



SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2022 – 1:30 PM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Michael Molligan, SWFWMD
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Jody Kirkman, Marion County
Jason Mickel, Pasco County
Ken Weaver, FDEP
Will Fontaine, FGUA
Amelia Missavage, FWC
Curt Williams, Agriculture
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply
Charles Lee, Environmental
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council
Iliia Balcom, Industry
Patricia Spellman, Academia
Chris Oliver, State Parks

Staff Members

Vivianna Bendixson
Randy Smith
Frank Gargano
Madison Trowbridge
Virginia Singer
Jeremy McKay

Committee Administrative Support

Lauren Vossler

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 Management Committee (SCMC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., on October 26, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee, Outreach & General Services Director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from July 16, 2022

A motion was made for approval of July 16, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentation: FY2023 FDEP Springs Funding Applications – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided members with an update of the FY23

FDEP request summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). She discussed the FDEP Spring funding requests and summary for the SWFWMD region as projects await notification from the FDEP on selection for FY2023 funding. Ms. Bendixson provided the FY2024 Springs funding process overview and FY24 FDEP request summary by BMAP. She also provided summaries on the four FY2024 applications received and the FDEP springs funding requests for the SWFWMD region. Full presentations for new applications will be given at the December 7th, SCMC meeting. Ms. Bendixson provided a detailed FY2023 timeline. Springs Coast Management and Steering committee meeting dates were provided to members as well.

Mr. Charles Lee asked what attributes to the low number of applications submitted this year. Ms. Bendixson explained that FY22 was the highest record year for funding; while these projects continue through contract execution, design and implementation, the grant recipients will be focusing their attention on these current projects. Additional committee members supported Ms. Bendixson's explanation.

Dr. Spellman asked how the load reductions were calculated and if it was consistent among each project. Ms. Bendixson explained the calculations are consistent between projects and FDEP provides a general guidance document on how the calculations are to be set, along with a staff created calculator that offers the project benefits and nitrogen load reduction.

Mr. Jason Mickel asked how the load reduction would be calculated for the Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Reuse project. Ms. Bendixson explained that with the calculator, these perimeters are set and calculated. She stated the District would be happy to provide that information. Mr. Mickel also asked if these calculated load reductions from this project would assist with load reduction goals identified in the FDEP BMAPs. Ken Weaver responded they could take a look at the calculations and confirm.

5. **Presentation: Informing Septic to Sewer Conversion Outreach in Florida Through Community – Based Social Marketing – Lisa Krimsky, University of Florida IFAS Extension**

Dr. Lisa Krimsky, Ph.D. UF/IFAS Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent South District, explained to members this project utilizes a community-based social marketing approach to develop more effective outreach strategies for local governments conducting septic-to-sewer conversions. She discussed conducting focus groups and public opinion surveys to determine perceived barriers, motivators, and other educational needs that may influence the willingness of Florida residents to convert from septic to sewer.

Dr. Krimsky explained the results of the study indicate that while there are minor differences between communities, a statewide marketing plan for septic-to-sewer conversion projects can be used as long as it does not follow a one-size-fits-all approach. She mentioned information should address homeowner priorities and provide information that will make the process easier. The barrier of upfront costs can be removed if they are dispersed over time. Alternative funding and fee structures should be considered to remove the primary external barrier to conversion. While attitudes regarding conversion were positive, outreach materials should focus on addressing homeowner priorities rather than environmental and water quality benefits.

Ms. Folsom asked if any of the questions geared toward benefiting converting septic to sewer specifically mention springs. Dr. Krimsky explained that while the questions did not specify springs, they did mention improving environmental health and reducing water pollution.

Discussion ensued regarding financial suggestions to get community members to be in favor of septic-to-sewer conversion.

6. **Open Discussion**

Ms. Brockway mentioned the upcoming Springs Protection Workshop on April 14, 2023 at the

Sand Hill Scout Reservation.

7. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.