



SPRINGS COAST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2025 – 2:00 P.M.

VIA TEAMS

2379 BROAD STREET

BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Kelly Rice, SWFWMD, Chair
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River
Diana Finegan, Citrus County
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County (Alternate)
Kathy Bryant, Marion County
Seth Weightman, Pasco County
Gregory Workman, FWC
West Gregory, FDACS

Presenters

Kat Munson Squitieri, SWFWMD
Emily Lang, FDEP

Staff Members

Jennette Seachrist
Mandi Rice
Randy Smith
Vivianna Bendixson
Madison Trowbridge
Carrieann Adkins
Devon Villareal
Taylor Grennan

Others Present

Alys Brockway

Technical and Administrative Support

Jeremy McKay
Candice Harris

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

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

1. Call to Order and Roll

The Springs Coast Steering Committee (SCSC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met for its regular meeting at 2:00 p.m., January 22, 2025.

Committee Chair Rice called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was confirmed.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

There were no additions or deletions.

3. Action Item: Minutes Approval from November 6, 2024

A motion was made for approval of the November 6, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. **Public Input**

None

5. **Presentation: FY2026 FDEP Springs Funding Preliminary Evaluations, Preliminary Rankings, and Project Overviews - Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided details about the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 applications. She provided the FY2026 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) funding request summary by Basin Management Action Plan and the FDEP Springs funding summary for the SWFWMD region. Dr. Trowbridge discussed the FY2026 applications received and the preliminary evaluations, preliminary rankings and project overviews.

Chairman Kelly Rice stated some of the projects are requesting connection fees or impact fees and inquired if that is equitable. Jennette Seachrist advised that one of the original goals was to reduce the connection fee costs to the individual homeowners.

Ms. Diana Finegan, Citrus County, stated she believes more water quality projects are needed, with less financial burden on the individual homeowners.

6. **Presentation: Hurricane Updates – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Trowbridge advised staff has been monitoring the impacts of the recent hurricanes and a more detailed presentation will be provided at the next Committee meeting. Dr. Trowbridge stated salinity is a major driver of coastal springs and hurricanes have been impacting the Springs Coast for decades; however, each storm is different. Dr. Trowbridge advised that SWFWMD is actively monitoring short- and long-term changes of the recent storms through surface water quality monitoring, continuous monitoring stations and SAV monitoring.

Mr. Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River, inquired if there is a salinity gauge located at Kings Bay bridge. Dr. Trowbridge stated there are multiple different gauges located at Kings Bay and those amounts can be provided.

Mr. Seth Weightman, Pasco County, inquired if there is data that supports the amount of nitrogen levels pre/post Covid. Dr. Trowbridge stated the information can be provided.

7. **Presentation: Water 101 – Katherine Munson Squitieri, SWFWMD**

Katherine Munson Squitieri, Lead Communications Coordinator, reviewed a presentation on the Water 101 campaign, which educates new and existing residents on how to help protect water resources. Ms. Squitieri advised the Water 101 for Homeowners website highlights irrigation basics, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, water saving tips, water use calculator, and rebate and grant opportunities along with further information regarding protecting water resources. Ms. Squitieri added that the Water 101 for Communities website provides information on free educational webinars, WISE funding opportunity, irrigation and watering restrictions along with downloadable graphics.

8. **Presentation: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ – Emily Lang, FDEP**

Emily Lang, FDEP, reviewed the Florida-Friendly Landscaping presentation, advising it provides best practice training and resources for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and community decision makers. The program and its principles are defined in Chapter 373.185 of the Florida Statutes. Ms. Lang provided resources for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and community decision makers. Following the presentation, Ms. Lang stated the CWA 319(h) grant and State Water Quality Assistance grant (SWQA) can fund nonpoint source pollution construction projects and public education projects on a limited basis. Projects funded in the past include rain barrel workshops, Florida-Friendly

rebate programs, fertilizer and irrigation education, demonstration gardens and educational signage, and Green Stormwater Infrastructure pilot projects and monitoring; however, eligible projects must have water quality benefits.

9. Announcements and Other Business

None.

10. Next Meeting: March 5, 2025 at 2 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. This hybrid meeting will be both in person and via Teams.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.