**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**10-21-16 WSA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Overview**

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held a Board meeting on October 21, 2016 at the Renaissance Building. The draft agenda and list of participants can be found in Appendices A and B. Review the action items underlined below for your commitments and actions you can help with. This report is based on the recorder’s notes and does not capture everything or exactly what was said.

**Opening**

Chair Sean McGlynn welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting agenda and everyone introduced themselves. The minutes of the last Board meeting and the Treasurer’s Report (Appendix C) were approved.

**Nitrogen Contributions of Karst Seepage from Sinking Streams and Lakes**

Seán McGlynn provided an overview of the study report, “Nitrogen Contributions of Karst Seepage into the Upper Floridan Aquifer from Sinking Streams and Sinking Lakes in the Wakulla Springshed.” This is an update of the 2014 Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) study prepared under a Protect Florida Springs license tag grant to the Alliance from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Loading estimates for total nitrogen may increase from 10% to 17%, making these the second largest source of nitrogen loading that can be remediated in the Wakulla Springshed after septic tanks.

There were a number of concerns, questions and suggestions regarding the study.  It was agreed that the final report will be circulated, interested and informed parties will provide comments and there will be a meeting to consider further refinements in the report.  (Everyone on the WSA mailing list should have received a copy of the report.  Others can request copies from rdeyle@fsu.edu.)

**Wakulla Springs BMAP and the OSTDS Committee Meeting Update**

Bob Deylereported that the OSTDS Committee met. The WSA needs to advocate for doing the wastewater study funding sooner. Springs Protection funds may be available. It is not a capital improvement but may be considered. WSA needs to meet with the Counties and City Commissioners. We have a scope and cost estimate of $2.1 million. Leon Co has advanced funding for the Woodville Sewer Project ($3 million for engineering and $30 million for the project. $1.5 million if from the WMD and 1.5 million from Leon County). Jim Stevenson is on the Blueprint Citizen’s advisory committee. John Buss with the City has been advocating this. The local government committee will develop and implement strategy for early funding of all or part of the study for Wakulla and Leon Counties (Debbie Lightsey, Anthony Gaudio, Pam Hall, Howard Kessler, Tom Taylor and Bob Henderson) Tom Taylor made the motion to approve this action and Bob Deyle seconded it. The motion passed.

NWFWMD and DACS are implementing BMPs in the District, including pivot systems, fertilizer application. There are more nurseries than agriculture in our area. Some funding is available. It has to be requested by a local government. We may want to look for short-term projects.

**US 319 Project, Update**

Bob Deyle said that the WSA has sent letters about redesigning ponds. Senator Montfort set up a briefing with FDOT. We have gotten responses from Wakulla County, Leon County and Tallahassee commissioners. We should ask for a personal response and not have them pass the letter along.

**Legislative Update**

Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida said we will know more next month after the elections and when committees have been formed.

**The Corbett Property**

Cal Jamison provided an update on the Corbett property, which is on the Florida Acquisition list. It has swallets and sinkholes and sheet floods. It may go before the Wakulla County Planning Commission for a zoning change soon. About ½ of the 360 acres are wetlands and the whole property sheet floods. The proposal calls for 180 single family homes and 50 townhomes. It may be possible to challenge the zoning change. 1000 Friends needs a neighbor to file the challenge. The WMD needs a willing seller before February and this could be a good project. Cal Jamison and Seán McGlynn will talk to the owners about the possibility of selling the property. There was a question about whether this would be managed by the State Park or another entity. It

**Florida Springs Restoration Summit, Summary**

Seán McGlynn attended and said it was a good summit, Gwen Graham gave the keynote address. About 150 attended. There has been a positive evolution and people were enthusiastic.

[**Florida Conservation Coalition**](http://floridaconservationcoalition.org/) **Representative**

Jim Stevenson announced that the WSA is now a member. This is a coalition of 60 statewide and local organizations created by Bob Graham. They provide [daily briefings](http://floridaconservationcoalition.org/item), trainings and lobbying.

**Florida Forever Funding**

There is a goal to acquire Protection Zones for Wakulla Springs and First Order Magnitude Springs.  This is aimed at 13 springs in N FL, 16,000 acres of which 9k have been acquired. They hope to buy 6,000 acres, including 300 A in Ferrell track. We need an appropriation from the Legislature, $20 million do a lot. Some parcels are not still available. Springs protection is #1 and on this list Wakulla Springs is #4. Rob Williams and Jim Stevenson met with Senator Montfort. Much of the springshed is in his district. need Republican help is needed, Like Sen Simpson and other leaders who have springs in their districts. Bay Co Audubon may be an ally. Cypress Spring was lost; it was purchased by Nesli. Ferrell is right over the cave system. Gainer Springs acquisition could create another State Park. Buying land avoids new septic tanks too. Compare this to Senator Negron’s request for $2 billion for the everglades. The WMD bought 300k acres near the Ecofina years ago, which also protects water supply for Panama City and Bay County. Everglades advocates want $2 billion. We need to unify to demand $200m/yr. for N FL Springs. Then have Scientists to determine best use of the money. FCC can build a coalition of N FL folks including the FL Springs Initiative. We need advocacy groups to have a unified message. We need to see who is on legislative committees. This needs to be on FL Springs Initiative’s quarterly meeting agenda. We need to find the balance between land acquisition and sewering. Property owners should have to pay for sewering with assistance for those with low incomes. Ryan Smart will take the lead. Keith Fountain (Cushman) with Conservation Advisors, LLC sent a letter to Todd Kincaid about purchasing the Ferrell property asking for a letter of support from the WSA. Cal will contact him about their plan.

Acquisitions in Wakulla Springs area was delayed by Hurricane Hermine.

**Wakulla Springs, Upon the face of the Waters, a Brief History of Wakulla Springs,**

This is a new book by Tracy Revels. Seán McGlynn said that sales of the book benefit the Friends of Wakulla Springs.

**WSA webmaster, Website and Social Media,**

Tom Taylor has talked with Rob Gelhardt about setting up the website and circulated an outline of the website contents for comment, see Appendix D

**Wakulla Springs Archeology Update**

Cal Jamison reported that there are two professional excavations funded for 2016 at Wakulla Springs State Park

**Big Bend Environmental Forum**

The 2nd forum not as well attended but candidates all spoke about Wakulla Springs. Jim Stevenson took candidates Ausley and Messer on a tour.

Appendix A

**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**A**

Agenda 10/21/16

**9 am to 12 pm, Renaissance Center, 435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**9:00 Opening**

1. Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)
2. Introductions (Board)
3. Secretary Minutes (Tom Taylor)
4. Treasurer Report (Howard Kessler)

**9:10       Seán McGlynn**

This is an update of the 2014 Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) study. Loading estimates for total nitrogen for sinking streams and lakes to the Upper Floridan Aquifer in the Wakulla Springshed may increase from 5% to 17%, making these the second largest source of nitrogen loading that can be remediated in the Wakulla Springshed after septic tanks.

**9:40     Wakulla Springs BMAP and the OSTDS committee meeting update**– Bob Deyle

**10:10 What’s new**

* US 319 project, update – Bob Deyle
* Legislative Update – Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida
* Springshed Updates – Cal Jamison
	+ Corbett property update
* Department of Environmental Regulation’s plan to updated rules Water Quality Rules– Board
* Florida Springs Restoration Summit, Summary – Seán McGlynn
* Milkweed Project Update – Gail Fishman
* Florida Conservation Coalition Representative – Jim Stevenson
* St Marks Land Acquisition – update
* Florida Forever Funding – Rob Williams
	+ Protection Zone for Wakulla Springs and First Order Magnitude Springs
* Wakulla Springs, Upon the face of the Waters, a Brief History of Wakulla Springs, by Tracy Revels
	+ Fundraiser for the FOWS – Seán McGlynn
* WSA webmaster, Website and Social Media, Updates – Tom Taylor
* Foley Perry Plant, update – Howard Kessler
* Wakulla Springs Archeology Update – Cal Jamison
	+ Two professional excavations funded for 2016 at Wakulla Springs State Park
* Big Bend Environmental Forum, update – Jim Stevenson
* License Plate Grant and Tracing Studies – Bob Deyle and Seán McGlynn

**12:00 Adjourn**

Appendix B

**Board Advisors and Guests**

\* Indicates 10-21-16 Participants

Board Members

Bob Deyle \*

Gail Fishman

Albert Gregory

Cal Jamison \*

Howard Kessler \*

Todd Kincaid

Debbie Lightsey \*

Terrance McCaffrey

Sean McGlynn \*

Ryan Smart \*

Jim Stevenson \*

Tom Taylor \*

Rob Williams

Guests

Mark Heidecker \*

Chuck Hess \*

Johnny Richardson \*

Richard Wieckowiez \*

Nick Wooten \*

WSA Advisors

Anthony Gaudio

Pam Hall \*

Julie Harrington

Bob Henderson

Bob Knight

Pam McVety

Dan Pennington

Bob Thompson

Appendix C

**Wakulla Springs Alliance Treasurer Report**

**for October 21, 2016 meeting**

Treasurer Report For Month ending September 30, 2016

Starting Balance September 1, 2016: 4,271.27

Deposits: none

Withdrawals: 2.00 monthly service fee --- for hard copies of statements\*\*\*

Balance ending August 31, 2016: **4,269.27**

**\*\*\* Even** though repeated were made to the bank asking not to have a hard copy, the bank billing would not recognize verbal and written requests until the request was submitted online. This was done with the aid of a bank representative.

Appendix D

**Proposed WSA Website Structure**

**WSA Purpose and Plans**

1. The Past, Present and the Path to Preservation
2. Restoring and Protecting the Waters of Wakulla Springs
3. Basin Map
4. Facts about Wakulla Springs
5. The FL Springs Task Force Principles to Protect Springs
6. Actions to Protect Wakulla Springs, the Wakulla River and Our Drinking Water
7. WSA Mission
8. WSA Strategic Plan
9. WSA Projects
10. Wakulla Springs: Plan for the Future by the FL Springs Institute

**WSA Leadership for Action (Org. Info)**

1. WSA Bylaws
2. WSA Officers and Board Members
3. WSA Advisors
4. WSA Committees: Executive, Local Government,
5. WSA Membership
6. Spring Champions and Partners: Friends of WS, FL Springs Institute, 1000 Friends, Audubon, Sierra,
7. WSA Board Meeting Minutes
8. WSA Letters

**Plans, Reports, Videos and Other Resources**

1. Basin Management Action Plan, BMAP
2. Blueprint 1-cent Tax Wastewater Project
3. Lombardo Study
4. Tallahassee Wastewater Management Plan
5. Tallahassee Stormwater Plan
6. Wakulla Springs: Plan for the Future by the FL Springs Institute
7. Videos:
8. Pictures:

**Support Saving Wakulla Springs**

1. Become a member or get on our email list
2. Become a volunteer, committee member or advocate
3. Donate