

MEETING MINUTES  
Springs Coast Management Committee  
August 21, 2019

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., August 21, 2019, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Building 4 Conference Room 112, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

**Members Present**

Tina Malmberg, Citrus County  
Ken Frink, City of Crystal River (via phone)  
Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Bob Titterington, Marion County (via phone)  
Jason Wagman, FWC  
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS (via phone)  
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Rick Owen, State Parks (via phone)  
Curt Williams, Agriculture  
Dave Bruzek, Industry (via phone)  
Sandie Waters, FDEP (via phone)  
Heather Young, Regional Planning Council  
Charles Lee, Environmental

**Members Absent**

Jason Mickel, Pasco County  
Dr. Mauricio Arias, Academia

**SWFWMD Staff**

Randy Smith  
Chris Anastasiou  
Danielle Rogers  
Frank Gargano  
Claire Stapley  
Meagan Finneran  
Matt Vinzant

**Recording Secretary**

Lauren Vossler

**Other**

Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn  
Will Fontaine, FGUA  
Paul Marraffino, FGUA  
Dennis Davis, Wright-Pierce  
Rick Kirby, HCUD  
Joe Kahn, FDEP (via phone)

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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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Approved summaries from previous meetings can be found on the District's website [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org).

**1. Call to Order and Roll**

Mr. Michael Molligan, Employee and External Relations director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

**2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from May 15, 2019**

***A motion was made for approval of May 15, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**3. Public Input**

None.

**4. Action Item: Approve FY2021 Spring Funding Evaluations and Prioritization Process - Danielle Rogers, SWFWMD**

Ms. Danielle Rogers, environmental project manager, provided the members with the proposed process for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Spring funding application and evaluation process. Ms. Rogers informed committee members that the application is similar to last year's, however, forms were added to prompt applicants to fill out further documentation. The process also requires applicants to identify if they are requesting Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) dollars, and the intended funding breakdown if CFI dollars are not awarded to the project.

**a. Project Evaluation Ranking**

**b. Ranking Matrix and Criteria**

*Please note a and b are discussed together in the following paragraphs.*

Ms. Rogers explained the ranking matrix in FY2020 will automatically calculate the ranking of each project. This year's proposal is to put the calculations on the preliminary evaluations based on translating the application and standardizing it.

Ms. Alys Brockway inquired about projects potentially needing additional information from utility directors and whether the preliminary evaluation meeting should be the time to invite applicants to provide the detailed information needed. Ms. Rogers responded in the affirmative, explaining there is an additional meeting scheduled that would allow for applicants to present the requested information if the management committee requests a presentation. After members have seen the preliminary evaluations and have confirmed they do not need any additional information, the extra meeting can be canceled.

Mr. Jason Wagman asked if the preliminary evaluations will have already been reviewed to make sure the applicants are using DEP guidelines for project benefit and cost-effectiveness. Ms. Rogers stated that communication will happen between application submittal and the District staff working with the applications to verify that they follow DEP guidelines or identify other methods that are utilized.

Ms. Rogers provided a recap on the evaluation form that was used and approved by the Steering Committee for FY2020. Ms. Rogers also provided a summary of the approved water quality criteria from the previous fiscal year. She informed members of the criteria they chose for the applications and how they receive a high, medium or low ranking.

Mr. Molligan asked members if they had anything they wanted to add or address moving forward regarding the items that had been presented.

Ms. Heather Young asked whether sewer conversion projects are the only water quality type project where the metric for the Local Match ranking category is applicable regarding the second criteria of: "Customer is paying 100% of the connection costs" and if that criteria is applicable to other water quality projects and questioned if connection costs had previously been defined. Ms. Rogers explained it is the committee's decision how to handle a water quality project that did not necessarily have connection costs associated with it.

Mr. Richard Owen asked how a project would be ranked if it had a local match, but the customer paying is not applicable, would this project be ranked a high or a medium. Ms. Rogers explained the committee needs to decide, that this scenario has not come up yet and that this meeting is the time to address it. Mr. Owen stated it was his opinion the project would be ranked high and not penalize the project for not having a customer component.

Mr. Molligan stated that you try to capture what you expect most projects to be, but that for a project that does not quite fit in the niche then it is for the Committee to decide. Mr. Molligan mentioned from the District's perspective it would be a lot cleaner for the Local Match ranking category to stick with the first criteria which states "Local Match is part of the funding request" and address the second component regarding connection costs in some other way. If the committee is going to keep the second item regarding connection costs, it needs to be defined better for evaluation purposes.

Discussion ensued regarding the local match criteria and requiring the customer to pay 100 percent of the connection cost versus the local governments.

***A motion was made to make the local match category consistent between the water quality and water quantity on the scoring matrix. The motion was seconded and carried 11 in favor and one against.***

***A motion was made that any connection fee paid by an entity other than the State will be considered part of the local match. The motion was not seconded.***

Ms. Rogers provided an overview of the water quantity criteria. A brief description was provided on each category and the prioritization of each group and the ranking. Ms. Rogers asked members if they had any questions regarding the water quantity criteria.

Mr. Owen asked if a project can be located in a Priority Focus Area (PFA) but outside of a BMAP and also inquired about how the project benefit was measured. Ms. Rogers explained all PFA's are located within a Basin Management Action Plan and the project benefit is gallons per day of water saved.

**5. Action Item: Approve Future SCSC Meeting Dates – Danielle Rogers, SWFWMD**

Ms. Rogers discussed the FY2021 applications potentially being available by the end of the month. She also provided members with the proposed FY2021 timeline. Ms. Rogers discussed the anticipated Management Committee and Steering Committee meeting dates.

Mr. Jason Wagman asked if they could theoretically get a natural systems project, not just water quality and water quantity project. Ms. Rogers explained that the project benefit needs to benefit the water discharging out of the spring bank, this could allow room for natural system projects.

***A motion was made to approve future Springs Coast Management Committee meeting dates and the FY2021 Springs funding application and evaluation process. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

**6. Presentation: Weeki Wachee Springs, Summary of Cave Exploration: Matt Vinzant, SWFWMD**

Mr. Matt Vinzant, project manager, discussed his role as the director with Karst Underwater Research. Karst is a not-for-profit organization committed to the exploration, education, and preservation that specializes in challenging dives. Mr. Vinzant explained that Karst topography is a landscape formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone. Acidic water begins to break down the surface of bedrock in joints, forming larger cavities and drainage systems. Mr. Vinzant provided a timeline of the exploration of the Weeki Wachee/Twin Dees cave (divers are only able to enter the entrance during times of extreme drought). The last time Karst was able to enter was in 2012. The Weeki Wachee cave is 407 feet deep, currently making it the deepest cave in Florida. Mr. Vinzant expressed that the dives are about 12 to 16 hours long and divers spend around four hours in the decompression chambers.

Mr. Curt Williams inquired about the number of well casings that have been found in the conduits. Mr. Vinzant explained they found one in Weeki Wachee and have found about a dozen wells in Florida springs.

Mr. Charles Lee inquired about the maximum distance from the spring well that Mr. Vinzant has reached. Mr. Vinzant replied 9,000 feet in the Weeki Wachee cave.

Mr. Williams asked how long they have with the re-breathers before they run out of air. Mr. Vinzant replied it depends on many pounds of scrubber media you have; one pound of scrubber media equals one hour underwater. Personally, Mr. Vinzant's re-breather holds eight pounds and he has completed a 16 1/2-hour drive.

**7. Open Discussion**

Mr. Bob Titterington recommended adding Mr. Will Fontaine from the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) to the Springs Coast Management committee.

***A motion was made to make a recommendation to the Springs Coast Steering Committee to add Mr. Fontaine to the Springs Coast Management Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

Mr. Owen asked if FGUA represent other utilities that would be within this area's springs coast. Mr. Fontaine replied no, however, they do have utilities all over the state of Florida and they are a government entity and authority.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.