

MEETING MINUTES  
Springs Coast Management Committee  
December 11, 2019

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., December 11, 2020, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Building 4 Conference Room 112, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

**Members Present**

Ken Cheek, Citrus County  
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Bob Titterington, Marion County  
Jason Mickel, Pasco County  
Jason Wagman, FWC  
Will Fontaine, FGUA  
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS (via phone)  
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Heather Young, Regional Planning Council  
Rick Owen, State Parks (via phone)  
Richard Owen, Public Supply  
Curt Williams, Agriculture

**Members Absent**

Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia  
Charles Lee, Environmental  
Dave Bruzek, Industry  
Terry Hansen, FDEP

**SWFWMD Staff**

Randy Smith  
Danielle Rogers  
Frank Gargano  
Meagan Finneran  
Vivianna Bendixson

**Recording Secretary**

Lauren Vossler

**Other**

Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn  
Terri Lowery, Jones Edmunds  
John Horath, Jones Edmunds  
Paul Marraffino, FGUA  
Richard Kirby, HCUD  
Bryan Schmalz, Bay Laurel  
Scott Mcculloch, City of Inverness

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FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
SCMC – Springs Coast Management Committee

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 [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 23, 2019**

*A motion was made for approval of October 23, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

**3. Public Input**

None.

**4. Presentation: FY2021 Springs Funding Preliminary Evaluations, Preliminary Rankings, and Project Overviews – Southwest Florida Water Management District**

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM supervisor, provided members with a brief overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY2021) funding application process. Ms. Bendixson supplied the FY2021 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) request summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). A detailed FY2021 timeline was discussed, along with preliminary evaluations and rankings. Ms. Bendixson briefly reviewed the FY2021 prioritization matrix. Ms. Bendixson explained there are 14 total applications submitted for Springs Funding, eight projects are new for FY2021 and six projects are reapplying that were not selected for funding in FY2020.

Mr. Bob Titterington expressed concern that APP02 is not reflected as being listed in the Rainbow River BMAP. Mr. Titterington referenced a recent email where the project is listed and questioned would it change the application's ranking. Ms. Bendixson explained she does not anticipate it changing the ranking, citing connection to available sewer driving the low ranking, however, she would make sure the concern was noted.

An overview on projects reapplying for springs funding was presented with a discussion on any changes from FY2020 versus FY2021. APP02 – Marion County North West Regional Wastewater treatment facilities project now includes a biosolids handling facility which will increase the total nitrogen removal under the project benefit. There was no change to APP03 – Marion County Oak Bend I-75 Water Quality Improvement package plants. The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) APP04 – Rainbow River-Rio Vista Septic to Sewer project identified four additional septic tanks they would like removed from service, bringing the new total to 333 septic tanks from 329. This alters the cost effectiveness from \$101 to \$99 per pound of nitrogen removed. APP05 – Burkitt Road Septic to Sewer project reduced the total project cost from \$460,000 to \$350,000. APP07 – Hernando County Airport WRF total nitrogen reduction project was previously a multi-year request; this year the current funding was requested all in FY2021. APP08 – Hernando County Airport WWTF full expansion increased the capacity from 3.5 million gallons per day (mgd) expansion to a 6 mgd expansion.

**5. Presentation: FY2021 Project Presentation by Applicant**

**a) Bay Laurel CCDD – APP01 – On Top of the World Ocala Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Expansion and Reuse**

Ms. Terri Lowery, with Jones Edmunds and Associates, provided an overview on the North Advanced Wastewater treatment facility. Ms. Lowery explained that the preliminary engineering has been completed for this project. The wastewater treatment facility improvements will include a biosolid treatment facility and a reclaimed water transmission system. This facility will also benefit the water quality and water quantity of the Rainbow River BMAP. The final design will be ready in January 2021 and completing construction in September 2024.

**b) FGUA – APP06 – 180<sup>th</sup> Ave Package Plant Abatement**

Mr. Paul Marraffino, with FGUA, provided members with a synopsis of the 180 Ave Package Plant Abatement Project for the Dunnellon Wastewater plant. This project is located within the BMAP and the priority focus area (PFA). Mr. Marraffino explained that three package plants will be decommissioned, and the funding requests include connection costs and land purchase. The project start date will begin early 2020 and the project completion is set for 2021; the estimated cost for the wastewater plant is \$846,589. Mr. Marraffino provided a status update of existing FGUA projects that related to their current applications.

Mr. Randy Smith noted that the cost per pound reflecting on the evaluation form is different from the presented slides. Mr. Marraffino replied he will make sure it is corrected.

**c) Hernando County – APP09 – Septic to Sewer District A Phase 1 and APP10 – Glen Water Reclamation Facility Denitrification**

Mr. Richard Kirby, with Hernando County Utilities Department, provided an overview of the Hernando County District A Phase 1 Septic to Sewer Project. In 2016 the septic to sewer study was finalized. This study was created to prioritize which districts would have the greatest impacts on the septic to sewer program. This program will allow \$148.54 per pound of Total Nitrogen (TN) removed over 30 years and it located within a BMAP. The project's total cost is \$16,500,00.

Mr. Bob Titterington asked what the estimated cost to the resident is. Mr. Kirby explained at 15%, Hernando County's consultants estimated the total cost as \$3,000 per connection.

Ms. Bendixson mentioned this project is also requesting Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) dollars through the District.

Mr. Kirby discussed the Glenn Water Reclamation Facility Denitrification. Mr. Kirby explained that the landfill leachate has been removed for this process and the septage treatment may be discontinued or limited. Over 30 years the project would remove annually 24,592 pounds of nitrogen at a cost of \$6.78 per pound. This project is found within the PFA, and its total cost is estimated at \$5 million.

**d) City of Inverness – APP11 – South Highlands Septic to Sewer, APP12 – 44 West Sewer Extension, and APP13 – 41 North Sewer Extension**

Mr. Alan Garri, with Kimley-Horn, provided a summary on the South Highlands Septic to Sewer project. This project is not located within the PFA; however, it is located within the BMAP. Mr. Garri explained that the development is estimated to start in 2021 and the project's estimated total cost is \$3,267,000. An estimated 695 pounds of TN will be removed from the BMAP. This project cost effectiveness over 30 years is \$157 per pound of TN removed.

Mr. Garri discussed the 44 West Sewer Extension project. Mr. Garri explained 54 onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) will be removed from service. The total project cost is estimated at \$2,360,500 and the funding request will include the connection fees and land acquisition. An estimated 1,746 pounds of TN will be removed from the BMAP. This project cost effectiveness over 30 years is \$45 per pound of TN removed.

Mr. Molligan inquired about the substantial difference in cost per pound between the two projects. Mr. Garri explained it comes down to how the city of Inverness builds out the project, where the connection points are, and the improvements to the infrastructure. Another component is the estimated TN removal is greater for the 44 West Sewer Extension project because 45 of the 54 septic tanks are commercial septic tanks and these have a greater nitrogen load.

Mr. Garri provided an overview on the 41 North Sewer Extension project. This project is located within the BMAP but not within the PFA. Mr. Garri explained 67 OSTDS units will be removed from service. The total project cost is estimated at \$4,081,00 and the funding request will include connection cost and property purchase. An estimated 1,202 pounds of TN will be removed from the BMAP. This project cost effectiveness over 30 years is \$113 per pound of TN removed.

Ms. Brockway asked if the City of Inverness applied for the CFI dollars for any of the septic to sewer projects. Mr. Garri responded they had not.

Mr. Glenn Forrester asked if the commercial flows had been compared to actual flows the city may have records of for water consumption. Mr. Garri explained that these projects fall within the county but are outside of the city limits

**e) City of Crystal River – APP14 – Pelican Bay Package Plant Removal**

Mr. Alan Garri, with Kimley-Horn, provided members with a recap of the Pelican Bay Package Plant Removal. Mr. Garri explained the existing package plant will be removed from service and there will be approximately 91 residential sewer connections. This project can be found within the BMAP and PFA. The City of Crystal River is seeking 100% funding for the project cost. The total project budget is projected at \$400,000. An estimated 47 pounds of TN will be removed from the BMAP and PFA. This project cost effectiveness over 30 years is \$312 per pound of TN removed.

Mr. Ken Frink explained this area has agreed to annex into the City and this will decrease the funding request. Mr. Frink offered additional information that cannot be shown in the cost/benefit is this area is subject to both coastal and stormwater flooding and gave an example of a recent flooding event and discharge of untreated water to King's Bay, as well as its close proximity to Kings Bay and its tributaries.

Ms. Bendixson explained updated numbers for project, including for the Pelican Bay project, may alter some of the rankings. This will be discussed at the next meeting in the final evaluations.

**6. Open Discussion: Process for Final Evaluations and Rankings**

Ms. Bendixson asked members if the consensus was for the process of the final evaluations and rankings. Members responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Brockway inquired about possibly knowing which projects are requesting the additional CFI dollars. Ms. Bendixson explained that there are only two projects requesting the additional funding and they include the APP02 - Marion County NW Regional WWTF Expansion and APP09–Hernando County Septic to Sewer District A Phase 1 project.

Mr. Molligan asked members if they wanted to meet one more time in January to discuss evaluating projects. All members agreed the prioritization matrix process and current review was enough to make decisions and agreed to cancel the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Brockway inquired about pushing through low ranking projects to the Steering Committee and then on to the Governing Board. Mr. Molligan replied his recommendation would be to show the Steering Committee which projects they propose moving forward with along with the projects they do not recommend including. It is ultimately the Steering Committee that will decide what goes forward to the Governing Board.

**7. Open Discussion**

Discussion ensued about recommending certain presentations to the Steering Committee. Project overviews for all projects will be presented to the Steering Committee.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.