



**SPRINGS COAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 – 1:30 PM
VIA TEAMS**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jennette Seachrist, SWFWMD
Audra Curts, City of Crystal River
Cory Dilmore, Citrus County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Cisco Pavez, Pasco County
Gerrit Van Lent, Pasco County
Lauren Campbell, FDEP
Michelle Sempstrott, FWC
Vanessa Bauzo, FDACS
Charles Lee, Environmental
Jake Fojtik, Agriculture
Suzy Folsom, Public Supply
Alana Todd, Regional Planning Council
Rick Owen, State Parks

Staff Members

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

Presenters

Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD
Katherine Munson, SWFWMD
Emily Lang, FDEP

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 (District) met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., on December 4, 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

Ms. Jennette Seachrist, Resource Management Director, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda

There were no additions or deletions.

3. Action Item: Minutes Approval from October 23, 2024

A motion was made for approval of the October 23, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. **Public Input**
None

5. **Presentation: FY2026 FDEP Springs Preliminary Evaluations, Preliminary Rankings, and Project Overviews – Dr. Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD**

Dr. Madison Trowbridge, Springs Scientist, reviewed the six applications and provided the Committee with a detailed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 application process, along with the FY2025 Springs Coast Management and Steering Committee timeline.

Mr. Charles Lee asked if the increase in funding to the Pasco County Wesley Chapel Center WWTP Expansion Phase 1 application is occurring due to additional development in the area. Gerrit Van Lent, Pasco County, advised there is an increase in development in the Pasco County area and stated the hope is to increase reclaimed capacity and do advanced wastewater treatment as one of the next phases following the expansion.

Mr. Lee inquired if Pasco County imposes an impact fee that is charged to new subdivisions that are requiring the larger capacity or if funding from the state would be subsidizing new local development. Mr. Van Lent stated that an impact fee is imposed.

Ms. Alys Brockway inquired if the applications would be presented to the Committee by the applicants. Dr. Trowbridge advised that if there is an interest in presentations to be made to the Committee, then that can occur at the January meeting.

Mr. Van Lent provided clarification on the Pasco County application that was provided to the Committee.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee provided consensus to request the applicants provide their presentations at the January 8, 2025 meeting.

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

Dr. Trowbridge advised staff has been monitoring the impacts of the recent hurricanes and provided an overview of how salinity drives submerged aquatic vegetation dynamics in coastal springs. A review of pre- and post-hurricane conditions, water quality data, total rainfall, and water levels was provided.

7. **Presentation: Water 101 – Katherine Munson, SWFWMD**

Katherine Munson, Lead Communications Coordinator, reviewed a presentation on the Water 101 campaign, which assists with educating new and existing residents on how to help protect water resources. Ms. Munson advised the Water 101 for Homeowners website highlights irrigation basics, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, water saving tips, water use calculator, and rebate and grant opportunities along with further information regarding protecting water resources. Ms. Munson advised the Water 101 for Communities website highlights free educational webinars, WISE funding opportunity, irrigation and watering restrictions along with downloadable graphics.

8. **Presentation: Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ – Emily Lang, FDEP**

Emily Lang, FDEP, reviewed the Florida-Friendly Landscaping presentation, advising it provides best practice training and resources for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and community decision makers. The program and its principles are defined in Chapter 373.185 of the Florida Statutes. Ms. Lang provided resources for home gardeners, landscape professionals, and community decision makers. Following the presentation, Ms. Lang stated the CWA 319(h) grant and State Water Quality Assistance grant (SWQA) can fund nonpoint source pollution construction projects and public education projects on a limited basis. Projects funded in the past include rain barrel workshops, Florida-Friendly rebate programs, fertilizer and

irrigation education, demonstration gardens and educational signage, and Green Stormwater Infrastructure pilot projects and monitoring; however, eligible projects must have water quality benefits.

9. **Open Discussion**

None.

10. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024, via Teams.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.