

MARKHAM WOODS ASSOCIATION, INC.

January 23, 2011

Chairperson Trudi Williams
Select Committee on Water Policy
313 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Chairperson Williams:

The Markham Woods Association, Inc. (MWA) is a civic organization which is composed of 36 residential sub-divisions and containing a total of 2,866 homeowners along the Markham Woods Road corridor located within Seminole County. The Association was established some forty years ago in order to preserve and enhance the semi-rural character, the low-density residential zoning, the quality of life, the beauty, and the natural resources in the Markham Woods Road area.

For the past six years the MWA has actively monitored proposed administrative rules from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) concerning onsite septic systems, and when needed, have voiced strong opposition to their intention of forcing onsite septic system homeowners in the Wekiva Study Area (WSA) to spend between \$11,000 and \$30,000 in order to change out their existing septic systems to expensive and unproven performance based treatment systems (PBTS).

In view of the upcoming legislative workshops looking into correcting the language concerning septic systems in SB550, the Markham Woods Association, Inc. offers the following points for your consideration:

- We support the continued funding and completion of the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Study (FOSNRS). We further believe that the conclusions from this study should be reasonable, affordable, gravity-driven (no electric components), and that there is no one-system-fits-all solution.
- We are and have been in favor of some form of onsite septic system inspections as the most effective means in reducing the nitrogen and phosphorous impact to our ground

Page 1 of 2

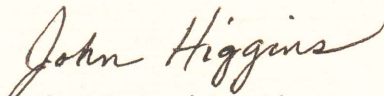
MARKHAM WOODS ASSOCIATION, INC.

water, aquifers, and surrounding bodies of water, but only if such inspection standards are formulated by a 3rd party, non-partial panel composed of scientists, industry experts, and informed consumers. Furthermore such formulated standards should be judicious, cost effective, and consumer-friendly.

- We support the continued handling of all things septic through the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and not the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as FDOH is the best equipped state agency to handle such matters and because they have in place two advisory groups to monitor and give counsel on their activities.
- Likewise, we are in favor of the continued funding and support of the Technical Review and Advisory Panel (TRAP) and the Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC). It is our opinion that either or both groups would be a good start in forming an inspection standards committee.
- We believe that the recent water quality standards proposed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the state of Florida are extremely unreasonable, unattainable, and vastly too expensive to implement from the state down to the municipal level, and we support the Florida Legislation in their quest to seek alternative solutions.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Respectfully,



John Higgins | President

Markham Woods Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 520184

Longwood, FL 32752-0184