



**SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 – 1:30 PM**  
**2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604**

**MINUTES**

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Committee Members Present

Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Ken Cheek, Citrus County  
Jody Kirkman, Marion County  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Jason Mickel, Pasco County  
Moiria Homann, FDEP  
Will Fontaine, FGUA  
Jason Wagman, FWC  
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS  
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply  
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council

Staff Members

Vivianna Bendixson  
Madison Trowbridge  
Virginia Singer  
Lisa Laupert  
Randy Emberg  
Frank Gargano  
Chris Anastasiou

Committee Administrative Support

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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**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., February 23, 2022, 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 December 8, 2021**

*A motion was made for approval of the amended December 8, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

**3. Public Input**

None

**4. Action Item: FY2023 FDEP Springs Funding Final Evaluations – 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 provided the FY2023 Springs funding evaluations. She reviewed the projects sorted by cost effectiveness and project benefit and the FY2023 prioritization matrix. She discussed final evaluation changes to applications #2, #6 and #8. Ms. Bendixson also reviewed the FY2023 FDEP spreadsheet with the project information in the submittal format.

***A motion was made to approve the project final evaluations and FDEP spreadsheet for projects recommended to be forwarded to FDEP for FY2023 Springs Funding consideration. Staff recommended the Springs Coast Steering Committee (SCSC) forward these projects to the District's Governing Board for approval to send to FDEP for funding consideration. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**5. Action Item: Crystal River/Kings Bay Quantifiable Objective Refinements - Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided members with a summary on the quantifiable object refinement. She discussed redefining the water clarity as for Hunter Cove and Kings Bay Proper, redefining water clarity and chlorophyll as indicators, and updating Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) as adopted.

Dr. Trowbridge provided the refinements that were discussed at the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting. She explained the TWG felt the average from 2006 to 2020 period of record was appropriate to use as thresholds due to capturing many variations within the springs systems.

***A motion was made to approve refinements to the quantifiable objectives as recommended by District staff.***

- ***Update minimum flows target as adopted***
- ***Redefine water clarity and chlorophyll as an indicator***
- ***Define water clarity evaluated as Hunters Cove and Kings Bay Proper.***

***Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**6. Presentation: Crystal River/Kings Bay Shoreline Mapping – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided information regarding the Crystal River and Kings Bay Shoreline Mapping. She explained that increased development in the Crystal River/Kings Bay region over the past 100 years has caused wetland loss. Recognizing the importance of these wetlands, the Springs Coast Committees included SWIM Plan quantifiable objectives to prevent loss of shoreline and increase enhancement to disturbed shorelines.

Dr. Trowbridge provided the results of the FY2021 shoreline mapping and a change analysis of the shorelines in Crystal River and Kings Bay. Changes in the shoreline from 2010 to 2021 include an increase in human altered shoreline, an increase in open water, and changes in the emergent aquatic vegetation. Dr. Trowbridge concluded that increases in development and ecological changes to the system, including manatee grazing, were attributed to the changes within this system. The changes in emergent aquatic vegetation were credited to climate change.

Mr. Molligan asked how often the mapping efforts would be taking place. Dr. Trowbridge explained they have not discussed an exact date; however, they are hoping to reexamine within the next five to ten years.

**7. Presentation: Springs Coast Seagrass Mapping – Dr. Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD**

Dr. Chris Anastasiou, Chief Water Quality Scientist, discussed the results from the most recent Springs Coast Seagrass Mapping. Dr. Anastasiou stated that the District maps seagrasses from Waccasassa Bay south to Charlotte Harbor covering 1,270 square miles. He discussed the three major phases of how the District produces the maps including: acquisition, photointerpretation, and field verification. He showed areas the District maps and segmented both inshore and offshore and their percentages of change from 2016-2020.

Dr. Anastasiou showed three specific segments, Waccasassa Bay, Aripeka, and Withlacoochee and discussed how the seagrass habitat is shifting within those classification systems. In conclusion, there was little change in acreage between 2016 and 2020. Anclote offshore and Waccasassa Bay had the largest percent increase in seagrass acreage. Aripeka offshore and Crystal Bay had the largest acreage gains of 4,709 acres and 2,108 acres, respectively. Waccasassa Bay, Withlacoochee, and Aripeka offshore saw a significant shift from continuous seagrass to composite colonized seagrass habitat.

Mr. Molligan asked when the seagrass is switched over to the composite, a more complex system, what drives that change. Dr. Anastasiou explained that they do not know exactly what causes those changes.

Mr. Molligan asked if there is an increased or decreased environmental value to a composite as compared to a continuous seagrass. Dr. Anastasiou explained a diverse habitat with a mix of seagrass, algae and coral is more beneficial than one that only has one type of seagrass.

**8. Open Discussion**

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.