**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**1/16/15 Board Meeting Minutes**

**Renaissance Center**

**Overview**

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held a Board meeting on January 16, 2015 at the Renaissance Center. The draft agenda and list of board members, advisors, guests and who participated can be found in Appendices A and B. Review the action items 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. There wasn’t time for “What’s News” so they are in Appendix F

**Summary of Action Items**

* Todd Kincaid, with input from Tom Swihart, prepared these draft talking points or position statements, that were discussed, refined and adopted by the board (see the notes that follow).
* There was a motion and unanimous vote to reconfirm the revised slate of board members elected in September 2014 (see notes).
* Rob will represent us at the FL Springs Council meeting January 28 to formulate a coordinated springs legislation strategy.
* Contact Sustainable Tallahassee board members Ann Harvey and Yvonne Gsteieger who may be helpful in shaping our approach.
* Bob Deyle made a motion and it was approved for Tom Swihart to deliver the written statement (appendix D) to Leon Delegation meeting on January 22. This will be amended to reflect the discussions at the board meeting.
* It will also be important to identify local projects that can benefit Wakulla Springs. Debbie Lightsey, Anthony Gaudio and Pam Hall will draft a proposal for a wastewater cluster system demonstration project. Bob Deyle, Cal Jamison, Albert Gregory and Jim Stevenson will develop recommendations for land acquisition projects.
* It was suggested that we try to get someone on the long range Amendment 1 funding committee.
* Jim Stevenson suggested WSA members consider contacting Steve Hodges about becoming members of the Leon County Water Resource Committee that has a couple vacancies.

**Meeting Notes**

**Opening**

Sean McGlynn called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Tom Taylor explained the agenda and suggested that after the speaker and other discussions that the board seek consensus on talking points or position statements rather than trying get agreement on every word in position papers. This will allow WSA board, advisors and supporters to speak to public officials and others and clarify WSA positions and their personal perspectives in presentations and discussions.

**NWFWMD Presentation**

**Guest Speakers from the NWFWMD**

Kris Barrios and Kathleen Coates from the NWF Water Management District provided an overview of their efforts to measure and model flow in the springshed and [regulation](http://www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us/water-resources/minimum-flows-levels/) alternatives (Minimum Flows and Levels and Reservations). This was followed by questions and answers.

**WSA Positions on the Wakulla Spring Flow Measurement and Regulation**

Tom Swihart provided an overview of Florida regulation of ground and surface water flows (available upon request). Todd Kincaid, with input from Tom Swihart, prepared these draft talking points or position statements that were discussed, refined and adopted by the board:

1. Water clarity is a vital component of a healthy Wakulla Spring ecosystem.
2. Any MFL or protection strategy should have as one of its goals to maintain the historical periodicity of water clarity of 75 feet an average of 6 months per year as it was from 1987 - 1993
3. Any MFL or protection strategy must acknowledge that Wakulla and Spring Creek are two parts of the same conduit flow system.
4. Maintaining year-round flow at Spring Creek must be a priority of any MFL or protection strategy for Wakulla.
5. The combined flow to Wakulla and Spring Creek has diminished which is partially responsible for the now yearly reversals of flow at Spring Creek and diminished water clarity at Wakulla Spring.
6. Sea Level rise is a contributor to this problem but so is groundwater pumping.
7. MFLs will not result in adequate protections for Wakulla Springs without a margin of safety and enforceable recovery or prevention plan to achieve the goal of the MFL statute.
8. A reduction in groundwater withdrawals from the Wakulla and neighboring springsheds may be needed
9. All water users should implement all reasonable water efficiency measures.
10. Restoring and sustaining adequate flows to Wakulla and Spring Creek will require cooperative actions by Florida and Georgia because a large part of the Wakulla Springshed lies in Georgia.
11. A reservation should also be considered as a regulatory tool.
12. ~~The NFWMD should be the leader in this initiative by setting a reservation or a cap on groundwater extractions at a level lower than what is currently being withdrawn that acknowledges the diminished flows at Wakulla and Spring Creek and provides an enforceable limit on existing and future withdrawals.~~

**Election of WSA Board and Officers**

The WSA bylaws require an annual general membership meeting in January to elect board members. There was a motion and unanimous vote to reconfirm the slate of board members elected in September 2014. The membership meeting was adjourned and the board meeting was reconvened. There was a motion and unanimous vote to reconfirm the slate of officers elected in September 2014. The following is a list of current board members, officers and advisors for the next year.

Board Members

Bob Deyle

Albert Gregory

Cal Jamison

Howard Kessler Treasurer

Todd Kincaid

Debbie Lightsey

Sean McGlynn Chair

Charles Pattison

Jim Stevenson Vice Chair

Tom Swihart

Tom Taylor Secretary

Rob Williams

WSA Advisors

Anthony Gaudio

Pam Hall

Julie Harrington

Bob Henderson

Bob Knight

Pam McVety

Dan Pennington

Bob Thompson

**Amendment 1, Springs and Water Legislation**

Rob Williams provided an update on legislative activities and proposals. He reported that there have been hearings on Amendment 1. Eric Draper laid out an agenda with proposed budget allocations. Senators Dean and Simmons want money spent on springs. The House is less supportive of springs. House leaders are from the south and they focus more on estuaries. One request asked for $300 million for springs. It was suggested that we try to get someone on the long range Amendment 1 funding committee. Appendix C has Amendment 1 eligible uses and the Sponsor Committee Talking Points

There has not been a draft bill for springs legislation. The gatekeeper is Jake Varn and he is drafting language. Rob has met with him. Rich Buddell at DACS is putting together a bill. The FL Springs Council is meeting January 28 to formulate a proposed strategy. Rob will represent us. Sustainable Tallahassee board members Ann Harvey and Yvonne Gsteieger may be helpful in shaping our approach.

Bob Deyle made a motion and it was approved for Tom Swihart to deliver the written statement (appendix D) to Leon Delegation meeting on January 22. This will be amended to reflect the discussions at the board meeting.

It will also be important to identify local projects that can benefit Wakulla Springs. Debbie Lightsey, Anthony Gaudio and Pam Hall will draft a proposal for a wastewater cluster system demonstration project. Bob Deyle, Cal Jamison, Albert Gregory and Jim Stevenson will develop recommendations for land acquisition projects.

**Septic Tanks**

Debbie Lightsey provided an update on wastewater efforts and Anthony Gaudio, Rob Williams and others contributed to the discussion. Appendix E has an “Overview of WSA Actions on Septic Tanks” that Debbie prepared after the meeting. It was noted that the Leon County Water Resources Board participation in BMAP had been limited by the county attorney. It is important to keep responsible management entities, RME, as a top priority. We need to get the BMAP to advocate for RMEs using language in the sales tax proposal. DEP is considering revising the schedule for completing the BMAP. The DOH has said that Leon Co issued permits so they are responsible for septic tanks, not DOH. This will include a plan for development with septic tanks. Given the politics, the BMAP may not require the RME and we need an alternative approach. Jim Stevenson suggested WSA members consider contacting Steve Hodges about becoming a member of the Water Resource Committee.

Appendix A

**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**Proposed Meeting Agenda** (actual varied)

**Friday, January 16 from 9:00-12:00**

**Renaissance Center, 435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor**

 **9:00 Wakulla Springs Alliance General Membership Meeting**

* 1. Election of board members

 **9:10 Wakulla Springs Alliance Board Meeting Opening**

1. Election of officers
2. Meeting Purpose and introductions (chair)
3. Agenda review, guidelines and approval of Minutes (secretary)
4. Approval of Treasurers report (treasurer)

 **9:20 Guest Speaker**

1. Kris Barrios and Kathleen Coates, NWFWMD, Flow Measurement & [Regulation](http://www.nwfwmd.state.fl.us/water-resources/minimum-flows-levels/)

**10:00 WSA Position Statement on the Wakulla Flow Measurement and Regulation**

* 1. Develop consensus on a WSA policy position statement on MFLs (Tom Swihart)
	2. Develop consensus on a WSA Hydrology position statement (Todd Kincaid)

**10:15 Amendment 1 funding priorities for springshed protection.**

* 1. Update on legislative interest group proposals (FL Water & Land Legacy, Audubon, Trust for Public Lands, 1000 Friends, etc.)
	2. Seek consensus on WSA priorities and next steps (Jim Stevenson)

**10:30 Springs and water legislation**

* 1. Update on legislative interest group proposals (Rob Williams)
	2. Seek consensus on WSA priorities and position statement

**10:50 WSA legislative action strategy**

* 1. Identify message and speakers for the Leon delegation meeting, Jan 22
	2. Coordination with Springs Institute, Audubon, 1000 Friends, etc. (Jim)
	3. Communication with legislators, committees and staff (Rob Williams)
	4. All submit a comments to the Senate Committee before 1-20-15, [click here](http://www.flsenate.gov/media/topics/wlc)

**11:10 Sewage management in the springshed**

* 1. Strategy to encourage the City and two Counties to raise this issue to a priority? Use sales tax funds, funds from the legislature and from other sources for the RME study, septic tank retrofit and sewer expansions (Debbie Lightsey)
	2. Review of proposed sewer projects and WSA input (Debbie and Sean)

**11:30 What’s New** (Time duration of about 5 minutes per topic)

1. Wakulla Springs State Park Wildlife Survey Update (Bob Thompson)
2. T-Shirts and logo designs by Maria Balingit (Carol Schwarz)
3. Cherokee update, and position statement, see below (Jim Stevenson)
4. Springs license plate funding proposals (Bob Deyle)
	1. BMAP update and next steps (Sean)
5. Wakulla Springs Watershed Tours, update (Jim Stevenson)
6. Color and light at Wakulla Springs (Sean McGlynn and Cal Jamison)
7. Mini conference at the Wakulla Wildlife Festival, (Cal and Sean)
8. WSA brochure revisions (Jim)
9. Wakulla Springs Video possibilities (Jim)
10. Black history at Wakulla Spring brochure and events to highlight: tour guides, lodge staff, and others. This may be included as part of the retirement party for Don Gavin in June (Madeleine Carr)
11. Future meeting dates and locations (Sean and Tom)
12. New items from the floor

**12 Noon Adjourn**

Appendix B

**Board, Advisors and Guests**

\* Indicates 1-16-15 Participants

Board Members

Bob Deyle \*

Albert Gregory \*

Cal Jamison \*

Howard Kessler \*

Todd Kincaid \* by phone

Debbie Lightsey \*

Sean McGlynn \*

Charles Pattison

Jim Stevenson \*

Tom Swihart \*

Tom Taylor \*

Rob Williams \*

WSA Advisors

Anthony Gaudio \*

Pam Hall

Julie Harrington

Bob Henderson

Bob Knight

Pam McVety

Dan Pennington \*

Bob Thompson \*

Guests

Gail Fishman \*

Johnny Richardson \*

Appendix C

**Eligible uses of Amendment 1 funding**

(From the [Amendment 1 website](http://www.voteyeson1fl.org/sections/news))

Amendment 1 will enhance state spending currently authorized through trust funds and other programs approved under state law for:

* Land Acquisition through the Florida Forever
* Conservation Easements through the Rural and Family Lands program
* Everglades Restoration
* Land acquisition for Everglades Restoration and Northern Everglades, and Estuaries
* Water Resource Protection and Restoration (Surface Water Improvement and Management)
* Access and management of state-owned lands and water management lands
* Greenways and Trails
* Florida Communities Trust
* Historic Preservation
* Florida Recreation and Development Assistance Program

**Amendment 1 Sponsor Committee Talking Points**

The Water and Land Conservation Amendment calls for renewed state spending on water and land conservation that will help Florida’s future by restoring and protecting water resources, providing access to public lands, and keeping working lands, farms, and forests as part of Florida’s rural landscapes. The intent of the Amendment, as ratified by an overwhelming majority of Florida voters, is to restore spending for the highly successful group of long-standing programs already authorized in Florida statutes. It was drafted so implementing legislation is not required and the constitutional mandate can be met by restoring and enhancing funding to existing water and land conservation programs.

TREMENDOUS POPULAR SUPPORT CLEAR AND DIRECT LANGUAGE

PROTECTING WATER AT THE SOURCE

• Voters approved Amendment 1 by an overwhelming 75%.

• The amendment language is clear and was drawn from existing statutes governing conservation.

• It provides a straightforward set of priorities for spending documentary stamp taxes on water and land conservation, by specifically invoking statutory language relating to existing conservation programs like Florida Forever, Florida Communities Trust, and Everglades Restoration.

• Throughout all stages of the campaign to pass Amendment 1, the Sponsor Committee’s voter education and outreach emphasized the need for Amendment 1 to renew funding to these existing programs.

• Protecting conservation lands is essential to protecting our water resources. We must protect our waters at the source.

• Development is on the rise, and Amendment 1 is intended to strike the right balance between development and conservation. We must invest in our undeveloped natural areas before they are gone and should avoid allocating Amendment 1 funds towards projects that would promote imprudent development.

• In addition to preserving natural areas that protect our water supply, Amendment 1 is also intended to fund ecosystem restoration projects, including Everglades restoration.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES FOR WASTEWATER AND WATER SUPPLY NEEDS

• Other, non-Amendment 1 sources of funding (such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund) are available and should be utilized to address the significant and costly wastewater infrastructure and water supply issues facing our state.

• While wastewater and water supply infrastructure are important, there are other sources of funding that would be more appropriate than Amendment 1.

NO IMPACT ON OTHER IMPORTANT SERVICES

• Amendment 1 does not take away from other vital programs like housing and transportation.

• For several years, debt service on conservation bonds alone amounted to more than 50% of doc stamp revenues. Amendment 1’s allocation of 33% of documentary stamp revenues to conservation is modest in comparison.

• Documentary stamp tax revenues are projected to increase, so the overall “pie” available for conservation, housing, and transportation is growing.

• Because of past increases in the doc stamp rate, at least 25% of doc stamp collections have historically been intended for conservation.

• Amendment 1 allocates

Amendment D

**Draft notes for presentation to the**

**1/22/15 legislative delegation meeting**

Prepared by Jim Stevenson, Todd Kincaid and Debbie Lightsey

Good Evening:

Thank you for giving the public this opportunity to share some concerns and needs with you. Wakulla Spring is now the largest of Florida’s unique collection of world-renown springs and one of Florida’s finest state parks. It, like most of Florida’s springs, has declined appreciably in our lifetimes due to nutrient overloads and the over-pumping of Florida’s aquifers. Despite these declines, Wakulla remains the place that we take our out of town relatives and guests to enjoy a north Florida gem. Wakulla Springs State Park also continues to attract up to 200,000 visitors a year and collects revenue of over $2.5 million a year. Our organization, the Wakulla Springs Alliance, is dedicated to reversing the environmental declines at Wakulla Spring and preserving it for the enjoyment of future generations. We’re here to ask you to consider two important proposals that have direct bearing on these efforts.

First, we thank Senator Montford for co-sponsoring the Springs Protection legislation last year. Senator, we ask that you again provide leadership for this most important legislation and we ask that our representatives join you in this endeavor. We also implore you to sustain the enforceable actions that were proposed in the original form of this critical legislation. The health of Wakulla Springs and all of Florida’s springs depends on enforceable reductions in nutrients originating from septic tanks and other sources and enforceable reductions in groundwater pumping from the Floridan aquifer.

Second, we strongly urge this delegation to take steps to sustain the integrity of Florida’s State Parks, particularly Wakulla Springs State Park, from incursions of other parties. As you know, there was an attempt last year by TCC’s Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) to take 2,000 acres of the Wakulla Springs State Park. While we are strong proponents of environmental education and hope that the WEI becomes a premier educational center, we strongly oppose the taking of state park lands to support their agenda.

Most significantly, we oppose the WEI plan to develop a 62-site campground at a cost of $4 million on 2,000 acres to train future park employees when there is a state park campground, a county park campground and a city park campground where such training could occur, each within 20 minutes from WEI’s proposed campus. There is no demonstrated need for this training and remind you that the Lake City Community College abandoned their Park Technology Program because of a lack of students. We also remind you that the Governor and Cabinet approved the purchase of this land at a cost of $5 million dollars, in 1999 for the express purpose of protecting the waters flowing to Wakulla Spring. The taking of parklands for other purposes is not protective of these waters. Research has definitively shown that Wakulla Springs are already impacted by wastewater from septic systems located much farther away than the proposed sewer lines that will be less than ¼ of a mile from the spring.

Most importantly, state parks must remain inviolate to such misguided schemes. If state parks aren’t safe from such folly, are any public lands safe? The people of Tallahassee and Wakulla County love their state park. A year ago, the public rose up against this WEI plan. A Tallahassee Democrat Editorial stated that it was “a public relations disaster for TCC.” Unfortunately, there is a rumor that since TCC failed to obtain the land through the public process, they may attempt behind the scenes legislative action during the next session. We ask that you be watchful for any such attempt and we trust that you will ensure the long-standing protection of our local treasure, Wakulla Spring State Park.

Thank you for your attention.

Wakulla Springs Alliance

Appendix E

**Overview of WSA Actions on Septic Tanks**

Prepared by Debbie Lightsey 1-23-15

**Some Significant Dates:**

Last Wakulla Springs Symposium – sponsors – City/1000 Friends/DEP - 2/26/09

Wakulla Springshed Regional Partnership- Memorandum of Understanding signed – 2/26/09

 Signatories: Wakulla County, Leon County & City of Tallahassee

Lombardo Associates, Inc. – Final Report to City of Tallahassee, Wakulla and Leon County -

 *Onsite and Decentralized Wastewater Systems and Management Options*  - 11/2011

Leon County Commision Workshop – Presentation of the Lombardo Assoc. Report - 1/29/13

Leon County Sales Tax Extension Referendum

Sales Tax Citizens Committee begins work – 8/12

WSA Project Proposal Presentation to Sales Tax Committee – 11/12

Sales Tax Committee Final Recommendations:

Blueprint 2000 Sales Tax Extension Referendum vote – 11/14

Florida DEP Regulatory Actions:

Final TMDL issued – Upper Wakulla River & Springs- 3/22/12

BMAP meetings begin – Summer 2013

First Draft BMAP – 9/13

2nd Draft BMAP – 8/14

WSA withdraws from official BMAP Stakeholders List of Participants – 10/3/14

Final BMAP Recommendations – Pending ????

**WSA - Leon County Subcommittee Formed -- Late Summer 2012**

**Purpose: Create & Promote a Strategy & Action Plan - Remediation of OSTDS pollution in the Wakulla Springshed**

Members of the WSA Board (Debbie Lightsey, Jim Stevenson, Tom Taylor, Charles Pattison and Dan Pennington) asked others familiar with the groundwater pollution issue in Leon County and the local political scene (Dr. Pam Hall, Anthony Gaudio and Bob Henderson) to join in crafting a Strategy and Action Plan. There are 40,000 septic systems in Leon County. There are 9000 OSTDS in the remediation priority area - South of the Cody Scarp – 7500 in Leon County and 1500 in Wakulla County. Remediation costs will be significant. Our Plan was forumloated to be consistent with the recommendations from various recent report findings including those from Lombardo Associates. Our strategy would involve creating a Project Description, identifying project funding and at the same time working with DEP to insure we got a strong BMAP that support our approach and our project. We also saw educating the public about the pollution problem and possible solutions as part of our charge.

We decided that the Blueprint 2000 Sales Tax Extension which would go to voters in 2014 might be our best funding vehicle and would provide a forum to build understanding and support for a comprehensive solution to the proliferation of OSTDS. The Sales Tax Extension was projected to raise $756 million between 2019 and 2039. A jointly appointed Sales Tax Citizens Committee would recommend projects to the City and County Govts sitting together as the Intergovernmental Agency. The Leon Subcommittee developed a Project description and funding request. The Citizens Committee began meeting in August 2012.

Our project: **Alternatives to Central Sewer** costs: $2.8 M - and includes a review of RME (Responsible Mgt. Entity) structures and responsibilities (Level 1 through 5) ; creation of an Engineering/Facilities Plan to determine what type system (Standard or High Performance OSTDS, decentralized cluster system or extension of central sewer) and level of treatment (standard to AWT) was required in designated areas based on soil type, aquifer vulnerability and Land Use regulations. The project also funded a Stormwater Study for the Southern Springshed in Leon County to handle the stormwater pollution that could result from higher development densities. The RME would govern all areas outside City Limits not served by City Central Sewer. Our project is consistent with the Lombardo Report, the recommendations of Leon County’s Water Resources Committee, and EPAs long term support for establishing RMEs for decentralized wastewater systems. **Note: The Lombardo report --- On-Site and Community Decentralized Wastewater Systems and Management Options - completed in 2011, was a joint project funded by Wakulla Co., Leon Co. and the City of Tallahassee in accordance with a Wakulla Springshed Regional Partnership Memorandum of Understanding signed by the three local governments on February 26, 2009.** Our project provided the framework for a Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Plan for Leon County that on a priority basis cleaned up the existing pollution problems caused by OSTDS South of the Scarp, but in addition would allow the higher development densities and intensities granted to landowners by the Comprehensive Plan.

The Final TMDL for the Upper Wakulla River and Springs had been issued on 3/22/12. We looked forward to binding recommendations coming from DEP in the BMAP process which would follow the issuance of the TMDL. We knew we would need both strong BMAP language and an effective Action Plan to keep this moving .

On 1/29/13 Leon County staff, after a long delay, presented the Lombardo Report to the Commission. The Leon County Commission rejected the primary recommendations from the Lombardo Report on the advise of their staff. County Staff reasoning: The City of Tallahassee’s $230 M project to revamp its sewage treatment and disposal system would solve the nutrient problems in Wakulla Springs and no remediation of OSTDS in the Springshed was required at this time. Thus the County staff chose to steer their elected body away from the issues of Responsibility and Remediation.

The Leon County Subcommittee moved forward to meet with the Sales Tax Citizen Committee Members and Commissioners from both the City and Leon County to promote the project. We felt the County Commission had been misled by their staff who ignored much of the available data and the substantive recommendations from the Lombardo Report. We also began writing My Views for the Tallahassee Democrat and letters to the Editor to educate the public on the role of OSTDS in the pollution problem, and the remedy. We had science and history on our side. DEP studies, data collected by the Water Management District, USGS, and most significantly the Lombardo Report all indicated that once the city’s sewer system revamp was complete, septic systems were the primary source of nutrients reaching Wakulla Springs. Our project was the next logical step. But we knew it would be an uphill battle. Leon County did not want to assume responsibility for septic tanks, but instead insisted that **A**. the Dept. of Health had issued the septic tank permits, and **B**. a few central sewer extensions would eliminate pollution problems.

**Our opposition to projects to Extend Central Sewer**:

We knew we had to sell our approach and project while fighting the approval of various Central Sewer Extension Projects being recommended to the Sales Tax Committee by County staff. Our threshhold objection to the use of Blueprint funds for Central Sewer Projects is the lack of any mandate for new customers to hook up once the sewer lines are extended. History supports our position: Blueprint funds ($5M) were spent in Killearn Lakes for retrofit with a hybrid sewer system. Leon County voted not to compel hookup so even today only 15% of the housing units in Killearn Lakes are connected. The pollution problems continue, and the money spent has been wasted. We strongly recommended that no sewer extension outside the city be funded until Leon County signs a binding agreement to mandate customer hookups. To date they have refused to commit to this.

Our next argument is based on the Aquifer Vulnerability Maps (LAVA). Priority must be given to funding projects South of the Cody Scarp where septic system effluent reaches the groundwater almost immediately due to the lack of confining soils and where AWT treatment levels are essential. Many areas of the County have deep confining soil layers and in those areas adequate wastewater treatment is possible with standard OSTDS or Cluster Systems (decentralized wastewater treatment and disposal systems) that provide tertiary rather than AWT treatment levels. Using the limited and very expensive Central AWT Sewer capacity in those areas is not necessary or cost effective. This conclusion is supported by the Lombardo Report.

In addition, the use of Alternatives to Central Sewer such as High Performance Septic Systems or Cluster Systems (at AWT standards) can be sized for retrofit of existing development or to support new development without increasing additional development pressure in environmentally sensitive areas. This is a particularly compelling argument when the Big Pipe is to be extended for miles down through the Wakulla Springs Primary Protection Zones to serve the Woodville Rural Community. Development densities in the Springshed are currently held to a minimum by Comprehensive Pland policies and Springshed designations. It is a certainty that if these long extensions are made, there will be immediate pressure from adjoining landowners to connect to the Big Pipe and raise development densities and intensities. Local government does not have a good record of resisting this pressure for long.

Leon County government had already provided the list of Sewer Extension Projects to the Sales Tax Citizens Committee. They were all from the old Master Sewer Plan that was adopted by the City with input from Leon County. These projects are spread throughout Leon County with at least one in each County Commission District and seem to be based more on political than groundwater protection justification. More than one lies in the central or northeast regions of the County with deep confining soil. These piecemeal extensions of central sewer are the wrong approach and do not lead us toward Sustainable Development.

**The major Central Sewer Extension proposals:**

**Woodville Rural Community**: **$25.8 M** **\*\***We oppose central sewer for this area

Existing OSTDS 1274

Acres – 2600

Will eliminate existing OSTDS and provide some new development capacity.

This project is South of the Cody Scarp and is a priority retrofit area

We recommend a Cluster System (at AWT standards) to handle the same level of existing and new development. We object to the Big Pipe down through the Springshed for the reasons stated above. In addition the Leon County Commission held public meetings in the Woodville area where residents vehemently objected to Central Sewer and said that even if Government paid for their systems charges and hookup they didn’t want any part of it (several thousand $ per customer). So existing residents don’t seem to want this solution. Part of the issue is that there is a surcharge applied to sewer customers outside the City limits which drives monthly sewer charges up. Current average monthly sewer charges for incity customers is approximately $35. This surcharge is levied by Leon County which uses the revenues to support its County Park System.

**Oakridge/Lake Munson: $30.6 M** \*\* We support this project

Existing OSTDS – 2500 Acres – 3173

This project is South of the Cody Scarp and is a priority retrofit area.

This project in southern Leon County includes several large pockets of development, both commercial and residential, that are spread out, but mostly contiguous to city limit lines. This is the only sewer project that the Leon Subcommittee endorsed. It is an appropriate area for extension of City Central Sewer. It will however, face the same resistance from residents.

**Centerville Trace: $5 M** \*\* We do not recommend this project

167 residential lots on 67 acres

This area is not South of the Cody Scarp and is thus not a priority for retrofit.

**Harbinwood Estates**: **$29.5 M** \*\* We do not support this project

Alternatives to Central Sewer

This project went through so many changes; was listed under and included in various other projects, etc. so that I do not know the number of OSTDS or total acres in the final project description. This project is in the NE quadrant of Leon County, not South of the Cody Scarp. Not a priority retrofit.

After months of work, making presentations to the Sales Tax Citizens Committee, meeting with individual Committee members and with City/County Commissioners, the Committee recommended our project and included it in what they called the Water Quality Bucket funded at $85 M– a grouping of projects whose total cost was over $150 M. Our project had won support, but was in competition with many others, several of which were very costly and poorly located central sewer extensions.

**When the Sales Tax Citizen Committee took its Recommended List of Projects to the IA, our Project was kept on the list, and in addition a City Commissioner moved to take it out of the Water Quality Bucket and rank it as a stand alone 1st Priority project. The full IA Board - City and County reps - accepted and endorsed this motion.**

**Companion Issue**: **A Strong Upper Wakulla Springs BMAP**

Members of the WSA and the Leon County Subcommittee have attended and spoken at all of the public meetings hosted by DEP during the now years long drafting process for the BMAP and submitted written comments and recommendations. In addition we have had separate meetings with the primary DEP staffers (Steve Cioccia, Beth Alvi, Tiffany Bush, Charles Gauthier, etc.) and DEP upper management (Drew Bartlett and Tom Frick). Our reps at these additional meetings have included at various times: Debbie Lightsey, Jim Stevenson, Sean McGlynn, Rob Williams and Dr. Pam Hall. At each we have supported the inclusion in the BMAP of specific language that names responsible parties; assigns pollution remediation reductions; required the inclusion in the report of existing DEP scientific data which documents such assignments; requires higher wastewater treatment for new development in the Primary Springs Protection Zones, etc. We have cited State Statute which calls for such assignments in BMAPs. In addition we have discussed the local political scene, history of the septic tank issues and provided our input on the various Sewer Extension Projects included in the Sales Tax Extension Projects List.

The language in the BMAP has changed over the drafting process, but in the most recent Draft much of the stronger, more definitive language and any references to the benefits of establishing an RME had been deleted. We objected to this obvious weakening of BMAP language and the full WSA Board voted to join with other organizations and requested that the Wakulla Springs Alliance be deleted from the official list of Stakeholders in the process. We would continue to participate as active members of the public, and submit recommendations but we did not wish to appear to be supporters of the final language, which we suspected, would constitute a DO NOTHING for 5 years PLAN. (BMAP language states that the final BMAP is a consensus document.)

DEP line staff seems supportive of our approach, our stronger language - such as the RME - etc. but have told us that they will not be making the decisions. Upper DEP management will. The same DEP staff acknowledges Leon County’s responsibilities for septic systems since that Govt. Body approved the development to be served by those systems, but they have not put that language in the BMAP. (They have told us that Leon County staff vehemently opposes that assignment of responsibility.) Our reps met with upper management and presented our positions along with supportive data. While they listened and appeared supportive, no final language is yet available. We are now waiting for a call from Beth Alvi telling us a timeline for the Final Draft to be issued. She has promised to call by January 23rd with a proposed timeline.

At is now noon Friday, Jan. 23. I have not received a call or an e-mail.

Appendix F

**“What’s New**

Due to a very full agenda on the 16th, we didn’t have time to hear the following” items.

These items were submitted by Jim Stevenson after the meeting:

**Wakulla County Legislative Delegation Meeting; January 13.**

Chairman Thomas said they should be able to reduce nitrate in the Wakulla Spring Basin with Amendment 1 funding to expand sewer and fix septic tanks.  Commissioner Moore said WEI is about to go to bid for their center.  A citizen said no more acquisition in the county; funding should be for WEI and sewer.

**Project Needs Lists:**  We need lists and project proposals for the following:

Septic Tanks:   Debbie (completed)

Research:   Todd and Sean

Legislation:  Rob and Charles

Land Acquisition: Jim, Cal, Albert, Bob D.

**Leon County Water Resources Committee** Has at least one vacancy for a new member.

**Springs Tag Grants:**

Bob D. submitted 3 grant applications for WSA; two for research and one for education.  Why not put a Protect Florida Springs tag on your car to donate too this grant program?

**Black History at Wakulla Springs**

Madeleine has written the text and is designing the brochure.  The purpose is to influence black elected officials in Tallahassee and Leon County to take an interest in protecting the spring.

**Let’s Protect Wakulla Spring**

This brochure was last printed in 2012.  We have updated the text and Debbie has arranged for a local marketing firm VancoreJones Communications to handle the design at no cost to us.   Madeleine has arranged for printing and the Friends of Wakulla Spring have paid for 2000 copies.  This is our only educational publication and this was a successful team effort.

**Tour for County Commission** After taking the Saving Wakulla Spring Tour, Commissioner Dailey convinced the entire commission to take the tour “together” (4 have taken the tour) and invite the Wakulla County Commissioners.  A staffer is coordinating.  No city commissioners have taken the tour.

**Ichetucknee Alliance** The alliance has 53 paid members.  Their top priority is land acquisition in the Ichetucknee springshed and second priority is to increase membership.   Like us they have other concerns that they are tracking including a natural gas pipeline and an MFL.

**Education** Jim has given 27 Saving Wakulla Springs presentations during 2014, 18 of which were tours.  Cynthia has provided tour promotion cards and we are depending on WSA members to help promote the tours.

**Leon County Legislative Delegation Meeting** Tom Swihart presented our WSA statement and former state park director Ney Landrum informed the legislators of the importance of keeping state parks intact.