**Wakulla Springs Alliance Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 27, 2025**

**Meeting Highlights**

* The board voted to cancel the July WSA Board meeting.
* There was a meeting on the proposed City fueling station on Orange Avenue June 21 that was probably our last meeting. They have made significant project improvements to address concerns we raised. See appendix D for a summary of the meeting.
* Conservation Florida is doing the title work for the Land Swap for SW Ga Oil property that will happen in the fall. CF will work with Tall Timbers to develop the management plan with WSA input.
* Kelly Keys, Renee Murray and Chad Hanson have been working on ideas including local lunch and learns and forums on water quality and springs protection in conjunction with the Wakulla Environmental Institute. We may do a 4-session certificate on springs protection. Contact the committee if you want to help.
* Gil Damon told the story of the “Kill the Drill” effort by the Downriver Project, Riverkeepers, Sierra and others. Here is a [link to the presentation](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1XdgqLfUCQUxdueIgWHdkunt7rVahUyD9XA3_REMq_OI/edit?usp=sharing).
* Mark Heidecker gave an update on the Tallahassee Master Plan – Surface Water ([TMaPS](https://webmail.centurylink.net/app/Utilities/gateway_url.asp?umsgid=%7Bc9d6630d-f5da-4c19-b6d5-c746cf258862%7D&uurl=https%3A//urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/citytlh-my.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/g/personal/mark_heidecker_talgov_com/EjWioqsYGO5Hp3ksE3n06BUBOd-_rSqvyQlygprlxlCFhQ__%3B%21%21N4_s6dRKiShDng%21ZT4dPSHtQHrKVKw9s8hqrFAf7PZqLeWHvLDjBUQhQmRs8v-1NAK7Otj6t0Jc8rIud8TJqgkDxFPOQlBVI3hrgIf8WMgk1w%24" \o "Click to open in a new window or tab: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/citytlh-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/mark_heidecker_talgov_com/EjWioqsYGO5Hp3ksE3n06BUBOd-_rSqvyQlygprlxlCFhQ__;!!N4_s6dRKiShDng!ZT4dPSHtQHrKVKw9s8hqrFAf7PZqLeWHvLDjBUQhQmRs8v-1NAK7Otj6t0Jc8rIud8TJqgkDxFPOQlBVI3hrgIf8WMgk1w$" \t "_blank)) project.
* Cal Jamison provided a springshed and river update that included water clarity, heights, nitrogen levels, critter counts and more.

**Meeting Notes**

**Opening WSA Board**

* Welcome and introductions – Chad Hanson, Chair
* Agenda review – Chad Hanson, Chair

**Financial report**– Anthony Gaudio

* See Appendix C
* We may want to get another CD
* Scott Hannah donated $500 to show in June report
* Howard Kessler made the motion to accept, seconded by Pete Scalco, which passed unanimously

**Minutes of May 23, 2025, Board meeting**- Tom Taylor/Brian Lupiani

* Cal Jamison made the motion to accept, seconded by Debbie Lightsey, which passed unanimously

**Update on UUPI (Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure)** - Industrial land use (including a fueling station) planned on 95 acres at the corner of CCSW and Orange Avenue W. Intersection**] -** DebbieLightsey

* This was probably our last meeting. They have made significant improvements to address concerns we raised.
* Tanks will be double walled, above ground with dikes, alarms and drain to the sewer system. See appendix D for a summary of the meeting.
* The engineer has sent out more information that will be sent out.
* There will be enhanced landscaping. Debbie will encourage coordination with DOT and Blueprint.
* We have had an excellent relation with the City of Tallahassee.
* Debbie will draft a letter of appreciation for approval of the executive committee.

**Status of Land Swap for SW Ga Oil property Report (**Renee Murray)

* Conservation Florida is doing the title work on the larger piece of land. CF took a loan for the purchase until DOT provides the funds. Then the exchange will happen in the fall.
* Q – What about management? A – CF will work with Tall Timbers to develop the management plan. We will regroup with them then.

**Springs Education and Outreach**

* Kelly Keys, Renee Murray and Chad Hanson have been working on ideas including local lunch and learns on water quality and springs protection.
* Wakulla Environmental Institute, WEI, are looking for Saturday forums and we will partner with them.
* We need to identify speakers for these events and WSA meetings. Contact the committee with ideas.
* Oyster farmers and water quality may be a topic.
* We may do a 4-session certificate on springs protection with FSU. Kelly is working on this. It may be like “master gardeners.”
* Contact the committee if you want to help.
* Jeff Hugo and Jacki Turner may be working with 4 graders and more.

**Apalachicola oil drilling lawsuit and legislation advocacy/strategy (**Gil Damon / Downriver Project)

* Gil told the story of the “Kill the Drill” effort by the Downriver Project, Riverkeepers, Sierra and others.
* Here is a [link to the presentation](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1XdgqLfUCQUxdueIgWHdkunt7rVahUyD9XA3_REMq_OI/edit?usp=sharing).
* Gil and his mother Sue Damon as Wakulla Springs boat drivers.
* They got started challenging Wakulla wastewater plans, then millions spent on septic tank removal, next the Chips hole gas station. We build great relations with Rep. Shoaf.
* Kill the Drill efforts broke the record for comments on a drilling permit. We had a website, yard signs and more. 100+ groups signed on to the effort.
* Apalachicola Riverkeepers focused on legal work that successfully killed the permit.
* We talked about our rights, heritage and economy.
* 400 people turning up at DEP was a turning point.
* We had great videos
* Rep. Jason Shoaf got on board and filed the bill and did a great job promoting it.
* Cornerstone School kids and college kids came out. Oyster farmers and boat captains talked about their businesses and the danger.
* Passed the House unanimously and with an amendment in the Senate.
* There was a rally in Apalachicola to encourage the governor to sign, which he did yesterday.
* It was a coalition built on past work by WSA.
* Gil is recognized for his youthful enthusiasm and energy was combined with the old to make this happen. It was key to have a coalition with Peter Scalco and other curmudgeons.
* We had a great social media campaign including personal story videos that explain what is going on and affirming real impacts on people and the environment.
* Kile Gibbs did the videos
* Q - Where can we send money? You can send it to [Riverkeepers](https://apalachicolariverkeeper.org/donate-now/), the [Downriver Project](https://www.downriverproject.org/donations), FL Shellfish Association.
* Thanks to Gil Damon and Pete Scalco!!!!
* Gil is going to Yale law school in the fall. Anyone interested in helping, should contact Gil. We are a megaphone and we need those with passion and want to organize.

**The Tallahassee Master Plan – Surface Water (TMaPS) project** (Mark Heidecker, City of Tallahassee)

Volumes 5 (Lake Lafayette Basin), 6 (Wakulla Spring & Lake Talquin) and 7 (Project & Study Recommendations) are available for review at the link ([TMaPS](https://webmail.centurylink.net/app/Utilities/gateway_url.asp?umsgid=%7Bc9d6630d-f5da-4c19-b6d5-c746cf258862%7D&uurl=https%3A//urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/citytlh-my.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/g/personal/mark_heidecker_talgov_com/EjWioqsYGO5Hp3ksE3n06BUBOd-_rSqvyQlygprlxlCFhQ__%3B%21%21N4_s6dRKiShDng%21ZT4dPSHtQHrKVKw9s8hqrFAf7PZqLeWHvLDjBUQhQmRs8v-1NAK7Otj6t0Jc8rIud8TJqgkDxFPOQlBVI3hrgIf8WMgk1w%24" \o "Click to open in a new window or tab: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/citytlh-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/mark_heidecker_talgov_com/EjWioqsYGO5Hp3ksE3n06BUBOd-_rSqvyQlygprlxlCFhQ__;!!N4_s6dRKiShDng!ZT4dPSHtQHrKVKw9s8hqrFAf7PZqLeWHvLDjBUQhQmRs8v-1NAK7Otj6t0Jc8rIud8TJqgkDxFPOQlBVI3hrgIf8WMgk1w$" \t "_blank)). Volumes 5 & 6 include comprehensive waterbody data reviews & summaries, qualitative assessment of sources, calculation of potential nutrient loads to select waterbodies and water quality study identification/prioritization. Volume 7 includes structural and non-structural best management practice (BMP) recommendations. The City will complete a final review, incorporate an executive summary and provide the final master plan (8 volumes) for final review in July.

* Planning started during COVID to update 1995 plan.
* This is in response to the calls from Pam Hall.
* It includes 28 water bodies, including Wakulla Springs, Lake Munson, Lake Lafayette, Lake Talquin, and more.
* It compiled 1000’s files, for qualitative and quantitative analysis.
* Bob Deyle, Sophie Wacongne-Speer and others were on the committee.
* It shows how to achieve BMAP targets. Septic tanks are the largest N-load contributor, 43%.
* TLH is preempted from controlling fertilizer. Atmospheric deposition is 33%.
* C – We can’t reduce deposition but we can increase vegetation to increase uptake. A – Hopefully it will be reduced by electric vehicles.
* Q – Do we know change in tree cover and tree clearing for development. A – There have been some studies and there may be more tree coverage now, partly from pastures becoming tree covered. Susan Poplin may have this.
* This is a [link](https://www.talgov.com/Uploads/Public/Documents/place/ufmp.pdf%20https:/www.talgov.com/place/pln-urbanforestry2) to TLH studies.
* Q – Was there an expiration of fertilizer bans. A – This may apply to summer application but not sale. Winter bans are more effective because it is not needed. What we can do has been maxed out. Education is important.
* Mark is always open to comments even though the comment period has ended.
* The plan should be complete in July. It will be sent out for review.
* Q - The largest owner of land west of the Apalachicola Forest is selling carbon credits. Is that something we can do? A – Trees are great and leaf litter has a lot of Nitrogen that can be a problem.
* Q – Has DEP responded to TLH comments on the BMAP? A – We have not gotten a response. I doubt that they will be addressed because it would require a redo of their methodology.

**Springshed and river update (**Cal Jamison)

* The water level is up. A year ago, flow was 400 to 800 now 800 to 1200 cf/m. We don’t have an explanation. It is moving sand and scouring the bottom. Sea level rise may block flow from Spring Creek and force water out of Wakulla Springs. This is not likely because the water is fairly clear.
* Visibility was 40.2’ yesterday. It has been in the 50’ range. We can see the color in the water.
* N readings range from .41 to .43. Last week they were up to 5. This is not near the .35 TMDL. USGS will stop some of their monitoring. Chad with check on this with the WMD.
* We see lots of critters, little blues, great white egrets, alligators, etc. Joe Jr. is about 12+’ was bellowing. Water hemlock is the only thing in bloom. There were 7 manatees and several sheepsheads, ospreys, yellow crowned night herons and more hens with young.
* There is lots of hydrilla
* Many kids are enjoying the springs.
* The asphalt milling contract Wakulla has with DOT is a concern. DOT is willing to discuss this. It is better to use lime rock.
* Friends of Wakulla Springs are getting an award at 6:00 tonight. All are welcome.
* Kelly Keys will receive a reward too.

**July Board Meeting**

* The board voted to cancel the July WSA Board meeting.

**Adjourn**

* Cal Jamison made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Anthony Gaudio, which passed unanimously

Appendix A

Agenda, Wakulla Springs Alliance Board Meeting,

Date: Friday, **June 27, 2025**

Time: 09:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location of Meeting **Zoom Only**

Zoom link [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89786667803](https://webmail.centurylink.net/app/Utilities/gateway_url.asp?umsgid=%7B7ca5f517-7842-46e4-a9d1-f67c24b31ec4%7D&uurl=https%3A//us06web.zoom.us/j/89786667803)

**9:00    Opening WSA Board**

**Welcome and introductions** – Chad Hanson, Chair

**Agenda review** – Chad Hanson, Chair

**9:10 Financial report**– Anthony Gaudio **[attached] -** 5 min

**9.15  Minutes of May 23, 2025, Board meeting**- Tom Taylor/Brian Lupiani **[attached] -** 5min

**9:20  Update on UUPI (Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure)** - Industrial land use (including a fueling station) planned on 95 acres at the corner of CCSW and Orange Avenue W. Intersection **[attached] -** DebbieLightsey - 10 min

**9:30 Status of Land Swap for SW Ga Oil property Report (**Renee Murray) - 5 Min

**9:35 Apalachicola oil drilling lawsuit and legislation advocacy / strategy (**Gil Damon / Downriver Project) **-** 30 mins

**10:05 The Tallahassee Master Plan – Surface Water (TMaPS) project**  (Mark Heidecker, City of Tallahassee) - 15 mins

Volumes 5 (Lake Lafayette Basin), 6 (Wakulla Spring & Lake Talquin) and 7 (Project & Study Recommendations) are available for review at the link ([TMaPS](https://webmail.centurylink.net/app/Utilities/gateway_url.asp?umsgid=%7Bc9d6630d-f5da-4c19-b6d5-c746cf258862%7D&uurl=https%3A//urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/citytlh-my.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/g/personal/mark_heidecker_talgov_com/EjWioqsYGO5Hp3ksE3n06BUBOd-_rSqvyQlygprlxlCFhQ__%3B%21%21N4_s6dRKiShDng%21ZT4dPSHtQHrKVKw9s8hqrFAf7PZqLeWHvLDjBUQhQmRs8v-1NAK7Otj6t0Jc8rIud8TJqgkDxFPOQlBVI3hrgIf8WMgk1w%24" \o "Click to open in a new window or tab: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/citytlh-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/mark_heidecker_talgov_com/EjWioqsYGO5Hp3ksE3n06BUBOd-_rSqvyQlygprlxlCFhQ__;!!N4_s6dRKiShDng!ZT4dPSHtQHrKVKw9s8hqrFAf7PZqLeWHvLDjBUQhQmRs8v-1NAK7Otj6t0Jc8rIud8TJqgkDxFPOQlBVI3hrgIf8WMgk1w$" \t "_blank)). Volumes 5 & 6 include comprehensive waterbody data reviews & summaries, qualitative assessment of sources, calculation of potential nutrient loads to select waterbodies and water quality study identification/prioritization. Volume 7 includes structural and non-structural best management practice (BMP) recommendations. The City will complete a final review, incorporate an executive summary and provide the final master plan (8 volumes) for final review in July.

**10:30 Spring education and outreach – Chad / Renee -** 10 Min

**10:40 Springshed and river update (**Cal Jamison) - 15 Min

**10:55 Other Topics: 5 Min**,

1. July 25, 2025, Board Meeting WSA Board meeting Zoom only.
   1. Presentations? Discussions?
2. Education/Outreach events
3. Upcoming meetings / events
   1. County / City Commission meetings
4. Announcements

**11:00 Adjourn**

Appendix B

**6-27-25 WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE**

**Board Meeting Participants**

Zoom-only meeting

“x” indicated people present

Officers

Chad Hanson, Chair x

Tom Taylor, Vice-Chair x

Anthony Gaudio, Treasurer x

Brian Lupiani, Secretary x

Directors

Jim Davis

Bob Deyle

Albert Gregory

Debbie Lightsey x

Cal Jamison x

Johnathan Kelly

Howard Kessler x

Renee Murray x

Pete Scalcro x

Beau Simon x

Members and Guests

Gil Damon x

Mark Heidecker x

Johnny Richardson x

Noel Robinson x

Edgar Wade x

Appendix C

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE** |  |
| **ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT** |  |
| **FOR THE Month ENDED May 31, 2025** |  |
|  |  |
| **INCOME** |  |
| Donations | 0.00 |
| Memberships | 0.00 |
| **Interest Earned** | 23.15 |
| **Total Income** | **23.65** |
| **EXPENSES** |  |
|  | - |
| **Total Expense** | **-** |
|  |  |
| **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** | **23.65** |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - Ameris Bank 5/31/25** | - |
| **BANK BALANCE - Envision Credit Union 5/31/25** |  |
| **Checking Account** | 418.05 |
| **Sterling Account** | 5,156.94 |
| **Membership Account** | 5.00 |
| **CD Matures 7/22/25 4.4%** | 5,047.87 |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - 5/31/25** | 10,627.86 |
| **PAYPAL BALANCE 5/31/25** | - |
| **TOTAL - 1/31/2025** | **$ 10,627.86** |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - April 30, 2025** | 10,245.50 |
| **PAYPAL BALANCE April 30, 2025** | 358.71 |
| **TOTAL 4/30/2025** | **$ 10,604.21** |
|  |  |
| **May Surplus** | **23.65** |

Appendix D

**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**New UUPI Facility Subcommittee**

**June 21, 2025**

On June 13th we had our last formal meeting with the City regarding the new facility to be located on Rankin Avenue. A quick summary of the issues:

The City is relocating and combining Underground Utility Department functions now primarily located along Lake Bradford Rd at the old sewage treatment plant -- which site will be used for a new City Fire Station and other community facilities. The new site will comprise a fueling station, administrative offices and storage for vehicles/equipment and materials (pipes, etc.). The 113-acre Rankin Avenue site is an old sand pit operation and is substantially cleared. A portion is still treed and swampy. The site abuts the southern boundary of the Debbie Lightsey Nature Park. Our concerns are focused primarily on prohibiting aquifer contamination from petroleum products. Part of the site is in an area designated as “most vulnerable aquifer recharge” on the WAVA map.

We have gotten several commitments/concessions from the City on how to handle the petroleum. Storage will be in above ground tanks surrounded by a retaining wall and will have a 24/7 monitoring system. At the pumps there will be a berm and French drain structure that will funnel to City Sewer rather than the stormwater system. Only city vehicles can refuel at the pumps which are equipped with a locking magnetic apparatus in both pump nozzle and in the vehicles. There will be no vehicle maintenance activities on this site.

A new stormwater pond will be constructed on site for water quality treatment and this will drain to a natural wetland before reaching the large swale along Capital Circle SW where the water will eventually drain to Lake Cascade, the Bradford Chain of Lakes and Lake Munson and Wakulla Springs. Soils are extremely porous in this area and most of the treated stormwater is likely to perk into the soil before reaching the Lakes.

We had hoped to get the vehicle, equipment and material storage located elsewhere, but the only possible sites large enough in this sector contained substantial floodplain complications. We have been given assurances that the site will have enhanced landscaping and treed buffers along all property lines. While the primary access will be to Rankin Avenue, the small current access to Orange Avenue will stay open for trucks to enter the remaining active sand pit area to the south of the new facilities. I will send a copy of the current site plan which indicates the layout of the structures on the property.

City staff expects the final site plan to be submitted in the next few weeks. Design should be complete in September with construction beginning in late Spring. We will be copied on the final plan and the meeting dates when it will be reviewed so that we can continue to monitor and participate in the process.

Debbie Lightsey

Attending this last meeting: Renee Murray, David Stich (for Lake Bradford Neighborhood), Sophie Wacongne (for Friends of Lake Jackson).

For the City: Rob McGarrah (director of Underground Utilities and Public Infrastructure and Eric Gooch (city engineer).