

City of Winter Park
Lakes (General)
Pollution

County may check lake, creek

By **MISSY CLARK**
Staff Writer

Representatives from the City of Winter Park met last week with the Department of Environmental Regulation, the St. John's Water Management District and Orange County's Pollution Control Department to discuss problems that have recently surfaced regarding the deteriorating conditions of Lake Waumpi and Howell Creek.

Winter Park has been asked by the regional authorities to help with the clean-up of the two waterways, since it is believed the city may have indirectly contributed to the problems. Six to 20 feet of solid sediment has accumulated on the bottoms of the waterways, the water levels have dropped steadily over the past three years, and residents complain of offensive smells coming from the water.

Alex Alexander of the DER had indicated previously that the problems may be the result of effluent from Winter Park that ceased to flow through the lake and creek when Winter Park was ordered three

years ago to hook into the Iron Bridge Sewage treatment plant.

City Manager David Harden has said Winter Park might be willing to help with the clean-up, depending on the extent that the city is responsible. So far, the conditions of Howell Creek and Lake Waumpi have not been researched and tested to accurately determine the cause of the problem or the proper course of action.

Utilities Director Hoyt Owens and Public Works Director Jim Williams attended the meeting with the authorities last Friday and reported to the city commission at the regular work session on Monday.

Williams said Orange County has tentatively agreed to perform a nutrient analysis in Lake Waumpi and Howell Creek and determine the actual depth of sediment in both. Orange County's findings will be presented to the DER in August. Seminole County tentatively agreed to research the potential for dredging Howell Creek if Orange County's study should indicate such action might be feasible. Outlook 6/26/86

The St. John's River Management District agreed to perform a flood plain study, a socio-economic study and a feasibility analysis to clean up the two waterways. Those studies are estimated to take about 1½ years to complete.

Until then, Winter Park will take a wait-and-see stand on the issue. The main concern for the city will be the cost of the clean-up and how much Winter Park will be asked to contribute. The DER has indicated that approximately \$50,000 is available from state funds for the restoration project, but it cannot be determined yet how much the project will cost.

In other news:

- The Winter Park Library will get a new roof soon. The existing roof leaks in several places and has resulted in considerable damage to books and property during recent rain storms. The city commission has placed the roof replacement at the top of its capital improvement list.

- The commission may consider installing parking meters in certain areas downtown to help alleviate the parking problem and bring in revenue for the city.

Outlook 6/26/86