

MEETING MINUTES  
Springs Coast Management Committee  
December 9, 2020

**Due to the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held electronically to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.**

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., December 9, 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present**

Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Ken Cheek, Citrus County\*  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County\*  
Bob Titterington, Marion County\*  
Jason Wagman, FWC\*  
Moiria Homann, FDEP\*  
Will Fontaine, FGUA\*  
Jessica Stempien, FDACS\*  
Dave Bruzek, Industry\*  
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River\*  
Jason Mickel, Pasco County \*  
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council\*  
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply\*  
Chris Oliver, State Parks\* (Alternate)

\*Attended electronically

**Members Absent**

Curt Williams, Agriculture  
Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia  
Charles Lee, Environmental

**SWFWMD Staff**

Vivianna Bendixson  
Randy Smith

**Recording Secretary**

Lauren Vossler

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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

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Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's website at [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org).

**1. Call to Order and Roll**

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 21, 2020**

*A motion was made for approval of October 21, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

**3. Public Input**

None.

**4. Presentation: FY2022 FDEP Springs Funding Preliminary Evaluations, Preliminary Rankings and Project Overviews – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD**

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM supervisor, provided members with an outline of the FY2022 review process. She supplied the funding summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and SWFWMD region and the FY2022 FDEP springs funding requests. Ms. Bendixson discussed the FY2022 Springs funding evaluations sorted by project benefit and cost effectiveness. She specified the current springs funding request from FDEP for FY2022 is \$33.9 million.

Ms. Bendixson provided an overview of the five applications previously requesting FY2022 Springs funding.

**5. Presentation: FY2022 Project Presentation by Applicant**

**a. City of Crystal River**

Mr. Allen Garri with Kimley and Horn provided members with a presentation on the Wetland Recharge Park. Mr. Garri discussed background information on the recharge park including location within the priority focus area (PFA) for Kings Bay, a high ranking for its level of nutrient reduction and treating water from a 265-acre basin made up of agricultural timber, swamps, commercial, and residential land use. The City of Crystal River is seeking funding for 100% of total project cost for \$7,340, 000. The Wetland Recharge Park will remove 81% of total nitrogen (TN) and 518 pounds of TN removed by the wetlands.

Mr. Wagman inquired if the cost included the installation of native species and plants. Mr. Garri responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Molligan asked if there was a 25% contingency on this project. Mr. Garri replied there is a 25% contingency due to the length of time before the project will start construction and certain variations viewed on the Ocala project.

**b. Marion County**

Mr. Addison Stroud with Marion County Utilities discussed the State Road 200 septic to sewer program. The goals for this project are to connect four commercial properties to the centralized sewer system and production of additional reclaimed water through connection to the centralized sewer. Mr. Stroud discussed the total project cost being \$712,929. Marion County is requesting FDEP Springs funding for \$356,464.50 and SWFWMD CFI funding for \$178,232.25 and an owner match of \$178,232.25. The expected project benefit is a nitrogen reduction of 607 pounds per year and it will assist reducing nutrient loading within the county's most vulnerable areas.

Ms. Brockway asked if these two projects would be funded by the information that is in the guidance document. Ms. Bendixson explained there is a wide scope of what is available for funding, however, for these two projects the water quality components were considered.

Mr. Molligan asked if the vulnerable areas shown on the map are due to karst activity. Mr. Stroud explained it has to do with the soil in the area and the number of septic tanks that have been located in the area.

**6. Presentation: Hospital Hole: A window into subsurface microbial communities – Dr. Madison Davis, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Davis, springs scientist, provided members information on one of her dissertation chapters which she published on Hospital Hole in Weeki Wachee, Florida. She explained that subsurface microbial ecology focuses on microscopic organisms, including bacteria, in caves, aquifers, pore spaces in bedrock, and groundwater. She showed that bacteria in the subsurface comprise a substantial biomass on earth and perform chemosynthesis. To determine how different groundwater hydrochemistry affects bacterial communities, she used Hospital Hole as a model system. Hospital Hole is a submerged sinkhole underneath the Weeki Wachee River that has three

hydrochemical layers. Dr. Davis found that each layer had unique microbial communities in each, and that these communities had different metabolisms that were related to the hydrochemistry in their own layer. In all the layers were bacteria that could be credited to anthropogenic contamination. These findings suggested that the aquifer is not homogenous, and she cautioned using “one-size-fits-all” management methods.

Mr. Molligan asked how long it took to collect all the data and analyze it for the projects. Dr. Davis responded around two years; however, her dissertation took four years.

## **7. Open Discussion**

Mr. Wagman inquired about potential meeting dates for the technical group. No official meeting dates were set; however, meetings may take place between March and April. Ms. Bendixson also mentioned needing names of representatives for the technical group.

## **8. Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.