



Annual Meeting

RRC has the morning of November 21st scheduled for its annual meeting at Rainbow Rivers Club. Not knowing the virus risks for an indoor meeting at that time we have considered having an outdoor meeting at Rio Vista Park instead. This change of venue would certainly alter the agenda but we at least need a meeting for the official business of a board election and a proposed Bylaws amendment. We will wait another month and see which venue we should choose. In the meantime, we have six seats on the board open for election. Anyone interested in being considered for nomination please email burteno@bellsouth.net and your name will be provided to the nomination committee. Please provide a brief resume and explanation of what you can do as a RRC board member.

Gissy/Westgate Resort Plan

We discussed the Westgate Resort plan in our Summer Newsletter pointing out the adverse effects such a development would have on the Rainbow River. We reached out to the Florida Springs Council (FSC) to help in a campaign to defeat this harmful project. They developed a website called Don't Ruin Rainbow and assisted with production of pamphlets and yard signs which local RRC members delivered to Dunnellon homeowners and nearby residents. The response was enormous with 34,000 replies on change.org, nearly all against the project. Hundreds of letters and emails were sent to the Dunnellon City Council in an effort to convince them not to approve the project. Finally, Mr. Gissy pulled his application and stated that he would not proceed without public support. So, one more threat to the Rainbow River averted. What's next?



River Traffic

In spite of, or because of, the coronavirus, the recreational traffic on the Rainbow River was horrendous from Memorial Day until July 2nd when Marion County suspended some commercial transport of tubers to KP Hole. You could almost hear a sigh of relief from the river as the turbidity subsided somewhat. Now that Labor Day is past the river can recover somewhat.

Litigation Efforts

We have described in past newsletters RRC's efforts to litigate for judicial correction of adverse practices by state agencies that allow harm to the Rainbow River. We participated in an administrative hearing against SWFWMD for their flawed minimum flow analysis of the Rainbow. Due to a lack of understanding on the part of the judge we lost that challenge and SWFWMD continues to issue large water use permits in spite of 20% or more average flow reduction of the Rainbow River.

We also have described our joining several other springs protection organizations to challenge FDEP in their very inadequate Basin Management Action Plans for some thirteen major springs which are suffering from reduced flows and elevated nitrate pollution. The administrative hearing was held last November and we still haven't got the judge's opinion. Keep your fingers crossed

Wastewater Pollution Abatement Projects

As a result of SB 712 being passed by the legislature FDEP has been able to allocate additional monies to wastewater pollution abatement projects which will help the Rainbow River. Past allocations have been made for decommissioning the poorly functioning Rainbow Springs sewer plant and piping the sewage to the San Jose sewer plant in Dunnellon for more effective removal of nitrates. Also, previously funded is a force main to be installed along SW 180th Ave and CR 484 to the San Jose plant.

This year, FDEP has allocated \$847,000 to replace sewer package plants at the high school and elementary school, Rainbow Springs State Park campground, and Sateke Village transporting the effluent to the SW 180th Ave force main. In addition, FDEP has allocated \$350,000 to replace eleven septic tanks along Burkitt Road in Dunnellon with central sewer service. All of these sewage treatment projects will be beneficial to the Rainbow River but it must be remembered that the major source of nitrate pollution to the Rainbow River is from farm fertilizer and animal waste. Much more needs to be done to improve farm practices.

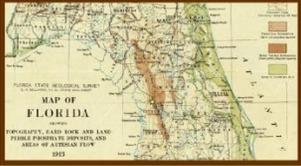
Duke Energy Foundation Grant

The Duke Energy Foundation has provided a \$2,400 grant to RRC in support of developing two kiosks highlighting some of Dunnellon's history along the Rainbow River. One kiosk will focus on the development of the phosphate industry in the late 1880s and will be located near a river cove that was once a phosphate mine. The other kiosk will feature the history of several railroads that used Dunnellon as a commercial hub one hundred years ago. Both of these kiosks will be located along the Dunnellon Trail south of Blue Run Park. It should be noted that the Greater Dunnellon Historical Society and several citizens contributed information to help with this project.

Boomtown



The discovery of hardrock phosphate, a component in the production of fertilizer took place in Nine Island Cove in Dunnellon by Albertus Vogt in 1889.





Soon the Marion Phosphate Company and the Dunnellon Phosphate Company were exporting phosphate, first by rail to Fernandina, and later down the Withlacoochee River by barge to Inglis where it was shipped to Europe and other markets.



The discovery of phosphate transformed Dunnellon from an agricultural economy to one of industrial importance. "Boomtown" with its bars and brothels was born.



Dunnellon Phosphate Company Roundhouse and Railroad Shops



Dunnellon Phosphate Company Mine



Dunnellon Phosphate Company Mine #8



Dunnellon Phosphate Company Mine #10

The workers are long gone, the phosphate played out, but the spoil mounds from the phosphate excavations like those in front of you are a window into Dunnellon's past.



Shallow Pit Mining





The Dunnellon Trail



