

APPROVED
MEETING SUMMARY

Springs Coast Steering Committee

January 6, 2016

The Springs Coast Steering Committee met at 2:05 p.m., January 6, 2016, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Members Present

Michael Babb, Governing Board Member, Chair
Dennis Damato, Citrus County
Greg D'Angelo for T. Frick, DEP (via telephone)
Stan McClain, Marion County
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County
Jessica Stempien for D. Smith, FDACS
Shannon Wright, FFWCC (via telephone)

Members Absent

Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River

SWFWMD Staff

Chris Anastasiou
Veronica Craw
Mark Hammond
Sean King
Sky Notestein
Danielle Rogers
Jennette Seachrist
Chris Zajac

Others Present

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District
FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FFWCC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

A list of others present who signed the attendance sheet is filed in the permanent files of the Springs Coast Steering Committee.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Babb called the meeting to order. Veronica Craw called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from November 4, 2015

Following consideration, Citrus Commissioner Damato moved for approval, seconded by Marion Commissioner McClain. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Springs Coast Management Committee Update on Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan

a. Action Item: Final Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan – Dr. Sean King, SWFWMD

Dr. King presented the final draft of the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan. He informed the Steering Committee that the Management Committee approved the Plan at its December 15, 2015, meeting. He said the Plan is laid out the same as the Rainbow River Plan with one difference, that being the Steering Committee's comments from the November 2015 meeting were incorporated into the Plan as Appendix G per the Steering Committee's request. Dr. King described some of the main points in the introduction section of the Plan, which covers the springs coast, the Committees and the SWIM Act. He then reviewed the primary issues and drivers described in the Plan. He said sea level rise is a unique issue in this Plan because it's a coastal spring system when compared to the Rainbow River Plan. Other issues included in this Plan are reduced water clarity, altered aquatic vegetation and elevated nitrate concentrations. Dr. King provided a brief overview of the management actions, projects and initiatives for water quality, water quantity and natural systems. He said the Management Actions include quantifiable objectives that are the long term goals for this system. Under the projects and initiatives category, Dr. King reviewed the number of projects that are ongoing and those that

were approved by the Management Committee and considered to be priority proposed projects for each of the categories under water quality, water quantity and natural systems. Upon completion of his presentation, Dr. King asked for the Committee's approval of the Plan as presented.

Citrus Commissioner Damato moved for approval, seconded by Marion Commissioner McClain. The motion passed.

At this point, Hernando Commissioner Nicholson joined the meeting.

4. Public Role Out Scenarios for Rainbow River and Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plans – Veronica Craw, SWFWMD

Ms. Craw outlined the process the District is following for the approval of the Rainbow River and Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plans. She said the Management Committee approved the final Rainbow River Plan in September and this Committee approved the final Plan in November. Ms. Craw stated that she and Chris Zajac have been working to gain local support of the Plan in the form of resolutions. She said the District has received resolutions in support of the Plan from the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority and Marion County. She planned to go to the City of Dunnellon seeking their support as well.

The plan is to then take those resolutions of support, together with the Plans, and present them to the District's Governing Board at its March 16 meeting. If the Governing Board approves the Plan, the Plan will then be forwarded to DEP for official approval, which is required because this is a SWIM plan.

Ms. Craw said that a similar timeline will apply for approval of the Crystal River/Kings Bay SWIM Plan. The Management Committee approved the Plan in December and this Committee just approved the Plan. The District will be reaching out to the Withlacoochee Regional Water Authority and to Citrus County and the City of Crystal River for resolutions in support of the Plan. The Plan will be presented to the District's Governing Board at its March 16 meeting, together with the Rainbow Plan, and then to DEP for official approval after that.

This is an information only item and no action is requested.

5. Expansion of Committee – Veronica Craw, SWFWMD

Ms. Craw presented a map showing the first magnitude springsheds with an overlay of the county jurisdictions. She said that when the District was developing the Springs Coast Steering Committee, it focused on inviting local governments that have springs within their jurisdiction. Since the Crystal River/Kings Bay and Rainbow plans are done, District staff, the technical working group and the Management Committee will be working on developing the Homosassa, Chassahowitzka and Weeki Wachee plans. The Weeki Wachee springshed extends south into Pasco County. The District has invited Pasco County staff to participate in the technical working group in the efforts for Weeki Wachee. Ms. Craw said she wanted to bring up for discussion the potential for expanding the Steering Committee to include Pasco County since the springshed extends into their jurisdiction. She said a lot of the projects that were developed and incorporated in the Rainbow and Kings Bay SWIM Plans are focusing and being implemented in the springshed so Pasco may become a player for Weeki Wachee if the SWIM Plan includes projects in their jurisdiction.

Ms. Craw said there is no staff recommendation, this is for discussion purposes.

Chair Babb asked if Pasco has stressed any interest in being on this Committee. Ms. Craw said that the District has not engaged Pasco at this time nor have they reached out to the District. Currently,

discussions have been at staff level only for the technical working group. The District has not reached out to their County administrator or commissioners.

Chair Babb asked for the Committee's input or thoughts on including Pasco County to have a seat and a voice on the Committee. Marion Commissioner McClain said several years ago there was a lot of discussion about the springs. His opinion was that if it was in the county, it should be the responsibility of the county to take care of the springs. He feels that it is difficult for one county to manage the springshed by themselves if it crosses over boundaries. As it relates to springs, he thinks it would be good to have the conversation with Pasco County.

Commissioner Nicholson said if Pasco has to pass any regulations or do anything to help benefit the watershed, he thinks they should be part of the discussion. He doesn't think it would be fair not to include them if they're expected to do something.

Commissioner Damato concurs with Commissioner Nicholson. He asked Ms. Craw where she came up with a line on the map running down from Pasco to San Antonio and if it is part of the springshed. Ms. Craw advised that the springshed map lines are based on the potentiometric surfaces in the ground water, so they do fluctuate; they are general boundaries based on the way the ground water flows. Commissioner Damato agreed that Pasco County should be engaged.

Chair Babb expressed his agreement with the comments made by the others in the Committee. He asked Ms. Craw to reach out to Pasco and bring the matter back to the Steering Committee in April.

6. Public Input

None

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Damato moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McClain. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.