

2023

**BUTTONWOOD POND
LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Annual Meeting

- Agenda

Lake Management Plan

- General Provisions
- Community-Based Activities & Events
- County Services
 - Lake Management & Supplemental Programs
- Current Fiscal Year
 - Planned Treatments & Funding
 - Recommendations
- Next Fiscal Year
 - Projected Treatments & Funding
- Exhibits
 - Agenda & Notes Prior Year
 - Financial Summary
 - Historic Reports/Data
 - Roles & Responsibilities

BUTTONWOOD POND: ANNUAL MEETING

Date /Time/ Location:	Thursday, January 26, 2023 /11:30 am – 12:15 pm/ ZOOM - Virtual
Community Liaisons:	Susan Shapiro
Sweetwater Oaks HOA Board:	Michael Richards
Liaisons Present:	Susan Shapiro, Michael Richards
Seminole County:	Thomas Calhoun, Tony Cintron, Daniel Barber, Chad Day, Michael Eason, Tameka Morton, Michelle Rosa-Munger, Lynda Reaves, Shannon Wetzel

General Topics & Updates

Lake Management Program

- Welcome
- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
 - Approved in April 2021
 - Buttonwood exempt from ordinance due to size
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Continue to monitor emergent plants and SAV for potential treatments
 - No Hydrilla problem currently
 - Algae and other SAV continued treatment
- General Recommendations for Lake Community Consideration [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
 - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners
- 2023 Shoreline Planting Event – Date tentative in Spring
 - To be coordinated via Tony Cintron
 - Emergent plantings funded by MSBU
 - **SERV event May 6th (Event flyers to be sent to lakefront homeowners)**
- Other
 - Email addresses for routine communications and important announcements
 - **Michael Richards to see if there are any new homeowners**
 - **Wednesdays are best for annual meetings**

MSBU Program & Resource Management Department

- Financial Summary [Refer to Exhibit B]

BUTTONWOOD POND LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Scope of Public Lake Management Services

The scope of public lake management services funded by non-ad-valorem assessment includes those services associated with managing aquatic plant communities as deemed beneficial and/or critical to restoring, developing and/or maintaining conditions that enhance the water quality and over-all health of the waterbody; with emphasis on providing public services for public purposes which by definition of public are limited to the waterbody and respective shoreline when/where noxious and/or invasive exotic vegetation could/would threaten or impede the waterbody.

Governing documents

- Seminole County Ordinance 2014-15

Methods for Aquatic Weed Control as authorized via County Ordinance/Resolution

- Chemical (herbicides)
- Biological (sterile triploid grass carp fish [TGC])
- Mechanical (harvesting, cutting, etc.)
- Physical (hand removal)

Targeted Invasive/Exotic Aquatic Vegetation

- Water hyacinth, torpedo grass, paragrass, cattail, primrose willow, alligator weed, Cuban bulrush, exotic water lily, wild taro, water fern, algae, spatterdock, southern naiad, coontail, and willow (**Hydrilla is excluded**).

Frequency of Aquatic Vegetation Management Treatment (herbicides)

Treatment services are performed at the direction of the Seminole County LMP as per the Buttonwood Pond Management Plan reviewed at the annual planning session with the expectation that the Seminole County LMP may alter anticipated treatments as merited per changing/evolving conditions noted during site inspections.

Herbicide Treatments – Service Provider

- As determined by Seminole County

Funding

Financial management of the MSBU fund is provided by the Seminole County MSBU Program. Financial plans developed by the MSBU Program include eligible expense funding requests submitted by the Lake Management Program and other cost and revenue components typical to MSBU funds. Financial information inclusive of prior year actual outcome, current year working budget and next year budget proposal data is reported annually. Assessment levy is subject to Board approval and the standard procedures associated with non-ad valorem assessment. The financial plans may be adjusted by the County as merited per changing/evolving essential services as directed by the County and per financial planning considerations. The governing ordinance does not include assessment restrictions specific to annual adjustment amounts and/or assessment cap.

Seminole County Employees

Information for contacting the employees of Lake Management and the MSBU program:

Lake Management – Thomas Calhoun (tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov), Tony Cintron (acintron@seminolecountyfl.gov), Daniel Barber (dbarber02@seminolecountyfl.gov), Chad Day (cday02@seminolecountyfl.gov)

MSBU – Michael Eason (meason@seminolecountyfl.gov), Tameka Morton (tmorton@seminolecountyfl.gov), Michelle Rosa-Munger (mrosamunger@seminolecountyfl.gov)

Lake Liaisons

Designated property owners (or their designated representatives) provide community representation at annual planning sessions with the County and serve voluntarily as the key point of contact for community inquiries and concerns. The current liaisons for Buttonwood Pond are: Susan Shapiro (susanjshapiro@gmail.com 407-234-8099), Michael Richards (michael@michaelerichards.com), and HOA board members (allboardmembers@sweetwateroaks.org).

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

LMP recommends/encourages homeowners to coordinate a resident-based volunteer event involving native plantings creating a beneficial shoreline for Buttonwood Pond. It is especially important that as aquatic invasive plants (such as torpedo grass) are being treated, native aquatic plants should be established within these areas. This also provides habitat for fish and wildlife, helps impede invasive exotics from re-establishing and reduces sedimentation into the lake due to erosion of the shoreline. All of these best lake management practices are essential to providing a more environmentally stable lake for generations to come. The key to success in lake management projects is dependent on strong participation of the Buttonwood Pond community.

Continued recommendations for community initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Plant a healthy shoreline with native emergent plants;
- 2) Establishing a formal Lake Association holding at least one annual meeting with topics relevant to your lake;
- 3) Establish a backyard berm and swale system where applicable;
- 4) Continue to increase educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of residential pollution such as grass clippings, Contact us at 407-665-5542 for assistance;
- 5) Fertilize wisely by using phosphorous free and slow-release nitrogen based fertilizers only. Visit www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer for more information; and
- 6) Provide content for the Seminole County Water Atlas Lake Management Webpage for your lake (such as newsletters and photos).

Important to Note: When herbicides are applied along the shoreline to invasive plants (such as torpedo grass), overspray onto adjacent desirable vegetation may occur. In order to avoid damage to desired vegetation, manual (by hand) removal (by property owner) of the undesirable species from among the desirable species along the shoreline is advised. If the invasive plants are removed by this method, spraying the area can be reduced, thereby offering greater protection to the desirable species. The physical removal of dead/decaying aquatic plant material will reduce the volume of decomposing vegetation on the lake bottom (muck layer) and will increase the success of the efforts to limit the re-growth of the invasive plants. The presence of submerged aquatic vegetation (“SAV” such as hydrilla) should be communicated to your lake liaison for their reporting to the County so appropriate treatment of SAV can be provided.

COUNTY SERVICES – Lake Management & Supplemental Programs

While the MSBU assessment includes a nominal charge for administering the MSBU, the amount charged does not cover all the expenses incurred by the County on behalf of the waterfront property owners. Buttonwood Pond is monitored by LMP to assess the aquatic plant growth. LMP provides continued evaluation of the aquatic plant species and provides community updates on the status of treatments and waterbody bioassessments.

Current Fiscal Year – Planned Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Invasive aquatic growth in Buttonwood Pond has likelihood to continue, however, the timing and re-growth is affected by multiple natural and environmental factors that cannot be controlled or predicted with certainty. While extensive growth is possible at any point in time, it is anticipated that routine spot treatments with herbicides will be sufficient to manage re-growth during the current fiscal year. The anticipation of spot treatments for the current fiscal year takes into consideration the historic trend of management required at Buttonwood Pond, as well as current conditions observed at the pond. As with any waterbody with a history of invasive aquatic growth, long-term planning to include financial preparation for whole lake treatment is advised. LMP will continue to closely monitor Buttonwood Pond.

Funding Expectations

Refer to current fiscal year data provided in Exhibit B.

Next Fiscal Year – Projected Treatment & Funding

Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations

Primary expectations are as follows:

- 1) Continued close monitoring of aquatic growth,
- 2) Conduct spot treatments as required,
- 3) Monitor/control/replant managed areas,
- 4) Consider shoreline re-vegetation sites (lakefront residents).

Funding Expectations

Refer to next fiscal year data provided in Exhibit B.

Exhibits

- A** – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Meeting
- B** – Financial Summary
- C** – Historic Reports/Data
- D** – Roles & Responsibilities

Exhibit A - Notes from Prior Year Meeting

Date /Time/ Location:	Wednesday, March 9 th , 2022 /9:00 am – 9:45 am/ ZOOM - Virtual
Community Liaisons:	Susan Shapiro
Sweetwater Oaks HOA Board:	Michael Richards
Liaisons Present:	Susan Shapiro
Seminole County:	Daniel Barber, Thomas Calhoun, Tony Cintron, Michael Eason, Tameka Morton, and Lynda Reaves

General Topics & Updates

Lake Management Program

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 - No Hydrilla problem currently
 - Monitor planting successes
 - Algae and other SAV continued treatment
- General Recommendations for Lake Community Consideration [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
 - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
 - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners – Susan will give Michelle welcome packages for new homeowner’s information
 - HOA looking at future aeration options to replace current set up – Not interested changing current set up
- 2022 Shoreline Planting Event - Dates Available
 - To be coordinated via Tony Cintron – planting event set for May 21st
 - Emergent plantings funded by MSBU
 - Bathroom access will be directed to nearest public restroom
 - Susan Shapiro and neighbor will provide pond access for May’s SERV event
- Other
 - Email addresses for routine communications and important announcements

MSBU Program & Resource Management Department

- Financial Summary [Refer to Exhibit B]

Reserve/Contingency Funds

The primary purpose for establishing contingency/reserve funding is twofold – (1) To have funding on hand to accommodate unexpected essential aquatic weed control emergencies that cannot be reasonably foreseen, planned or identified in routine budget planning & forecasting and (2) To provide rate stability as costs for ongoing services often vary from year to year. By establishing contingency and reserve funds, such funding may be allocated temporarily from these funds to operating expenditures to avoid periodic spikes in assessment.

Contingency funds are developed by financial management planning decisions and by default when actual expenditures are less than budgeted expenses. Although reserve/contingency funds are not expected to be expended in any given year, these values are included under expenditures because they are “on hold” for future needs and are classified by accounting practices as expenditures.

In the financial summary (Exhibit B) the total dollars in reserve/contingency are identified in the expenditure section on a single line (darker shading). The total dollars in contingency are calculated by subtracting the other expenditures (typically “contracted services” and “administrative fee”) from the total revenue. Contingency funds may be used as deemed essential to meeting emergency needs of the waterbody.

Exhibit C - Historic Reports/Data

Additional information for Buttonwood Pond can be found on the County’s Water Atlas website:

<https://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/>
[Buttonwood Pond | Lake Details - Seminole.WaterAtlas.org \(usf.edu\)](#)

Exhibit D

Roles & Responsibilities

General Outline

COUNTY

Seminole County will

- ✓ Govern the MSBU
- ✓ Provide financial management of MSBU fund and assessment levy
- ✓ Ensure activities conducted with assessment funding align with the scope of services documented in the governing ordinance
- ✓ Ensure the lake is monitored and services are appropriately rendered
- ✓ Maintain decision-making authority relative to public services and will defer to best lake management practices when making such decisions
- ✓ Provide an ongoing lake management plan based on the defined service scope, permitting, conditions at the lake, funding parameters, and best lake management practices. The Lake Management Plan will be developed and maintained by the Lake Management Program with liaison participation
- ✓ Initiate and manage service contracts, monitor results, and communicate updates on a routine basis
- ✓ Conduct annual meetings that offer opportunity for liaison discussion as to prior, current, and future action plans
- ✓ Encourage liaisons and assist with educational outreach efforts to protect the health and water quality of the managed waterbody

LIAISONS

Liaisons will

- ✓ Encourage communitywide awareness and participation relative to environmental stewardship recommendations and opportunities
- ✓ Provide communitywide communication and assist the County in the distribution of relevant lake information
- ✓ Attend annual lake management and budget planning sessions conducted by the County
- ✓ Serve as representatives of the community on lake issues; representing the respective lake community as a whole
- ✓ Monitor lake conditions and provide feedback to the County as to observations