Appendix B

Meeting Summary, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Proposed Minimum Flow for the Rainbow River System Public Workshop, Dunnellon City Hall, Dunnellon, Florida.

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

### Southwest Florida Water Management District Proposed Minimum Flow for the Rainbow River System Public Workshop

Dunnellon City Hall Dunnellon, Florida February 23, 2017

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) hosted a public workshop on the proposed minimum flow for the Rainbow River System in Marion County. The workshop was held from 4:30 to 6:38 p.m. in the Dunnellon City Hall at 20750 River Drive in Dunnellon, Florida. The meeting was advertised in the Florida Administrative Register, local newspapers, and on the District's web site. In addition, numerous interested parties and local government staff and officials were notified of the meeting and a press release was made available to the regional media.

Prior to the workshop, at least 40 people held a protest outside of Dunnellon City Hall along US Highway 41 that was organized by the Florida Springs Institute and Florida Springs Council. Approximately 140 stakeholders attended the public workshop; since the capacity of City Hall is 98, about 35 people listened from outside. Several District representatives were also in attendance, including: Eric DeHaven, Resource Management Assistant Director; Mark Green, Springs & Environmental Flows Section Manager; Terri Behling, External Affairs Manager; Melissa Gulvin, Government Affairs Program Manager; Kym Rouse Holzwart, Senior Environmental Scientist; Ron Basso, Chief Hydrogeologist; Sky Notestein, Senior Environmental Scientist; Sean King, Professional Engineer; Kevin Wills, Senior Economist; and Doug Leeper, MFLs Program Lead.

An informational slide presentation was used by District staff to inform meeting participants about many topics associated with the proposed minimum flow. Topics discussed included the legal requirements for establishing minimum flows and levels, the District's Minimum Flows and Levels Program, methods used by the District to establish minimum flows, results of various minimum flow development methods for the Rainbow River System, the proposed minimum flow for the Rainbow River System, regional and local hydrogeology, rainfall and water-use trends, current and projected withdrawal effects on flow in the river system, and the absence of a need for a minimum flow recovery or specific prevention strategy for the system.

Meeting participants were made aware of the various opportunities available for stakeholders to submit input on the proposed minimum flow, including: providing oral or written comment during the workshop (a comment card was available for written comments, as were speaker cards used for participants to orally express their comments); providing written or oral input to District staff via telephone, email, or letter; and providing input directly to the District Governing Board during the March 28, 2017 Board meeting when staff expects to present the proposed minimum flow to the Board for approval.

A summary of comments and questions discussed during the workshop is provided below. Attachments to this meeting summary include: the workshop agenda, sign-in sheets, written comment cards, and request to speak cards, as well as any written documents passed out during the workshop or submitted during the workshop.

### Workshop Participant Comments and Questions

1. **Dr. Bob Knight** – representing the Florida Springs Institute. He doesn't believe any of it. The report from Florida Springs Institute costs nothing; the District's report cost \$1.2 million in

taxpayer dollars. The District has permitted 2.8 billion gallons per day. Rainbow has more protection than any other system and is an Outstanding Florida Water. Flow started going down in 1970s. In 2016, the system lost 94 million gallons per day in flow. The District wants to "give away" another 5% of the river's flow. Current flows are significantly below the MFL right now. Rainbow Springs already seriously impaired. The District's groundwater flow model is terribly flawed. The peer review panel that reviewed the proposed minimum flow recommends using criteria that would result in a more conservative minimum flow and recommends capping area withdrawals at current rates. The state has not adequately protected the springs. Wants no additional change and a recovery plan.

- 2. Kathryn Tavbert representing Tri-County Working Group of Suwannee and St. Johns Sierra Club; speaks on behalf 15 county area; concerned with protection of springs, rivers and aquifer. People don't come here to see houses; they come to visit and play in our springs, which are impaired; provided handout; Rainbow is life blood of this area's ecosystem and ecotourism. The river is plagued by existing problems, including proliferation of invasive/filamentous algae; an environmental report card for the system includes many "failures"; the District Governing Board is required to give significant weight to the peer review panel report; and that no action should be taken that would allow additional withdrawals that affect river flows.
- 3. Julie Bahret volunteer at Florida Springs Institute; but speaking for self; shocked when starting to visit springs again; damage to systems is obvious. Politics appears to be influencing water management decisions, from Scott to local governments; the proposed minimum flow may meet legal requirements for its establishment but laws are value and not adequately enforced; seems like there is a different model every day; the District should not spend a million dollars on studies supporting minimum flow development when the information can be obtained "for free"; MFLs need to be stopped; no further withdrawal, and a recovery plan should be developed and implemented for the river.
- 4. Dennis Jones representing self; he has owned property on Rainbow River for 47 years; river down 1.5 feet; he spent 32 years in Florida Legislature, would like to have brought District in front of senate environmental committee for some questions; doesn't take all of these degrees to know there is a problem. SB552 didn't say anything about diverting water from springs, when the state is spending \$50 million to protect the springs. He noted that the river currently suffers from excess siltation, elevated nitrate concentration and that sinkhole formation should be considered when establishing the minimum flow. Governing Board members should be elected; not appointed; in all this data nothing about sinkholes.
- 5. Jim Tatum representing Our Santa Fe River, Inc.; read some of the peer review panel report excerpts: the District should seek to reduce uncertainty associated with modeling used for minimum flow development; the water quality portion of the draft minimum flow report is overly simplistic; area withdrawals should be capped until further studies could be done; negative comments in report; urge you to take the suggestions in the report; national landmark and state outstanding Florida water should be considered to afford enhanced protect for the system; peer review is saying in a nice way that we don't need further water taken from the river; significant harm is relative.
- 6. Burt Eno representing Rainbow River Conservation (RRC); he can't stop degradation of River; he is the RRC president and 13-year resident; I am failing as President; this River is threatened; no relationship between the residence time and the flow rate; but this is very obvious. If you reduce flow, you have more time for algae to form; talked about nitrates and algae; model is flawed; thinks more than 1.5 percent effects from withdrawal; fertilizer makes

it worse; showed graph developed by Paul Marraffino of last 30 years of flow from Rainbow River and every flow has been below long term average.

- 7. **Debi Bismarck** representing self; when the data is convenient for the District, it is presented; the District does not have complete data; she is very concerned about the river and health conditions. She asked whether the District was going to "screw up" the river with the proposed minimum flow.
- 8. Janet Leger representing self; she expressed concern about further groundwater withdrawals affecting her well.
- 9. Martyn Johnson representing self; he has been communicating extensively with District staff regarding the proposed minimum flow and noted that staff have, for the most part, done a good job in responding to him but that they don't dig as deep as they should. He noted the peer review panel that reviewed the proposed minimum flow recommended capping area withdrawals. He added that as far as he knew, District staff have not contacted the U.S. Geological Survey to learn whether any adjustment to the rating curve used for estimating discharge at the station near Dunnellon could account for the post-2000 flow anomaly observed in the discharge record. Finally, he expressed hope that the minimum flow rule proposed for the Rainbow River System would be better than the rules that were adopted for the Chassahowitzka and Homosassa river systems, which he characterized as meaningless.
- 10. Bill Vibbert representing RRC; residence time of river water is important for flushing of the system; the District Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plan for the river contains information that is in conflict with information presented in the draft minimum flow report; fish passage was discounted or not included in the minimum flow analyses; a floodplain-based criterion was used to set the proposed minimum flow and this criterion only protects a small portion of the river system, leaving in-stream components unprotected; the prevention plan identified in the draft minimum flow report is inadequate; and estuarine resources should have been considered as part of the analyses. The 3-prong prevention strategy does not work; downstream impacts are not considered (impacts on Lower Withlacoochee River; everything gets a permit, even watermelon farms. The participant finished his comments by reading a prepared statement.
- 11. **Paul Marraffino** Marion County resident representing self; noted that the long-term average river flow is 694 cubic feet per second (cfs) and this flow reduced by the allowable five percent reduction associated with the proposed minimum flow is 659 cfs. He then noted that river flows have been below this latter flow for fifteen of the last twenty years and nine of the last ten years. Based on this information, he suggested that a recovery strategy is needed and should be implemented. A 10-year re-evaluation is not the right approach.
- 12. Gary ? representing self; what gives SWFWMD the right to say what and where to flow goes? We never know what is going on until it's too late. Don't have to be a scientist to see what has happened to our water; fish are gone; weeds are gone; pretty soon we'll be gone. He asked about the District's authority to determine how much flows in the river can be reduced. He also noted that he considers the river to be degraded, based on 40 years of observation.
- 13. Whitey Markle representing (the chairman of) the Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club; lots of bad news about Rainbow River: flows are down 2-40% from historic conditions and nitrates are eating up the springshed; water quality issues; we are below minimum flow available now; wondering how you (the District) get the orders you get; your job to implement policies set by

legislature; migration into Florida needs to stop; stop mining; farming, manufacturing, etc. we think that is your job. Don't pull any more water out of the Rainbow Springshed.

Response: Staff noted that Florida Statutes dictated the establishment of minimum flows and levels.

- 14. **Harriet Jones** representing self; we need a recovery plan for the river; you are supposed to protect the water and quality; based on a recent visit, the Chassahowitzka River is a disgusting place; "when the Governor calls, hang up"; the state Attorney General should be informed about the District's proposed minimum flow for the Rainbow River System.
- 15. **Nancy Morris** representing self; she appreciates that the District is in a tough position with regard to minimum flow development and also urged staff to listen to the people in the room and protect the river; she is pleased to see this turnout; advocate for the springs; please don't let them take any more water from the system.
- 16. **Nancy Vanture** representing self; she asked whether the minimum flow could be set at zero. She asked whether the current one to two percent withdrawal-related impacts on flow are associated with existing or permitted withdrawal quantities.

Response: Staff noted that for the Rainbow River System, the proposed minimum flow was established using the most sensitive criterion that was evaluated. Staff also noted that the current impact assessment for river/spring flows was based on existing withdrawal rates and that the District also evaluated potential impacts based on projected water-use demand for a twenty-year planning horizon.

- 17. Maryanne Holton representing self; the Rainbow isn't dead yet, but Silver is dead; Rainbow hasn't lost as much as Silver; many springs don't have any flow; inappropriate vegetation and nitrate level is horrible; flow is reduced at her dock; no longer can kayak with current; there is no current; Rainbow/Silver share flow; darn little information and great deal of verbiage; there is a scientist here that knows his stuff – everyone disagrees with you (District); she was once instructed that there are liars, damn liars, and statisticians; statisticians are damn liars; what used to be 6 feet of water is now 2; water is full of algae.
- 18. Rob Hess representing self; he asked whether distant withdrawals impact flows in the river.

Response: Staff noted that changes in water levels at the margins of the 10,000 square mile groundwater flow model used for assessing withdrawal effects on river flows resulted in little change in model-predicted flows.

- 19. **Debra Nichols** representing self; she is from long line of bass fisherman; many area water bodies have disappeared or dried up; lots of local lake levels low or dry; Lake Tropicana Ranchettes area water is going down; called District and was told not their concern, concerned about the River.
- 20. William Zemaitis representing self; he has been here/studied the River for 5 years; he is a professional wetland scientist; engineering-type models cannot be used to predict future conditions; the Rainbow River System currently exhibits impacts, so any follow-up work the District conducts related to the proposed minimum flow should be conducted sooner than the identified ten-year reevaluation period; the District should develop a monitoring plan to determine if the proposed minimum flow is being met; and that the five percent allowable flow reduction associated with the identified potential 15% change in floodplain wetland inundation

that was used to set the proposed minimum flow should not be allowed – rather, no withdrawal-related impacts to the system wetlands should be allowed to occur.

- 21. Janet Barrow representing self; she lives on a cattle ranch near the river; does not want to see withdrawal-related impacts in the Rainbow River area similar to those that have occurred in wellfield-impacted areas of Pasco County; the District should assess sinkhole formation, land-use, and investigate flow declines in Rock Springs as a part of the Rainbow River minimum flow analyses. She tried to contact the District about Rock Springs because it is not in the District database; wanted the District to look at it; water level has gone down; mentioned sinkholes.
- 22. **Meagan Siegfried** representing self; she disagrees with District; once it is gone, it's gone; first held sign at age 4 and held sign again today; the river can't stand to have water taken from it; why not protect 100% of the River; none of it is worth less than another part of it; she has lived 14 years on the river and has noticed a serious decrease in water clarity and quantity.
- 23. James Graves representing self; he noted that there has been a 10% decrease in rainfall and wonders what that means for Rainbow River flows; minimum flows should not be set while work is ongoing in the Blue Cove area; recent river flows are below the long-term average flow; nitrogen concentrations in river water are expected to increase; he does not see how minimum flows can be considered beneficial; and would like to know more about any available information addressing relationships between flow and invasive plants.
- 24. **Karen Arrington** representing self; no one has mentioned climate change; things will get worse; ET will change; there will be more evaporation from higher temps; Florida should be a desert; living on borrowed time; climate change should be included in this research; you are getting a lot of direct observation over time; not circumstantial evidence; look at Dr. Bob Knight's data; whole room has given you a large amount of data and look at it with all of your heart, mind, and soul.



ETING NOTIC



2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899 (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only) TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only) *On the Internet at:* WaterMatters.org

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### AGENDA

### Southwest Florida Water Management District Proposed Minimum Flow for the Rainbow River System Public Workshop

Thursday, February 23, 2017 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### Dunnellon City Hall 20750 River Drive, Dunnellon, Florida 34431

- Welcome, Introductions, and Background Information

   Melissa Gulvin, Government Affairs Program Manager, SWFWMD<sup>1</sup>
- Proposed Minimum Flow for the Rainbow River System
   Kym Rouse Holzwart, Senior Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD<sup>1</sup>
- Evaluation of Hydrologic Changes to the Rainbow River System
   Ron Basso, P.G., Chief Hydrogeologist, SWFWMD<sup>1</sup>
- Public Comment Period, Facilitated by
   Melissa Gulvin, Government Affairs Program Manager, SWFWMD<sup>1</sup>

For questions regarding the meeting or the proposed minimum flow for the Rainbow River System, please contact Kym Rouse Holzwart by email at <u>kym.holzwart@watermatters.org</u>, by telephone at 1-800-423-1476, extension 4295, or by mail at the address listed at the top of this agenda.

If you wish to speak during the public comment period, please fill out a speaker's card and give it to the moderator (Melissa Gulvin), who will call on you at the appropriate time during the meeting. Comments will typically be limited to three minutes per speaker. In appropriate circumstances, the Moderator may grant exceptions to the three-minute limit.

<sup>1</sup>SWFWMD = Southwest Florida Water Management District

<b>Sign-In Sheet</b>	ef		Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG. 1-800-423-1476
Name	Address/City/ZIP	Phone	Email Address
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Bill Dinnin	11430 Blue Cove	CDr 7961	
SALLY WARE	SEIL S.W. 195TH AVE RD	352 489-4732	SHUYJUNY @ Ad Com
Holly Alsonater	10675N Arhenia Dr	(316)734-0023	halex 352@ amoult.com
GRANT WALDNAN	91505W 177 AURD	321 -945-3811	GRANTWALDMAN@ 6MAIL
Terry Blaes	8717 SW 195th AVE, RD.	352-465-6492	blaeste earthlink.net
ANN "ANTRIM	193455W 100th Loop	465 2286	
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# PUBLIC MEETING Sign-In Sheet

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PUBLIC MEETING Sign-In Sheet

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Deborah Nichels	175665W 27thSt Dunn Fl	3522099477	helping hand 2/234@qmail.com
Don Wright	223 Courle Inglis	352) 447-2286	Lituright@bellsouth.net

PUBLIC MEETING Sign-In Sheet

Sign-In Sheet			Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476
Name	Address/City/ZIP	Phone	Email Address
Louis Mintaine	11130 SW 189th Ter	522-0030	1
DAN HILLIARD	intro, FL	727-0023	

PUBLIC MEETING

# **Comment Card**



Mailing Address: 11634 E. BLUE COVE DR Meeting Date: 2-23-2017 Name: WILLIAM ZEMAITIS & WENDY BASTINGS Meeting Location: <u>CITY HALL (DUNNELLON)</u> City/Zip: DUNNELLON, FL / 34432 Phone: (610) 368 - 5668

# Questions and/or Comments:

Email Address: <u>BEDFORD FSBOD GMAIL COM</u>

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Southwest Florida

I would like to report we are seeing a drop in the level of the lake, I would be sad to see us head in the direction of keystone. Email Address: helpinghand = 12.34@ aminil.com Questions and/or Comments: Us a resident of Jake Tropicana Ranchettes of 20 years Mailing Address: 17566 Sh) 27th St City/Zip: Dannellan F1 34432 Name: DEBORAHLNICHOLS Meeting Date: 2 - 23 - 7**Comment** Card Meeting Location: Deune //an, F/ Phone: 352.209.9477 Southwest Florida Water <u>Management District</u> WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

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Questions and/or Comments: Email Address: alicectardy & Rocket mail 10m Mailing Address: 555 B Mid way Dr. Name: Mice Gusdue Meeting Date: 2/23/2017 1 ourists mean money. is enough, enough, SilverSprings is already stressed. Monitor water whage to stop wate. Charge for pumped water. These springs are a diminishing tourist attraction. Kein bow Springs draws water from Silver Springs. When **Comment** Card Meeting Location: Linnellon Cety & all -City/Zip: Orala 34472 \_ Phone: 352-537-5499 WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 Southwest Florida Water Management District

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Questions and/or Comments: Mailing Address: 395 JEFREE ST Email Address: <u>Same</u> Name: Janis Collins Meeting Date: 2 23 (17 **Comment** Card A202A Leave the Rainbow River alone ! Reserve the River for future generations Meeting Location: Dun vellon FL \_City/Zip: Beverly Hills ( - Phone: (406) 641-0980 Southwest Florida Water <u>Management District</u> WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 34465

Email Address: <u>rllinn @ live com</u> Meeting Date: 02/23/17Questions and/or Comments: Mailing Address: 39 So Jeffery St City/Zip: Bev. Hills, FI S446 Name: Machel Linic **Comment** Card Please Leave the Rainbow Kiver alone! Let's do the night thing and Keep the River As Is' power build be Don't mess with a good thing Meeting Location: Dunnellon C.++ Hall Southwest Florida WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 Water Management District

Meeting Date: 2/23/1-1 Email Address: Shannon . MCMCholcs 05130 gmd 11. Com Name: Shannon KACANONOLOS Questions and/or Comments: Mailing Address: 23 MBOW DOLAV ST\_\_\_\_\_City/Zip: BENCINC **Comment Card** TIMS MUER IS the blood running through the views of this town. Please don't strip us of ow rainbow! THIS WHTER IS NOT ANALLABLE !!! Meeting Location: DAMCONTOWN HAI \_ Phone: (3572) Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 1200-XCIICO エミク

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Email Address: SALLYJUNY @ AoL. COM Mailing Address: 86/1 5.W. 190TH AVE RD City/Zip: DUNNELLON, FL. 3443 7 Name: SALLY WARG Meeting Location: Dunnellon CITY HALL Phone: 352 489-4732

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Questions and/or Comments: Email Address: In an ster 46 @ Gmail, Com Mailing Address: 9293 SW 186 TERE City/Zip: DUNNENOU FI 34432 Name: LINDA OUTTEN Meeting Date: <u>2 - 2 3 -</u> 1 7 MFL ? How do I object to SwmD proposal for Rainbow Rud **Comment** Card Meeting Location: Don well on City Hall Phone: 727 - 465-4252 Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Questions and/or Comments: **Email Address:** Name: ) // ///// Meeting Date: 2-23-17 Mailing Address: **Comment** Card Stop the pypeline; Save the river (Don't drain it of any percentage J)=lahund Meeting Location: 1000 Ha City/Zip: <u>3443</u> 3 Phone: 9173705806 Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Questions and/or Comments: Name: WILLIAM CLAPP Email Address: Mailing Address: 11146 Sw 189th Tex City/Zip: Duwseccos VL10 WERE 60200 WHY NOT REMOVE THE CATAILS AT **Comment** Card IF UEGETATION IS a FACTOR IN FLOWS UISTA ON THE RIVER, THEY ARE NOT RATURAL TO THE RIVER. TO CHOKE EFF WHOLE RIDER. THEY \_ Phone: WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 Southwest Florida Water Management District 34432

Questions and/or Comments: () For these type of meeting-need a larger Venue - plan better. Mailing Address: 19627 SW 8874 Loof City/Zip: 34432 Dunnellon Fmail Address: BHW I dunan & gmaile Com Meeting Date: 2|23|17Name: Bossy Widnay P Y **Comment** Card - non functional for years, the age fix ! Makes our community look run bown. Meeting Location:  $(\dot{x} + \psi) / (\dot{x} + \omega)$ Phone: 352 -522, -103-Southwest Floric WATERMATTERS.OBG • 1-800-423-1476 Water Management District

# **Comment Card**



Email Address: Jungrenaline gunail.con Mailing Address: 6243 Concyfed Rd Apt & City/Zip: Oclando 32822 Name: James Graves Meeting Date: 12/23/17 Meeting Location: Donellow City Hall - Phone: <u>3え1-512-0352</u>

Questions and/or Comments:

Concentrations within the Rainbow river? How will decreased water flow affect nitrate

no more! I leave do this for our future Meeting Date: 2-23-17 Meeting Location: Durnellon Town Had Name: Carol (Kolun) Luque Phone: 352-284-33/9 Email Address: <u>Fobinannie, Luger (a) gimail. Com</u> Mailing Address: 2450 SW 38th Hve City/Zip: Ocala FL 34474 Questions and/or Comments: There comes a time to limit quoutle - to say **Comment Card** Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

Presented by SEWIN district but even a tout % of the of the wild were showed any -Mailing Address: Nowellary @Yahoo, confity/Zip: Email Address: 4440 Swith Archer Rd # 126 to the Nutrice water flow levels at the hedricher habitan Bur Houda Springs are printine by Polletion. Jom menasing population, lattle farming + watering Kunns, 1 understand all the Rationale & shite Questions and/or Comments: Yes while does matter think Name: JULIA A Howell ARNP Phone: 352-246-342 Meeting Date: 2.23.17 **Comment** Card Meeting Location: Junnello City Hall Public Affairs MAR -3 2017 RECEIVED Southwest Florida Water Management District WATERMATTERS.ORG · 1-800-423-1476 Course Vill entra

And texanded met further degraded! Herse ansider this. Ptrongly were you to gridge - Hose natural fatures that so Meeting Date: Teb 23 2017 Meeting Location: City Hall Aurellen Name: Elizabeth Ciringes Phone: 352-275-8136 Questions and/or Comments: Yes, water Lots waller, Email Address: dixire raincred & me . com Mailing Address: 724 Sw al Alve impended due to priviline, domage to the springshedy Oner, please **Comment** Card about all by diversion or extraction of the wide **Public Affairs** MAR -3 2017 SWFWMD RECEIVED City/Zip: Bureswills 11 32601 Southwest Florida WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 Water Management District

### **Privacy Statement**

follow-up. Principal Purposes: Information on this card is used to organize and conduct this meeting as well as for the information

pursuant to the Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Under Florida law, email addresses are public Routine Uses: This information is a public record and may be disclosed to anyone requesting a copy for any purpose to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing. records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail

Southwest Florida Water Management District 6 Brooksville, FL 34604-6899 2379 Broad Street When instars come I take them to see our revenue For more information, call the Southwest Florida Water Management District at 1-800-423-1476 (Florida only) or (352) 796-7211. to connera for this of WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476 Water 1 anagement District



Agenda Item No.

### Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: 23695 W 52-Name: LODERA K Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): Representing: Self or Business/Organization: Monda I Hugh S Date: 2 23 EL 270 43 inas Institute

Your position on issue: Favor\_\_\_OpposeX\_Other\_\_

comment verioa

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, telephone 352-796-7211, ext. 4702, or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or FAX 352-754-6874. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not discriminate on the basis of any individual's disability status.

02.00-100 (10/12)



Request to Speak       (Please Frint)       Date:       Date:
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Your position on issue: Favor\_\_Oppose \_Other\_

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02.00-100 (10/12)



Agenda Item No. 4. Publi annout torial

### Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Name: JULIE DAHARD

Address: 517 NE 44 St. ATT & GAMESUILLE FL 32601 Date: 02-23-2017

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes No

Representing: Self or Business/Organization:

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Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other to DUCATION ON SPR

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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02.00-100 (10/12)


### **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Name: DENKIIS L. JONES

Date: 7 -23-

Address: 9129 5W 1902 AVE Rel -WUNNELLOH

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_ No

Representing: Self // or Business/Organization:

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

ernund

Your position on issue: Favor\_Oppose\_Other\_

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## **Request to Speak**

Name: Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: Representing: Self Issue to be address (as printed on agenda or Business/Organization: (Please Print) Date:

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose / Other

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Name: Issue to be address (as printed on agenda Representing: Self Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: or Business/Organization: Date:

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

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## Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Name: DERI A. BISMARCK Address: 20911 Piver DRIVE

Date: <u>D3 Fea 17</u>

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_\_\_\_\_

No

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

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Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

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## Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Date: 2

Name: Jonet George r Address: 21818 Sco 8544 Loop-Th

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Nox

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

Your position on issue: Favor\_\_\_Oppose\_\_Other\_\_\_\_

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## **Request to Speak**

Name: Martyn Johnson Representing: Self or Business/Organization: Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: 4387 S. Blue Water Prin (Please Print) Date: VdD. 2 No r 1/ 2011

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Address: 9552 5W 192 Count Name: Bill ViB36W

RD Date: DUNNELLON 2/24/17

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_\_\_\_ Representing: Self or Business/Organization: KRC No

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose & Other

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended

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Address: 14544 Sw @ZNO PL To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other Representing: Self Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Name: Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): MARRETINCO or Business/Organization: **Request to Speak** Please Print) Date: 27 2017

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several

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## **Request to Speak**

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_ Address: 47 Name: Representing: Self Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): SlopL. or Business/Organization: SIEVALA CL (Please Print) No Date: 7

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: 15950 NE555T MILL 15 Name: HLP DIETT JONES Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization: Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): No Date:

To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per Your position on issue: Favor Oppose XOther

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Water Management District

Agenda Item No.

### **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Address: 2639 NW 12th Ac

Date: 2/23//

Janps

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_ No

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

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## Request to Speak

Name: Mancy Vantur Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: 4132 Sw 83 101 Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): Representing: Self v or Business/Organization: ommunity to allow by 110 (Please Print) DUNNE ON NUP No Date:

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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Water Management District

Agenda Item No.

# Request to Speak

Representing: Self Address: Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Name: or Business/Organization: Date: Zo

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

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Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

20

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## Request to Speak

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes Address: Name: runce (Please Print) Date:

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization: \_ Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

2491

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other New

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per  $S_{loc}b_{c}$ individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended

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Water Management District

Didn't stand up when called Agenda Item No.

#### **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Name: 10h Wright

Date: 196 23 2017

Address: 223 Cove Rd Inglis 34449

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes No

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization:

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): Further Flow reduction is Unacceptable;

Flouida Sprinks Institle rate the Present flow at

Your position on issue: Favor\_Oppose V Other De 100 / Police Flow

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Name: Veb Nichol 5

Date: 2:2517

Address: 17566 SW 27thST

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes

No/

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): The drying up of Tiger Mole and

lowering of Lake Trop Ranchettes Lake

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other Natice

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended

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Southwest Florida Water Management District

Agenda Item No.

## Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Date: 2-25

Name: DEBORAHL.NICHOLS

Address: 17566 5 W 27th St

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_\_\_\_\_

No

Representing: Self X or Business/Organization:

2 M n m m F low

To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other Report Lake Trepicana Dropping

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several

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## **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Date: 2/23

Name: WILLIAM ZEMAITIS

Address: 11634 E. BLUE COVE DRIVE

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes No

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization:

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

PROPOSED MINIMUM FLOW FOR THE RAINISON RIVER. HYDROLEEIC

webers has introducte and mercand imports are not tacentate.

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose V Other

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## **Request to Speak**

Name: \_ 2077 (Please Print)

Date: 2/23/2017 nellan, FL, 34430

Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes\_\_\_\_\_

No

Address:

MO, DOX J+

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization:

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

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Your position on issue: Favor\_\_\_Oppose\_\_\_Other\_\_

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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## **Request to Speak**

(Please Print)

Name: Meagan Signad

Date: 2-23-17

Address: 183375WICASTRD

Representing: Self v or Business/Organization: Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes No V

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended.

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## Request to Speak

(Please Print)

Name: James Graves

Date: 2/23/17 Ochande, FL 32822

Address: 6243 Curry Ford Ry Apt 95 Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes No

Representing: Self \_\_\_\_\_ or Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue to be address (as printed on agenda): Environmental affects of decreased t

Your position on issue: Favor Oppose Other Questions tor presenters

individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several To assure that all participants have an opportunity to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes per

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Agen	Agenda Item No.
Request to Speak (Please Print)	
Name: Karon Avrington	Date: 2/23/17
Address: G'ville J	
Are you a Lobbyist Registered with the District: Yes	No
Representing: Self or Business/Organization:	
Issue to be address (as printed on agenda):	
Your position on issue: Favor_Oppose Other	
To assure that all narticinants have an onnortunity to speak comments will be limited to three minutes per	a limited to three minutes per

speaker. When appropriate, exceptions to the three-minute limit may be granted by the Chair. If several individuals wish to speak on the same issue/topic, the designation of one spokesperson is recommended. opportunity to provide on the second ב וווווונכע ות תווכב ווווועוכי אכו

and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, telephone 352-796-7211, ext. 4702, or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD (FL only) 1-800-231-6103; or This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs FAX 352-754-6874. The Southwest Florida Water Management District does not discriminate on the basis of any individual's disability status.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) Rainbow Springs Minimum Flows Public Workshop Dunnellon City Hall, February 23, 2017

Comments from the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute (FSI), Robert L. Knight, Ph.D., Director

#### The Big Picture

- The Floridan Aquifer System (FAS) supplies recharged rainwater to more than 1,000 artesian springs and a human population of 9 million people in north and central Florida, and many more in Georgia and Alabama
- The principal withdrawals from the FAS are spring flows and groundwater pumping
- The USGS estimates that groundwater pumping in 2010 from the FAS was 3.5 billion gallons per day (BGD)
- The Florida Springs Institute (FSI) has estimated that historic average flows from Florida's 1,000+ springs totaled 10.5 BGD
- Florida's spring flows averaged 7.2 BGD in 2010, a reduction of 3.3 BGD or 32%
- In 2012 the SWFWMD had 18,166 active water use permits, allocating 2,830 million gallons per day (MGD) and averaging 156,000 gallons per day (gpd) each
- The estimated groundwater pumping in the SWFWMD in 2010 was 965 MGD

#### **Rainbow Springs Facts**

- Rainbow Springs and the Rainbow River have the highest state and federal statutory protections, including State Aquatic Preserve, State Park, Outstanding Florida Water, and National Natural Landmark
- Rainbow Springs flows started departing from normal in the 1970s
- Rainbow Springs flows had declined by 94 MGD (20%) by 2016
- Scientific research has found that a flow reduction of 2 to 5% is significantly harmful to the ecology of Rainbow Springs
- Rainbow Springs is officially impaired due to excessive nutrient pollution
- Rainbow Springs received an Environmental Health Report Card grade of Cbecause of reduced wildlife populations, declining flows, and declining water quality

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#### Rainbow Springs 2016 Card Card

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - 2016 REPORT CARD** 

RAINBOW SPRINGS AND RIVER





# Rainbow Springs Restoration

- Existing average discharge is 15% lower than the historic long-term flow
- Water quality is impaired by nitrate nitrogen
- Aquatic habitat is already unhealthy
- No additional impacts are acceptable

FL Speurs Just,









#### ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO TRI-COUNTY AREA JOBS WAGES ECONOMIC VISITORS COUNTY

10,600	\$ 245 million	\$ 912 million	MARION 1,800,000
1,300	\$ 33 million	\$ 58 million	73,000
<b>6</b>  0			

Citrus County Tourism, Research Data Services, Inc. February 10, 2015 (visitors/economics); U.S. Travel Association, Visit Florida, reported by Visitor and Conventions Bureau (wages/jobs) 2014; Measuring Tourist Development Tax Revenue Success, Levy County, Florida; Marion County VCB Economic Impact of Tourism Study April 2014, -March 2015 Kerr & Downs Research

13,910

\$ 311 million

\$1.14 billion

TOTAL 2,249,600



BACKGROUND PHOTO BY DAVE DOWNEY, Rainbow River

2/23/2017

SILVER SPRINGS



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2/22/2027

3

THREE SISTERS SPRINGS



6

#### Comment on Recommended Minimum Flow Plan for the Rainbow River System

Paul Marraffino 2/22/17

The development of the Minimum Flow Plan for the Rainbow River System is a significant body of work. Thank you for producing this document and coming to Dunnellon for this public hearing.

Water is essential for all living things, animals, plants, our springs and our communities. In Florida we are moving from an epoch of water abundance to one of water scarcity. Water is a community resource and it is proper for the State of Florida to institute systems and regulations that assure sustainable availability of this essential resource.

The Proposed Minimum Flow for the Rainbow River System document details many factors of water in the Rainbow River based on numerous studies by FDEP, USGS and the Southwest Florida Water Management District and others. A very compelling part of this data has been collected by the US Geological Service (USGS) and shows a historic data of the Median Annual Flow of 694 cubic feet per second over an 80 years period. This is the baseline that the MFL standard is based on. The Minimum Flow proposed for implementation is 95% of the historic flow or 659 cfs.

The data described in chapter 2 of the report and USGS data shows that during 15 of the last 20 years and 9 of the last 10 years the annual flow has been below this minimum flow standard (Attachment A.) The USGS data for the last 10 years shows an average of 587 cfs or 15% below the historic average.

Florida Statute 373.0421 Establishment and implementation of minimum flows and minimum water levels states:

#### "(2) If, at the time a minimum flow or minimum water level is initially established for a water body pursuant to s. <u>373.042</u> or is revised, the existing flow or water level in the water body is below, or is projected to fall within 20 years below, the applicable minimum flow or minimum water level, the department or governing board, as part of the regional water supply plan described in s. <u>373.709</u>, shall concurrently adopt or modify and implement a recovery or prevention strategy."

The Executive Summary of the Minimum Flow document states that "pumping is approximately one per cent and the minimum flow is being met." Florida Statute does not refer to pumping or a modeling system with approximations that estimates pumping, the statute refers to FLOW. Using the Flow data which is measured, rather than the pumping data which is not measured, the Minimum Flow for the river system is not being met. The SWFWMD proposal in this document should have a conclusion and output goal of developing and implementing a "recovery program" for the Rainbow River System.

There is a section in the document which alludes to a "Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation" which may help to explain the recent reduction in annual rainfall and therefor the rate of aquifer recharge and river flow. Although this discussion is interesting, the topic does not address the problem of reduced flow. The fish, turtles and benthic critters in the Rainbow River will not have a chance to live out the 10 to 20 year oscillation cycle that has been modeled to see if rainfall and flow recover. There is a problem now and it should be addressed now.

This proposed MFL report should include the recommendation that a Recovery Program for the Rainbow River System be implemented.

#### Attached A. Flow Data for the Rainbow River System

		694	Annual median springflow from 1929 to 2014*					
		659.3	Proposed Annual Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) 5% reduction					
20 Year					<b>•</b> • • •			
Period		cfs	Flow (cubic feet per second	-	Sorted by			
1	1997	688.8	Red values are below	1	1997	688.8		
2	1998	878.3	proposed MFL	2	2005	693.3		
3	1999	641.5		3	1998	878.3		
4	2000	533.3		4	2003	683.3		
5	2001	543.6		5	2014	687		
6	2002	548.4		6	2013	561.3		
7	2003	683.3		7	2004	648.5		
8	2004	648.5		8	2015	643.8		
9	2005	693.3		9	1999	641.5		
10	2006	604.6		10	2008	626.4	_	
11	2007	574.8		11	2010	618.3		
12	2008	626.4		12	2006	604.6		
13	2009	561		13	2016	576.6		
14	2010	618.3		14	2007	574.8		
15	2011	502.1		15	2009	561		
16	2012	520		16	2002	548.4		
17	2013	561.3		17	2001	543.6		
18	2014	687		18	2000	533.3		
19	2015	643.8		19	2012	520		
20	2016	576.6		20	2011	502.1	-	
		616.745	Average			622.35	Median	

#### Rainbow River Flow as measured at USGS gage (02313100)

\* Draft - Recommended Minimum Flow for the Rainbow River System page 22, and Figure 2-8 Principle author Kym Rouse Holzwart

Source USGS web

site

pvm 1-28-17

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/annual?referred\_module=sw&search\_site\_no=02313100&format=sites\_selection\_links





#### Withlacoochee Aquatic Restoration W.A.R. Inc.

To implement civic action and to promote the common good of residents of the community with a focus on public awareness and responsible stewardship of regional water sources; the basis for all the natural systems that define Florida's Nature Coast

2-28-17

- TO: Doug Leeper Chief Environmental Scientist Resource Projects Dept. Ecologic Evaluation Section Southwest Florida Water Management District
- CC: Melissa Gulvin Government Affairs Program Manager

Subject: Rainbow Springs MFL Rule Development

The following input is provided to express concerns and suggest that a more cautionary position by District staff may be appropriate in development of recommendations to the Governing Board for rule adoption. The comments are not technical in nature, but rather directed at process and public perception.

While the legislative schedule requirements are understood to result in a rather harried process, we are mindful of the ultimate objective in rule development, specifically, to promote protection of the resource while providing reasonable basis for water supply permitting in the future. Complicating the matter is impaired water status for the system due to nutrients and resulting algal proliferation in the spring run.

**Public Perception in General:** In very simple terms, citizens perceive the draft recommendations as promoting development at the additional expense of a resource that is listed by FDEP as impaired waters. In support is recognition of impacts from existing high nutrient pollution levels are compounded by potential increases of residence time resulting from further reductions in flow due to WUP issuance. Draft recommendations present as placing a priority on water supply at the expense of other District areas of responsibility, specifically, water quality (ex: chlorophyll-A) and protection of natural systems.

**Importance of Nutrient Pollution and Flow:** Acknowledgement of the relationship between nutrient pollution and flow (residence time) is made in the draft, but in a somewhat dismissive fashion. It is, in simple terms, a fundamental issue in the public eye. Reduction of scouring action and relationship between algal proliferation and increasing residence time is generally understood by the public, and relevant to the proceedings. It is recognized that nutrient concentration does not significantly change as a function of flow rate, but there is a known corollary to residence time, algal proliferation and natural system function.

It is an issue which should suggest a cautionary development of the rule that is complimentary of existing or developing objectives found in FDEP TMDL and BMAP documents. The perception is that two state agencies are working at cross purposes in management of the state's most valuable resource.

**Importance of Salinity Ingress:** There is a perception that the process focuses on individual elements of the riverine system at the expense of overall system health and function. As example, there was oral comment rendered at the 23 Feb 2017 public hearing in Dunnellon to the point that potential impacts to the system in form of increasing salinity ingress in the river segment below the Inglis Bypass Spillway were not evaluated.

District information regarding the system suggests the majority of system flows (65-70%) west of Holder originates from base and spring flow and is largely supported by Rainbow River/Springs. This particular issue is one of very high concern to residents of Inglis and Yankeetown, many of which were present at the referenced hearing. Residents on the south side of the river channel are dependent upon private wells for



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water supply, live on an island which is isolated from the regional surficial aquifer and extremely vulnerable to salt water intrusion into the supporting aquifer.

They are correct on the point of this omission in development of the draft.

**<u>Permitting Cap:</u>** The Peer Review Panel made specific recommendations to cap permitting within the basin at present levels or at most provide minor allowance for permitting. The Panel expressed concerns about the sufficiency of data and/or analytical processes in draft development and opined that further study was justified while proceeding with caution. The view of the Panel generally resonates with concerned citizens.

Within the current draft are estimates of existing use and future demand for the resource in the contributing basin. It is suggested that within the planning period ending 2035 that total impact will rise to 3% of average system flow. Staff has recommended a 10 year review cycle which would provide an opportunity in 2027 for update of the rule, ostensibly with an enhanced data set.

It was noted during public input at the meeting in Dunnellon that the proposed 5% recommendation is inconsistent with the historical record over the most recent 20 years. In short, a super majority of annual flow records in that period are already below the proposed threshold. See Marraffino comments/2-22-17 (attached).

**<u>Recommendations</u>**: With a view tempered by the preceding discourse, we make the following recommendations intent on facilitating a functional draft recommendation.

1. Given that recent annual average flows are, in the majority, below the draft 5% flow reduction threshold which defines significant harm to the system, and consistent with Peer Review Panel recommendations, cap further WUP issuance and recommend development of a recovery plan for the system. If de minimis impact (estimated +.5-1%) is required to facilitate development of a recovery plan due to legislated time constraints, it would be accepted by this organization.

2. Maintain the 10 year review cycle, or increase frequency as deemed appropriate.

3. Make clear unequivocal recommendation to the Governing Board that the District collaborate with FDEP in further analysis of the nutrient/residence time puzzle; sufficient that definitive understanding of the relationship and thresholds which trigger unacceptable algal proliferation are understood and properly evaluated within the framework of MFL rule development and review.

4. Seek the assistance of the Florida legislature in developing a regulatory definition of Significant Harm.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Williand

Dan Hilliard President W.A.R., Inc. 352-527-0023