



SPRINGS COAST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, November 10, 2021 – 2:00 PM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

John Mitten, SWFWMD
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River
Beth Narverud, Hernando County
Kathy Bryant, Marion County
Jake Cuarta, Pasco County
Julie Espy, FDEP
Gregory Workman, FFWCC
Chris Pettit, FDACS

Staff Members

Jennette Seachrist
Vivianna Bendixson
Randy Emberg
Madison Trowbridge
Virginia Singer
Lisa Laupert
Frank Gargano

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 Steering Committee (SCSC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met for its regular meeting at 2:00 p.m., on November 10, 2021, via Zoom.

Committee Chair Mitten called the meeting to order. Ms. Lauren Vossler called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from July 28, 2021

A motion was made for approval of July 28, 2021, minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None

4. Video: Springs Flow Video

Ms. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided members with a brief video on how rainfall affects the springs water flow. The amount of rainfall a region receives directly affects the amount of water that is discharged from a spring, which is called a flow. Dr. Trowbridge explained as rain falls to the ground, it is absorbed into the ground and penetrates downward into the limestone Floridan aquifer. She discussed how the water level in the aquifer rises in response to rainfall and provides the driving force for spring flow. Dr. Trowbridge described how the flow from some springs is so strong it creates rivers. Usually, in late September and October the spring flows peak

due to months of heavy summer rainfall when water levels in the aquifer reach their highest for the year.

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

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided members with an update on the FY22 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) request summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) area. She discussed the FDEP Springs Funding summary for the SWFWMD region. Ms. Bendixson provided the FY2023 Springs Funding process overview and FDEP request summary by BMAP. She also provided summaries on the FY2023 applications received and the FDEP springs funding for the SWFWMD region. Four of the applications had applied the previous fiscal year. Presentations for the four new applications will be given at the December Springs Coast Management Committee (SCMC) meeting. Ms. Bendixson provided FY2022 SCMC and SCSC meeting dates.

Mr. Pettit asked for additional information on the 41 North Sewer Extension Project regarding parcel size and amount being converted and the cost-per-parcel per-residence. Ms. Bendixson stated that the information requested will be included in the project evaluations.

Mr. Cuarta asked if FDEP had finalized the list of FY22 approved projects for Springs funding. Ms. Bendixson responded in the affirmative.

6. Presentation: Spring Coast BMAP Updates – Lauren Campbell, FDEP

Ms. Lauren Campbell, BMAP Coordinator, provided members with the Springs Coast BMAP update. She mentioned Florida Springs BMAP story maps have been updated and can be found at www.arcgis.com. The statewide annual report (STAR) 2020 has been updated and is located at FloridaDEP.gov/star. Ms. Campbell provided committee members with STAR project updates on the Crystal River/Kings Bay BMAP, Homosassa/Chassahowitzka BMAP, Weeki Wachee BMAP and the Rainbow Springs BMAP. The projects are designed to achieve incremental pollutant load reduction within the first 15 years of the BMAP.

Dr. Campbell discussed the annual BMAP project collection portal designed to help communicate project information, track progress and streamline supporting documentation uploads. She discussed the feasibility analyses status and next steps based on the four BMAPs previously discussed. These analyses deliver an ongoing effort to convert septic systems to sewer and identify septic systems within the priority focus area that require remediation. Dr. Campbell provided a brief summary on the wastewater project report and the monitoring gap report. She explained the onsite sewage and disposal system state remediation plan will assist in achieving necessary load reductions. Dr. Campbell discussed the BMAP status next steps including, milestone reviews and updating the BMAPs.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

8. Next Meeting: January 26, 2022, 2:00 p.m.