

MEETING MINUTES
Springs Coast Management Committee
October 21, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held electronically to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., October 21, 2020, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District), Building 4 Governing Board Room 4134, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

Members Present

Michael Molligan, SWFWMD
Ken Cheek, Citrus County*
Alys Brockway, Hernando County*
Bob Titterington, Marion County*
Jason Wagman, FWC*
Moiria Homann, FDEP*
Will Fontaine, FGUA*
Jessica Stempien, FDACS*
Dave Bruzek, Industry*
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River*
Jason Mickle, Pasco County *
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council*
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply*
Chris Oliver, State Parks* (Alternate)

SWFWMD Staff

Vivianna Bendixson
Randy Smith

Recording Secretary

Lauren Vossler

*Attended electronically

Members Absent

Curt Williams, Agriculture
Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia
Charles Lee, Environmental

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

This meeting was held via Skype for Business. Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's website 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 July 15, 2020

A motion was made for approval of July 15, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None.

4. Presentation: FY2022 FDEP Springs Funding Applications – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM supervisor, provided members with an overview of the seven applications submitted to the District for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022) FDEP Springs Funding. She supplied the summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and SWFWMD region. Two of the applications are requesting additional funding from the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative. Two of the seven applications new projects submitted for the committees review. Ms. Bendixson provided maps of each BMAP area including the general project locations. Three projects were submitted in the Rainbow BMAP, one project was submitted in the Crystal River/Kings Bay BMAP, two projects were submitted in the Chasshowitzka/Homosassa BMAP and one project was submitted in the Weeki Wachee BMAP. Ms. Bendixson supplied members with a detailed FY2022 timeline. This timeline allows the Steering Committee three opportunities to review applications before approving and the Management Committee four opportunities before approving. She suggested an overview of the five projects that are resubmitting and a presentation from the two new projects submitted. Upcoming Springs Coast Management and Steering committee dates were discussed.

5. Presentation: Technical Working Group – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD

Ms. Bendixson provided an outline of the Springs Coast Technical Working Group. The technical working group's goals would be to review and refine the SWIM plan quantifiable objectives. Ms. Bendixson suggested reviewing the systems in order from oldest to newest, based on what year the SWIM Plans were adopted. A proposed timeline for the first system was presented to Committee members. Ms. Bendixson reminded members to email Frank Gargano or herself the names of representatives they would like to serve on the technical working group.

Mr. Ken Cheek asked if the technical working group could be used to assess and provide criteria for the Crystal River project. Mr. Randy Smith responded that it might be something to consider, however, timing may be an issue and the technical working group was not used to evaluate the criteria for other projects in the past. District staff can assist the Management Committee with the development of additional ranking criteria options if needed. Ms. Bendixson also stated the proposed first meeting for the technical working group may be outside the FDEP Springs Funding timeline.

Mr. Angel Martin inquired about the quantifiable objectives. He asked whether the targets change from year to year based on factors such as temperature or statistical analysis trends. Ms. Bendixson responded the targets do not change; however, this is something the technical working group could evaluate and the committee could review.

Mr. Martin asked if there are any considerations for data collection especially for nitrates or additional samples as they relate to the flows. Is this something the technical working group would contemplate. Mr. Smith responded that the data collection in each system is examined annually to identify data gaps and to eliminate duplicative data collection efforts.

Mr. Jason Wagman inquired about the time commitment the new members of the technical working group would be making. Ms. Bendixson responded it would be about a six- to eight-month window and it is projected to start in the springtime for the first system. There will be about two to four meetings annually.

6. Presentation: Managing Nutrients in the Wekiva Springs Watershed: Provoking Behavior Change in Residential Fertilizer Users – Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County

Ms. Tina McIntyre provided information on encouraging behavior changes in Seminole County residential fertilizer users. Ms. McIntyre explained that 26 percent of the total maximum daily load (TMDL) for nutrients is coming from urban turfgrass fertilizer. In 2017, Seminole County passed a fertilizer ordinance that states a fertilizer restriction period from June through September. University of Florida (UF)/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) was able to secure Nonpoint

Source grant funds to provide education on fertilizers. Ms. McIntyre discussed certain Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program principles such as water efficiently, mulch, fertilize appropriately and reduce stormwater runoff. After participants participated in educational FFL classes, 76 percent of respondents stated they had changed their behaviors. For instance, numerous participants reported maintaining a 15-foot no-fertilizer zone around water bodies, grass clippings were left on the lawn, using slow release fertilizer, and following watering restrictions.

Ms. McIntyre discussed workshop topics, which included: the UF/IFAS best management practices (BMPs) and FFL BMPs as they relate to fertilizer, soil, nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer and how it functions. Ms. McIntyre explained she is working with one of the state specialists to try and take all the data one step further and quantify the impact of these workshops.

Mr. Martin asked if there was any particular way IFAS recommended calibrating the fertilizer spreader. Ms. McIntyre responded that this is why the workshops are critical because spreading fertilizer is complicated. A BMP would be to use a spreader shield while spreading fertilizer. However, it depends on what brand of spreader the owner has.

Mr. Molligan inquired as to how the fertilizer ordinance in Seminole County is enforced. Ms. McIntyre explained that the public can find all resources at www.fertilizeflorida.com. However, criminal and or financial penalties can be assessed as it related to fertilizers and pesticides licensing.

Mr. Molligan asked what the biggest barrier is to keeping people from changing their behaviors. Ms. McIntyre respond that installing rain sensors was very low on the change percentages.

7. Open Discussion – None

8. Adjournment

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.