



SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, December 8, 2021 – 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
Joss Nageon de Lestang, Marion County
Kelsey Current, Pasco County
Sandra Waters, FDEP
Will Fontaine, FGUA
Michelle Sempstott, FWC
Curt Williams, Agriculture
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply
Eric Latimer, Industry
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council
Rick Owens, State Parks

Staff Members

Vivianna Bendixson
Madison Trowbridge
Virginia Singer
Lisa Laupert
Randy Emberg

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 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., on December 8, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

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 October 20, 2021

A motion was made for approval of October 20, 2021, minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None

4. Action Item: FY2023 FDEP Spring Funding Land Acquisition Criteria – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided members with a brief overview of the water quality, water quantity, and proposed land acquisition criteria.

Mr. Lee mentioned allowing leniency with the time frame concerning proposed land acquisition projects. He suggested adding the Florida Department of Transportation match to the local match definition.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed land acquisition criteria, project readiness and local match.

A motion was made for approval of the FY2023 Spring Funding criteria for land acquisition as proposed by staff. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

5. Presentation: FY2023 FDEP Springs Funding Preliminary Evaluations, Preliminary Rankings, and Project Overviews – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided members with a detailed FY2023 application process, along with FY2022 Springs Coast Management and Steering Committee timeline. She provided the FY2023 FDEP request summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and the FDEP Springs funding summary for the SWFWMD region.

Ms. Bendixson discussed the applications received in FY2023, along with the FY2023 prioritization matrix. She provided a brief overview of two applications, #4 and #8, that previously applied for funding in FY2022.

Mr. Lee inquired about the total project cost increase for application eight. Mr. Fontaine explained it is the new engineer's estimate.

Discussion ensued regarding alternate cost-effective methods concerning the Chatmire Septic-to-Sewer project.

6. Presentation: FY2023 Project Presentation by Applicant

a) Citrus County

Mr. Mark Schroder with Citrus County provided members with a presentation on the Imperial Gardens Plant Interconnection project. He explained the intent of the project will be to decommission the existing package plant and connect to Citrus County's wastewater collection system. Citrus County is seeking funding for 100% of total project cost of \$450,000. The project start date is 2022 and is set to be completed in 2024.

b) Alachua Conservation Trust

Ms. Erica Hernandez with Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) provided members with a presentation on the Perpetual Conservation Easement in GHC Farms in Levy County. ACT has facilitated permanent protection of over 54,000 acres and was awarded five separate DEP Springs grants for acquisitions in Columbia, Suwannee, and Gilchrist counties. The ACT is seeking funding for half of the value of the Conservation easement and acquisition due diligence cost of \$173,288.

Mr. Lee asked what the science was behind the recharge value of this property and how it is contributing to the Rainbow Springs. Ms. Hernandez explained while it is not in the priority focus area (PFA) it is in the BMAP footprint of the Rainbow Springs.

c) Marion County

Mr. Joss Nageon de Lestang with Marion County provided members with a presentation on the NW 44th Ave. Innovative Stormwater Retrofit project. This project will support the BMAP goals by reducing nitrogen loading in the Rainbow Springs BMAP area. Mr. Nageon de Lestang explained this project can improve the total nitrogen (TN) removal rate from 3.90 lbs. to 54.51 lbs. Marion County is requesting funding for 50% of the total project cost of \$377,380.50.

Mr. Lee asked how many of the projects are likely to be funded given available money.

Mr. Molligan explained these are just recommendations given and FDEP makes the final assessment.

7. Presentation: Crystal River/Kings Bay Technical Working Group Update – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided an overview on the Surface Water Improvements and Management (SWIM) Plans. She discussed the current quantifiable objectives for the Crystal River/Kings Bay include water quality, water quantity, and natural systems focus areas. Dr. Trowbridge mentioned the 12 sampling locations of Kings Bays are sampled quarterly for water clarity, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll. Total phosphorus concentrations and total nitrogen concentration targets have been met for the last five and ten years respectively.

Dr. Trowbridge provided a brief summary on how total suspended solids affect both water clarity and chlorophyll concentrations in Kings Bay. She provided an update on the status of the submerged aquatic vegetations in the springs.

Dr. Trowbridge provided the potential refinements that were discussed at the Crystal River/Kings Bay Technical Working Group meetings. These potential refinements include: including the minimum flows and levels (MFL) target since the MFL is now adopted; redefining water clarity to “Hunter Cove” and “Kings Bay Proper” regions; and redefining water clarity and chlorophyll as indicators using the 2006-2020 averages as thresholds.

8. Presentation: Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve – Dr. Michael Shirley, FDEP

Dr. Michael Shirley, FDEP, provided an update on the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve designation in 2020. He discussed a brief overview of the 10-Year Management Plan process and the adaptive management including monitoring, maintaining, and improving water quality, restoring submerged communities, increasing the resiliency of adjacent shorelines, and enhancing low-impact recreation use and access. A detailed timeline for upcoming advisory committee meetings were provided.

Dr. Shirley discussed next steps for the Section 309 final assessment and strategies including, finalizing report products, creating interactive web application and outreach. They would also like to improve data collection and analysis for integrated management, monitoring and permitting.

9. Open Discussion

Committee members confirmed cancelation of the January 5, 2022, SCMC meeting. Rankings will be finalized on February 23, 2022.

10. Adjournment