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**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

Board Meeting Minutes 04/15/16

9 am to 12 pm, Renaissance Center

435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**Overview**

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held a Board meeting on April 15, 2016 at the Renaissance Center. 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 secretary’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 3-18-16 Board meeting and Treasurer’s Report were approved.

**Dye and Other Studies at Wakulla Springs**

Sean McGlynn showed the results of dye studies from Todd Kincaid. These need to be updated with additional studies with references and posted on the WSA website with GIS maps and other resources. Jamie Huges can contribute to this. The light (clarity and color) studies are important. Spring Creek is 4 times darker than Wakulla. There is a need to track water wells at different depths in the springshed.

**Parks in Peril**

Jim Stevenson said there will be tree cutting and replanting at Wekiva and pasture rehab at Rock Springs Run.It is hard to get information from DEP.Articles and op eds are being published around the state. We need letters from everyone. Gwen Graham did work day at Wakulla Springs**.** Albert Gregory, Dana Bryant and Jim have been taking the lead on efforts to preserve the parks. There is a Wakulla tour on May 21 and we need help promoting this.

**Meeting with the NWFWMD**

Bob Deyle,Tom Taylor, Jamie Hughes and Seán McGlynnmet with Brett Cyphers, Executive Director and Nicholas Wooten, Director, Division of Resource Management. Meeting notes by Bob Deyle are in Appendix D. One of the projects being considered by the WMD is a pilot for new technology septic tanks on Rhodes Cemetery Road that was suggested by Darrel Joyner at DEP. Debbie Lightsey will set up meeting with Darrel Joyner, Theresa Heiker or someone in public works to explore pilot options. We also need to advocate for a master wastewater study/facilities plan/restoration plan in coordination with the BMAP OSTDS committee. There is a study in the blueprint funding that needs to be done now. Someone needs to attend WMD board meetings.

**BMAP Update**

Debbie Lightsey announced the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs BMAP meeting on Monday, April 25, 2016, 10:00 AM, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Room 609, 2600 Blair Stone Road. It will focus on the OSTDS Remediation Strategy. There is a deadline in the water bill that requires the plan a year earlier.

DEP has not appointed the OSTDS committee or scheduled a meeting. We nominated Bob Henderson and Bob Deyle and support Anthony Gaudio as an industry and Curtis Baines as a homeowner representative.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the April 25 meeting and to push getting the wastewater study done as soon as possible and identify priority projects for springs and other funding. We will also solicit support of Sustainable Tallahassee, Build a Great Community and other groups to expedite the needed studies. Debbie and Bob Henderson will develop a proposal statement. Jamie Hughes GIS project will support these efforts. Tom Taylor made a motion to take the above BMAP related actions, Jim Stevenson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

**Ames Sink**

Jim Stevenson described this sink as a highlight of the tours. The owner, Sam Wommack, may be willing to sell with a life estate. There are 4 lots and including others may be beneficial. Ames sink is the first of 4-5 swallets in the area. We need to find who owns these lands. Leon County may already own parts of this. Cal has the GPS coordinates of these swallets. This is supported by Mary Ann Lindley and some of the other commissioners. Blueprint and the WMD have been informed. WMD budget will be finalized in August for new budget year starting October 1. A motion was passed to send a letter to Leon Co with a copy to the WMD,

**Legislative Update** – See 1000 Friends of [Florida Legislative Wrap-up.](http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org/2016-legislative-update-webinar/)

**Woodville Hwy.**

Tom Taylor reported on the road widening for Woodville Highway between Paul Russell Road and Capital Circle that includes 5 stormwater retention ponds. Mark Heidecker will contact Blueprint and Tom Taylor will work with Bob Deyle to send questions to DOT regarding what evaluation of nutrients has been done, alternative designs of stormwater treatment, etc.

**Oakridge road and 61 traffic circle proposed near Ames Sink**

We need to follow developments on this.

**Land Acquisition**

Cal talked about land (40 acres adjacent to the State Park and Forest) in the Dick Wilson Family Trust run by Mr. Wilson. It is on McBride Slough that runs into the Wakulla River. There may be a plan to clear-cut the area. This has been raised to #1 priority for acquisition by the Park. The rumor is the Trust doesn’t want to deal with the state. The Nature Conservancy, TNC, or the Trust for Public Land, TPL, could be the purchaser. The lease holders have been kicked off. Cal Jameson will continue to gather information and Jim Stevenson will contact TNC and TPL to see if they are interested.

**Public educational initiative for the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs**

Seán McGlynn reported that and education/museum facility could be where the Dogwood room is or where there used to be a greenhouse near the Bathhouse. There are current and future archeological relics that can be displayed. There is a need for a 100-person room for meetings. The Wakulla Environmental Institute, WEI, has a large meeting room where we could do things. St Marks Reserve has a meeting room too. Funding for staffing also needs to be considered. The BMAP has an educational component (strategy/plan) and there may be funds for OSTDS education. This is a focus of Friends of Wakulla Springs that the Alliance can be supportive of.

**[Florida Springs Summit](http://www.springsrestorationsummit.org/)**

Jim Stevenson encouraged everyone to attend the Summit to learn about the latest information on springs conditions and advocacy. It will be Sept 30 to Aug 1 in Ocala and is sponsored by FL Springs Institute.

**Climate Change**

Debbie Lightsey has suggested that we may want to invite experts on climate change and sea level rise to a future meeting. This is already impacting Spring Creek and other aspects of the Spring. The salt water wedge is moving and the Punch Bowl sink saltwater plug is changing. Dogwoods and other plants are affected by 1-2 degrees of change.

**Manatee Letter**

Tom Taylor reported that the WSA signed on to a letter opposing downlisting manatee from being an endangered to a threatened species. The letter was sent out with the meeting notice.

**Mormon Land Holding Update**

Seán McGlynn showed a map of the 670,000 acre holdings. They are now the largest land holder in Florida. There is concern about clearing land and herbicide use for cattle and pine straw operations. 1000 test oil/gas wells are being drilled near Wewahatchee and this may be on Church owned land. Sean will continue to research this.

**Springshed Updates**

Cal Jamison reported that there is a cattle operation on Jump Creek and there are not a lot of other problems at sink holes. $37m in funding for conservation easements for protection of water resources may be available. Cal met with DACS and USDA about ag operations and will ask them to speak to the Soil and Water Conservation District, SWCD.

Wakulla County removed wetlands protection. Wakulla does not have staff that are qualified and able to evaluate wetland impacts. Wakulla County is upgrading and expanding capacity at the wastewater treatment plant to Advanced Water Treatment standards, AWT, to accommodate new sewering projects in Wakulla and Magnolia Gardens. The RFP is out to bid.

There is still farming at the Tallahassee spray field.

Gadsden SWCD has film on removing native aquatic plants. This may cause more problems. Cal told them this is a bad idea. Cal is running for reelection to the Wakulla SWCD. 2 members are running for other elections. We need people to recruit and/or run for these positions.

**Big Bend Environmental Forum**

They meet quarterly. They have a candidate environmental forum. We need to continue our membership and find a representative to attend their meetings. Bob Henderson and Debbie Lightsey will develop a questionnaire for current candidates on Wakulla Springs issues that can be shared with the BBEF and/or sent out by the WSA

**Membership -** We need more members. Everyone needs to bring people to the next meeting.

**Website –** Tom Taylor will check with Dan Pennington about posting reports and letters

**Graham Releases Wakulla Workday Video**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today Representative Gwen Graham released a video highlighting her 26th Workday testing water quality and learning more about the issues facing Florida’s environment at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park.

[**Click here to watch Rep. Gwen Graham’s Wakulla Springs Workday video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nfuxs6xceHs)

Appendix A

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**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

Agenda 04/15/16

9 am to 12 pm, Renaissance Center

435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**WSA Board Meeting** **Draft**

**9:00 Opening**

* Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)
* Introductions (Board)
* Secretary Minutes (Tom Taylor)
* Treasurer Report(Howard Kessler)

**9:05 Parks in Peril - Jim Stevenson**

**9:30 Summary of meeting with the NWFWMD, implications for OSTDS projects and land acquisition– (**Tom Taylor and Seán McGlynn**)**

* Please Attachment 1- Notes by Bob Deyle

**10:00 BMAP Update –** Debbie Lightsey

Discussion: Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs BMAP, it will focus on the OSTDS Remediation Strategy, Monday, April 25, 2016, 10:00 AM, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Room 609, 2600 Blair Stone Road

**10:30 What’s new**

* Legislative Update –Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida and Rob Williams
* US Highway 319 / Crawfordville Road Widening – Bob Deyle (out of town)
* Land Acquisition (ULLAP)- John Outland
* Public educational initiative for the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs BMAP - Seán McGlynn
* Florida Springs Summit – Jim Stevenson
* Septic Tank Letter for Women’s Mission (48 sent so far)
  + Please see attachment 2
* Climate Change – Debbie Lightsey
  + Please see attachment 3 and 4
* License Plate Grant and Tracing Studies – Bob Deyle (out of town)
* Manatee Letter -Tom Taylor
  + Please Attachment 5
* Mormon Update - Seán McGlynn
* Springshed Updates - Cal Jamison
* Wakulla Wildlife Festival - Seán McGlynn

**11:30 Items from the floor**

**12:00 Adjourn**

**Other Events:**

**Wakulla Wildlife Festival,** April 16,Wakulla Springs State Park, Special Inaugural Glass Bottom Boat Tour, newly restored glass bottom boat, the Henry *“Walk with Mastodons.*”

**Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs BMAP public meeting. Monday, April 25, 2016, 10:00 AM, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Room 609, 2600 Blair Stone Road**

Appendix B

**Board, Advisors and Guests**

\* Indicates 4-15-16 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

WSA Advisors

Anthony Gaudio

Pam Hall

Julie Harrington

Bob Henderson \*

Bob Knight

Pam McVety

Dan Pennington

Bob Thompson

Guests

Doug Barr \*

Ken Espy \*

Mark Heidecker \*

Jamie Hughes \*

Johnny Richardson\*

Appendix C

**Wakulla Springs Alliance Treasurer Report for April 15, 2016 meeting**

Treasurer Report For month ending March 31, 2016

Starting Balance February 29, 2016: 3,733.68

Deposits : None

Withdrawals: 70.41 for brochure printing Check 135: Jim Stevenson

Balance ending March 31, 2016: 3,663.27

Appendix D

**Notes from 3-28-16 WSA Meeting with NWFWMD Staff**

Present: Brett Cyphers, Executive Director, NWFWMD

Nicholas Wooten, Director, Division of Resource Management, NWFWMD

Sean McGlynn, Chair, WSA

Bob Deyle, Vice Chair, WSA

Tom Taylor, Secretary, WSA

Jamie Hughes, WSA

 $50 million Springs money is recurring; FDEP is apparently encountering some challenges in spending that much money each year.

 Cyphers has staked a claim to $12‐15 million per year based on percent of (primary?) springs located within NWFWMD.

 WMD acts as middle man – They solicit qualifying projects from local governments; now on an ongoing basis. They have a running list with qualifying projects ranked – see copy of spreadsheet. Some that are shaded gray will move up next year as local match becomes available,

 WMD Board holds public hearing and then forwards recommendations to FDEP for final awards. DEP’s primary concern seems to be with assurances that projects will in fact get completed and

deliver the intended reductions. Projects are reviewed by Tom Frick and Trina Vilhauer.

 Some project ideas have originated with FDEP:

o One or more land acquisition projects

o Drew Bartlett promoted undertaking a pilot project for deploying Bold and Gold

advanced filtration treatment system to treat OSTDS effluent. WMD in process of

convincing Leon County to undertake this at a subdivision on Cemetery Road. Cyphers

suggested we ask Theresa Heiker how we could help promote this project.

 Funds must be used for projects that will enhance the quantity or quality of spring flow. May be used for land acquisition as well as design and construction of water treatment/management facilities. Cyphers mentioned that they want to acquire a First Order magnitude spring in Bay County owned by the Petrandis Family near Pitt Springs off Highway 20. This is the only privately owned first magnitude spring in Florida. We mentioned the possible acquisition of Ames Sink, as there are indications that the owner might sell. Money may be used for design as long as it is phase 1 of a project that will be implemented.

 Wooten said cluster systems not viable at this time because of the lack of RMEs. Even where

they are, less likely to be as cost effective as hooking up to Thomas P. Smith via sewers because

if huge economies of scale built into the new AWT system, unless project areas are too far out to

be sewered. (But he seemed to be ignoring the constraint posed by the USA boundary.)

 Cyphers said that NWFWMD is emphasizing projects that contribute to the implementation of

BMAPs. (Wakulla Springs is the only adopted BMAP in the NWFWMD’s jurisdiction. A BMPA is in

progress for Jackson Blue Spring.) But he seemed to be unaware of the Wakulla OSTDS

remediation initiative and/or advisory committee.

 He also said at one point that the WMD tends to be more focused on water quantity rather than

quality because of its primary responsibility for MFLs.

 Leon County is required to provide match (how much?). Has several projects that qualify for

which county is not prepared to provide match this year. Biggest constraint, however, is the

county’s unwillingness to take on institutional responsibility for managing wastewater.

 Wakulla County qualifies as a jurisdiction that is not required to provide match although

apparently doing so may enhance project ranking(?). Wakulla County only has the staffing to

initiate one project per year.

 Cyphers indicated they would be open to land acquisition (fee simple and less‐than‐fee

conservation easements) proposals from WSA that would help protect significant karst features

that directly affect Wakulla Springs. The District has been negotiating with the Farrell family to

acquire a large parcel near the NW corner of Rte. 267 and Wakulla Springs Road but their asking

price is way above fair market value. Wooten said he knows Cal Jamison well