



Opportunity Awaits

Grady County Board of Commissioners

Ray Prince, Chair
District 2

LaFaye Copeland, Vice-Chair
District 4

Yancey Maxwell
District 1

Sam Kines
District 3

Celeste Tyler
County Administrator

Phillip Drew
District 5

October 03, 2025, Workshop

Present at the meeting were commissioners, Ray Prince (also a member of the Lake Authority), Yancey Maxwell, Sam Kines, LaFaye Copeland and Phillip Drew (also a member of the Lake Authority).

Lake Authority present at the meeting were Charles Renauld, Bob Ponder, Jennifer Jarvis, and Steven Childs.

Staff present were Celeste Tyler, John White, Holly Murkerson, and Mike Binion.

Attorneys present were Laura Benz, Gabe Ridley, and Charles Ferenchick.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Prince at 9:06 a.m. The Invocation was given by LaFaye Copeland followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Prince then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Laura Benz.

Mrs. Benz provided some history on the 404-permit for the lake and said that we are here today to review the plans and discuss what changes are wanted and/or needed in the plans. The two plans are the Watershed Management Plan and the Lake Management Plan.

Mr. Kines stated we needed to address the vegetation in the lake and how to manage it. Mr. Kines also stated we may need a fisheries study.

Mr. Binion stated that every spring, DNR comes down and completes a fisheries study. Mr. Binion also states that he has been in contact with Steve Durkman, from Lake Seminole, on the grass issue with the lake.

Mrs. Benz stated that we need to identify what type of aquatic plants are in the lake and develop a plan to address the issue and get approval from DNR.

Mrs. Benz suggested engaging a licensed aquatic vegetation manager, so treatment does not have to go before DNR for approval.

It was asked what fishing limits are used at the lake, and it was stated that they use the DNR limits.

Mrs. Benz then asked the question, "How will wastewater be managed at the lake?" The current plan does not allow for individual septic tanks so what do you want to see at the lake for wastewater?

Mrs. Benz reviewed what several other developments are using from wastewater treatment plants to holding tanks.

It was discussed about possibly tying into the sewer system with Whigham or Cairo. The main consideration with any plan is the nutrient load of the water.

Gabe Ridley, County Attorney, John White, HR Director/County Clerk, Holly D Murkerson, Finance Director



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Mrs. Benz stated there are several grants that are available to help with looking at and engineering solutions to wastewater for rural communities. While there will not be one grant to cover everything, you may be able to combine moneys from various sources.

Mrs. Tyler asked was the no individual septic tanks self-imposed and Mrs. Benz stated there were a lot of issues with septic tank malfunctions at the time and it was what was required to get the permit for the lake.

The consensus was to leave it as broad as possible for a solution as technology and processes are changing quickly in the field of wastewater treatment.

Mrs. Benz stated there are many opportunities for grants involving trails at the lake and meandering trails are already approved in your plan.

Mrs. Benz stated that to assist with development, you could request permission for a septic system near the dam with discharge downstream to develop things like a pavilion or amphitheater.

Mr. Charlie Norton stated soil was not an issue as far as septic tanks. It was just the number of failures that were occurring that caused pause with the Corp.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Prince and second by Mr. Maxwell. The motion was approved.

ATTEST:

John White, County Clerk

Ray Prince, Chair

LaFaye Copeland, Vice Chair

Phillip Drew, Commissioner

Yancey Maxwell, Commissioner

Sam Kines, Commissioner

Gabe Ridley, **County Attorney**, John White, **HR Director/County Clerk**, Holly D Murkerson, **Finance Director**

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