

MEETING MINUTES

Springs Coast Management Committee

November 8, 2017

The Springs Coast Management Committee meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., November 8, 2017, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Building 4 Conference Room 112, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899.

Members Present

Dave Burnell, City of Crystal River
Ken Cheek, Citrus County
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Flip Mellinger, Pasco County
Rick Hicks, FDEP (via phone)
Jason Wagman, FWC
Michael Molligan, SWFWMD
Charles Lee, Environmental
Curt Williams, Agriculture (via phone)
Heather Young, Regional Planning Council
Rick Owen, State Parks (via phone)
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS (via phone)
Tracy Straub, Marion County (via phone)

Members Absent

Katie Hallas, FDACS
Richard Owen, Public Supply
Dr. Mahmood Nachabe, Academia
Dave Bruzek, Industry

SWFWMD Staff

Jennette Seachrist
Tom Burke
Dr. Chris Anastasiou
Terri Behling
Danielle Rogers
Dr. Sean King
Sky Notestein
Vivianna Bendixson
Jake Cuarta
Mary Spence

Recording Secretary

Kelly Schwegel, SWFWMD

Other

Will Fontaine, FGUA
Dennis Davis, Wright-Pierce
Gordon Onderdonis, Hernando County
Glenn Forrest, FGUA
Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn
Rick Hancock, City of Dunnellon
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala
Jan Smith, City of Dunnellon
Dawn Bowne, City of Dunnellon
Walter Green, City of Dunnellon
Jon Dowler, City of Brooksville
Steve Spratt, FGUA
Dr. Bob Knight, Florida Springs Institute
Dan Hilliard, Florida Springs Council
Chuck Drake, Tetra Tech
Lewis Bryant, Kimley-Horn (via phone)
Joe Kahn, FDEP (via phone)
Bob Titterington, Marion County

FDACS – Florida Department of Agriculture 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

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 10/11/2017

A motion was made for approval of October 11, 2017 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. Public Input - None

4. Discussion Item 1: Proposed Springs Projects

a. Updated project spreadsheet

Mr. Notestein provided a recap from the last meeting – members agreed to use the “pounds of nitrogen per dollar spent” metric as a comparison tool for all projects. Members agreed to use FDEP criteria in determining the total project cost, 30 years of service life assumed, and using FDEP guidance to calculate nutrient reduction.

Mr. Notestein noted majority of projects were resubmitted based on most recent FDEP criteria, which were put into the current spreadsheet. He raised discussion as to why some members did not submit their revised numbers.

Hernando County presented revised calculations for the airport project, increasing total nitrogen reduced cost pounds per ton using 30-year lifespan to \$15.88. Hernando County also modified the septic to sewer project to include both areas A and B to match their request for the District's Cooperative Funding Initiative. The total number of tanks in request have increased from 450 to upwards of 2,213.

Citrus County and Marion County were unclear that revised calculations had to be submitted prior to this meeting. Mr. Notestein suggested the committee could allow these projects to be resubmitted.

Mr. Molligan asked the committee to determine today which of these projects should be recommended to the Steering committee. Mr. Lee suggested to eliminate some projects from the application list, so the committee has a greater influence on the projects submitted to FDEP.

b. FDEP guidance document

Please note that agenda items 4a and 4b were discussed collectively.

c. Dunnellon projects presentation

Mr. Mellinger clarified that he asked for a presentation from Dunnellon because their projects were not in the SWIM plan.

Mr. Garri presented the City of Dunnellon project submissions. The Burkett septic to sewer project is a carryover from an existing project; it will complete the connection and take 11 septic tanks offline. The estimated 2,200 gallons of water per day used by these homes will be diverted to a wastewater treatment plant and reduce the nitrogen load by 111 pounds per year. The Chatmire septic to sewer project would connect septic systems to a gravity system that runs to an existing lift station. This lift station will be upgraded to handle the increase in flow. The Chatmire project will result in a net reduction of 2,119 pounds of total nitrogen. The third project, the decommissioning and demolition of the Rainbow Springs waste reclamation facility, will reduce 8,943 pounds of nitrogen per year. The Rainbow Springs and Rio Vista septic to sewer project will remove 329 septic tanks and will reduce the nitrogen load by 3,319 pounds per year.

Discussion ensued regarding the abandonment and connection costs. Some raised the response that it is a state requirement to crush and abandon tanks. Members discussed the variations in cost, depending on the length of sewer lines, as well as permit costs.

Mayor Green stated the Rainbow Springs plant will not comply with State requirements in the next few years. Routing the wastewater will allow Dunnellon to take a non-compliant plant offline and will reduce the nitrogen impact from the old plant. It will also remove the septic tanks from the river, which is a goal for the city. Members asked about the state of the plant when the city purchased it in 2011 and Ms. Bowne suggested the plant was not in good shape at purchase.

Ms. Bowne explained to the committee that the City of Dunnellon is currently in the process of contracting with the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) for the purchase of the City's water and sewer utilities. Marion County Commissioners passed a resolution to support the purchase. Mayor Green added that the city solicited funding through state and county legislation prior to entering negotiations with FGUA.

d. Recommended projects for SCSC consideration (January 10, 2018 meeting)

Mr. Molligan asked the committee to begin discussion on how the committee wants to rank these projects listed.

Mr. Mellinger asked FGUA if they will complete Dunnellon projects once they complete the purchase, regardless of FDEP funding. FGUA explained their obligation to comply with future regulations means they will complete the projects, but any funding received will lessen the impact on customer rates.

Mr. Lee asked what FGUA would do with the septic tank projects that are contributing to the pollution of the river. FGUA commented they will do what any responsible government would do to improve these existing conditions. Dunnellon and FGUA are actively seeking other grants that may be available to address wastewater concerns. Mayor Green commented that Dunnellon is still in negotiations with FGUA, and the city will continue to seek out funds to assist in addressing wastewater issues.

Mr. Molligan guided the committee into discussion as to whether to eliminate any projects before moving forward to the Steering Committee. Mr. Molligan mentioned that from the District's perspective, the only project that may not be accepted, as per FDEP's guidelines, is the Pasco County septic tank abatement feasibility project.

A motioned to move all projects forward to the Steering Committee to evaluate was made and seconded. Discussion ensued whether the Management Committee should eliminate any projects under consideration, as some members believe the project list may be too long. Mr. Cheek raised concern of future applicants going around the Management Committee if eliminated from consideration.

Ms. Young asked to review the timeline for when CFI would be awarded versus FDEP funding. Ms. Seachrist responded that the District will be reviewing CFI projects at the February and April Northern subcommittee region meetings and will then be presented to the Governing Board in June for budget inclusion. For FDEP's Springs funding, the Steering Committee will recommend projects for the Governing Board's consideration at their April 2018 meeting. This list of projects will be submitted to the FDEP the first week of May. FDEP's selections will be announced near the end of July or early August. This is the first time our Governing Board is considering contributing funding for septic to sewer projects, and there may be some policy guidelines that are different from FDEP. For example, the District will only fund projects that are also being funded by FDEP.

Discussion ensued whether the committee should implement parameters in evaluating projects, such as limiting projects to priority focus areas, limiting the amount of funds each project could receive, or whether funds should be limited to projects completed within the same year as the funds are received. The committee determined it is not their obligation to set additional parameters that would limit projects for consideration.

Ms. Straub suggested to describe to the Steering Committee the discussion that took place today and explain why this committee decided to recommend all projects.

Mr. Molligan took a vote for a motion to move all projects forward. *The motion to move all projects forward passed 10 in favor and 3 against.*

Ms. Brockway expressed concern that FDEP guidance does not allow blank responses in any column, however the phosphorus reduction estimate is not applicable to some projects. Mr. Hicks did not think it would be an issue, however, the District will follow up with FDEP to clarify.

e. December 6, 2017 meeting

Committee agreed to tentatively hold the December 6th meeting date in case FDEP requests further evaluations on the current project list.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.