

**MINUTES**  
**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee**  
**November 07, 2024, at 9:00 AM**  
**HYBRID MEETING**

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee (LVLC) met Thursday, November 7th, 2024, for a meeting hosted in the PDC conference room and online.

**Members attending:**

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair  
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services  
Fernando Alférez – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture  
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction  
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department  
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability  
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services  
Rachel Mallinger – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department

**Members not attending:**

Nancy Chrystal-Green – Associate Vice President, Division of Student Life  
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist  
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture  
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences  
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs  
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH  
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation  
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction  
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science  
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Services Division  
Jordan Benton – Director, Facility Services  
Wesley Freeman – Student

**Visitors attending:**

Rick Falcon – Administrative Specialist, Planning, Design & Construction  
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction  
Milo Zaapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Stephen Caron – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Amy Gooden – Wetland Solutions Inc.  
Scott Knight – Wetland Solutions Inc.  
Lee Hart – Construction Manager, Stellar  
Marley Concha – Student  
Megan Laffey – Student

## **I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

**Motion:** Adam Dale made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the September minutes.

**Second:** Fernando Alferez

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan**

**Presenting: Scott Knight & Amy Goodden**

The plan aimed to address critical stormwater problems on campus, including erosion, flooding, and algae blooms. Scott also discussed the history of Lake Alice, its evolution, and the impact of impervious areas on campus. The conversation ended with no open questions or action items identified.

Scott discussed the comprehensive approach taken to analyze the hydrologic system on campus, including lakes, creeks, wetlands, sinkholes, and stormwater infrastructure. He highlighted the unique regulatory framework governing Lake Alice and the importance of considering current and future planning, construction, and maintenance operations. Funding concerns were also addressed, with a focus on exploring funding strategies. The project's visibility and resonance with the local, national, and international community were emphasized, with a particular focus on community outreach and facilitation. Scott also discussed the topography of the watershed, the challenges posed by the erodible sediments, and the need to categorize the diverse goals for Lake Alice. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of protecting and improving the natural areas on campus, which are considered a critical component of the University of Florida.

Scott discussed the extensive process of creating a report on stormwater management on campus. The initial plan was to write a single report, but due to the volume of information collected, it was decided to split it into 7 attachment reports and a main report. The attachment reports covered various aspects such as historical documents, data analysis, facilitation process, stormwater modeling, vegetation information, project prioritization, and operation and maintenance plan. Scott highlighted the numerous recommendations made, including specific stormwater projects, channel stabilization, water quality source control, planning and design process, operation and maintenance, funding, ongoing data collection, and conservation areas. He also mentioned the need for a total maximum daily load for Lake Alice and the development of a living watershed management plan.

Scott presented the issues surrounding conservation areas and wetlands on campus, highlighting the challenges of stormwater management and the impact of high velocity water on erosion. He suggested improvements such as an edge standard for conservation areas, better communication between maintenance groups and students/faculty, and a 3rd party review of stormwater plans to avoid new or increased impacts. Scott also emphasized the importance of vegetation management, invasive species control, and ongoing maintenance with monitoring. He recommended that someone on the grounds team gets certifications for pesticide application in natural areas and training in species identification.

Scott and Linda discussed the stormwater management plan highlighting opportunities to enhance natural areas while providing conveyance treatment and storage. They discussed the potential for these areas to be more protective of ecosystems and habitats, and to improve recreational opportunities. Linda clarified that the project was initiated by Facility Services and managed by PDC, with Scott and Amy as the consultant team. Gail asked about the connection between this project and the conservation area land management plans, to which Linda and Scott explained that there is internal consistency and the plans reference each other. Scott also mentioned that the report includes recommendations for the management of conservation and recreation activities in the Conservation Areas, such as Lake Alice.

Scott and Linda discussed the next steps for their respective initiatives, with Linda providing an update on the stormwater intervention projects and the ongoing efforts to improve project management. They also discussed the possibility of contracting out the 3rd party review for the new projects.

### **III. MAJOR PROJECTS**

#### **UF-683 - Dental Science Building Envelope Repairs**

##### **Presenting: Milo Zapata**

Milo then presented the repairs project, which is currently at 60% construction documents and will repair selected areas of the building exterior to mitigate water intrusion. The project also involves staging the construction around existing trees, with a mitigation fee of \$3,500 for the removal of six palm trees and one magnolia.

In the meeting, the committee discussed the removal of palm trees from a construction site. They identified the trees as cabbage palms and considered the possibility of planting new trees on the site after construction. Lee Hart explained the need to remove a magnolia tree

due to an excavation against a wall, which would compromise the tree's root ball. The team agreed to take a closer look at the site and utilities to determine the feasibility of replanting trees. Gail ended the conversation by asking for any additional questions or comments. Adam, Lee, Milo, and Gail discussed the construction plan for the project, emphasizing the need to protect existing trees during the process. They agreed to implement measures to ensure the trees' safety.

**Motion:** Adam Dale made a motion to approve the project with additional comments on enhancing tree protection during the renovations.

**Second:** Rachel Mallinger

**Motion Carried unanimously**

### **UF-692 – Chemical Engineering Renovation and Remodeling**

#### **Presenting: Stephen Caron**

The project involves a 54,000 square foot renovation, including the addition of a new entrance lobby. Stephen mentioned that there are no current tree impacts but anticipated some in the future. Gail asked Stephen to revisit the topic in the next meeting to discuss the potential tree impacts in more detail.

Adam expressed concern about approving a project without knowing the potential impacts, particularly on trees. Stephen explained that while there are currently no identified tree impacts, there will likely be some due to ongoing design. Linda clarified that this is a typical situation during the programming phase, with more detailed information usually available at the second presentation.

**Motion:** Adam Dale made a motion to table the project until next month when more information about potential tree impacts would be available.

**Second:** Rachel Mallinger

**Motion Carried unanimously**

#### **IV. MINOR PROJECTS**

None

**V. OTHER BUSINESS (cont'd)**

**Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects**

**Presenting: Thomas Schlick**

Tom provided an update on the Norman tree removal and courtyard restoration, as well as ongoing projects like Weil Hall and the Tigert area.

**New Member Orientation**

No new members were present. Orientation postponed for the next LVL meeting.

**Chair Report**

**Gail Hansen de Chapman / Adam Dale**

No report

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at**

**10:11AM.**