

MEETING MINUTES  
Springs Coast Management Committee  
October 23, 2019

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., October 23, 2019, 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  
Will Fontaine, FGUA  
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS (via phone)  
Robyn Felix, SWFWMD  
Heather Young, Regional Planning Council  
Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia  
Mark Abrizenski, State Parks (via phone)

**Members Absent**

Curt Williams, Agriculture  
Charles Lee, Environmental  
Richard Owen, Public Supply  
Dave Bruzek, Industry  
Terry Hansen, FDEP

**SWFWMD Staff**

Randy Smith  
Chris Anastasiou  
Danielle Rogers  
Frank Gargano  
Claire Stapley  
Meagan Finneran  
Vivianna Bendixson  
Robin Speidel

**Recording Secretary**

Lauren Vossler

**Other**

Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn  
Joe Khan, FDEP

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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**

Ms. Robyn Felix, Communications and Board Services bureau chief, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

**2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from August 21, 2019**

*A motion was made for approval of August 21, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

**3. Public Input**

None.

**4. Presentation: Real-Time Springs Monitoring: The Next Generation in Water Quality Monitoring**

Mr. Robin Speidel, environmental data project manager, provided a recap of the five real-time monitoring stations which include Weeki Wachee, Chasshowitzka, Rainbow, Crystal River/Kings Bay and Homosassa Springs. These stations measure conductance, temperature, salinity, depth and dissolved oxygen. Mr. Speidel explained real-time water quality monitoring is important, to reduce the need to collect lab samples, identify gaps in water quality monitoring, deliver data immediately, provide tools for early trend detection, and detect water quality changes pertaining to weather events such as hurricanes and floods.

Mr. Speidel referenced Hurricane Hermine in 2016 where continuous monitoring at Three Sisters Springs enabled the District to capture rainfall levels immediately. Additionally, during the Lunar Eclipse on January 21, 2019, which coincided with a massive cold front, monitoring captured a significant salinity spike.

Mr. Ken Cheek inquired if there is typically a one month visit to each site. Mr. Speidel responded in the affirmative. Stations such as the Rainbow River are sometimes visited every two months. However, with seven field technicians that sample over 3,700 sites per year, it becomes challenging to do monthly visits. The offshore sites will get sampled every month, due to equipment bio-fouling being a concern.

Ms. Alys Brockway asked if Mr. Speidel shares the data with University of Florida or University of South Florida. Mr. Speidel explained these entities can go on to the public website and request the information needed. Certain universities have been given site identifications to create minimal background research for the requestors.

Dr. Mauricio Arias asked if Mr. Speidel has been collecting data for four years. Mr. Speidel responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Robyn Felix welcomed Mr. Will Fontaine as the newest member of the Springs Coast Management committee.

**5. Presentation: Springs Funding Applications Received FY2021 – Southwest Florida Water Management District**

Ms. Viviana Bendixson, SWIM supervisor, provided members with a brief summary of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 funding application process. This year the District requested \$51.3 million for FDEP funding. Ms. Bendixson explained the projected amount of funding awarded will be \$19.8 million. Mr. Joe Khan explained FDEP is waiting on the communications shop to confirm with the Governor's office to make the announcement on which applications will receive funding. However, FDEP is reaching out and trying to get draft work plans underway. Ms. Bendixson explained 14 applications were submitted for FY2021 and three of those applications are also requesting funding from the District. Ms. Bendixson gave an overview of general project location by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and a detailed FY2021 timeline of Springs Steering and Management Committee events. Ms. Bendixson touched base on eight new applications and six from the previous cycle being submitted for the FY2021 Springs Funding.

Ms. Brockway asked if Mr. Khan would comment on any other funding besides the draft of the projects that were already allocated? Mr. Khan explained FDEP has approximately \$10 million in funding to transfer to other projects among the four water management districts.

Ms. Brockway inquired if personal at the District will be sending FDEP projects and if they will be using the additional allocated funding. Mr. Randy Smith explained the District will comply with the FDEP request and timeline. Mr. Khan commented FDEP hopes to have an official decision on additional funding by mid-December and initiating grant agreements by the end of the calendar year.

Ms. Felix asked committee members for feedback on potentially only giving presentations on the eight new projects and a brief overview of all the projects at the next meeting. Members responded in the affirmative.

**6. Discussion: Future Meeting Presentation Topics**

Mr. Smith stated it would be valuable for the members to provide lessons learned, from the different entities that are putting the projects in the ground or any topic related to Springs. Mr. Smith suggested the members submit their presentation ideas to Ms. Bendixson, she can then put together topics that would be the most beneficial.

**7. Open Discussion**

Mr. Will Fontaine discussed the heightened level of septic to sewer projects and challenges associated with owners paying to have septic tanks abandoned.

Discussion ensued about fees associated with septic to sewer connection costs and outreach to the public directly affected by these expenses.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.