald: Mr. McDonald is not in favor of a project that would expend most of the taxing district funds and result in diminished funds in the account.

Henry Land: No report

Sharlee Hollingsworth: No report

Kevin Harbin: No report

Tom Hurlburt: No report

## **VIII. Non-Agenda Items**

Thomas Hurlburt III opened the floor and an additional fifteen minutes of public comment. Discussion ensued by the public regarding the flooding from Amerigo farms, concern for diminishing water quality, odor and discharge complaints originating off Jones Ave, aquatic plant management, and requests for actions to address the quality of water from inflow canals.

## **IX. Adjourn**

**Upon a motion by Henry Land II, seconded by Sharlee Hollingsworth, and carried with all present members voting AYE by voice vote; the Advisory Board approved to adjourn the meeting.**

Thomas Hurlburt III adjourned the Lake Ola Advisory Board meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Lake Ola Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
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Thomas Hurlburt III, Chairman

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Date

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Minutes prepared by Marissa Herron

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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