

MEETING MINUTES  
Springs Coast Management Committee  
February 26, 2020

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., February 26, 2020, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Building 4 Conference Room 112, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

**Members Present**

Ken Cheek, Citrus County  
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Bob Titterington, Marion County (via phone)  
Jason Mickel, Pasco County  
Jason Wagman, FWC  
Celeste Lyon, FDEP  
Will Fontaine, FGUA  
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS (via phone)  
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Rick Owen, State Parks (via phone)  
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply  
Curt Williams, Agriculture  
Charles Lee, Environmental  
Dave Bruzek, Industry  
Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia

**SWFWMD Staff**

Randy Smith  
Claire Stapley  
Frank Gargano  
Meagan Finneran  
Vivianna Bendixson

**Recording Secretary**

Lauren Vossler

**Other**

Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn

**Members Absent**

Heather Young, Regional Planning Council

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FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
SCMC – Springs Coast Management Committee

FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District  
SCSC – Springs Coast Steering Committee

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Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's website [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org).

**1. Call to Order and Roll**

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee and External Relations director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

**2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from December 11, 2019**

*A motion was made for approval of December 11, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

**3. Public Input**

None.

**4. Presentation: FY2021 Springs Funding Final Evaluations Changes and Final Rankings– Southwest Florida Water Management District**

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM supervisor, provided members with a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY2021) funding application process. Ms. Bendixson supplied the FY2021 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Springs Funding Final Evaluations with rankings and recommendations and FY2021 FDEP Springs Funding Submittal Template. A detailed FY2021 timeline was discussed, along with any changes or updates to projects since the preliminary review. Ms. Bendixson discussed the upcoming Management committee meeting dates.

Mr. Ken Frink mentioned for APP14, the Pelican Bay Package plant is in a flood plain. Mr. Frink requested certain circumstances not currently included in the process be taken into consideration when looking at the project rankings. Mr. Charles Lee suggested adding a note in the additional information column to reflect the extra benefits that do not show up in the rankings. Mr. Randy Smith indicated it would be difficult to quantify a nitrogen reduction benefit. For APP14, the committee agreed to add language in the Additional Information column on the FY2021 FDEP Springs Funding Submittal Template to reflect the package plant's current location and additional benefits that are not quantified but will be realized with this project. Mr. Frink agreed to draft the language.

Mr. Molligan inquired about projects being ranked high, medium or low when sent over to FDEP. Ms. Bendixson stated that final evaluations are provided to FDEP, however, the committee could add this information. The committee agreed the overall project rankings of high, medium or low will be added in the Additional Information column on the FY2021 FDEP Springs Funding Submittal Template.

**5. Action Item: FY2021 Springs Funding Project Recommendations and Prioritization**

*A motion was made to Approve the projects final evaluations and FDEP spreadsheet for projects recommended to be forwarded to FDEP for FY2021 Springs Funding consideration. Recommend the Springs Coast Steering Committee forward these projects to the District's Governing Board for approval to send to FDEP for funding consideration. Motion passed unanimously.*

**6. Presentation: Gravity and Beyond – A Discussion of Sewage Collection Technologies and Costs**

Mr. Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn, provided members with the sewer collection system options which included gravity systems, low pressure sewer (grinder systems) and vacuum sewer systems.

Gravity sewer is typically under the pavement and installed at a minimum of three feet deep and up to 20 feet deep below finished grade. Gravity systems tend to be expensive to construct, however, it is much lower on the maintenance and operational end.

Low-pressure systems are connected at each residence or commercial property, the power is paid for by parcel owner and there is additional cost to the resident. Mr. Garri mentioned the low-pressure system being the most cost-effective generic type system and potential for phasing.

Vacuum sewer systems are installed in rows at depth of three to six feet below grade. Ideally stations are two stories to orient the vacuum pumps above the vacuum tank. This system is maintained in the system by one station and the resident's connect to vacuum valve pits and no power is required at the pits. Mr. Garri mentioned that leaks are detected immediately with the vacuum sewer system due to the vacuum station losing pressure when there is a leak. The operator will receive a notification and will then be able to isolate the leak quickly.

Mr. Randy Smith inquired if there were any potential pilot projects to utilize the existing septic tank as the wet well and if the general size can handle a 24 hour down time. Mr. Garri responded most

residential septic tanks in the 300 – 500-gallon range can handle that amount of down time; however, each system is site specific.

Mr. Charles Lee inquired about the system that is on the owner's property being maintained by the owner. Mr. Garri responded no; it would be maintained by the utility department. However, the owner will pay the electricity to sustain the pump.

Mr. Smith inquired about the typical cost for electricity to run the pumps. Mr. Will Fontaine responded three to five dollars a month.

Mr. Jason Mickel asked about vacuum system nearby. Mr. Garri responded Sarasota, the City of Crystal River, and Inglis. However, a few community's in the Panhandle, and the entire Keys have the vacuum system.

Mr. Smith asked what made the City of Crystal River choose to go with the vacuum system. Mr. Garri responded the cost and the high ground water problems.

**7. Open Discussion**

Ms. Alys Brockway let members know she is hosting a Springs workshop on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.