

DRAFT
MEETING SUMMARY

Springs Coast Steering Committee

October 5, 2016

The Springs Coast Steering Committee met at 2:00 p.m., October 5, 2016, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Members Present

Kelly Rice, SWFWMD, Chair
Dennis Damato, Citrus County
Richard Hicks, FDEP
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River
Mike Moore, Pasco County
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County
Ray Scott, FDACS

Members Absent

Tom Frick, FDEP
Stan McClain, Marion County
Shannon Wright, FWC

SWFWMD Staff

Chris Anastasiou
Brian Armstrong
Mark Green
Sean King
Cara Martin
Sky Notestein
Danielle Rogers
Jennette Seachrist

Recording Secretary

Jet Houser

Others Present

Celeste Lyon, FDEP
Earl Rich, SWFWMD

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

FWC – 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

Mr. Kelly Rice, Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Jet Houser, SWFWMD, called the roll and confirmed a quorum. Chair Rice announced that this is the last Steering Committee meeting for Commissioner Dennis Damato, Citrus County, and Commissioner Stan McClain, Marion County, and recognized both for their service.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from 07/13/2016

Chair Rice called for the motion to approve the minutes for the July 13, 2016 meeting.

Commissioner Damato moved for approval, seconded by Commissioner Mike Moore, Pasco County; the motion passed.

3. Public Input – None

4. Presentation: FDEP Coordination for Springs

Sean King, Ph.D., P.E., SWFWMD, presented an overview of the coordination activities with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), which includes the Surface Water Improvement (SWIM) Plans, the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), the Water Policy Bill, and Project Funding - FDEP is represented on each level with representatives on the Technical Working Group, the Management Committee, as well as the Steering Committee, and is very involved with the process. Dr. King talked about the difference between the SWIM Plans and the BMAPs. The goal is that the Water Quality section of each SWIM Plan is consistent with the BMAP and vice versa. SWIM Plans are broader than BMAPs as they contain water quantity and natural systems; whereas, the BMAPs are really more focused on achieving regulatory nutrient criteria. Dr. King outlined the Water Policy Bill (Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (2016-1)) and spoke about the prohibited activities in priority focus areas (PFAs). Dr. King advised that as the BMAPs are developed, new rules will be coming into place. Dr. King talked about funding for springs restoration projects and the different sources available.

Mark Hammond, P.E., SWFWMD, spoke regarding the importance of the Committee. Mr. Hammond explained that one of the key reasons for establishing the Steering Committee was to develop the plans so that projects could be ready to take advantage, as quickly and efficiently as possible, of springs funding opportunities as they became available. Mr. Hammond encouraged Committee members to reach out and meet with staff if they have any questions or need assistance with springs funding opportunities.

Dr. King continued his presentation with a list of springs projects approved for 2017, totaling \$13 million. The projects are a mix of stormwater projects, septic-to-sewer conversion projects, and a reclaimed water project. The projects are mainly intended to reduce the nitrogen loading in the springs as well as provide more groundwater in some cases. Dr. King noted that the District is in the process of soliciting for projects for the 2018 cooperative funding initiative (CFI) cycle, with project proposals to be submitted by October 21, 2016.

Commissioner Damato spoke regarding the CR 491 Phase 1 – Regional Stormwater Facility (N793) project included in Dr. King's presentation, noting that the project is going out for bid during the last quarter of this year or the first part of next year; and that Citrus County wants to get this project up and going as quickly as possible. Commissioner Damato shared information regarding how Citrus County has been working with the towns of Inglis and Yankeetown to provide central sewage bulk. Citrus County is working to bring a sewer system to northwest Citrus County and southwest Levy County, and will be seeking grant funding to remove septic tanks along the river. Commissioner Damato noted that Levy County does not have a countywide sewer system. Commissioner Damato advised that Citrus County has acquired resolutions of support from both towns and he wants to ensure that those areas are included in the FDEP BMAP process.

Mr. Rick Hicks, FDEP, said that he would be interested in seeing what the project looks like, and where it is on the map, how close it is to the existing BMAP area.

Commissioner Damato responded that he would like to see the entire county in the BMAP as the entire Citrus County is a springshed.

Mr. Ray Scott, FDACS, asked for clarification regarding large wastewater disposal facilities on the list of prohibited activities in the PFAs. Mr. Scott asked if facilities below a certain threshold are allowed, and if so, are there any special requirements? Dr. King responded that there is a threshold listed

within the statute of 100,000 gallons per day; and that there will be restrictions on smaller plants as well, but he has not heard what those limits will be or if they have been decided yet.

Mr. Hicks advised that nothing has been specified yet, but those areas are where the funding and efforts will be focused.

Chair Rice asked if the PFAs have been geographically defined. Mr. Hicks advised that FDEP has draft PFAs that will go through a public process before they become part of the BMAP. PFAs have been completed for King's Bay and Weeki Wachee, but they have not been posted yet. Chair Rice requested that the completed PFAs be circulated to the Committee and to keep the Committee informed of the other PFAs as they become available.

Dr. King advised that the information regarding PFAs can be presented at future meetings; and Mr. Hicks advised that Mr. Terry Hansen, FDEP, Basin Coordinator for the BMAP process, has started reaching out to local governments to talk about the PFAs. Mr. Hicks explained how this is just the beginning of the process, and how the PFAs are just a subset of the BMAP. Discussion ensued regarding advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) facilities. Commissioner Damato noted that the more AWT facilities there are, the better off the springshed is going to be.

5. Presentation: Weeki Wachee Draft SWIM Plan

Danielle Rogers, P.W.S., SWFWMD, presented the Weeki Wachee Draft SWIM Plan and outlined the process that brought the plan to this point. Ms. Rogers advised that this is the first time the Committee is seeing the plan with the pieces all together in one document, and noted that the Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan is organized the same as the King's Bay and Rainbow River SWIM plans. Ms. Rogers covered the primary issues and drivers, the quantifiable objectives, and the priority management action categories in the plan. Ms. Rogers talked about the process for identifying the ongoing and proposed projects for the Weeki Wachee system, and outlined the plan timeline showing all the accomplishments and what's next in the process. Ms. Rogers advised that the final plan will be presented to the Committee for approval at their next meeting, January 2017, and opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Scott asked what the contributing factor was in the 80 percent increase in farm fertilizer in the source inventories between 2015 and 2016. Mr. Hicks advised that the pie chart is a part of a whole and that the actual loads in agricultural did not change. Mr. Hicks explained that a better approach was developed for calculating the loads from urban fertilizer, and as a result that part went down. Mr. Hicks reiterated that the loads did not change – it was just a re-shift. Mr. Scott asked if this revision in the source inventory occurred after the management actions were approved. Ms. Rogers advised that, yes, that is correct; and advised that the updates will be presented to the Management Committee at their next meeting on October 12, 2016, to bring forward to the Steering Committee in the final draft.

Council Member Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River, asked if there were maps that delineate the AWT plants and the package plants within the counties. Mr. Hicks advised that one could be developed, but within the BMAP itself, it is just a table. Discussion ensued. Council Member Holmes requested a progress map that indicates the package plants, septic tanks and systems removed – something to show what the counties are doing in eliminating septic tanks. Ms. Rogers responded that it was a good idea.

Commissioner Damato noted that he had an opportunity to review the plan and he was pleased that all the bases are covered, including a history of the ownership of Weeki Wachee Springs. Good job!

6. Presentation: SCSC Next Steps

Chris Anastasiou, Ph.D., SWFWMD, presented the next steps with a review of the 2016 timeline and preview of the 2017 timeline that includes all five (5) of the SWIM Plans. Dr. Anastasiou reminded the Committee that the final plan will be presented to them at their next meeting for approval and that the Committee will also see the draft of the Homosassa SWIM Plan. By July 2017, pending the Committee's approval, five (5) SWIM Plans will have been completed. Dr. Anastasiou noted that there is still a lot of work to be done. Moving forward, the Steering Committee's focus changes to implementation. Dr. Anastasiou concluded his presentation with a review of the approved dates for the Steering Committee 2017 meetings and opened the floor for questions.

Council Member Holmes expressed his thanks to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for their work with the Hunter Springs Park and for the shoreline restoration of Three Sisters Springs.

Commissioner Damato requested to please ensure his comments are on the record about Chassahowitzka, Homosassa and the projects he has proposed. Commissioner Damato would like to see those projects vetted by the Technical Working Group and the Management Committee. Commissioner Damato spoke to the Committee regarding the removal of septic tanks when going to sewer, that when municipalities and counties remove septic tanks and get the people on sewer that they achieve 100% compliance. Commissioner Damato spoke to the Committee about the Citrus County model fertilizer ordinance and a 50-year master agreement between the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority that the BOCC will vote on in October 2016. Commissioner Damato advised the Committee about the completion of the Hunter Springs Water Quality Improvement project. Commissioner Damato thanked everyone and noted it was a pleasure to serve on the Committee for the past two (2) years.

Chair Rice thanked Commissioner Damato for his service again and shared his thoughts for a workshop for Committee members going forward. Chair Rice noted that there is a storm brewing, Hurricane Matthew, and introduced Mr. Earl Rich, SWFWMD, to give a brief update on the storm. Mr. Rich presented the storm's current track, and outlined what the District does in advance of the storm and immediately after the storm. Mr. Rich noted that, even though the storm is forecast to stay off the coast of Florida, it is anticipated that tropical storm-force winds will be experienced in Citrus, Polk and Hillsborough counties. Mr. Rich advised that the District prepares in advance of the storm and responds after the storm, and shared specific preparation/response information with the Committee. Mr. Rich then opened the floor for questions.

Commissioner Damato thanked Mr. Rich for his presentation and shared previous storm event experiences where the District provided assistance to Citrus County. Mr. Moore shared a recent update from Pasco County's emergency operations center and asked if the storm would be a significant rain event for his county. Mr. Rich responded that the data received thus far does not indicate that this storm will be a large rain event.

7. Next Meeting: January 11, 2017

8. Adjournment

Being no further business, Chair Kelly called for a motion for adjournment.

Commissioner Damato moved for approval, seconded by Council Member Holmes. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.