



SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 – 1:30 PM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jennette Seachrist, SWFWMD
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Jody Kirkman, Marion County
Cisco Pavez, Pasco County
Jake Fojtik, Agriculture
Ken Weaver, FDEP
Maddy Hart, FDACS
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council
Ilia Balcom, Industry
Patricia Spellman, Academia
Rick Owen, State Parks
Will Fontaine, FGUA

Staff Members

Vivianna Bendixson
Randy Smith
Madison Trowbridge
Carrieann Adkins
Virginia Singer
Jeremy McKay

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 (SCMC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., on May 22, 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Director, stated the following item was deleted from the Agenda:

Presentation: An Overview of SWFWMD's Available Monitoring Data and Maps –
Sandie Will, P.G., SWFWMD

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from February 21, 2024

A motion was made for approval of the February 21, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None

4. Discussion: FY2025 FDEP Springs Funding Update and Lessons Learned – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided members with a detailed FY2026 FDEP Springs Funding application process, along with the FY2025 SCMC and SCSC timeline. She provided the FY2025 FDEP request summary by Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and the FDEP Springs funding summary for the SWFWMD region. She stated both projects were submitted by the Hernando County Utilities Department, and both have been sent to FDEP for consideration. Dr. Trowbridge provided a breakdown of the FY2025 applications, criteria and the prioritization matrix.

Dr. Trowbridge discussed lessons learned from the FY2025 process. She mentioned committee members would appreciate seeing the number of households serviced for package plants. She stated moving forward this information can be found in the evaluation description. The cost breakdown and fees will also be located in the evaluation description as well.

Dr. Trowbridge discussed upcoming tasks and the tentative FY2025 SCMC and SCSC meeting dates.

Ms. Suzy Folsom inquired about future activities for the technical working group. Dr. Trowbridge explained there are no activities scheduled at this time.

5. Presentation: Youth Education in Springs: Springs Coast Environmental Education Center – Cheryl Paradis, Springs Coast Environmental Education Center

Ms. Cheryl Paradis, teacher, provided members with an overview of the Springs Coast Environmental Education Center. She explained the education center provides a place where Hernando County students can experience, study and enjoy nature to become responsible stewards of the environment. Ms. Paradis mentioned students in grades 2 and 4-6 visit the education center and participate in different activities per grade level. She discussed managing the 23 acres and educating 2-3 classes per day about preserving and conserving local waters.

Mr. Frank Gargano asked if this opportunity was available for Hernando County homeschooled students. Ms. Paradis explained that in the past they offered one day a week, but currently they do not have any openings to service homeschooled students. However, homeschooled students are eligible to go on field trips with their assigned school.

6. Open Discussion

Mr. Ken Weaver provided a brief update on the BMAPs. Mr. Weaver explained that FDEP is hosting annual BMAP meetings, which assist with updating the nutrient BMAPs, calculating allocations and the Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading and Tool updates. He mentioned the website (<https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-restoration/content/basin-management-action-plans-bmaps>) provides the noticed BMAP meetings along with subscribing to future BMAP program announcements and notifications.

Ms. Alana Todd announced that the Natural Resources Committee of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council voted to expand its boundaries to now include Citrus and Hernando Counties. Prior to this vote, the Tampa Bay Estuaries were the primary focus. The new name is now the Agency on Bay and Coastal Management.

7. Next Meeting: July 10, 2024

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.