



# Newsletter

W.A.R., Inc.

Withlatchoochee Area Residents  
P.O. Box 350 - Inglis, FL 34449-0350

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## CONTACTS

- President:  
(2buntings@comcast.net)
- Keep W.A.R. Informed: Send your email tel. & add changes to:  
(jlmsvc@aol.com)

22 July 2008

Dear Members,

Amidst all the goings on it just occurred that I've not taken time to keep you all up to date on events....since.....January. Well, there have been a couple of meetings but that does not cut it in my book. A thousand apologies! I shall, with the help of our secretary, endeavor to get back in form and do this at least monthly. Somewhere around the Ides of the month I think.

The TARMAC Scoping process is concluded in part; members taking off for the north lands and summer is upon us. Easy to overlook that things have really not slowed down, at least not for the Directors and me. I'll list current affairs and hope it gives some perspective.

### **TARMAC:**

We are in a "quiet" time on that issue but it is so because we let it be that way. They have continued apace with little odds and ends, quietly passing out money to Yankeetown and Inglis in hopes of softening the city's resistance. They have opened an office on Hwy 40 just east of the Shell Station. Word from the ACoE's very own Ed Sarfert is that TARMAC is having difficulty with the Hydric Soils Study and it may not be submitted until December this year. Issuance of the first draft of the EIS is contingent upon that study's completion. Maybe January or February? After discussions with Mr. Sarfert on the subject I remain convinced he is far from being our enemy in this process.

In late June TARMAC applied to SWFWMD for a Water Use Permit. Not the 22,000,000 gallons per day they briefed us on in public forums, but 123,000 GPD instead. Go figure. Edward Michaels will have copy on the application shortly and we'll review soon. Interestingly, SWFWMD advises that they can increase or decrease that amount as they see fit. One thing I know is 123,000 GPD is both fantasy and a posture. Don't think they expect or plan on using that small amount of water in their operation. Far from it.

### ***CITRUS COUNTY MINING ORDINANCE:***

The Draft process before the PDRB is complete and the first workshop before the BOCC will take place 6 August and 9:00 AM in Inverness at the new Courthouse building where the BOCC usually meets. Due to Staff intent I rather expect this to be a long day which addresses the entire draft. A hearing will follow, likely a month later. Any of you with the time to do so are requested to show support at the chambers during all or part of the Workshop. This is a critical juncture in this process and your show of support would be very beneficial to our cause. We are looking at a fairly good draft as it stands save for one deletion made by the PDRB which renders the document pointless. We expect to have this deletion reversed and at that point we see a good ordinance in our future. Sparks will fly, let there be no doubt!

### ***CEMEX / HOLLINS:***

Last February Hollins submitted to SWFWMD an application for renewal of their W.U.P. After a bit of an acrimonious start the District entertained our input and we have subsequently spent several hours in two meetings with them on this issue. The District submitted an RAI or Request for Additional Information as a result, and CEMEX has requested several extensions in order to make meaningful reply to the questions the District submitted. The District has concluded in the mean time that the issues afflicting the mine are "Local" in nature, not regional. In other words, CEMEX and Mr. Hollins have a major mountain to climb if they are to be successful with their application. More on this as it develops. I will leave this with the thought that the District is certain we will file Administrative Appeal on this Permit renewal if it is issued, thus they have to cross T's and dot I's with impeccable accuracy....if they renew it, and that is not certain at this point..

### ***LAKE ROUSSEAU HERBICIDE PROGRAM:***

Very briefly, we are about to launch a significant attack on the manor in which the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management has administered this program. The Bureau was part of FDEP until 1 July when it was moved to Fish and Wildlife Commission by the legislature. The move was done for unknown reasons but the Bureau action came under the auspices of FDEP so that's where the ball will bounce at the onset I imagine. Directors meet on this point on 20 July to discuss this. When the document and supporting documents are dispatched I will be free to discuss particulars, but at this writing to do so would be premature, as the draft has not been approved by the Directors. As it stands, I would not want to be the recipient of this document, or more specifically, the target. Federal Law is an issue, as well as multiple components of Florida Administrative Code.

### ***RIVER RESTORATION AND IMPOUNDMENT OF THE BARGE CANAL:***

I presented on this subject to the Citrus/Hernando Task Force last Monday. The bad news is that previous presentations ate up much of the time allocated for this subject so I did not get to finish the presentation. The good news is that our presence is requested at their next meeting to finish the presentation. They are very interested and if I may be fairly bold, excited by the proposal. In my opinion the Task Force has been searching for a purpose since inception and this project

is the essence of everything they wanted. Big, expensive, saving water, restoring water.....etc, etc. They may want it worse than we do if that's possible. In any case, a big thanks to Tony Sturtevant for sitting through this with us and I hope we can have a few more in attendance for the conclusion of the presentation, a conclusion that I shall be able to polish a bit since I know a few more issues to address at this point. Serendipity!

Lastly, I want you all to know that I intend to seek intervener status on the Progress Energy Levy application before the Division of Administrative Hearings and will do so on my own nickel inasmuch as there is no supporting resolution from the Board of Directors. My specific objection will be the architecture of the proposed water intake for cooling the plant reactors. This is currently proposed at the east end of the Barge Canal. If this is allowed to proceed in accordance with their filing, the river will never be rejoined and I find that unacceptable.

Jack Schofield has orchestrated the creation of a music CD with the **SUBSTANTIAL** and able assistance of Betsy and Lee Paulet, and Linda Kelly. While we did not receive as much input from members as we'd hoped for in the naming of the album, the project proceeds apace. I hope you will all find it within your wallet's sense of humor to spread these around for....oh, maybe Christmas presents? Maybe at the next meeting? Oh, since we're on that subject.....

There will be a meeting of General Members and guests on 20 August in accordance with the resolution passed at our last meeting. Time and location to be announced and I hope you all attend, for there is much afoot in this small community.....and it's wearing me out! (Laughing here....) I will be seeking nominations for Vice President and possibly one other officer of the Corporation. If you have any agenda items you wish attached to the schedule please forward to me at [2buntings@comcast.net](mailto:2buntings@comcast.net) or 447-5434.

I sometimes have to pass along news that I'd just rather not have to pass along. This is such a piece of news. Rodney and Kaye Walters are moving, or have moved to Georgia and as a result he has tendered his resignation as a Director of our organization. Rodney has always been in the thick of it when it was needed and we'll be less for his absence. Thanks for your help for all this time Rodney!

Warmest Wishes and Thanks for Your Support!

Dan Hilliard  
President

PS: Sorry I'm so long winded....

**Dan Hilliard, Pres.**