

Wakulla Springs Alliance

10-20-17 Minutes and Action Items

This section provides information on what you and others can do to support research-based actions to enhance water quality and quantity in Wakulla Springs and the water/springshed and improve related environmental, economic and social systems. Efforts by all, produce results!

Background

- [Wakulla Springs Information](#)
- [WSA Purpose and Plans](#)
- [WSA Action Resources](#)

Upcoming Events

- FSU Karst Symposium, November 3, 9 am – 5 pm, 701 Keen Building; free and open to the public; no registration required.
- Next WSA Meeting: Board meeting, November 17, 2017, 2nd floor, Renaissance Building

Action Items from the 10-20-17 WSA Board Meeting

- The Board should consider rescheduling future meetings that conflict with quarterly ARC meetings.
- Board members who anticipate missing a meeting should inform the chair in advance, if at all possible, so that quorum problems can be anticipated.
- Bob Deyle will draft a letter to County Manager Vince Long and County Commissioners concerning the scope of services for the Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan for Executive Committee action before October 27.
- Cal Jamison will check into the details of the Ayavalla Plantation water withdrawal permit application recently noticed in the Tallahassee Democrat by the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

10-20-17 WSA Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Robert Deyle

Overview

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held their regular Board meeting on October 20, 2017 at the Renaissance Building. The agenda comprises Appendix A. Review the action items underlined for your commitments and actions you can help with. Our success in protecting and enhancing Wakulla Springs depends on the actions of the WSA board, advisors and supporters. This report is based on the recorder's notes and does not capture everything or exactly what was said.

Members present: Bob Deyle, Bob Henderson, Cal Jamison, Seán McGlynn
Others attending: Doug Barr, Pam Hall, Mark Heidecker, Terry Ryan

Opening

- Welcome and meeting agenda review by Seán McGlynn, then everyone introduced themselves.
- Neither the minutes from the September Board meeting nor an up-to-date treasurer's report were distributed with the agenda. Treasurer's Bob Henderson reported that the Alliance's bank account balance remained unchanged from the September report.

- In the absence of a quorum (only four Board members present), no action business could be conducted.
- Several members may have been absent because of the coincident meeting of the ARC. Others may have missed it because the agenda had the incorrect date.
 - The Board should consider rescheduling future meetings that conflict with quarterly ARC meetings.
 - Board members who anticipate missing a meeting should inform the chair in advance if at all possible so that quorum problems can be anticipated.

Park Status Update

- Seán McGlynn reported that Wakulla Springs Park Manager Pete Salco is retiring after thirty-two years of exceptional service with the Florida Park Service. A copy of the invitation to his October 28th retirement party was included with the agenda. The deadline for RSVPing is today.

Welaunee Sinkholes (Where did the Canopy Go) -

J. Terry Ryan, cofounder of the Residents of Centerville Road (RCR) coalition of neighborhood associations, described neighbors' concerns with the Welaunee Plantation development, in particular, limited legal notice of permitting issues, incursion into the Canopy Road Protection Zone along Centerville Road during construction of a stormwater management facility (SMF), and the potential for sinkhole formation under one or more of the planned SMFs.

RCR is concerned about potential harmful impacts on the aquifer if a sinkhole should form under a SMF as well as the potential for the neighborhoods to suffer from the image of being sinkhole-prone if a sinkhole were to form.

RCR has advocated additional geotechnical analysis to assess the sinkhole formation risk as recommended by Ardeman Associates which conducted analyses completed to date. The City Growth Management Department has stated that no further analysis is needed. RCR contracted with Seán McGlynn to review the analyses completed so far. Seán concluded that the SMF's lie within a region that contains a line of sinkholes along an ancient stream bottom and that concentrating stormwater in SMFs in this area would likely enhance dissolution and sinkhole formation.

Board members and others present counseled that it is too late to change the locations of the ponds. At best RCR might try to lobby for faster percolating pond designs to minimize the weight of accumulated water that might lead to bedrock collapse and sinkhole formation. Cal Jamison noted that sinkhole formation is unlikely to have any significant harmful impacts of ground water, because the volume discharged would be relatively small and the SMF bottom would be repaired to remedy the problem, e.g. by filling with concrete. Mark Heidecker said that typically there are provisions in state issued permits that govern the repair/mitigation of sinkholes that form in stormwater management facilities.

Nominations for and Selection of "Wakulla Spring Champion" Awardees: No action because of lack of quorum.

Selection of a Nominating Committee:

- No action because of lack of quorum.
- The annual meeting will have to be postponed to February to allow for the 90-day interval between appointment of the committee and voting for new Board members and officers.
- Bob Henderson reported that he will be leaving the area in 2018 and so will not be able to continue as Board Treasurer. He suggested Jim Davis, who is a CPA, as a possible nominee for the treasurer position.

- Bob Deyle reported that he may be moving as well, for 6-12 months, beginning July or August 2018. [Subsequently confirmed; duration not yet determined, but he will not be able to serve on the Board during 2018.

Legislative Update: Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida – Not present

Springshed Updates: Cal Jamison

- Steve Cushman and Colin Irons purchased tax certificates for Indian Springs over the years. If YMCA completely defaults they could obtain the property
- Lake Jackson dye study update – Injected Sept 19. Working with local divers to install activated charcoal packs to augment sonde meters (at Wakulla Spring boil and Sally Ward Spring) for detecting dye at the following locations: Indian Springs, Emerald Sink, Meeting House Sink on Ferrell property, McBride Slough, Whiskey Hill Sink, Harvey sink system, Cold Hole, Spring Creek.

Karst Symposium, FSU: Seán McGlynn reported that Florida State University will be hosting a Karst Symposium on Friday, November 3 from 9am to 5 pm in room 701 of the Keen Building. Topics to be addressed include karst geology; environmental hydrology and fluid dynamics; sinkhole research; seawater intrusion; springs monitoring; Environment and ecology; field investigation; and laboratory experiments. The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Land Acquisition: Cal Jamison, Rob Williams - No report

More BP Grants:

- Seán McGlynn mentioned the list of projects that Wakulla County has submitted for financing with BP Oil Spill settlement funds. Wakulla County is eligible for a separate pot of money specifically set aside for local governments in affected counties. Some of the projects have already been funded such as the septic-to-sewer projects in the Wakulla Gardens and Greiners Addition subdivisions.

Gator Cam Update:

- Seán McGlynn reported that the GatorCam at the Wakulla Spring boat dock (<http://wakullasprings.org/gatorcam/>) received over 23,00 hits in September. He noted that Velocity Online, which installed the camera, donated the camera and much of the labor required to install it.

Land Use in the Unconfined Aquifer Areas: Gail Fishman - No report

Update on the Closure of Highway 61 South of Hwy 267: Chuck Hess - No report

Update on Committee Reports from Retreat: Tabled because of lack of quorum and because most committee chairs absent

Leon County's Scope of Services for the Comprehensive Wastewater Facilities Plan: Pam Hall, Bob Deyle

Theresa Heiker presented the county's draft scope of services to the Wakulla BMAP OSTDS Advisory Committee for review at its meeting on October 17. Theresa indicated she intends to limit the assessment of OSTDS nitrogen removing technologies to passive systems. She also intends to only invite responses from two engineering firms with continuing contracts with the county. To do so she must limit the total project cost to less than \$200,000, despite the Blue Print 2020 advance allocation of up to \$500,000. The deadline for comments is October 27th.

Bob Deyle reported that he and several other OSTDS Advisory Committee members were submitting detailed comments to the county via FDEP. Following discussion, those present agreed that WSA should contact County Manager Vince Long and members of the County Commission asking them to slow down the process and to (a) go to a formal RFP to gain the benefit of a more diverse population of respondents with greater expertise, (b) process comments from OSTDS, (c) generate a more detailed RFP with greater direction, (d) expand the scope to consider all proven nitrogen removing OSTDS systems. Bob Deyle will draft a letter for Executive Committee action before October 27.

FDEP's Revised Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool: Pam Hall, Bob Deyle

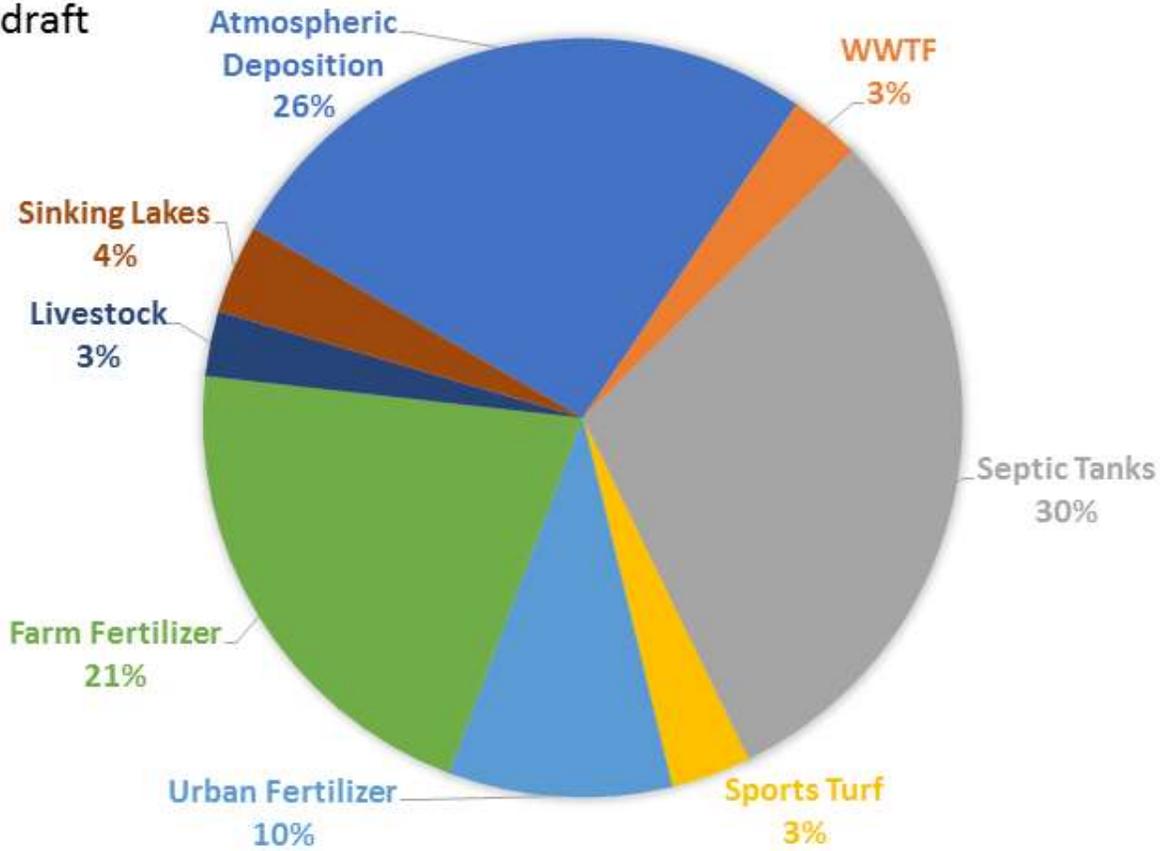
FDEP has recomputed the nitrogen loadings to Wakulla Springs using a modified Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT). Bob Deyle displayed a slide depicting the resulting changes in the allocation of the springs nitrogen load among the various sources (see figure). Atmospheric deposition has doubled from 13 to 26% as a result of applying additional data sources and a new EPA model. Urban fertilizer also has doubled from 5 to 10% and the inventory now includes an additional category – sports turf (playing fields and golf courses). Farm fertilizer is 2.5 times greater, but is based on Suwannee County application rates rather than Leon County because those data are not yet available. Sinking Lakes are now included but for reasons not explained, sinking streams have been dropped.

Septic tanks have dropped from 51 to 30% in part because of these other changes but also because FDEP has adjusted the number of persons per household to account for the percentage of time that residents are not at home. John Buss argued at the OSTDS Advisory Committee meeting that FDEP staff was misinterpreting the EPA report that has been used to estimate loadings per person. Pam Hall tracked down the references and came to a similar conclusion. She has prepared a critique which she will send to FDEP.

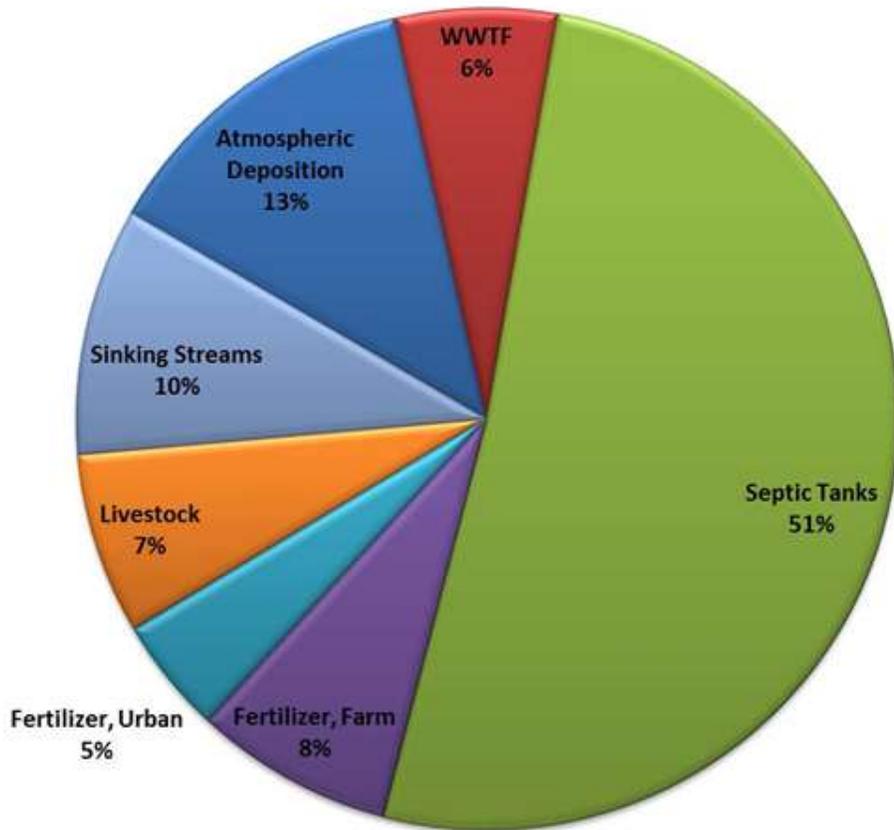
Ayavalla Plantation Water Withdrawal Permit Application:

Cal Jamison reported that the Northwest Florida Water Management District has run a legal ad for a permit application from Ayavalla Plantation to pump 621,000 gpd. The property is owned by the Phipps family and abuts the northwest shore of Lake Jackson. Cal raises the question of whether or not this will be a new well? Doug Barr recommends contacting the staff to get the details. Seán McGlynn reported that Alan Niederoda of Friends of Lake Jackson told him that the permit is for flooding fields for duck hunting. Cal will check into it.

2017 draft



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Appendix A: Agenda



9:00

Opening

Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)
Introductions (Board)
Secretary Minutes (Tom Taylor will be absent, Bob Deyle will take notes)
Treasurer Report (Bob Henderson)

9:10

Park Status Update - Jim Stevenson

- Announcing the retirement of Pete Salco, after thirty-two years of exceptional service with the Florida Park Service
- All those who know and love Pete are invited to his Retirement Party RSVP (see Attachment 1).

9:15

Welaunee Sinkholes (Where did the Canopy Go) - J. Terry Ryan

Special field trip tomorrow: See accidentally cut down some trees in the Canopy Road Protection Zone and subsequent dirty storm water.

10:00

Nominations for and Selection of "Wakulla Spring Champion" Awardees (see Attachment 2)

10:15

Selection of a "Nominating Committee" (see Attachment 3)

10:30

What's new (about 5 minutes each)

- Legislative Update: Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida
 - Senator Bradley Files Legislation to Increase Funding for Florida Forever and maintain current Springs Funding
- Springshed Updates – Cal Jamison
 - Spring Creek stops flowing
 - Lake Jackson Dye Study Update
- Karst Symposium, FSU – Seán McGlynn (see Attachment 4 and 5).
- Land Acquisition – Cal Jamison, Rob Williams
 - Who paid the back taxes on Indian Springs?
- More BP Grants – Seán McGlynn
 - Wakulla County Wish List (see attachment 6)
 - SWIM Plan Wish List
 - Who did WEI copy now?
- Website and Social Media, Updates – Seán McGlynn
 - Gator Cam Update , Hurricane Damage: <http://wakullasprings.org/gatorcam/>
- Land use in the unconfined aquifer areas – Gail Fishman
 - FDOT public meeting, October 24, Wildlife Passage in Bradford Brooks Chain of Lakes at near Airport on Capital Circle SW – Gail Fishman, Seán McGlynn, Debbie Lightsey (See attachment 7 and 8)
- Update on the closure of Highway 61 south of Hwy 267 – Chuck Hess

11:00

Update on Committee Reports from Retreat

- a. Committee on recommendations for reformulating the board, board meetings, memberships, bylaws, et cetera: Ryan Smart (chair) Howard Kessler and Bob Henderson.
- b. Educate the Public/Advocate on behalf of the Alliance: Gail Fishman (chair), Ryan Smart, Debbie Lightsey, Bob Deyle, Bob Henderson, Howard Kessler, and Jim Stevenson
- c. Land Acquisition/Management: Rob Williams (chair), Ryan Smart, Cal Jamison, and Albert Gregory.
- d. Water Quality: Bart Bibler (chair), Bob Deyle, Seán McGlynn, and Cal Jamison.
- e. Water Quantity: Bart Bibler (chair) and Cal Jamison.
- f. Advancing Science/Research: Sean McGlynn (chair), Bob Deyle, and Cal Jamison.
- g. Ecosystem Restoration: Bob Deyle (Chair), Gail Fishman, Seán McGlynn, and Rob Williams
- h. Comment letter to the Water Management District (SWIM): Seán McGlynn and Bob Deyle,
- i. Solicit funds from Alliance for the administrative fund: Tom Taylor and Bob Henderson

11:30

Wakulla Springs BMAP / OSTDS update – Bob Deyle, Tom Taylor, Debbie Lightsey

- Leon County's RFP for the Wastewater Facility Engineering Plan – Debbie Lightsey, Pam Hall, Bob Deyle
- FDEP's Revised Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool

11:55

Items from the floor

12:00

Adjourn

Events noted

- Bruce Means, Coastal Plains Institute: Natural Treasures of the Florida Panhandle, Thursday **October 1**, Natural Treasures of the Florida Panhandle: An Amazing Cradle of Life (Think Biodiversity!). The King Life Sciences Building.
- FDOT public meeting **October 24** to take input on using a bridge rather than culverts at the crossing of the Bradford chain of lakes (between Cascade & Minnehaha). Do not have time or location yet.
- Todd Engstrom, Tall Timbers Research Station: Rivers, Birds and Water Wars, Thursday **November 16**, The King Life Sciences Building.

IMPORTANT –Sunshine problems if SBMAP Septic tank Committee members: Anthony Gaudio; Bob Deyle; Bob Henderson; Theresa Hicker or John, Buss, etc. happen to all attend a WSA meeting together, with this email we have contacted Kenny Hayman (Kenneth.Hayman@dep.state.fl.us; 850-245-2262) who is on this our email list.