

## MEETING MINUTES

### Springs Coast Management Committee

October 11, 2017

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., October 11, 2017, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Building 4 Conference Room 112, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

#### **Members Present**

Alys Brockway, Hernando County  
Ken Cheek, Citrus County  
Flip Mellinger, Pasco County  
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD  
Charles Lee, Environmental  
Heather Young, Regional Planning Council  
Rick Owen, State Parks (via phone)  
Tracy Straub, Marion County (via phone)  
Katie Hallas, FDACS (via phone)  
Curt Williams, Agriculture (via phone)  
Richard Owen, Public Supply (via phone)

#### **Members Absent**

Rick Hicks, FDEP  
Dave Burnell, City of Crystal River  
Jason Wagman, FWC  
Dr. Mahmood Nachabe, Academia  
Dave Bruzek, Industry

#### **SWFWMD Staff**

Jennette Seachrist  
Dr. Sean King  
Sky Notestein  
Vivianna Bendixson  
Jake Cuarta

#### **Recording Secretary**

Kelly Schwegel, SWFWMD

#### **Other**

Dennis Davis, Wright-Pierce  
Jan Smith, City of Dunnellon  
Lewis Bryant, Kimley-Horn  
Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn  
Jon Dowler, City of Brooksville  
Glenn Forrest, FGUA  
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala  
Rusella Bowes-Johnson, City of Ocala  
Ed Call, Cardno

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FDACS – Florida Department of Ag 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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A list of others who were present, and signed the attendance roster, is filed in the permanent records of the District.

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll**

Mr. Molligan, SWFWMD, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was noted.

#### **2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from 09/27/2017**

*A motion was made for approval of September 27, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

#### **3. Public Input** - None

#### **4. Discussion Item 1: FDEP's guidance document for state springs funding**

Ms. Seachrist stated the FDEP has not yet sent out the final guidance document. The District will send the draft out to the SCMC members as soon as possible. The committee members will need to review the guidance and revise the nutrient reductions as well as water saved for their projects before the committee meets in November.

**5. Discussion Item 2: Review list of projects submitted to the Committee and request any project presentations to be made in November**

Mr. Notestein stated there were 21 projects submitted. Each representative will briefly describe each project to the committee.

Mr. Lee suggested the committee have a systematic way to evaluate the cost-benefit ratio of each project in order to appropriately rank them. Discussion ensued over the range of factors considered when planning and pricing each project. The committee agreed to standardize the lifespan at 30 years for septic to sewer projects as well as reclaimed projects. The committee also clarified that shovel ready is the ability to design and construct a project within the given performance period.

Mr. Cheek presented three projects for Citrus County. The Cambridge Greens project is a septic to sewer project with an objective to put in gravity sewer for existing customers. Mason Creek is a force main project that is a preparatory project for future phases of the Old Homosassa project. The Old Homosassa project is the second phase of a 10-year project that has already been approved by FDEP for springs funding. The County's goal is to lower assessment costs for citizens by supplementing with grant funding.

Mr. Molligan expressed the District's interest in matching funds for projects. However, the details involved in funding agreements are yet to be discussed.

Ms. Straub suggested to add the cost per pound of nitrogen reduced and the project completion timeline to the worksheet. Mr. Molligan pointed out that some project phases may not reduce nitrogen themselves but may be part of a larger project that does.

Mr. Dowler, City of Brooksville, presented the second round of a reuse project at the Hernando Oaks Golf Course. Brooksville is requesting full funding to get the golf course's irrigation system connected to reclaimed water. Agreements have not been made involving the reduction of nutrients.

Concern arose regarding nutrient levels with use of reclaimed water and reduction of fertilizer. Mr. Molligan said the committee would like to see a match in funding and a quantification of the nutrient reduction.

Mr. Garri, representing projects for the City of Crystal River, presented the Hunter Springs project. It provides additional treatment in the drainage retention area to further improve nitrogen removal before stormwater is discharged to King's Bay. The Indian Waters Phase II is the second phase of a project that will take several hundred septic tanks offline. This phase will connect lines to the City's wastewater treatment plant. The Southern Sewer Expansion project will also take several hundred septic tanks offline, including several neighborhoods as well as commercial tanks along US 19. The treatment plant has a significant amount of future capacity to sustain these projects.

Mr. Bryant, speaking on behalf of the City of Dunnellon, presented the Rainbow Springs Water Reclamation Facility decommissioning as a project under administrative order to reduce nitrogen in the Rainbow Springs springshed. The Burkett Road septic-to-sewer project is one of the few remaining subdivisions still on septic. The Chatmire septic-to-sewer project was an FDEP project that was not completed, and the City would like to resume progress on it. The Rio Vista septic-to-sewer project will convert septic tanks directly on the river. Mr. Bryant requested the Rio Vista project be added to the spreadsheet.

Discussion ensued regarding the varying cost of each city's projects to transition from septic to sewer. It was determined the cost is dependent upon the geology of each project location as well as the readiness of existing sewer connections; and therefore, costs cannot be a fixed variable in determining project funding.

Ms. Straub, Marion County, presented the Northwest Regional Expansion as a project to upgrade the plant to a 3mg per liter standard to meet expansion expectations. The Package Wastewater Plant Removal program is the removal of a series of package plants. The third project listed is the State Road 200 Force main Extension project. Each of these three projects were put in for the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative.

City of Ocala discussed its Fairfield Village Sewer Expansion project. It will remove an older package plant that does not meet standards. The Fox Meadow and Timberwood Sewer Expansion projects are the connections of residential septic tanks to an existing gravity sewer. All three projects are within the city's service areas but outside city limits.

Discussion ensued regarding the consistency of each city's connection charges to residents.

Mr. Davis, representing the City of Williston, said both city projects are in the Rainbow Springs springshed but not in the priority focus area. Northwood Estates is a septic-to-sewer project that will remove septic tanks from 35 residential lots. The second project is a wastewater treatment plant with no current effluent limits. The city wants to upgrade to AWT standards and install denitrification filters and other upgrades. The city plans to design the project and partially fund, with a match of the CDBG Block grant, and then complete the project using the springs funding.

Ms. Seachrist stated the Williston projects are not currently in a priority focus area but FDEP would be updating the Rainbow River Basin Management Action Plan. She suggested Mr. Davis contact FDEP to see if the priority focus area would be redrafted to include the project locations.

Ms. Brockway, Hernando County, presented the first phase of District 1, Weeki Wachee, to connect 450 septic systems to central sewer. This project targets neighborhoods that are located just to the east of the spring. Capacity is available at Hernando's wastewater plants. Hernando County also will put in a cooperative funding request for the project. The proposed project includes connection fees, so residents will not incur any charges. The second project includes the upgrade and expansion of the airport wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Brockway stated the engineer on the project figured approximately 51,000 pounds of nitrogen would be reduced each year by upgrading to an advanced wastewater treatment plant.

Flip Mellinger, Pasco County, presented a feasibility study project to eliminate 3,000 residential septic tanks within the Weeki Wachee springshed. This project would likely have four or more phases.

It was mentioned that FDEP does not fund feasibility study projects, however feasibility studies could qualify for the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative.

The City of Dunnellon has been requested to have presentations for each of its projects at the November meeting.

The District will send out the updated guidance for each applicant to recalculate nitrogen reduced as well as an updated spreadsheet to include the Rio Vista project.

Discussion ensued whether to use the funding requested as a factor when deciding how to rank these projects. Ms. Seachrist recommended projects get ranked on the merit of each project and not on the funding available. Mr. Mellinger questioned the completion deadline for large-cost projects.

The committee agreed to add the "construction completion date if funded" column to the spreadsheet as well as columns for "cost metrics."

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.