



**SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024 – 1:30 PM
VIA TEAMS**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jennette Seachrist, SWFWMD
Sabrinna Utter, City of Crystal River
Bernadine Flood-Nichols, Citrus County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Cisco Pavez, Pasco County
Ken Weaver, FDEP
Austin Burgess, FWC
Andrea Bowling, FWC
Vanessa Bauzo, FDACS
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council
Ilia Balcom, Industry
Rick Owen, State Parks

Staff Members

Vivianna Bendixson
Madison Trowbridge
Virginia Singer
Randy Smith
Carrieann Adkins
Robin Speidel
Talor Greenan
Tammy Plazak
Joe Quinn
Devon Villareal
Catherine Wolden
John Clark

Presenters

Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD
Audrey Looby, Nature Coast Biological Station

Technical and Administrative Support

Jeremy McKay
Candice Harris

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 (SWFWMD) met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., on October 23, 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda

There were no additions or deletions.

3. Action Item: Minutes Approval from July 10, 2024

A motion was made for approval of the July 10, 2024, minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. **Public Input**

None

5. **Presentation: FY2026 FDEP Springs Funding Applications – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, provided a presentation regarding the FY2026 Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Springs Funding Applications. Dr. Trowbridge discussed the FDEP Springs Funding Applications as information with the Committee, reviewing the request summary by Basin Management Action Plan. She further discussed the FDEP Spring funding requests and summary for the SWFWMD region as projects await notification from the FDEP on selection for FY2025 funding. Dr. Trowbridge provided a summary of the six FY2026 applications received and advised preliminary evaluations will be conducted at the December 4, 2024 meeting, final evaluations will be conducted at the February 19, 2025 meeting and applications will be submitted to FDEP in early May 2025 for final consideration. The Springs Coast Management and Steering Committee meeting dates were provided to members as well.

6. **Presentation: SWFWMD Springs Webpages – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Trowbridge presented the new features and data included on the SWFWMD springs' webpages highlighting the new tabs included on the homepage for the Springs Committees, frequently asked questions, graphics and videos, updated narratives and links to other resources.

Ms. Alys Brockway requested the nitrogen levels be listed on the website or accessible via a link on the website. Dr. Trowbridge advised the continuous monitoring data is listed on the website; however, the nutrient monitoring is completed monthly or quarterly so continuous monitoring is not available. Nutrient data is accessible via the Environmental Assessment Reports.

Dr. Trowbridge reviewed the Environmental Assessment Reports that are posted on the website and are updated annually. These reports include data on rainfall and flow, water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation.

7. **Presentation: Hurricane Updates – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Trowbridge advised staff has been monitoring the impacts of the recent hurricanes and a more detailed presentation will be provided at the next Committee meeting. Dr. Trowbridge stated salinity is a major driver of coastal springs and hurricanes have been impacting the Springs Coast for decades; however, each storm is different. Dr. Trowbridge advised that SWFWMD is actively monitoring short and long-term changes of the recent storms through surface water quality monitoring, continuous monitoring stations and submerged vegetation monitoring.

8. **Presentation: Intertidal Soundscapes of Hardened and Living Shorelines – Audrey Looby, Nature Coast Biological Station**

Audrey Looby, with the Nature Coast Biological Station, provided a presentation on The Ecological Importance and Management Applications of Underwater Sounds. Ms. Looby reviewed the background of underwater soundscapes and passive acoustics, provided local examples of fish and ecological monitoring and an overview of what we know and what we don't know. An in-depth overview was provided of the Gulf Toadfish. Gulf toadfish calls can reflect habitats and passive acoustics performed better than a traditional sampling method. The passive acoustics can supplement traditional monitoring methods and soundscape-habitat interactions may support habitat enhancement. Ms. Looby advised that underwater sounds are likely important for a host of ecological functions, ecosystem services and threats within the SWFWMD; however, there is still much to learn about Springs Coast Soundscapes and how passive acoustics can better serve the management needs.

Mr. Austin Burgess asked if there was any knowledge on the use of underwater speakers that will play common reef fish noises to assist with attracting first settlers that may inhabit a community. Ms. Looby advised the technique is called acoustic enrichment and will encourage the settlement of fishes or invertebrates to a certain area.

9. **Open Discussion**

None.

10. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024, via Teams.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.