

MEETING MINUTES

Springs Coast Management Committee

June 8, 2016

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting was convened at 1:06 p.m., June 8, 2016, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Conference Rooms 112 A & B, Building 4, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Members Present

David Bruzek, Industry
David Burnell and Lou Kneip, City of Crystal River
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Brian Katz, FDEP
Kevin Kemp, FFWCC
Charles Lee, Environmental
Flip Mellinger, Pasco County
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD
Mahmood Nachabe, Academia (via telephone)
Richard Owen, Public Supply
Rick Owen, State Parks (via telephone)
Ray Scott, FDACS
Tracy Straub, Marion County (via telephone)
Curt Williams, Agriculture
Avera Wynne, Regional Planning Council

Members Absent

Alys Brockway, Hernando County

SWFWMD Staff

Chris Anastasiou
Sky Notestein
Danielle Rogers
Jennette Seachrist

Others Present

Andy & Terri Auner, HELP
Linda De Jonge, SWFWMD
Kym Holzward, SWFWMD
Fritz Musselmann, Interested Party

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 Management Committee.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Michael Molligan called the meeting to order. A quorum was noted.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from April 13, 2016

Mr. Ken Cheek moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Richard Owen. The motion passed.

3. Public Input

Mr. Andy Auner, representing HELP, thanked the Committee for what it is doing to try to save the rivers. He said his understanding is that this meeting is to approve the draft of the Weeki Wachee

report. He said he read the report but, he didn't get a sense of urgency on getting things done for the river. He said he's on the river every day and he can see it going downhill. He said it seems like things are going pretty slowly and he thinks it's very important to get moving on the river and start to get the nitrates down and the other items under control.

Dr. Chris Anastasiou clarified that this is the first draft of the Plan presented to the Management Committee, and the Committee is not being asked to approve the Plan until two meetings from now. There is still time to make edits and adjustments accordingly.

At this time, it was acknowledged that Ray Scott, representing FDACS, and Curt Williams, representing Florida Farm Bureau, joined the meeting.

4. Identification of Priority Management Actions

Dr. Anastasiou presented a series of three action items, which are the priority management actions. The management actions will be looked at and the specific actions from each of the three focus areas -- water quality, water quantity and natural systems -- will be picked as priority management actions.

Dr. Anastasiou presented graphics and went over the primary issues that were approved by the Management Committee at its February 10 meeting, which were then approved by the Steering Committee at its April 6 meeting. To familiarize the Committee with the issues that have been identified, Dr. Anastasiou presented a table identifying the primary issues for each of the three systems, which have already been approved.

Mr. Charles Lee questioned Dr. Anastasiou's statement that salinity changes are driven by sea level rise, like rainfall patterns. Mr. Lee said he presumed by saying rainfall patterns, that translates into reduced spring flow. Dr. Anastasiou confirmed that is what he meant. Mr. Lee asked if there is any quantification that would sort out the degree of contribution to the salinity increases that reduced flow from the springs are contributing versus the sea level rise. Dr. Anastasiou said that the District is still trying to figure out a way to quantify how much of it is due to flow patterns as opposed to sea level rise.

Mr. Lee said that sea level rise is a global issue; he's not sure there is much within the scope of recommendations that could come out of this Plan that is going to affect sea level rise. On the other hand, the possibility that you may affect or reduce the flow in the springs within the scope of this Committee's work is much greater.

Dr. Anastasiou said that even though salinity was decided by the Management and Steering Committees to be put under water quality as an issue, it really fits in the natural systems category. Dr. Anastasiou said we can't really affect a change in the salinity levels but we can look at the habitat in an effort to help the system to become more hardened to increases in salinity.

Mr. Lee said he's not sure he believes that rainfall changes is the only driver and it seems the reduced flow of springs is going to be affected by increases in groundwater withdrawals in the vicinity of these springs.

Dr. Anastasiou said these are the primary issues but, that is not to suggest that these are the only issues and the Plan reflects that. Water withdrawal is a component of the Plan but the Management and Steering Committees chose to elevate this particular issue as a primary issue for water quantity.

Prior to presenting the priority management actions for each of the three systems, Dr. Anastasiou reminded the Committee that they have already approved the management actions. He went through

the actions that have already been identified that will be in the Plan. He also presented the actions that the Committee may want to consider as priority management actions.

Mr. Michael Molligan clarified that the actions presented by Dr. Anastasiou are going to stay in the Plan. He said these are the actions that the Management Committee and the Steering Committee believe are the actions that should be focused on as the highest priority. Mr. Molligan said there will be a sentence in the document referencing which actions are the priority issues.

a. Action Item: Homosassa Priority Management Actions – Dr. Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD

Dr. Anastasiou said there is not yet a pie chart for Homosassa or Chassahowitzka and there is a draft for Weeki Wachee. He said when DEP publishes a pie chart for Homosassa, septic tanks and urban/residential fertilizers will more than likely be two of the large players. He said that's why the District suggested septic tanks and urban fertilizer as two priority management actions for water quality. Dr. Anastasiou said the Committee will vote on putting a sentence in the Plan that appears at the bottom of the slide he presented and those two actions, or whichever actions the Committee chooses, will be put in as the priority management actions.

Mr. Michael Molligan suggested that the Committee try not to name more than three items as the proposed priority management actions. Dr. Anastasiou confirmed that there were no more than three for each section in the previous Plans.

Mr. Charles Lee asked, with regard to the Homosassa River and the extent of the spring shed in Homosassa, are there any concentrated agricultural sources, such as dairies, feed lots, chicken farms or anything similar, that are prominent in the Homosassa spring shed. Mr. Jeff Rogers said he thought that M & B Dairy was in the Homosassa spring shed but it's right on the line.

Dr. Anastasiou asked Mr. Brian Katz with DEP when the nitrogen source pie charts would be available for Homosassa. Mr. Katz said it would probably be the beginning of September. He said they're working on completing Weeki Wachee; next will be Homosassa, Chassahowitzka and Aripeka.

Dr. Anastasiou asked the Committee to keep in mind that even if the management actions are approved today, they can always be changed. He said this Plan won't be done by September so, it can be revisited if it is discovered that one category is higher than another.

Mr. Lee said he agrees with the actions listed but questions whether a third action should be added that would relate to the M & B Dairy if its location in the spring shed plays a role as a well identified contributor. He said it may be a smaller percentage than urban fertilizer or septic tanks, but it's also a concentrated operation at one location where you could do something that would quickly take care of a percentage of things.

Mr. Michael Molligan said both of the water quality management actions can be updated in September when the pie charts become available. The priority actions can always be altered.

Mr. Jeff Rogers said he pulled up some information which indicates that M & B Dairy is in the Chassahowitzka spring shed area, right on the edge.

Mr. Michael Molligan said that these are the two actions that are up for consideration. The plan is to go through the three areas -- water quality, water quantity and natural systems -- and approve for each system individually.

Dr. Anastasiou presented the proposed management actions for water quantity as recommended by the District to be conservation and minimum flows and levels.

Under natural systems, Dr. Anastasiou said the two actions the District suggests as proposed priority management actions are monitoring and research and habitat restoration.

Ms. Tracy Straub asked why those two items outweigh invasive species management. Dr. Anastasiou said there is a general lack of vegetation in the Homosassa River. He said it's not so much that it's an invasive species, it's that there is very little SAV in the river itself. He said the District is looking at restoration. He said invasive species management includes things like spraying or controlling things like hydrilla and, to his knowledge, there isn't a large invasive species management program in the Homosassa River. Mr. Molligan pointed out that invasive species management is on the list as a management action, it's just not listed as a priority management action.

Dr. Anastasiou requested approval of the priority management actions for the Homosassa River SWIM Plan. Mr. Flip Mellinger moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Charles Lee. The motion passed.

b. Action Item: Chassahowitzka Priority Management Actions – Dr. Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD

Dr. Anastasiou presented to the Committee the proposed priority management actions for the Chassahowitzka River and said the water quality and water quantity actions are the same as those proposed for the Homosassa River. The proposed actions for natural systems are monitoring and research and habitat conservation. He said the Technical Working Group (TWG) thought the priority was more in line with habitat conservation rather than restoration. Because there is a fair amount of SAV in Chassahowitzka and a big part of the river flows through public lands, there isn't much in the way of development or altered shoreline, except in the upper portion where the spring head is and the canal system just up river of the head spring pool. Dr. Anastasiou said the focus is to protect what we have and improve where we can and start looking at impacts that might be seen with increases in salinity.

Dr. Anastasiou requested approval of the priority management actions presented for the Chassahowitzka River SWIM Plan. Mr. Charles Lee moved to approve; seconded by Mr. Kevin Kemp.

Mr. Auner (?) commented that he recently observed that flow is down quite a bit on the Chassahowitzka. He said the spring that's called "the crack" (?) no longer flows; the area by the springs near the yoga studio (?) where the water used to bubble up hardly has any motion at all anymore and it's covered with lyngbya. Dr. Anastasiou asked to get with Mr. Auner afterwards so he can pass along that information to the District's water quality staff.

Mr. Michael Molligan called the motion, which passed.

c. Action Item: Weeki Wachee Priority Management Actions – Dr. Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD

Dr. Anastasiou presented the Committee with the proposed priority management actions for the Weeki Wachee River for water quality, which are the same as for the other systems. He also discussed the proposed pie chart.

Mr. Fritz Musselmann asked about stormwater. Dr. Anastasiou said the DEP pie chart doesn't include stormwater and that may need to be discussed more. He said stormwater wasn't included in the Homosassa or Chassahowitzka Plan because it wasn't thought to be a big component. For Weeki Wachee, that might need to be discussed if it's thought that stormwater is a significant enough component. Dr. Anastasiou said there are definitely issues in localized areas but, as a whole, it is thought that with the priority issue being nitrate, it is coming largely from the spring itself.

Mr. Musselmann said he agrees with the management actions that are recommended. He said in a previous report, it stated that stormwater was an issue at the former attraction. He said it seems that if you can do a project as suggested, like on a parking lot, and make it a demonstration project, that would be something the public could see as making improvements for springs. Mr. Musselmann said he looked at the various documents generated throughout the state on springs from DEP to the WMDs, and there's a lot of talk about developing and researching over the years since around 2007, and he thinks it's time to get out there and show the public what can be done to improve the water quality in our springs and he thinks that's a perfect opportunity to do that sort of thing.

Dr. Anastasiou said he thinks that's a great discussion for when we get to the projects meeting; it's a very important project that should be featured.

Mr. Jeff Rogers asked if nitrogen runoff into the water wouldn't be mostly under urban/residential. He always considered those two to be somewhat the same unless you're talking about sedimentation or something else with stormwater.

Dr. Anastasiou reminded the Committee that stormwater is very important in the headsprings of the river so when you look at the projects and prioritize those projects, that is something to keep in mind. When you see a project for stormwater in the parking lot of the headsprings area, it's not a priority management action but it's a really important project for that location so you may choose to make it a priority project.

Mr. Musselmann said it is his understanding that the District is going to start the stormwater retrofit of the kayak launch area. Dr. Anastasiou confirmed that's an ongoing project. Mr. Musselmann said that sets precedent that the District is trying to work on stormwater at the spring head. He said that was another reason why he thought the District should move forward. Dr. Anastasiou said that's a good point because in the prioritization process, one of the considerations is if there are projects that are ongoing, it makes sense to prioritize follow up projects.

Dr. Anastasiou said the management actions are the same for water quality as for the other two systems. He said conservation is a priority, but it's the only one listed as a priority action unless the Committee feels that others should be added. He said the MFL was already adopted.

Mr. Jeff Rogers asked when the MFL was adopted. Ms. Jennette Seachrist said there is not a re-evaluation requirement for the Weeki Wachee; so, there is not one scheduled.

Mr. Auner (?) said it states in the report that we were already at the minimum flow for Weeki Wachee. It allowed for ten percent and it was already at ten percent in 2008. Dr. Anastasiou said that was adjusted down because of reduction of water withdrawal in the last few years; it was down to seven percent.

Mr. Richard Owen said in reading the draft SWIM Plan, it identifies that up to ten percent reduction in flow attributable to withdrawals is what the MFL would allow and it is at seven percent. It goes on to say that public supply is 78 percent of that withdrawal and the majority of that and the other numbers aren't adding up consistently. Mr. Owen said he wondered if alternative water supply should be included knowing that TBW's wellfield is contributing almost 50 percent of the withdrawals for public supply in this spring shed. He said they are farther away from the spring than Hernando County Utilities but, the way spring sheds have been described, it's almost like a bathtub where it really shouldn't matter, all the rainfall in that spring shed winds up going out at the Weeki Wachee spring complex and whether you withdraw close to the spring or further away, it really doesn't matter; however, he said he wasn't sure that's what the model would show. Knowing that, Mr. Owen said

TBW has alternatives to using this well field. He said it's not development of new alternative water supplies, it's a policy of using your alternative water supplies.

Mr. Charles Lee acknowledged that Mr. Owen is basically suggesting an approach that would nudge TBW to phase out or reduce the use of this wellfield and use other alternatives that they could make available to themselves. Mr. Owen said he didn't know if what TBW is doing is legal, but they're not exceeding any criteria. Mr. Mellinger acknowledged that is correct -- they are not exceeding the permit. Mr. Owen said that there is a local sources first policy embedded in the statutes, which he doesn't think ever contemplated looking at impacts that go beyond the territory that local source is on. He said it talks about withdrawal points but the impacts are clearly reaching up here. He said he was surprised to see such a large percentage of withdrawals in the spring shed are for TBW. At a minimum he suggested asking the District to model to determine how much of the reduction is attributable to the Cross Bar Ranch Wellfield. Mr. Owen acknowledged that TBW has reduced pumpage at Crossbar but, he said they are still pumping millions of gallons a day. He suggested maybe the District could tell how much TBW's pumping contributes to the reductions and maybe have a discussion on setting a goal of limiting it to a certain amount. Mr. Owen said this does mean there's less water for Hernando County or other users in the area available even though there is still a three percent left of greater impact.

Mr. Owen said he is wondering if alternative supply should be elevated to the priority list.

Mr. Charles Lee said he believes we should. Mr. Flip Mellinger agreed for Hernando as well. After further discussion on the matter, Mr. Charles Lee moved to add alternative water supply to the list of proposed priority management actions. Mr. Richard Owen seconded the motion.

Mr. Jeff Rogers commented that you can add alternative water supply, which is something else to prioritize but, he said to Mr. Owen that it sounds like his issue is he doesn't want TBW to take more of the groundwater flow from the spring shed. He discussed the MFL limits and when they get closer to the MFL is when you're going to have a regulatory reason to take it away. Right now he doesn't see how they can ask them to use something else when it's permitted and by statute they have the right to do this. When you check the MFL again in five or ten years, and you check in when you get closer because TBW keeps taking more water, then you're going to have a reason to say you have another source, you're getting too close to the MFL and there can be a solution. Mr. Rogers said he's just trying to think of how they can make TBW use alternative sources.

Mr. Flip Mellinger said TBW's permit already requires them to start using more surface water or to use the desal plant when there's impacts. He said he is all for adding alternative water supply in as long as everyone agrees. Mr. Jeff Rogers said if they don't check the MFL, then how will they force TBW to start taking water from somewhere else. Mr. Mellinger said he thinks that TBW has already developed their alternative water supplies so, as long as Hernando does the same thing, then we're all in the same pool.

Mr. Charles Lee asked to call the question and if anyone objects to adding alternative water supply to the list. Mr. Molligan; called the motion; which passed.

Mr. Molligan said this is about the priority management action and the other issue is about how it affects TBW. He thinks what he's hearing is that you have a system where you're using up to 70 percent of what is allowed to be used as far as impacts and because of that, you need to be looking at some alternatives so you don't hit against that ceiling.

Mr. Charles Lee said that 70 percent is a number that he wanted to mention particularly with regard to Weeki Wachee. He said he's thinking about a different 70 percent and referred to household water

use, somewhere around 70 percent is what is used outside of the house with watering lawns. A particular feature of the Weeki Wachee River spring shed is that it includes Spring Hill, which was built at a time where almost everyone had irrigation wells. He said they are prolific in that area, so whatever is being used in potable water through the public water supply, there is an additional amount that is not being very well monitored or accounted for because the wells are below the regulatory threshold. He says there are tens of thousands of self-supply irrigation wells in Spring Hill and you can't just count the number of houses and divide by two and say that's the number of wells out there.

Mr. Ken Cheek said there is a similar issue in Sugar Mill Woods, maybe not to that degree but, they have a lot of wells too.

Mr. Richard Owen said that the wells in Spring Hill are accounted for in the District's evaluation of water withdrawal. Mr. Lee said nobody is monitoring the amount of individual two-inch wells, whether people are running them 24 hours a day or hardly ever using them, it's just not a known fact of what's going on. Mr. Owen said he was not disagreeing, he just said that Hernando County has a good enforcement program with their one day per week lawn watering. They have a local ordinance that has been in place for five years or more.

Mr. Michael Molligan asked if there was any more discussion on the priority management actions, citing that alternative water supply was added.

Mr. Jeff Rogers said that he thinks MFLs should be added. He said he didn't know how you could do alternative water supply and not maintain the flows. Mr. Richard Owen responded that he thought the MFLs in the other water bodies were to establish and check them. They put in the rule that they had to come back and re-evaluate in five years and check them because they adopted something that was not recommended by the staff. Mr. Owen said that is what distinguishes Chassahowitzka and Homosassa. It was confirmed that there is not a time established to check those levels. Ms. Jennette Seachrist said it is being tracked regularly. Mr. Owen asked if that has resulted in any kind of published report. Ms. Seachrist said she thought so and she would find out and let him know. Mr. Owen said in the Tampa Bay Region, the District previously included in its monthly Board packet a report on how well the MFLs in that region were being met, but he noticed that has stopped. Mr. Owen said there are some conflicting messages going out where when the District puts out that hydrologic conditions are normal or above normal in some cases, but never reports that there are still some MFLs in the Tampa Bay region that are not being met. Dr. Anastasiou said he would check on that.

Dr. Anastasiou presented the proposed priority management actions for natural systems, which are habitat restoration and recreation management. He said within the habitat restoration category, there is a subcategory, which is sediment muck management because one of the primary issues for Weeki Wachee is sedimentation. Dr. Anastasiou said recreation was an issue that was also discussed at length with the TWG as being a big issue in the Weeki Wachee River so that's why that issue would be elevated to a priority management action.

Mr. Musselmann asked how recreation management is characterized. Dr. Anastasiou said there are three management actions listed in the SWIM Plan, which are to increase the presence of law enforcement to enforce existing ordinances/rules; establish and implement comprehensive recreation management plans and promote low impact ecotourism activities. Dr. Anastasiou said the Committee would have a chance to prioritize these actions at the August meeting.

Mr. Musselmann said that in the State's fiscal year 2012 - 2013, there were 31,604 kayaks and canoes disbursed from the State park. In 2014 - 2015, there were 75,254. Mr. Musselmann said it's interesting to watch these people go down side by side in their kayaks. He said if you're going to

have natural systems out on the Weeki Wachee, something needs to be done about that. He said he is seeing a great deal of deterioration in the river and he feels the District needs to stop allowing this deterioration to go on.

Mr. Auner added that habitat restoration and recreation management go hand in hand because of the recreation and the number of people that are on the river and the sediment that is formed when people get out of their kayaks and walk around in the muck. He said that this passed Memorial Day, the upper river was completely black and when he put a Secchi disk in, it was up 1.5 feet. He said there weren't that many motor boats, there were just a lot of people there and that results in covering up the vegetation and people walking around in the vegetation. There are a lot of sections where there is no more vegetation on the banks that used to have it.

Mr. Charles Lee asked since the depth of the sediment that now prevails over the bottom of what was once the natural river is so great, would it be justified to come in with a suction dredge and suck it out so the water was no longer shallow enough for people to get out of their kayaks and stir that up on the bottom. He suggested that if the sediment were removed down to the original bottom contour of the river, then people won't be getting out of their kayaks there and there might be a better chance for the vegetation to re-establish. He asked if the situation warrants a mechanical project like that as an option.

Mr. Musselmann said that in the upper part of the river, there are a lot of curves and bends but, he thinks the sedimentation and sand build ups in those areas are natural and people are going to get out. He said he thought if the number of people going down the river were limited a little better and if they were given a little education when they rent the kayak initially, they might treat the river a little bit better. He said Mr. Lee's suggestion might be good for downstream but, in his view, not in the upper portion. Mr. Musselmann said that's the only natural looking part of the river that's left.

Mr. Lee asked if there has been any interaction with the manager of the Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. Mr. Musselmann said the State Park has submitted a project to the District to do a carrying capacity study, which is something he would like to see get done.

Mrs. Auner said that the State Park is in the process of changing over its vendors. She said she spoke with the gentleman who is in charge of the kayak area and suggested if everyone agreed, they could reduce the percentage of rentals and charge more, thereby reducing the percentage or rentals. He said he would be willing to do that if everyone else agreed. However, Mrs. Auner said that after she spoke with gentleman about that, the State made them buy 100 more kayaks.

Mr. Musselmann said the carrying capacity study is something that needs to be done so that you could bring in all the people to public as well as the businesses that have the kayaks and have a discussion and do it fairly.

Mr. Rick Owen said the Weeki Wachee and Homosassa are managed from two different districts. Homosassa is one of his parks. He said he's a district biologist and agrees with the comments that a carrying capacity study would be very useful for the Weeki Wachee. He said he has been in contact with the district biologist for that park he is taking notes and passing them along. He said he recommended earlier in the process that he knew there would be this kind of assessment done on the parks and recommended that Chris Becker be involved. He is the district biologist in charge of that region. Mr. Owen said he is keeping Mr. Becker in the loop and will make sure he understands what is being discussed.

Ms. Danielle Rogers said that Chris Becker is part of the TWG and has participated in the development of this SWIM Plan. Mr. Rick Owen said that would be the best source of information for

Weeki Wachee if there isn't a representative at that park. Dr. Anastasiou said they would want him to engage the new park manager at the TWG level as well.

Mr. Michal Molligan asked for recommendations or changes to approve the priority management action items, with the addition of alternative water supply. Mr. Richard Owen moved; seconded by Mr. Ken Cheek. Motion passed.

5. 1st Draft Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan – Danielle Rogers, SWFWMD

Ms. Danielle Rogers presented a general overview of the first draft of the Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan. She said the Plan is similar to the Kings Bay and Rainbow River Plans. She said for draft one, the executive summary and priority proposed projects sections are left blank because there is work to be done and decisions to be made by the Management Committee. First are the priority management actions set today. At the next meeting, the Committee will set the priority proposed projects, which are all components of the executive summary; the priority proposed projects have their own section.

Ms. Rogers said the introduction provides a general overview of the Springs Coast Steering Committee, the Management Committee and the TWGs. It then goes over the general system description of Weeki Wachee. She reviewed the three components of what makes a healthy spring – water quality, water quantity and natural systems. She said that pretty much everything has been divided up into those three categories. She said the primary issues were approved by the Management Committee in February and by the Steering Committee in April. She identified the primary issues, which for water quality are nitrate enrichment, for water quantities it is the potential decrease in historical flows and for natural systems, the priority issues were identified to be altered aquatic vegetation and sedimentation.

Ms. Rogers reviewed the draft BMAP charts showing nitrate source loading, which pinpoints septic tanks as one of the primary nutrient loaders and the nitrate trend graph showing that it's increasing with time. She then reviewed flow charts in the river and groundwater use trend graphs showing that it's decreasing over time; altered aquatic vegetation showing where we're at with the percent coverage of desirable species versus invasives. She presented two aerials showing the sedimentation issue from 1968 compared to 2013, which shows white sand accumulation on the river.

Ms. Rogers reviewed the quantifiable objectives that have been approved by the Management Committee; the management actions, which were previously approved, and the priority management actions, which the Committee approved at this meeting.

In the projects and initiatives section, Ms. Rogers presented a graphic showing the ongoing projects, which are projects that are already funded, and the priority proposed projects. She said that all of the proposed projects that were submitted by the TWG are included in the Appendix for now. Ms. Rogers said at the next Management Committee meeting, the task will be to approve which ones the Committee wants to be moved into the priority proposed project section.

Ms. Rogers presented graphs demonstrating how many, in the water quality by management action, how many projects there are in the ongoing section versus proposed. Ms. Rogers said the message is to understand, based on what's been submitted so far, what do we have that's funded, what do we have that people are suggesting or that will the Committee be prioritizing in the future, as compared to what the priority management actions are.

Ms. Rogers said for water quantity there are 17 ongoing projects in conservation. There are five habitat conservation projects proposed for natural systems.

Ms. Rogers provided to the Committee an example of what a typical proposed project write up will look like. She said the next steps for the Plan is the priority project selection meeting on August 10. She requested the Committee members come to that meeting ready to say which projects should be a priority proposed project. Next, the first draft of the priority proposed projects will be presented to the Steering Committee on October 5. On October 12, the Management Committee will review the second draft of the report, which will include the executive summary, the priority proposed section completed based on what the Committee approved and it should be the version of the Plan that the Committee is ready to approve at that point. The plan is that the Committee will be ready to approve the Plan in December so that it can then go to the Steering Committee for their approval.

Ms. Rogers identified some questions that she suggested the Committee members ask themselves in considering the priority project selection.

Mr. Molligan explained that because the TWG does not meet in the Sunshine, they cannot make recommendations to the Committees. Anything that is recommended is automatically forwarded up to this Committee and ends up in the Appendix identifying those projects. The challenge to getting those projects is when we look at them, does it address something that needs to be addressed and how well thought out is it. He said you may like the idea of the project but you don't have enough information yet to make a decision. Because of the time line, we don't really have the time to take these projects and ask to develop more information on the projects before we vote on it. There might be a little time between two meetings but all of these projects need to be rewritten so, if they're not ready, they're not ready – maybe they'll be ready next time. It doesn't mean that if they end up in the Appendix, that someone isn't going to choose to implement it. That doesn't stop anyone from implementing a project if in the process, someone develops enough information to make it a good project.

Ms. Rogers said that for the proposed projects for Weeki Wachee, there were 29 as of last week and several more have been submitted since then. She said FDACS has proposed several to include and since the Homosassa TWG projects meeting last week, there were projects submitted that were county-wide that the District didn't catch that would also apply to Weeki Wachee, which the District wants to add to this Plan. The strategy to get the information for the proposed projects is next month a final proposed projects list will be sent to the Committee and that is what should be reviewed to use at the next meeting.

Mr. Richard Owen asked Ms. Rogers what is she referring to when she said county-wide initiatives and what county is she referring to. She said she was referring to Citrus because we just had the Homosassa TWG meeting last week. But not necessarily including Weeki Wachee.

Mr. Ray Scott asked if the Management Committee would still have the option following the Committee's review of the projects to adjust the priority management actions. Mr. Molligan said that the Committee can make changes to the priority management actions at any point until the Plan is finalized. He said the idea is once the new pie charts are done, they should show perspectives for water quality, and then we can come back and review. Mr. Molligan said from his perspective, he doesn't think the projects drive the management actions, the management actions drive the projects. Everything that is recommended ends up in the Appendix and if we're only talking about determining which ones move up into the body of the document to follow the ongoing projects, then they will be the ones that have been identified and looked at and these are the ones that should be looked at.

There was further discussion regarding the process of clarifying the projects.

Mr. Fritz Musselmann asked when the budgetary discussion comes into play. He said the Committee can recommend projects but, how big is the pot of money and does that pot of money for each project

have to be matched by another agency or group or is the District going to take the initiative and do some projects on its own?

Mr. Michael Molligan explained that this is a multi-agency group developing the SWIM Plan. It's not just a SWIM Plan, it's a springs plan. By including these things in the Plan, it's not necessarily saying that the District is funding them. He said when identifying the projects, it tells who would be the lead on some of the projects so the actual funding for these projects would be whoever would be the normal people funding those types of projects. Mr. Molligan said we're just identifying the projects to help shape their budgetary decisions to formulate their budgets and identifying what projects they want. Mr. Molligan explained that it's still individual agencies and organizations doing the things that they do but they have some direction and focus because we have a plan identifying the things we should be focusing on.

Mr. Musselmann said he's having a hard time getting an answer to the latter part of his question and that is, is the District going to go forward in the future or can this group or can the Steering Committee, or someone at some point in time, make a recommendation that the Governing Board take a look at funding some of the projects on its own as opposed to looking for matching funds so that some of these projects can get under way.

Mr. Molligan said the District funds a lot of springs projects both with District money and State money, sometimes with a partner and sometimes not. Sometimes it might be one of the other agencies doing the project. The District is not waiting to fund projects to get this done or only funding projects if we have a partner to help pay for it. Ms. Jennette Seachrist said some of the projects that will be included in these upcoming plans are priority initiative projects where the District is either funding solely or has a partner in funding. Ms. Seachrist explained that the process is a little different on setting up these SWIM Plans for the springs systems. She said the District is following the National Estuary Program model for the CCMP. She said those are bringing all the partners together to identify projects, not necessarily who is going to implement them but agencies that could potentially implement them.

Mr. Musselmann commented that it was always his view that the water management district oversaw water resources and he thought the five first magnitude springs in the District would be a water resource that the water management district would really apply itself to. He said he sees it going on but he's just not seeing the District step up and put up the funding that it has the ability to raise towards projects as it did in the past. Mr. Musselmann said he understood the reasons for the reduction in the District's budget but, he would hope that the District could find its way to fund some of these projects.

Ms. Seachrist said this is actually looking further beyond the water management districts' statutory authority. She said the District is expanding so that it can identify all of the management actions needed. She said one of the things is septic conversion, if we are trying to expand it's looking a lot more comprehensively than we have historically. It is going to take more than just the water management district to make all these approvals.

Dr. Anastasiou said this is not an action item so, we are not asking for a vote.

Ms. Rogers asked the Committee if it has reviewed the Plan and if it has any comments, they should bring them up at this meeting. She said if there is anything significant or substantial, it needs to be discussed at the publicly noticed meetings. She said if there are any typographical errors, they should be sent directly to her by July 6. If there are questions or someone wants additional information, she should be notified so the Committee can be prepared for the next Management Committee meeting.

Mr. Richard Owen asked if there are project ideas regarding the alternative water supply priority actions that are not on the table right now and how would those get on the table. Ms. Rogers said you can submit the project information and it will be included in the Appendix and then it would be up to the Management Committee at the projects meeting to decide if it gets elevated up to the priority proposed projects.

Dr. Anastasiou said the projects cards could be filled out and submitted to Ms. Rogers. That would get the project on the master spreadsheet which would be presented for discussion. Dr. Anastasiou said he would send out the project cards. Mr. Charles Lee asked to include the draft Plan again with the cards. Ms. Rogers said the pdf is posted to the District's webpage and the Word version is currently on the District's FTP site. She told the Committee when they are notified that it's out there, to download it quickly or it will be gone. Mr. Molligan suggested resending a link so that everyone can find it.

Ms. Rogers said that since the draft of the Plan has gone out, FDACS has submitted several additional projects, which will be included in the final proposed project sheet that will be sent out next month.

Dr. Anastasiou asked Mr. Richard Owen to talk again about the pie chart he brought up previously and the write up regarding water quantity. Mr. Owen said there are a few inconsistencies in how the numbers are being calculated regarding the percentage of groundwater withdrawals and to which wellfields they are attributable. He said public supply demand is still the largest user. He said it is unclear where it talks about the seven percent reduction attributable to groundwater withdrawals in long-term discharge and how those groundwater withdrawals are measured. He asked if it is some form of a long-term average or is it the 2013 value. Mr. Owen suggested it might be good to go through the text and look at what values it is referring to; is it 2013 or some other specific year or, is it a long-term average? He said as he tried to understand how the withdrawals in the spring shed are contributing to the reduction, he found it a little inconsistent between the text and the pie chart. He also said withdrawals are contributing seven percent over long-term discharge reduction but he couldn't find anywhere where it talks about what is the total reduction.

Ms. Rogers asked if he wants a CFS number. He said his main issue is with the withdrawals. Dr. Chris Anastasiou asked Mr. Owen to summarize what he just discussed and to send it to him. Dr. Anastasiou said we will be sure to address that in the text and confirm that the numbers are matching up.

Mr. Richard Owen had another question on what is currently a water quantity management action. He referred to page 46, table 7, under conservation, public and self-supply, the fifth item down: Improve infrastructure efficiency. He asked if that is improving the public supply infrastructure efficiency in the spring shed to have less loss. He said he wasn't aware of them having any kind of loss in this area. Where did that come from?

Dr. Anastasiou responded that he thought that was just a carryover from the Rainbow and Crystal Plans. Mr. Owen said he was not aware of any issue in this area requiring any kind of management action. Dr. Anastasiou said he didn't recall there being a project that addresses that. Mr. Ken Cheek said in Homosassa, Citrus County submitted a couple of sewer projects, not water projects.

Mr. Molligan clarified that in the Weeki Wachee Plan under the water quantity management actions, one of them is conservation and under conservation we've identified this improving infrastructure efficiency. He said it sounds like it was a cut and paste job where it was moved over to where it was appropriate and Richard feels it is not appropriate where it is in this Plan.

Mr. Ken Cheek said he can't speak for Hernando County but, there are types of projects they can do to reduce water use at certain times. Mr. Owen said the Committee is at a loss with no representative from Hernando County present. It was decided to leave it for now and the Committee can talk about it when there are representatives of Hernando County present to see if that is appropriate for the Weeki Wachee Plan.

Ms. Rogers said she would send out project cards and asked those who may want to submit projects to get them to her no later than July 6. That would enable her to send out the final list of proposed projects for Weeki Wachee the following week and that would be added to the list to be evaluated at the next meeting in August. That way the Committee can be prepared to approve which projects they want to move to the priority projects.

Mr. Molligan said that the next time this Plan would come back to the Management Committee would be in October.

6. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting (August 10, 2016) – Michael Molligan, SWFWMD

- a. Minutes Approval for June 8, 2016
- b. Selection of priority proposed projects for Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan
- c. 1st Draft Homosassa SWIM Plan

Mr. Ken Cheek mentioned that Commissioner Damato is Citrus County's representative on the Steering Committee. He did not run again and so he will not be on the Steering Committee after November. He said he didn't know who the new representative will be.

Ms. Tracy Straub mentioned the same could be said for Commissioner McClain from Marion County.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.