



**SPRINGS COAST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, July 27, 2022 – 2:00 PM**  
**2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34604**

**MINUTES**

---

Committee Members Present

Kelly Rice, SWFWMD  
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River  
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County  
Beth Narverud, Hernando County  
Kathy Bryant, Marion County  
Gerald Runge, Pasco County (Alternate)  
Kevin Coyne, FDEP  
Gregory Workman, FWC  
Chris Pettit, FDACS

Staff Members

Jennette Seachrist  
Vivianna Bendixson  
Randy Emberg  
Madison Trowbridge  
Randy Smith  
Frank Gargano

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 Steering Committee (SCSC) of the Southwest Florida Water Management District met for its regular meeting at 2:00 p.m., on July 27, 2022.

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

**2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from March 9, 2022**

***A motion was made for approval of March 9, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**3. Public Input**

None

**4. Action Item: Approve FY2024 Springs Funding Process– Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD**

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, presented the FY2024 Springs Funding process. She gave a brief description of the water quality, quantity, and land acquisition criteria, along with the FY2024 prioritization matrix.

Ms. Bendixson discussed application changes including the update of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) spreadsheet to reflect new information which included the number of existing septic tanks that will be converted, percentage of completion of design, and permitting status. For land acquisition criteria, she presented proposed criteria verbiage that reads “funding request is at or less than the estimated fair market value.”

Chair Rice inquired about who would be seen as the entity that acquires the property or the interest of the property regarding the land acquisition portion of the application. Ms. Bendixson explained land acquisition projects have always been eligible for funding, however, last year was the first year a project of this type was submitted. Typically, FDEP would be the main conservation easement holder or land acquisition holder.

Ms. Bryant asked where the information is coming from on the existing septic tanks count and why is it critical. Ms. Bendixson explained there has been a shift in the number of tank counts which impacts the resource benefit, so the District has asked for the information to help ensure the septic tank count is as accurate as possible.

***A motion was made to approve the FY2024 Springs Funding application, evaluation, and prioritization process. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**5. Action Item: Approve Future SCSC Meeting Dates – Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD**

Ms. Vivianna Bendixson, SWIM Program Manager, provided members with a detailed proposed FY2023 timeline. She stated the Springs and Cooperative Funding Initiative applications will be due October 7<sup>th</sup>.

***A motion was made to approve future Spring Coast Management Committee meeting dates. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**6. Action Item: Weeki Wachee Quantifiable Objective Refinements - Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, presented the refinements to the Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan Quantifiable Objectives as recommended by the Springs Coast Management Committee. Dr. Trowbridge discussed refinements to the quantifiable objectives include redefining water clarity to an indicator with a threshold, defining river segments to headspring, Estates, and Gardens portions to monitor water clarity at different river regions, and redefining river segments to upper and lower portions to track desirable and invasive submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

Ms. Bryant asked when defining natural systems and changing it from the river in general to the upper and lower portions, how do they plan on presenting the results obtained. Dr. Trowbridge explained the averages for the desirable and invasive SAV would be presented for the upper region separately from the averages for the desirable and invasive SAV for the lower region.

***A motion was made to approve quantifiable objective refinements to replace those currently in the SWIM plans.***

- ***Redefine water clarity as an indicator***
- ***Define water clarity evaluated as headsprings, Estates, Gardens***
- ***Define natural systems evaluated as upper and lower portions***

*The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

7. **Next Meeting: November 9, 2022, 2:00 p.m.**

Ms. Seachrist mentioned District staff will be sending individual overviews of the first springs systems to each of the SCSC and SCMC members in the fall.

8. **Next Meeting: November 9, 2022, 2:00 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.