Wakulla Springs Alliance

6-17-16 WSA Board Meeting Minutes

**Overview**

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held a Board meeting on June 17, 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 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 last Board meeting and Treasurer’s Report (Appendix C) were approved. Tom Taylor, the secretary, announced that we have lost all the information that was on the WSA website and that it needs to be rebuilt. We need someone willing to be the WSA webmaster. It may be possible to coordinate the WSA and Friends of WS websites. Anyone interested should contact ttaylor@fsu.edu.

**Wakulla Springs BMAP Meeting**

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Wakulla BMAP, Tue, June 28, 2pm – 3pm, Woodville Community Center 8000 Old Woodville Rd.

The agenda packet asked for the review of this presentation from the last BMAP meeting and the DOH OSTDS Research report available on the FTP site (<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Upper%20Wakulla/OSTDS%20Initiative%20Meetings/April/Presentations/>).

A committee has been selected by FDEP for the development of the OSTDS Remediation Plan for the Wakulla Springs Basin. The table below shows the complete list of committee members for the Wakulla Springs OSTDS Advisory Committee.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sector** | **Representative** | **Entity/Group** |
| DOH \*+ | Alex Mahon/Katherine DavisFloyd Williams | Leon CountyWakulla County |
| County \*+ | Theresa HeikerSheree Keeler/Melissa Corbett | Leon CountyWakulla County |
| City \*+ | John Buss/Blas Gomez | City of Tallahassee |
| Private Utilities \*+ | John Hallas | Talquin Electric |
| Environmental Interest  + | Bob Deyle/Bob Henderson | Friends of Wakulla Springs/Wakulla Springs Alliance, etc. |
| Homeowners + | Curtis Baynes | Property owners |
| Other interests + | Stan DerzypolskiRoxanne GrooverAnthony Gaudio | Home Builders IndustryFlorida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA)Community Leader |

Anthony Gaudio and Tom Taylor presented draft guiding principles that can be used by WSA representatives on the OSTDS committee and others, which were added to and edited by the group, see below:

**Guiding Principles for Nutrient Reduction in Wakulla Springs**

1. Develop and adopt performance standards for nutrient reducing OSTDS and cluster systems (consider Wekiva and other examples).
2. Designate boundaries (PFA or PSPZ) and special areas or conditions (above cave system). LAVA and WAVA studies can be used.
3. Require nutrient reduction OSTDS in the Wakulla Springs Primary Focus Areas (PFA) and/or Primary Springs Protection Zones (PSPZ) for new construction and OSTDS replacements, if sewer lines are not available.
4. Encourage and subsidize the systematic replacement and upgrading of existing, traditional OSTDS with nutrient reduction OSTDS and cluster systems in the FFA and/or PSPZ.
5. Potential new sewering projects should be prioritized based on these criteria:
	1. Location in the Wakulla Springs Primary Focus Areas (PFA) and/or Springs Protection Zones (SPZ).
	2. Location within the Urban Service Area (USA).
	3. Minimize creating new development density rights in the Wakulla Springs Primary Focus Areas (PFA) and/or Springs Protection Zones (SPZ) that will increase nutrients from multiple sources.
	4. Achieve the maximum amount of nutrient reduction per dollar spent by both government and property owners.
	5. Seek federal, state and local funding to minimize the cost to property owners with special assistance based on income.
	6. Only extend sewers if all property owners must connect. Provide subsidies based on income.
6. Create and coordinate funding for appropriate Responsible Management Entities (RME) that can promote, finance, monitor and manage appropriate OSTDS and cluster systems.
7. Provide funding of a coordinated state and local regulatory system to assure nutrient reduction systems are operating effectively.
8. Pursue state and local legislation as needed to enable these actions.

Those present were asked to rank the acceptability of the principles using this scale:

3 = Acceptable, 2 = I have concerns but can live with it or 1 = Opposed. These were the groups ratings of the principles above.

3 2 1

9 0 0

**Munson Symposium and status of the Ames Sink Acquisition**

Jim Stevensonreported on themeeting held on June 9, 2016. It was well attended, including William Landing, chair, Leon County Science Advisory Committee); Johnny Richardson, Leon County, Theresa Heiker, City of Tallahassee; Woo Jun Kang, FDEP; Jerrick Saquibal, NWFWMD; Susan Emmanuel, Blueprint 2000/PLACE; Stephen Hodges, City of Tallahassee; Mark Heidecker City of Tallahassee; Harvey Harper, ERD; Megan Keserauskis, FWC; Cal Jamison; Ames Sink Purchase, Jim Stevenson; WSA. This symposium was filmed for those who could not attend, special screening TBA. These are notes from the WSA meeting discussion:

* Munson is the only lake in state with a DOH advisory to not eat the fish.
* Bill Landing chaired a well-attended meeting. There will be a report and the Science Advisory Committee will continue work on this.
* There is a Munson Slough Acquisition Project handled by the county. About 20 lots have been acquired because of flooding. Perhaps the 3 lots around Ames Sink can be acquired too.
* 29% of the COT stormwater goes here.
* Island Apple Snails were introduced to Lake Munson in 2002.
* The dam put in in the 1800’s. Most of the lake is only 3-5 feet deep.
* The cost estimate to dredge the polluted sediments is $40 million. Alum treatment may be $700,000.
* Alum treatment is being considered. There are concerns about side-affects. More research is needed on the benefits and impacts.
* WSA will continue to be involved.
* Review Harper’s reports on Alum applications to be provided by City. Ken Espy will provide these for distribution to the WSA mailing list.

**Ames Sink**

* We sent a letter to the WMD and Brett Cyphers, NWFWMD, said the acquisition is on their project list. The current proposal in in Appendix D
* WSA may want to advocate for building a wetland and control structure at Ames Sink to improve the chances of WMD acquisition.
* Jim Stevenson has talked to BluePrint staff, the LC Science Advisory Committee and others about acquisition. Commissioners Mattox, Lindley, Desloge and Dailey have taken Jim’s tour.
* About 30 previous county acquisitions in the vicinity of Ames Sink were for flood reasons.
* Everyone is encouraged to talk to their City and County Commissioners to support acquisition of the Ames Sink properties.

**Legislative Update** Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida and others made these points:

* There will be a smaller water bill and this is the time to develop ideas, including monitoring of consumptive use permits, reporting on springs water quality and quantity, etc. Everyone is encouraged to send ideas to Ryan.
* Nutrient reduction can come from ag or septic systems and there is more political power behind ag.
* Ryan will prepare legislative proposals for WSA endorsement.
* The BMAP OSTDS committee may have recommendations for legislation for regulation and funding.

**Florida Springs Institute** Jim Stevenson said:

* Bob Knight formed the Institute and the FL Springs Council (the more political group).
* Jim in on the board and Todd and Rob are advisors.
* He suggested that we pay $100 to be a member. This suggestion will be considered by the WSA Executive Committee.

**Saving WS Tours** Jim Stevenson reported that

* The FSULaw school has endorsed the purchase of the Ames Sink properties.
* The president of 1000 Friends and Richard Harden, WC Commissioner and Manny Joanas and others took the May tour.

**Buckeye Symposium**, July 18 @ 3pm, in the Wakulla County Commission Chamber

* The symposium is convened by Howard Kessler
* It is about discharges from the paper mill now owned by Georgia Pacific (Koch Brothers)

**Springshed Updates**

* Cal Jamison showed pictures of a pond at the Dugger site on Hwy 319 at Bloxham Cutoff, where the a FDOT stormwater retention pond is proposed. There are mapped caves under it.
* WSA needs to engage policy makers at FDOT, DEP and WMD regarding FDOT ponds.
* Doug Barr will help reach out to the FDOT District Secretary.
* We may want to get Senator Montford to make a call.

**License Plate Grant and Tracing Studies**

* Follow the link to view some good news. [tallahasseedemocrat.fl.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=0142f7029](http://tallahasseedemocrat.fl.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=0142f7029)
* Video is just about done, 95% complete.
* The sinking lakes report is almost done. There is brown water going out Spring Creek. It is a complex system.

Appendix A

**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**Proposed 6-17-16 Board Meeting Agenda**

 **9:00 Opening**

* Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)
* Introductions (Board)
* Secretary Minutes (Tom Taylor)
	+ Please see attachment 1
* Treasurer Report(Howard Kessler)
	+ Please see attachment 2

**9:10 Parks in Peril - Jim Stevenson**

**9:30 Preparing for Wakulla Springs BMAP Meeting** – Debbie Lightsey, Tom Taylor, Pam Hall and Seán McGlynn

The presentations from last week’s meeting are available on the FTP site (<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Upper%20Wakulla/OSTDS%20Initiative%20Meetings/April/Presentations/>).

**10:00 Review and Summary of the Munson Symposium and status of the Ames Sink Acquisition** - Jim Stevenson

This meeting was held on June 9, 2016 – William Landing (chair, SAC); Leon County Johnny Richardson, Theresa Heiker (?); FDEP Woo Jun Kang, NWFWMD Jerrick Saquibal, Blueprint2000/PLACE Susan Emmanuel, Stephen Hodges, COT Mark Heidecker; ERD Harvey Harper; FWC, Megan Keserauskis, BJ Jamison; Ames Sink Purchase, Jim Stevenson; Plenary Discussion and Summary Bill Landing. This symposium was filmed for those who could not attend, special screening TBA.

**10:30 Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) Advisory Committee** – Debbie Lightsey, Tom Taylor, Pam Hall and Seán McGlynn. A committee selected by FDEP for the development of the OSTDS Remediation Plan for the Wakulla Springs Basin. The table below shows the complete list of committee memebers for the Wakulla Springs OSTDS Advisory Committee.

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| Private Utilities \*+ | John Hallas | Talquin Electric |
| Environmental Interest  + | Bob Deyle/Bob Henderson | Friends of Wakulla Springs/Wakulla Springs Alliance, etc. |
| Homeowners + | Curtis Baynes | Property owners |
| Other interests + | Stan DerzypolskiRoxanne GrooverAnthony Gaudio | Home Builders IndustryFlorida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA)Community Leader |

Also available, is the Department of Health’s Final Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study Report (<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Upper%20Wakulla/OSTDS%20Initiative%20Meetings/April/DOH_finalnitrogenlegislativereportsmall.pdf>).

**11:00 What’s new**

* Legislative Update – Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida
* Florida Springs Institute - Jim Stevenson
* Buckeye Symposium, July 18 @ 3pm – Howard Kessler
* Climate change in Florida– Seán McGlynn
* Springshed Updates – Cal Jamison
* License Plate Grant and Tracing Studies – Follow the link to view some good news.
[tallahasseedemocrat.fl.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=0142f7029](http://tallahasseedemocrat.fl.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=0142f7029)

**11:25 Items from the floor**

**12:00 Adjourn**

**Wakulla BMAP, When: Tue, June 28, 2pm – 3pm, Where: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 2:00 PM Woodville Community Center 8000 Old Woodville Rd.**

Appendix B

**Board, Advisors and Guests**

\* Indicates 6-17-16 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

James Call

Kathleen Coates

Ken Espy

Mark D. Repasky PE

Appendix C

**Wakulla Springs Alliance Treasurer Report**

**for June 17, 2016 meeting**

Treasurer Report For Month ending May 31, 2016

Starting Balance April 30, 2016: 3,663.27

Deposits: None

Withdrawals: None

Balance ending May 31, 2016: 3,663.27

Jim Stevenson provided a $200 check from the FSU Law School for the tour and a $348 check from Palmetto Expeditions for the tours.

Appendix D

**Ames Sink Acquisition Proposal**

Approximately 30% of Tallahassee’s stormwater flows south through the Lake Munson watershed. This water has been traced from the Capital to Wakulla Spring. After passing through Lake Munson, the water flows underground into the aquifer, through a geological feature called Ames Sink. It is located in Bradford Brook on Cottonwood Lane about a mile north of the Leon/Wakulla County line. In 2004, scientists released dye in Ames Sink and it reached Wakulla Spring 20 days later---a distance of six miles. This research contributed to the designation of the Leon County Primary Springs Protection Zone.

Ames Sink is a unique geological feature which serves educational and scientific purposes. The Northwest Florida Water Management District maintains a flow meter in the sink and water quality testing has been conducted there sporadically. Since it is private property the nearest public access to collect water samples is up-stream on Oak Ridge Road.

Monthly “Saving Wakulla Springs” educational tours of this portion of the Wakulla Spring Basin have been conducted for the past four years and Ames Sink is a popular stop during the tour. The owner, Mr. Sam Wommack, has graciously permitted these tours on his property. Hundreds of county residents, including students, have observed this geological phenomenon during these tours. Four Leon County Commissioners, Tallahassee Democrat Publisher Skip Foster, U.S. Representative Gwen Graham and other officials have taken the tour and seen Ames Sink. Acquisition of this property would ensure the continuation of education tours, scientific monitoring and research and also help to mitigate flooding and water quality problems.

Relatively recent acquisitions in the Munson watershed have contributed to the protection of Wakulla Spring. In 2010 Leon County obtained the 8-Mile Pond tract consisting of 132 acres. Munson Slough flows into and out of 8-Mile Pond and then continues to Ames Sink about ½ mile downstream. The cave conducting the water from Ames Sink to Wakulla Spring passes beneath the 700 acre Chason Woods property purchased in 2013 by the state and managed as a state forest by the Florida Forest Service. The property is in Leon County and borders the south county line and State Road 61 and is about ¼ mile from Ames Sink.

Ames Sink is privately owned by Mr. Wommack and his son. They each own two lots. The two lots that contain Ames Sink are often flooded by the stormwater draining from Tallahassee. The lots are not developable due to frequent flooding. Sam Wommack lives in a frame house on one lot, part of which also floods. He has lived there over 30 years. His wife died in April. He is 84 and is a willing seller. His two lots and one of his son’s lots totaling 3.5 acres should be acquired.

Management would involve periodic inspections to protect the property from misuse. As it is only ½ mile from the county’s 8-Mile Pond and several other nearby residential lots owned by the county, such oversight will be simple. The lots were purchased by the county to deal with flooding and the septic tanks were eliminated which reduced the risk to Wakulla Spring.

Another advantage of this project is to satisfy some of the county’s responsibility for the Wakulla Springs and River BMAP requirements. The aquifer in this area is the “most vulnerable” to pollution according to the Leon Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment. Each of the county’s properties in this drainage provide cumulative water quality benefits. Funding partners could include Leon County, Blueprint, the NWFWMD springs appropriation, DEP, and the Friends of Wakulla Springs. The Wakulla Springs Alliance has formally requested that the Northwest Florida Water Management District participate in the acquisition of Ames Sink. The Property Appraiser’s total market value for the three lots is $105,000. The Blueprint Citizen Advisory Committee voted to apply for grants and set up partnerships for acquisition of Ames Sink.

There is a precedent for acquiring a geological swallet to protect a major spring. The Trust for Public Lands, using donated funds, acquired Rose Sink, in Columbia County that was proven to be connected by cave to Ichetucknee Springs five miles downstream. The purpose of the acquisition was to protect the water flowing to the springs and to permit educational and scientific activities that benefit the springs. To enhance protection, the state Environmental Regulation Commission designated Rose Sink as an extension of the Ichetucknee River Outstanding Florida Water.

Acquisition of such geological features raises public awareness about protection of our drinking water and our springs.

For further information: florida\_springs@comcast.net

June 17, 2016