



**SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022 – 1:30 PM
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Michael Molligan, SWFWMD
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River
Tina Malmberg, Citrus County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Tom Marinelli, Pasco County
Moirá Hamann, FDEP
Sam Cain, FGUA
Cori Hermle, FDACS
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply
Charles Lee, Environmental
Iliá Balcom, Industry
Rick Owen, State Parks
Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia

Staff Members

Vivianna Bendixson
Frank Gargano
Madison Trowbridge
Randy Smith
Virginia Singer
Lisa Laupert
Josh Madden
Randy Emberg

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 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., on May 25, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee, Outreach & General Services Director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from February 23, 2022

A motion was made for approval of the February 23, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None

4. Discussion: FY2023 Springs Funding Update and Lessons Learned

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided members with a detailed FY2023 application process, along with the 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. She mentioned anticipating that FDEP will make project selections in the fall. Ms. Bendixson provided a breakdown of the FY2023 applications, criteria, and the prioritization matrix.

Ms. Bendixson discussed information that was learned from the FY2023 process. She identified that the banner and backgrounds have been updated every year. The FDEP spreadsheet has been updated and reflects three new columns including the number of existing septic tanks that will be converted, percentage of completion of design, and permitting status. For land acquisition criteria, Ms. Bendixson presented proposed criteria verbiage that reads “funding request is at or less than the estimated fair market value.” Committee members did not have any additional comments or feedback regarding the FY2022 lessons learned.

Ms. Bendixson discussed upcoming tasks and the tentative FY2023 Springs Coast Management and Springs Coast Steering Committee meeting dates.

5. Presentation: Technical Working Group Update Weeki Wachee

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided an overview on the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plans. She discussed the current quantifiable objectives for the Weeki Wachee River include water quality, water quantity, and natural systems focused areas. She provided an update on the status of these quantifiable objectives.

Dr. Trowbridge provided the potential refinements that were discussed at the TWG meeting. These potential refinements include redefining water clarity and natural systems to different river portions and redefining water clarity as an indicator using the 2006-2020 average as a threshold. These potential refinements are similar to those approved for Rainbow River and Crystal River/Kings Bay.

Mr. Charles Lee expressed concerns about redefining water clarity as an indicator. Discussion ensued regarding the recreational uses and long-term conditions of the river.

6. Presentation: EPA Nutrient Modeling Project

Dr. Mauricio Arias, PhD, P.E., identified temporal and spatial optimization of existing and emerging nutrient management technologies and practices for control of harmful algal blooms. He explained the next steps include creating and implementing an appropriate approach to scale up selected emerging technologies and evaluation of their performances, developing a hydro-ecological model of spatiotemporal changes in algae production and engaging stakeholders.

Dr. Arias explained the project has developed and tested the new assessment framework with 10 indicators and collected data on nutrient removal and cost for 45 best management practices. He discussed several innovative nutrient removal technologies that will control nutrients associated with urban and agricultural runoffs. Stakeholder meetings and field visits have helped identify potential sites and a calibrated watershed and lake model has been developed.

Mr. Lee asked for further information regarding the difference with the delivery mechanisms of nutrients in the coastal springs systems as they would look compared to Lake Okeechobee. Dr. Arias explained the project is not based on sources of nutrients but rather the technologies to treat the nutrients.

7. Open Discussion

Mr. Lee asked how the District is tracking the new proposal from Hernando County (County)

for a recreational use park inside the Weeki Wachee Preserve. Mr. Molligan explained. The County had a feasibility study completed. The County is hosting a public meeting and will need to receive stakeholders' support. The District will review any proposal from the county. Any action on the proposal would be taken during the Governing Board's public meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.