

## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

### **Springs Coast Management Committee**

July 11, 2018

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., July 11, 2018, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Building 4 Conference Room 112, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

#### **Members Present**

Dave Burnell, City of Crystal River  
Christina Malmberg, Citrus County  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Jason Mickel, Pasco County  
Terry Hansen, FDEP (via phone)  
Jason Wagman, FWC  
Angela Chelette, FDACS  
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Charles Lee, Environmental  
Curt Williams, Agriculture  
Richard Owen, Public Supply  
Heather Young, Regional Planning Council  
Dave Bruzek, Industry  
Bob Titterington, Marion County  
Jesse Hillman, Academia  
Rick Owen, State Parks

#### **Members Absent**

#### **SWFWMD Staff**

Jennette Seachrist  
Randy Smith  
Chris Anastasiou  
Danielle Rogers  
Sky Notestein  
Vivianna Bendixson

#### **Recording Secretary**

Kelly Page, SWFWMD

#### **Other**

Clayton Lunch  
Joan Lynch  
Shirley Miketinac  
Dennis Davis, Wright-Pierce  
Sean Jones, Cardno  
Kim Dinkins, Marion County  
Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn  
Cara Keller, Kimley-Horn

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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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A list of others who were present, and signed the attendance roster, is filed in the permanent records of the District.

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll**

Mr. Michael Molligan, SWFWMD, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

#### **2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from 11/08/2017**

*A motion was made for approval of November 8, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

#### **3. Public Input**

Mr. Molligan stated there were two blue cards presented.

Ms. Shirley Miketinac identified a legal notice from the Tampa Bay Times that said today's Springs Coast Management Committee meeting will be discussing the approval of Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) nutrient strategy, management actions, and other water quality drivers. She explained this is what she came to hear about at the meeting. Ms. Miketinac called the day prior to the meeting and District staff told her the BMAPs were not being discussed. Ms. Danielle Rogers asked for the printed legal notice and staff would look into clarifying the description for future meetings.

Ms. Karlene Nordgren requested a hard copy of the Weeki Wachee BMAP. Mr. Terry Hansen suggested District staff could print it from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website for her.

**4. Update: Welcome New Committee Members**

Mr. Molligan welcomed new and existing members.

**5. Springs Coast Steering Committee and Management Committee Overview**

Mr. Sky Notestein provided an overview of the Steering Committee and Management Committee as well as the Technical Work Group. He explained Steering Committee is composed of 9 local, state and regional representatives and was formed by the Governing Board in August 2014 in order to build partnerships that result in better management of the first magnitude springs in the Springs Coast region. Subsequently, the Management Committee was developed for the purpose of providing technical reviews and policy recommendations to the Steering Committee. This committee has 16 members from local and state entities. The Technical Working Group, which is composed of numerous stakeholders, provides technical support to the Steering and Management committees.

Mr. Notestein discussed one of the first goals for the Steering Committee and Management Committee, which was to come up with five management plans for the five first-magnitude springs in this region: Rainbow, Crystal River/Kings Bay, Homosassa, Chassahowitzka, and Weeki Wachee. These Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans stems from a legislative act to identify priority water bodies that may need improvement.

Most recently, these groups have been tasked with identifying potentially suitable projects for improving the Springs Coast spring systems. The committees developed a recommendation list to submit to DEP for fiscal year (FY) 2019 state springs funding. Throughout the upcoming year, the Management Committee will have more opportunities to review projects as well as assist in improving the application review process, which will result in a list of projects for submission to the state for FY2020.

Mr. Charles Lee commented that with a new governor coming into office, Florida can expect new legislative positions and new agency directors as well. As these changes are approaching, Mr. Lee suggests the committee not expect to have a budget for springs funding in the future. He also suggests the committee look for ways to advocate to the new administration what ought to be done for springs.

**6. Discussion Item: FY2020 Springs Funding Application and Evaluation Process**

Ms. Danielle Rogers discussed the application review process for fiscal year (FY) 2019 springs funding and proposed a new review process for FY2020. For FY2019 funding, applications were submitted to the District, who then constructed a packet of consolidated applications for the Management Committee to review. The Management Committee reviewed and approved the list of recommended projects for the Steering Committee to review, followed by the Governing Board, and finally the list was sent to DEP for springs funding consideration.

Ms. Rogers explained the benefit of this process was the elimination of a middle man. Some of the difficulties were: DEP guidance template not available when applications were submitted; applications did not have consistency with project descriptions; confusion with application

requirements/guidelines for those who were also submitting for Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) dollars.

Ms. Rogers explained the application process that she is proposing will keep the review process streamlined and is also more consistent with the CFI program.

- Springs funding application deadline will be October 5, which is the same deadline as CFI.
- The information will be translated into a preliminary evaluation, which standardizes the information, for Management Committee and Steering Committee review.
- Once preliminary evaluations and discussions are complete, the Management Committee will then do a final evaluation. This evaluation will have a recommendation section for each project.
- Ultimately, the Steering Committee, followed by the Governing Board, will receive the final evaluations (with recommendations) and the FDEP spreadsheet list of recommended projects for approval.

Ms. Alys Brockway asked what would happen if there is a discrepancy between the Management Committee and the Steering Committee, and Ms. Rogers explained the Steering Committee has the final decision.

#### **7. Action Item: Approval of SCMC Meeting Dates**

Ms. Danielle presented the proposed meeting dates, which coincide with the Steering Committee meeting dates and CFI/springs funding application dates. Once these dates are approved, the Steering Committee will be asked to approve its meeting dates.

SCMC meeting dates presented for approval:

- August 15, 2018
- October 31, 2018
- December 12, 2018
- January 9, 2019
- February 27, 2019
- May 15, 2019
- August 21, 2019

*With discussion, a motion was made for approval of SCMC meeting dates for fiscal year 2019. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

#### **8. Update: Chassahowitzka Quantifiable Objectives**

Dr. Chris Anastasiou provided an update on the Chassahowitzka River's SWIM plan, which includes the quantifiable objectives broken into three focus areas: water quality, water quantity, and natural systems.

Dr. Anastasiou explained the target water clarity is greater than 20 feet in the river and greater than 40 feet in the head springs. The average water clarity from 2006 through 2017 shows the water clarity slightly below the objectives for both the springs and the river. The water quality quantifiable objective is related to nitrate and nitrogen concentrations. The target Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of total nitrogen is 0.25 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in the river and 0.23 mg/L of nitrate at the springs. Dr. Anastasiou reported that the 2017 average river total nitrogen and springs nitrate concentrations were about 0.41 mg/L and 0.60 mg/L, respectively.

For the water quantity focus area, the quantifiable objective is to maintain greater than 97 percent of natural flow. The Chassahowitzka River is maintaining 99 percent of natural flow.

The Natural Systems focus area is subdivided into two river-wide quantifiable objectives. The first is to maintain greater than 65 percent coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). The second is to maintain less than 10 percent coverage of invasive, or undesirable SAV, including filamentous algae. Estimates from 2015 indicate roughly 22 percent coverage of desirable SAV and 7 percent coverage of undesirable SAV in the river, however preliminary studies in February 2018 indicate the desirable SAV has increased to 57 percent coverage.

The abundance of SAV in the river appears to be dynamic. There are a lot of complexities in this system's SAV patterns, and the Technical Working Group may be utilized to analyze data, if the Management Committee chooses to reconvene the group.

Mr. Lee commented that shoreline vegetation is influenced by the effects of sea level rise and asked if Dr. Anastasiou's set of data is relative to these rising sea levels. Dr. Anastasiou responded in the affirmative and mentioned the Technical Work Group could work to identify SWIM projects that would address global/climate changes.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.