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**JACKSONVILLE  
WATERWAYS  
COMMISSION**

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JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION  
October 2, 2003  
9:00 a.m.

The monthly meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 2, 2003 in the Council Chamber, by the Chair, Council Member Lynette Self.

The minutes of the September 11, 2003 meeting of the Commission were approved and the Chair requested that the minutes be posted on the City's website.

Douglas Bernreuter, Aerial Infrared Thermographer, International Imaging Technologies, Inc., made a presentation on "Infra-Red Pollution Control." His firm does infrared surveys of stormwater drainage system outfalls into creeks, streams, rivers and lakes, identifying and tracking pollutant effluence. This firm currently has a proposal before the City to track effluence induced into the Hogan Creek, Little Pottsburg Creek and Fishing Creek. Mr. Bernreuter demonstrated, through his power-point presentation, how thermal imaging, using hand-held cameras or aerial infrared, high resolution camera equipment picks up emissions of heat to identify effluence in bodies of water, how, in our stormwater drainage system, bacterial pollutants seep into the river from both industrial and residential sites.

Felicia Boyd, Watershed Action Volunteer (WAV) for the St. Johns River Water Management District, made a presentation on Stormwater Drains Marking. Ms. Boyd is contracted by SJRWMD. The program is largely an out-reach, education undertaking to raise awareness of neighborhood, watershed and ponds' contribution to the pollution of the river. The Stormwater Drains Marking program's objective is to reduce pollutants seeping into our waterways, to make us aware of the fact that pollution of the waterways is not something that should solely be linked to industry. The program explained the cumulative effects of a neighborhood's discharges into storm system drainage, through

retention ponds, to creeks and, eventually, into the river. Litter, organic materials, chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, animal wastes, grass, and oil, et al. all constitute components of the pollutants that make their way into the river. The pollutants do not come merely from homes or sites directly on the river; all neighborhoods indirectly affect what is going into the river. Everything going into the local, neighborhood storm drain eventually makes its way into the river.

Mr. Al Thomas, Florida Outdoors Disabilities Association apprised the Commission of Sportsability Jax, a yearly event that has been deleted for the 2003 season for lack of funds. He came before the Commission for advice and direction in acquiring funding for the program for 2004. There are between 400-500 participants in this program that provide disabled individuals with opportunities to engage in outdoor activities. Suggestions were made for private funding.

The Commission voted to recommend deferral on Ordinance 2003-1132, an ordinance amending Section 387.103, Ord. Code, changing manatee protection motorboat speed zones from year-round to seasonal. The Chair, Council Member Self, wants the legislation deferred until there has been a public hearing for Cedar River. There had been some previous legislation affecting Cedar River's speed zone and we need to ascertain whether or not making the speed zone seasonal for Cedar River had any discernable difference in manatee behavior.

Dr. White reported 16 deaths this year, to date, of manatees, 3 of which were watercraft related. Less manatees being seen as they move southward.

Commissioner Bryan reported on the recent meeting of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission.

In the United States Fish & Wildlife Service Regulations Update, it was noted that there is no agreement between the JSO and the USFWS to enforce federal regulations. Signage on the river is still an issue.

The Chair advised the Commission that the Mayor has been apprised about the Commission's issue with the federal government regarding the speed zone regulations and the lawsuit. A meeting of the Commission is scheduled for October 21, 2003, 2:00 p.m., to discuss strategy.

The City will be represented at the next meeting of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission in November that will address the issue of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's speed zones.

Commissioner Tullis suggested that the Commission have a special award to honor the memory of late Larry Dennis of the Times-Union. The award would cite and commend those who contribute to the enhancement of our waterways and environment.

John J. Jackson  
Council Research Division