

Richard E Roberts

May 29th, 2003

Note to: Jim Brenner
Florida Division of Forestry

Jim,

Attached is the information that I noted in my e-mail to you, sent out earlier today.

Dick

Attachments



Subj: **Historical Fire Council Information**
Date: 5/29/2003 8:45:18 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: LoxRiver
To: brennej@doacs.state.fl.us
CC: George.Jones@dep.state.fl.us, peter.scalco@dep.state.fl.us, renate.skinner@dep.state.fl.us,
s.smith@sfwmd.gov, Mark.Nelson@dep.state.fl.us

Jim,

Per your request and as I explained to you earlier, at the Conference on Wildland Fire Management in South Florida on October 30th and 31st, 1974, everyone at the meeting felt we should address the "problem of wildland fire management in South Florida". It was then decided that an interagency committee would be formed "to coordinate efforts toward management of the wildlands in the best ecological manner".

This committee met in Fort Lauderdale on June 11th, 1975 (the group was called the South Florida Interagency Environmental Management Committee) and the members suggested the formation of a permanent committee or council (three names were suggested).

Harold Mikell (Assistant Director of Division of Forestry at that time) was the first Chairman and took "the liberty" to select the new name, i.e., South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council. He also scheduled the first meeting for November 13th, 1975 in West Palm Beach. Fifteen people attended this meeting and by-laws were approved.

I attended the 1974 and 1975 November meetings and will mail you some of the pertinent information including those that attended, etc. I also have fairly extensive records of the meetings held from the first one to the present if you require more information.

Dick

Subj: **RE: Looking**
Date: 5/23/2003 1:22:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: brennej@doacs.state.fl.us
To: LoxRiver@aol.com, r.hofstetter@miami.edu
CC: maynarc@doacs.state.fl.us
Sent from the Internet (Details)

That is OK – can you tell me who the first president was and who the founders were???

=====

Jim Brenner
Fire Management Administrator
Florida Division of Forestry
3125 Conner Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650
Fax 850/488-4445



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"The significant problems we face today - can not be solved by the same level of thinking that created them. "
Albert Einstein

"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding."
Albert Einstein

-----Original Message-----

From: LoxRiver@aol.com [<mailto:LoxRiver@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2003 6:29 AM
To: Brenner, James
Subject: Looking

Jim,

In response to your e mail of 5/22/03 about the South Florida Council being formed, this is my wording. I was at the conference on melaleucas when Ron Hofstetter, Ph.D., (University of Miami) made the recommendation!

I have the old files and/or your can contact Ron at:

r.hofstetter@miami.edu

Dick Roberts



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

DOYLE CONNER, COMMISSIONER

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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COLLINS BUILDING

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TALLAHASSEE 32304

September 20, 1974

Mr. Ney Landrum, Division Director
Division of Recreation and Parks
Crown Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Mr. *Ney* Landrum:

South Florida has experienced severe drought conditions three out of the last four years. Because of cyclic weather patterns, and increased water usage, these conditions can be expected more frequently than in the past.

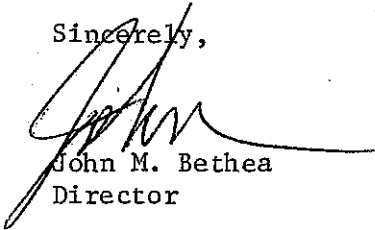
Many wildfires have occurred during these drought conditions. Some have caused severe damage to trees, other vegetation, and to valuable muck soils. Smoke from these fires has affected both highway and air traffic, and respiratory discomfort to many citizens and visitors has been reported. Unfortunately, many of these fires were illegally set by individuals who believe that all fire is a natural part of the South Florida wildland scene and that any fuel management (prescribed fire) or fire control is both ecologically and environmentally unsound.

It is recognized that fire can be either good or bad, depending upon how, when, and under what conditions it occurs. Fire in the Big Cypress and Everglades should be used only under those conditions that will be beneficial to the ecology of the area. Every effort should be made to eliminate fire at other times.

In an effort to develop a better fuel management and fire control program for South Florida, a conference is planned for Hollywood, Florida, on October 30 and 31, 1974. We hope you can attend and participate in this conference. In order to have a representative group, we are inviting people from universities, Federal and State agencies, environmental groups, local officials, private citizens, etc., to attend.

A tentative agenda for the meeting is enclosed. Please complete the attached card and return it to us by October 4, 1974, indicating whether or not you can attend and help us in our search for ways to improve the control of fire in our forests and wildlands in South Florida. Additional details will be provided later.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John M. Bethea", is written over the typed name and title.

John M. Bethea
Director

Attachments

October 7, 1974

Mr. John M. Bethea
Director
Division of Forestry
Collins Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of September 20, advising of the fire control conference to be held in Hollywood on October 30-31.

While it will not be possible for me to participate personally in this conference, I will be represented by our district naturalist, Lieutenant Dick Roberts, who I believe can make an appropriate input on behalf of our agency.

Such a conference as you propose is certainly most timely, and I commend you and your Division for taking the lead in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ney C. Landrum
Director
Division of Recreation and Parks

NCL/jap

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH FLORIDA



DOYLE CONNER
Commissioner



JOHN M. BETHEA
Director

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

CONFERENCE
ON WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT
IN SOUTH FLORIDA
HOLLYWOOD LAKES HOLIDAY INN
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

Wednesday - October 30, 1974

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:00 - 12:00 noon	Opening Session John M. Bethea, Director Division of Forestry Ronald H. Hofstetter Assistant Professor of Biology University of Miami Ed S. Sweeten, Chief Fire Control Bureau Division of Forestry
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Work Group Organization*
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Work Group Discussions
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 - 5:00 p.m.	Work Group Discussions
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Work Group Discussions
9:00 - 11:00 p.m.	Work Group Leaders Meet

Thursday - October 31, 1974

9:00 - 12:00 noon	Work Group Reports & Closing Session - John M. Bethea, Moderator
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*Conference part will be divided into groups. These groups will be asked to respond to specific questions and/or statements.

Other - cont'd

Fire Management - Attended and participated in the Conference on Wildland Fire Management in South Florida at the Hollywood Lakes Holiday Inn, on the 30th and 31st. We heard a talk by John M. Bethea, Director of the Division of Forestry, in a welcoming, guidelines and goals speech; followed by an excellent lecture and slide program by Dr. Ron Hofstetter, University of Miami, on his research concerning the role of fire in South Florida. This was followed by Ed Sweeten, Chief Fire Control Bureau, Division of Forestry, with a talk about the problems their agency faces in South Florida. After lunch, we divided up into three groups to discuss some pre-arranged questions. This discussion was to last until about 10:00 p.m.....as a subgroup leader, I had good impact, especially in the three questions that I answered for our group. Later that evening, Ron Hofstetter and I had an indepth discussion on control burning. On the 31st we reworked, combined and edited a final report directed to the Division of Forestry to help them better manage fire control problems in South Florida.

Historical Association of South Florida - Picked up the film Captain Kenner took of the Dade Massacre painting, returned borrowed movie film, and met with Randy Nimnicht on "Micco" and post cards for Dade Battlefield and spliced a film for Randy.

FC
FP
Gen.

March 13, 1975

Governor Reubin O'D. Askew
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Attention: Mr. Ken Woodburn

Dear Governor Askew:

In the fall of 1974, a workshop was held in Hollywood, Florida, on the problem of wild land fire management in South Florida.

Using the American Assembly method, representatives of all concerned governmental agencies, conservation groups, sportsmen clubs, and private citizens participated in formulating a series of recommendations to deal with this very serious problem. Foremost among these recommendations (See #5) was the formation of an interagency committee to coordinate efforts towards management of the wild lands in the best ecological manner.

In line with this recommendation, we would like to propose the formation of such a committee, whose membership would be composed of the following agencies:

- (1) Governor's office
- (2) Central and South Florida Flood Control District
- (3) Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- (4) Bureau of Indian Affairs
- (5) U. S. Park Service
- (6) University of Miami
- (7) Division of Forestry

In an effort to implement this recommendation and to plan for possible "suggested follow-on" (Item C of recommendations), we suggest that a meeting of representatives from the above agencies be held in Ft. Lauderdale on June 11, 1975. We have tried to select a meeting date far enough in advance to preclude any conflicts with other commitments.

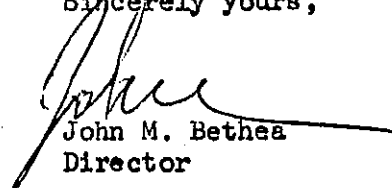
We feel that the formation of this interagency committee can be helpful in coping with fire and other environmental problems in the south Florida area. We hope that your agency will assist by participating in this meeting. In order that we may proceed with the planning of the

Governor Askew
March 13, 1975
Page 2

meeting, we would appreciate your providing us with the name of the representative from your agency who will be attending the session. We are enclosing a copy of the proceedings of the South Florida wild land fire management conference for your information.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,



John M. Bethea
Director

Enclosure

ESS/rm/rvr *rm*

FC
FP
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May 26, 1975

Governor Reubin O'D. Askew
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida

Attention: Mr. Ken Woodburn

Dear Governor Askew:

The plans for the June 11th meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee are now complete and the meeting will start at 9:00 A.M., June 11, 1975, in the meeting room of the Le Mancha Motel in Ft. Lauderdale. The motel is located on State Road 84, one-tenth mile west of the intersection of State Road 84 and U. S. 441. We have been advised by the motel that the rate for anybody wishing to stay overnight will be \$14 for a single and \$17 for a double.

We feel that the meeting should be concluded shortly after noon on the 11th. For your information, we are enclosing a proposed agenda. Please consider this to be tentative in that we should have time to discuss any matters which the committee members would care to bring up.

We thank you again for your interest and willingness to participate in the formation of this committee and if I may be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me. We will be looking forward to seeing you on June 11, and if you are flying into Ft. Lauderdale for the meeting and have some transportation needs, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,



John M. Bethea
Director

Enclosure



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

DOYLE CONNER, COMMISSIONER

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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COLLINS BUILDING

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TALLAHASSEE 32304

FC
FP
Gen.

June 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Director, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; Executive Director, Central and South Florida Flood Control District; Director, Division of Recreation and Parks; and Attendees

FROM: H. K. Mikell, Assistant Director *H. K. Mikell*

SUBJECT: June 11, 1975, Interagency Meeting

Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes of our interagency meeting in Ft. Lauderdale on June 11, 1975.

As pointed out in the attached minutes, the Division of Forestry was requested to serve as coordinator for this group, and we will soon draft a proposal for organization and objectives for your approval.

We certainly feel that much has already been accomplished by meeting together to discuss problems we have in common and look forward to continuing this mutual effort.

enclosure

cc: Mr. Ken Woodburn, Office of the Governor

FT. LAUDERDALE - June 11, 1975

On June 11, 1975 at 9:00 AM a group, tentatively referred to as the South Florida Interagency Environmental Management Committee, met at the La Mancha Motel in Ft. Lauderdale. The meeting was called by the Division of Forestry to discuss wildland management problems of the various agencies, and, in particular, fire management problems. A list of those in attendance is attached to this report.

H. K. Mikell opened the meeting with a brief history of the Division of Forestry's existence in South Florida, a review of the Hollywood Fire Management Conference, and an update of actions taken on recommendations received from that conference. This meeting was called as a result of a recommendation to "form an interagency committee to coordinate efforts toward management of wildlands in the best ecological manner".

John Pierovich and Dale Wade of the U. S. Forest Service brought the group up-to-date on the Southern Forest Fire Laboratory's "Lowland Fire Management Alternatives" project and smoke management research at the Lab.

Representatives of the various agencies (BIA, ENP, FCD, and G&FWFC) gave a brief report on their management activities and approaches toward fire management.

Frank Cole (BIA): There has been little or no concentration on fire management in the past. They now have a basic fire plan which calls for increased burning to reduce fuel. If a wildfire occurs which, because of location and behavior, meets a preplanned prescription, the fire will be allowed to burn. The location and activity of people within the reservation is very much a part of their fire plan.

Jerry Hammond (ENP): Fire is managed as one of the environmental factors affecting the Park. If a wildfire, man-caused or natural, meets prescription criteria it will be allowed to burn. If not, it will be suppressed. They want their fire management program to support and assist their "neighbors" programs.

Walt Dineen (FCD): The primary objective is the development of a water supply plan. The FCD does not get into land management except where it affects water levels. Fire does have an effect on water retention and rate of flow in the Conservation Areas. Severe burns do have a detrimental effect on water retention.

Louis Gainey (G&FWFC): Fire has been used for a number of years as a wildlife habitat management tool in the flatwoods of Palm Beach County. The Nature Conservancy efforts for prescribed burning in Collier County are good. There is much to be learned in the Everglades about burning, and the private sector has much to offer. There were not as many fires in Collier County this year, and the public may have aided in this reduction. Last year was the first time deer were observed killed because of fire (West of Miami Canal).

Ron Hofstetter (U. of Miami): (1) Each agency needs to clearly define its objectives in fire management. This has not yet happened. (2) The management of the environment by prescribed burning requires close monitoring prior to the burn in order to allow clear decisions between alternatives. (3) Maybe some plant communities did result from naturally occurring muck fires.

There is a need to decide what is each agency's interest and divide up the management responsibilities by objectives. We now have enough know-how for a prescribed burning program to go ahead. The people who are using fire should get together and plan. We all need to cooperate on data collection.

At this point discussion began on the need for an interagency "committee," who should be involved in it, and what its objectives should be. There was unanimous agreement on the need for such a group. Louis Gainey suggested that the Division of Forestry act as coordinator. This was agreed upon, and several suggestions were made for the name of the group. These were: South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Management Committee (or Forum), South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council, and South Florida Fire Council.

It was decided that the Division of Forestry would prepare a proposed charter which would state the objectives of this group and send it to each agency for review. Each agency is to have one official member. It was also suggested that consideration be given to inviting the state Division of Recreation and Parks to join.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Frank Cole	Forester	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Michael Long	District Forester	Division of Forestry
John Pierovich	Program Manager	Southern Forest Fire Laboratory, USFS
Jerry W. Hammond	Chief Ranger	Everglades National Park
Timothy W. Regan	Wildlife Biologist	Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Larry D. Campbell	Wildlife Biologist	Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
James R. Brady	Wildlife Biologist	Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
H. C. Peeples	Assistant Chief Fire Control	Division of Forestry
Charles Maynard	Fire Control Research Coordinator	Division of Forestry
Dale Wade	Research Forester	Southern Forest Fire Laboratory, USFS
Ron Hofstetter	Associate Professor of Biology	Biology Department University of Miami
Walt Dineen	Biologist	Central and South Florida Flood Control District
John B. Tamsberg	District Forester	Division of Forestry
Louis F. Gainey	Regional Manager	Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Ed S. Sweeten	Chief, Fire Control	Division of Forestry
Harold K. Mikell	Assistant Director	Division of Forestry

SOUTH FLORIDA INTERAGENCY

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

9:00 AM - June 11, 1975

1. John Bethea: give an overview of management problems, a brief review of Hollywood Fire Management Conference, objective of this committee meeting.
2. Each agency representative: give a brief statement of agency's management objectives, up-date of current activities, and comment on broad environmental management problems and/or interagency relations.
3. Collectively decide on the effectiveness of this committee and its objectives (if the majority is not in agreement on the need to meet, then the committee cannot function).

Suggested Committee Functions

- the committee will not:
 - a. actively "manage" wild lands of South Florida
 - b. be required to unanimously agree on each agency's approach to environmental management
 - the committee will:
 - a. provide an open forum for discussion of problems and alternatives
 - b. provide a communications framework which will enable all the various agencies to have knowledge of each others problems, objectives, and techniques.
 - the committee may:
 - a. collectively make recommendations to their various agency heads
 - b. provide guidance for environmental education efforts
 - c. issue public statements
 - d. seek outside assistance from other agencies
4. Formalize committee with selection of chairman

Southeastern Forest Experiment Station
P. O. Box 5106, Macon, Georgia 31208

4040

June 5, 1975

The Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Post Office Box 2570, Asheville, N.C. 28802, is undertaking a series of studies aimed at the development of alternative systems of fire management for the south Florida Everglades and associated ecosystems.

The role of fire in these ecosystems is believed to have changed from that which occurred naturally. The systems, themselves, are changing in response to man's intrusion into the system. Alternative systems of fire management must reflect the best knowledge of the ecosystem likely to evolve.

Because there are many informed sources, yet such controversy in the area of concern, the Forest Service is currently seeking study proposals from qualified individuals associated with academic institutions.

Proposals sought are for a cooperative aid study, funded by the Forest Service to the level of approximately one-half scientist man year. Based on the outcome of this study, it is planned that a follow up study may be negotiated with the same investigator. Proposals are for a study that would project changes in physiography, flora, and fauna which can be expected in the Everglades and associated systems if:

1. Current agricultural and land development trends and practices are continued.
2. These same trends and practices are held to a specified level (by the investigator).
3. These same trends and practices are halted or reversed.

The study should be oriented to the consequences of projected changes upon the predisposition and/or need for fire, for fire management, and/or for fire exclusion. A formal report on the study will be due not later than May 1, 1976. Continuation of an additional one-half scientist man year will be subject to fund availability and will be at the options of both the cooperating university and the Forest Service.

Only brief written proposals are needed and should include the following:

1. Approach to be taken
2. Factors to be included
3. Form of study results
4. Qualification statement of principal investigator (and research assistant and/or other involved associates of principal investigator)
5. Examples of past similar work (cited if readily available in the literature; otherwise attached)
6. Estimate of cost (by activities)

We would appreciate having your proposals by June 16, 1975.

Interested parties may contact either Program Manager John M. Pierovich, Macon, Georgia, 912-746-1477 or Team Leader Dale D. Wade, Macon, Georgia, 912-746-5191.

Sincerely,

John M. Pierovich

JOHN M. PIEROVICH
Program Manager



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

DOYLE CONNER, COMMISSIONER

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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COLLINS BUILDING

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TALLAHASSEE 32304

FC

FP

Gen.

September 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members - South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council

FROM: H. K. Mikell, Chairman *H. K. Mikell*

SUBJECT: Proposed Meeting for November

I have taken the liberty of using the proposed name for our interagency group for convenience in addressing this memorandum. The name, South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council (SFIWFC) is subject to approval or modification at our next meeting.

It is suggested that we have our second meeting in November. The major items of business will be to (1) complete organizational procedures by approving by-laws, (2) get a report from each agency on their project plans which will affect wildland fire management during the coming fire season and (3) receive update on U. S. Forest Service research project. A proposed set of by-laws is enclosed for your consideration.

I think it is important that we meet early in the season to consider and discuss prescribed burning plans and other fire management problems. Two dates are suggested for the meeting: Tuesday, November 4 or Thursday; November 13. Please let me know by September 30, 1975, if one, both or neither of these dates is acceptable. Also, include any other proposed topics for discussion.

cc: Director, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
Executive Director, Central & South Fla. Flood Control District
Director, Division of Recreation and Parks
Mr. Ken Woodburn, Office of the Governor



State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 11, 1975

TO: Capt. Ken Alvarez, Interpretive Naturalist/
Lt. Dick Roberts, Interpretive Naturalist ✓

FROM: Major Jim Stevenson, Chief Naturalist *GAL*

SUBJECT: South Florida Interagency Wildland
Fire Council

We would like you to represent the Division on the subject Council according to the geographic location of the meetings. Dick will attend meetings in Southeast Florida and Ken will cover the Southwest. You should confer on the status of ecological burning in South Florida parks prior to each meeting.

A copy of any handouts or other publications in addition to useful information discussed during the meeting should be sent to me and the other naturalist.

JS/1a
Enclosure

SOUTH FLORIDA INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE COUNCIL

BY-LAWS

Section 1. The South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council (SFIWFC) has been organized to accomplish the following objectives:

- a. To provide a framework for interagency communications in relation to wildland fire management problems, objectives, and techniques.
- b. To review continuously wildland fire management problems and suggest possible courses of action to meet specific needs.
- c. To disseminate technical information resulting from fire management activities of the SFIWFC or member agencies.
- d. To promote the development and utilization of fire management practices commensurate with desirable environmental resource management.

Section 2. The SFIWFC shall limit its operations to that portion of South Florida which is bounded on the north by Lee, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

ARTICLE II
Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be made up of the following:

- a. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- b. Central and South Florida Flood Control District
- c. Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- d. Division of Forestry
- e. Division of Recreation and Parks
- f. National Park Service
- g. U. S. Forest Service (Southern Forest Fire Laboratory)
- h. Ronald H. Hofstetter of the University of Miami will serve as an associate member in an advisory capacity to the council.

Others:
Corkscrew
Archiball
U. of Miami
Fla Power & Light

Section 2. Membership will be made of one representative from each agency or person listed in Article II, Section 1. Each member will notify the Chairman of SFIWFC who its regular and alternate members will be by the first of July each year and will further notify the Chairman of any changes of representation that may occur in any year.

ARTICLE III Officers

Section 1. The only officer of SFIWFC shall be the Chairman who will be the designated representative of a member agency and whose office will be determined according to rotation of the members in order of Article II, Section 1.

Section 2. The term of office will be for one year beginning July 1.

Section 3. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and see that all orders and resolutions voted on by the membership are acted upon and put into effect.

Section 4. The Chairman may appoint committees as needed.

Section 5. In the event that the Chairman must be absent from a meeting, he may appoint his alternate or another member to serve as Chairman.

Section 6. The Chairman shall see that minutes of each meeting are kept and that a copy is supplied to each member soon after the meeting.

Section 7. The Chairman may authorize the issuance of position statements and public notices only after unanimous approval by the members. If members are absent when polls are taken, their votes may be sent to the Chairman by mail.

ARTICLE IV Meetings

Section 1. Meetings will be scheduled, as-needed, and when a majority of the members can meet, by the Chairman.

Section 2. Written notices of meetings shall be mailed to members ~~at least 15 days~~ prior to such meetings.

ARTICLE V Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

DOYLE CONNER, COMMISSIONER

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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COLLINS BUILDING

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TALLAHASSEE 32304

FC
FP
Gen.

October 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members - South Florida Interagency
Wildland Fire Council

FROM: H. K. Mikell, Chairman *H. K. Mikell*

SUBJECT: Meeting - November 13, 1975

Reference is made to my memorandum of September 5, 1975, subject, Proposed Meeting for November.

A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 1975, at the headquarters of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District in West Palm Beach. Their office is located at 3301 Gun Club Road, and their phone number is 686-8800.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

9:00 AM - Approval of minutes of last meeting and discussion of proposed by-laws.

9:45 AM - Review of recent weather affecting South Florida and outlook for the burning season.

10:00 AM - Report from each member on their land/water management plans which may affect fire management.

11:00 AM - Fire Management research up-date from Dale Wade, U.S.F.S.

11:15 AM - General discussion

12:00 PM - Adjourn

Each member is invited to bring staff members or other interested people to the meeting.

FC
FP
Gen.

227
671110
Mr. Cole advised
by phone, Charlie could
attend —
ED
return

707-666-0413

Bob Cole
Deputy Dir.
Florida Forest Service

October 20, 1975

Mr. Mark Zimmer
Chief, Regional Center for Tropical Meteorology
Post Office Box 8286
Coral Gables, Florida 33124

Dear Mr. Zimmer:

The South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council is a newly formed group of state and federal agencies who share a common interest in the increasing problem of uncontrolled fires in the wildlands of South Florida. Representatives of the Council include the Florida Division of Forestry, Central and Southern Flood Control District, U. S. Forest Service, Everglades National Park, Bureau of Indian Affairs, University of Miami, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks.

We plan to have a meeting of the Council at West Palm Beach on November 13, 1975, to discuss land and water management plans of the various agencies and to try to coordinate the plans as they affect the management of Fire. An important consideration at this meeting will be the effects of weather, both past and future. For this reason, we would like to have a representative of the National Weather Service present at the meeting and give a brief synopsis of recent weather conditions, compare this year against the past five years, and give us an outlook for expected conditions during the coming fire season.

If possible, we request that Mr. Charles Prescott from your office attend this meeting and make the presentation for us. We request Mr. Prescott because he is the only meteorologist in the state with experience in fire weather forecasting (and, therefore, is familiar with our wildland fire problems) and because he is near enough to our meeting location and would not require excessive travel.

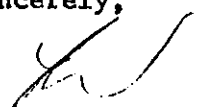
Our meeting will begin at 9:00 AM on November 13, 1975, at the C. & S. Florida Flood Control District Office at 3301 Gun Club Road in West Palm Beach. We plan to complete the meeting by 12:00 PM.

CM

Mr. Mark Zimmer
October 20, 1975
Page Two

I would appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



H. K. Mikell
Assistant Director

CN/cjr



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

DOYLE CONNER, COMMISSIONER

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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COLLINS BUILDING

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TALLAHASSEE 32304

FC
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Gen.

December 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, South Florida Interagency Wildland Fire Council

FROM: Harold K. Mikell, Chairman *H.K. Mikell*

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, November 13, 1975

Attached are the minutes of our meeting which was held in West Palm Beach on November 13, 1975.

If you note any corrections which should be made, please let me know.

Attachment

MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 13, 1975

The meeting, held in the offices of the Central and Southern Flood Control District in West Palm Beach, was called to order by Chairman Mikell at 9:45 A.M.. After a brief introduction of all present, the member agencies were called on to give a report of their activities and plans for the coming season of peak fire activity. Those reports are as follows:

Division of Forestry: Mike Long, District Forester, Ft. Myers, reported on the status of the bill introduced into the last legislature which would allow the Division of Forestry to conduct prescribed burning on private lands. He said the bill will be introduced again this year. Long also reported that a number of landowners in the Big Cypress area were upset with government land acquisition practices. Some have declared their intentions to cause incendiary fires this year. Long said because of this he expects more fires than last year. He also discussed plans to conduct prescribed burning on private land in the Big Cypress with the permission of the landowners.

At this point Charles Prescott, former fire weather forecaster and presently meteorologist with the Regional Center For Tropical Meteorology of the National Weather Service in Miami, was introduced and asked to report on current and expected weather conditions in the South Florida area. He reported that 15 years have passed since a major hurricane hit the area and major rains have also been infrequent, all of which has contributed to the water shortage. Rainfall continues to run 15-20 inches less than normal. The Miami area has had 32-38 inches this year compared to 40-45 last year. The situation is better inland: Belle Glade is within 1 or 2 inches of normal; Lake Okeechobee is a little below normal but is reasonable. Conditions are better on the west side: Ft. Myers and Immokalee were above normal in September and October; the Big Cypress and Corkscrew are running above last year in precipitation. Overall, conditions are comparable or a little better than last year. The thirty day projection calls for normal temperatures and below normal rainfall.

Division of Forestry: John Tamsburg, District Forester, Ft. Lauderdale. Conservation Area 3 north of Alligator Alley was burned excessively by wildfire in 1973 and 1974 and needs no prescribed burning now. However, the area south of the Alley does need burning and he would like to burn extensive portions of it this year. He conducted some successful burns of sawgrass strands by aerial ignition utilizing a helicopter last year and would like to continue the same procedure this year. The water level is good in the area now. Some wildfire, under optimum conditions, may be allowed to burn, within limits. Last season it was noted that some wildfires which burned when the water table was down controlled Melaleuca. It is suspected this was because the water table rose soon after the fire.

Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District: Walt Dineen, Biologist, West Palm Beach. Currently planning to install a pumping station on the Miami Canal to pump water into the Holey Land. Problems must be worked out on protecting the deer population and on how much water to store (how deep). Excess water can be put into Conservation Area 3 on the east side of the Miami Canal. The Corps of Engineers is studying the possibility of putting two control structures on the Miami Canal. The Miami Canal is causing a one or two mile drying effect (lateral, sub-surface), and the proposed structures could counteract this effect and distribute water into the marsh. The canal which brings water down from Hendry County is out-of-date. Plans are being considered to rework the canal to the N.W. corner of Conservation Area 3, then build a canal east (with a structure) to the Miami Canal. Then water can be distributed to the N.W. corner of Conservation Area 3. The fires in this area in 1973 burned too severe and too large. Sawgrass is needed to act as a friction barrier for rainfall to prevent rapid runoff. (Ron Hofstetter commented that there has been a general deterioration of sawgrass over the entire area. At present it is not certain why.) There are several study proposals for Conservation Area 2. Some propose to break up the area with dikes and "stack" the water. This could cause adverse consequences.

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission: Jim Brady, West Palm Beach. Plans are under way to burn the Corbett Area this season. It is hoped that the project will be finished by March 1. They will burn on a 2 or 3 year rotation.

Everglades National Park: Larry Bancroft, Biologist. This summer the Park tried some burning in their pineland areas. The first was on July 23. A excellent burn was achieved in heavy rough. Also, some experimentation was done with simulated "natural" fires. Fires were set on random days and allowed to burn naturally. So far, the experiment appears successful. In pines, the soil moisture condition is the critical factor. There were a total of 34 fires in the Park this year which burned 10,000 acres. 25 of these were lightning fires which burned 7,000 acres. This is an increase over last year. The objectives of the summer burns were to perpetuate pinelands and burn under natural conditions.

Division of Recreation & Parks: Richard Roberts, Interpretative Naturalist, Hobe Sound. Controlled burn objectives are similar to those of the National Park, but presently relying on winter burns. The Division of Parks and Recreation is developing its burning program.

After the agency reports, Chairman Mikell asked for a review of the proposed by-laws and for any recommended changes. The by-laws were read by Ed Sweeten, Division of Forestry, Tallahassee. The following changes were recommended by various members:

- (1) Article I, Section 2 was amended to read: "The SFIWFC shall limit its operations to that portion of Florida which is south of and including Lee, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties."

- (2) Article II, Section I. Item "g" was changed to read "Other appropriate agencies with related interests." Item "h" was changed to read "Associate members in advisory capacity."
- (3) Article III, Section 4, was amended to read: "The Chairman may appoint committees from SFIWFC members as needed."
- (4) Article IV, Section I. The following statement was added: "A minimum of the two meetings will be held annually."
- (5) Article IV, Section 2. "15 days" was eliminated from the section.

A motion was made by Jim Brady and seconded by Dick Roberts to approve the by-laws as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.. Those in attendance are as follows:

NAME

ORGANIZATION

Ed S. Sweeten	Division of Forestry
R. A. Jordan	Division of Forestry
Charles Maynard	Division of Forestry
H. K. Mikell	Division of Forestry
John Tamsberg	Division of Forestry
Michael C. Long	Division of Forestry
Jerry Hammond	Everglades National Park
Larry Bancroff	Everglades National Park
Jim Brady	Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.
Charles Prescott	National Weather Service
Derrel R. Martin	National Weather Service
Walt Dineen	Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District
Dale Wade	U. S. Forest Service
Ron Hofstetter	Biology Dept., University of Miami
Richard Roberts	Division of Recreation & Parks

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INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE COUNCIL