



SPRINGS COAST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024 – 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
Rebecca Bays, Citrus County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County (Alternate)
Gregory Workman, FWC
John Fraites, FDACS (Alternate)

Staff Members

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

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., on November 6, 2024.

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 July 24, 2024

A motion was made for approval of the July 24, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. **Public Input**
None

5. **Presentation: FY2026 FDEP Springs Funding Applications – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided a presentation regarding the FY2026 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Springs Funding applications. Dr. Trowbridge discussed the FDEP Springs Funding applications as information with the Committee, reviewing the request summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). She further discussed the FDEP Spring funding requests and summary for the SWFWMD region as projects await notification from the FDEP on selection for FY2025 funding. Dr. Trowbridge provided a summary of the six FY2026 applications received and advised preliminary evaluations will be conducted at the January 22, 2025 meeting, final evaluations will be conducted at the March 5, 2025 meeting and applications will be submitted to FDEP in early May 2025 for final consideration. The Springs Coast Management and Steering Committee meeting dates were provided to members as well.

6. **Presentation: SWFWMD Springs Webpages – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Trowbridge presented the new features and data included on the SWFWMD springs' webpages highlighting the new tabs included on the homepage for the Springs Committees, frequently asked questions, graphics and videos, updated narratives and links to other resources.

Dr. Trowbridge reviewed the Environmental Assessment Reports that are posted on the website, which will be updated annually. These reports include data on rainfall and spring flow, water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

Mr. Robert Holmes stated he will communicate with the staff at the Three Sisters Springs Visitors Center to have the website information available in the lobby at the Visitors Center. Dr. Trowbridge advised the information is available on the website and staff will assist if needed.

7. **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.

8. **Announcements and Other Business**
None.

9. **Next Meeting Date if Approval: January 22, 2025 at 2 pm**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. This hybrid meeting will be both in person and via Teams.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.