

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Springs Coast Steering Committee Southwest Florida Water Management District

Brooksville, Florida March 10, 2021

Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held through electronic media to reduce public gatherings and practice social distancing.

The Springs Coast Steering Committee convened at 2:00 p.m., March 10, 2021 via Zoom. Limited staff were in attendance at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Members Present

John Mitten, SWFWMD, Chair
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River*
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County
Gregory Workman, FWC
Jason Mikel, Pasco County (Alternate)*
Chris Pettit, FDACS*
Alys Brockway, Hernando County (Alternate)*
Julie Epsy, FDEP*

*Attended electronically.

SWFWMD Staff

Jennette Seachrist
Vivianna Bendixson
Brian Armstrong
Mandi Rice

Recording Secretary

Lauren Vossler

Others Present

None

Members Absent

Kathy Bryant, Marion County

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

1. Call to Order and Roll

Committee Chair Mitten called the meeting to order. Ms. Lauren Vossler called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from 01/27/2021

The committee approved the January 27, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input – None

4. Action Item: FY2022 FDEP Springs Funding and Final Evaluations and Rankings – 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. Ms. Bendixson reviewed the final evaluation changes which included: Hernando County received grant funding allowing the project to be split into two phases and the City of Crystal River withdrew its Wetland Recharge Park application. A total of six projects requested FDEP funding. Future Springs Coast Management and Steering Committee meeting dates were discussed.

A motion was made to approve the final project evaluations and FDEP spreadsheet for projects recommended to be forwarded to FDEP for FY2022 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.

Ms. Bendixson stated that suggested agenda topics will be discussed at the July 28 SCSC meeting. These topics included recommended changes, future meeting dates and Fiscal Year 2023 funding processes.

Hernando County Commissioner Beth Narverud requested the Committee Members consider moving SCSC future meetings from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., to accommodate attendance. The Committee Members asked that an email be sent to all members requesting responses.

5. Adjournment

Committee Chair Mitten adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

6. Next Meeting: July 28, 2021 at 2 p.m.