**WSA Board Meeting Minutes**

October 28, 2022

[https://fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086__;!!PhOWcWs!zFRkPdp4JRASRGCdPf42AAJjW3u2Hv1sf71Zh8j2EfqjFs3WovRIHcY5uEdEBZZnaFdeuuHr2RuxTCVJ$)

**Opening**

* Welcome and introductions – Anthony Gaudio
* Agenda review and approval – Anthony Gaudio
* Comments on WSA strategic action – Tom Taylor

WSA Mission: *Protecting and restoring water quality, spring flow and ecological health of Wakulla Spring*

WSA Purposes (suggested): Enhance social, economic and environmental outcomes through:

1. Research on land and water management best practices and projects
2. Education of elected officials, businesses, residents and the public.
3. Advocacy for priority laws, regulations, policies and projects.

WSA Messages: WSA [Website](http://wakullaspringsalliance.org/), [Projects/Actions](http://wakullaspringsalliance.org/wsa-projects/), Brochure and more

[WSA Strategic Plan and Priority Initiatives](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fUeXuM0DL0eHWG_7K4_FEyePC0RbdZUPEfAow7iPEs4/edit)

Related [Plans, Reports, Programs and Activities](http://wakullaspringsalliance.org/plans-reports-videos-resources/)

1. [Basin Management Action Plan](https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-restoration/documents/upper-wakulla-river-and-wakulla-springs-basin-management-0)
2. [Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan](https://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/Home/County-Projects/Comprehensive-Wastewater-Treatment-Facilities-Plan)
3. [WS State Park Management Plan](https://floridadep.gov/parks/parks-office-park-planning/documents/edward-ball-wakulla-springs-state-park)
4. [NWFWMD](https://nwfwater.com/) Plans
5. [Comprehensive plans](https://www.talgov.com/Uploads/Public/Documents/place/comp_plan/tallahassee-leon-county-comprehensive-plan.pdf)
6. Private business and development plans
7. Resident’s fertilizing, watering, etc.

**Approval of Minutes**– Tom Taylor

* Albert Gregory made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brian Luipani, which passed unanimously.

**Approval of Financial Report** – Jim Davis (Appendix C)

* Albert Gregory made the motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Brian Luipani, which passed unanimously.

**Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan - Tasks 1-6**

* Overview of the [CWTFP process and reports](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/wastewater.) – Anna Padilla
	+ Tasks 1-4 were completed last year.
	+ Task 5 provided implementation scenarios with different treatments at different sites and identified target areas for central sewer and other technologies. There is a map of the areas in the link above.
	+ BMAP and Comprehensive Plan requires upgrades and retrofits in PFA, PSPZ and other areas. There are requirements for new development.
	+ Task 6 addressed nitrogen reduction estimates based on the BMAP methodology of 17,512 lbs./yr. for 2,438 existing systems
	+ Task 7 was the public meetings held last week.
	+ Task 8 will be to prepare the final report to the Commission and Blueprint in March 2023.
	+ Leon County will use this as a guide.
	+ There will be a finance and management plan.
	+ Q – This will reduce 20% of tanks (not load) of the total BMAP reduction by 2040.
* Draft WSA comments – Anthony Gaudio summarized the comments, that were supported by those present and incorporated into the letter in Appendix G, which was sent later in the day.
* The recording of the webinar on the plan has been posted to the [www.leoncountyfl.gov/wastewater](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.leoncountyfl.gov/wastewater__;!!PhOWcWs!xum53lbXQ3dN8fjURcbq4qKLB80bjuOz8xjwCUem30_ZrAADukMkJC4gnWYNRcvzpMtLR4pORo_Bw9hsRTlrqGIP$).

**Update on Action items:** **Letters of support**

* Southside Triangle Septic-to-Sewer Proposal, which passed unanimously and Matlow is considering sewering near Lake Munson. See letter of support in Appendix E
* Tall Timbers grant application letter of support in Appendix D
* See English Property letter of support in Appendix F

**Elections**

* Election of Mike Keys as interim chair for the end of the year.
	+ I will have more time to commit to this. Send me presentation ideas for Nov and Dec and Jan
	+ There was not a quorum so the vote is postponed until the November meeting.
* Progress report from the nomination committee
	+ We have 6 expirations Andres Hagberg will not continue, Cal Jamison, Tom Taylor and Bob Deyle are willing to continue on the Board but not as officers. Rob Williams and Cal Jamison are willing to continue. The WSA can have 10-15 board members. We have 14 now so there are 2-3 seats to fill. Chad Hansen is interested in joining the board. Jim Davis stepping down due to other commitments.

**Springshed and river update**

* Things are really dry lakes. Ditches are dry and not flowing. We can’t test water.
* City doing drawdown of Lake Munson to address algae. This is on a 10-year cycle and it has been 12 years. There will be no removal of muck. The drawdown goes to Ames Sink and then to Wakulla Springs
* Visibility at the Springs is pretty good but somewhat green. Not good enough for glass bottom boats.
* We did the wildlife and fish count yesterday. There are manatees there already.

**Cave exploration updates** – No report

**Announcements (5-10 minutes)**

* [Renew memberships](http://wakullaspringsalliance.org/membership/) and support to be able to vote in January
	+ Payments after June 30 count towards 2023
	+ Membership tally as of January 6 will determine basis for quorum for annual meeting on January 27th as well as who will be eligible to serve on the Board and vote in the election of board members.
	+ Membership categories:
		- STUDENT or SENIOR (55+) - $15/year
		- INDIVIDUALS - $25/year
		- FAMILY - $40/Year
		- SUPPORTER - $100-499/year
		- BENEFACTOR - $500-1,999+/year
		- LIFE MEMBER - $2,000+
* Next Meeting November 18 9-11am

**Adjourn**

* Brian Luipani made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Albert Gregory, which passed unanimously.

Appendix A

**WSA Board Meeting Agenda**

October 28, 2022

[https://fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086__;!!PhOWcWs!zFRkPdp4JRASRGCdPf42AAJjW3u2Hv1sf71Zh8j2EfqjFs3WovRIHcY5uEdEBZZnaFdeuuHr2RuxTCVJ$)

**Opening**

* Welcome and introductions – Tom Taylor (10 minutes)
* Agenda review and approval – Tom Taylor (5 minutes)
* Comments on WSA strategic action (5 minutes)

**Approval of Minutes**– Tom Taylor (5 minutes)

**Approval of Financial Report** – Jim Davis (5 minutes)

**Update on Action items:** **Letters of support**

* Southside Triangle Septic-to-Sewer Proposal, which passed unanimously and Matlow is considering sewering near Lake Munson. (5 minutes)
* Tall Timbers grant application (5 minutes)
* English Property (5 minutes)

**Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan - Tasks 1-6**

* Overview of the [CWTFP process and reports](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/wastewater.) – Anna Padilla (10 minutes)
* Draft WSA comments – Anthony Gaudio (10 minutes)
* Q&A and refinement of comments to be submitted (20 minutes)
* Motion to approve?
* The recording of the webinar has been posted to the [www.leoncountyfl.gov/wastewater](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http%3A/www.leoncountyfl.gov/wastewater__;!!PhOWcWs!xum53lbXQ3dN8fjURcbq4qKLB80bjuOz8xjwCUem30_ZrAADukMkJC4gnWYNRcvzpMtLR4pORo_Bw9hsRTlrqGIP$).

**Elections**

* Election of Mike Keys as interim chair for the end of the year.
* Progress report from the nomination committee

**Springshed and river update**– (Cal Jamison 5-10 minutes)

**Cave exploration updates** – Chris Werner and Andreas Hagberg (5 minutes)

**Announcements (5-10 minutes)**

* Renew memberships and support to be able to vote in January
* Upcoming meetings and events
* November 18 (Thanksgiving Nov. 24)   9-11am

**Adjourn**

Appendix B

**10-28-22 WAKULLA SPRINGS Board Meeting Participants**

\* Indicates those present

Officers

Howard Kessler, Chair
Robert E. Deyle, Vice-Chair
Tom Taylor, Secretary \*
Jim Davis, Treasurer \*

Directors

Gail Fishman \*
Rob Gelhardt \*

Albert Gregory \*

Andreas Hagberg

Cal Jamison
Robert Williams

Mike Keys \*

Debbie Lightsey

Brian Luipani \*

Lindsay Stevens

Members and Guests

Marcy Frick \*

Anthony Gaudio \*

Chad Hanson \*

Chuck Hess \*

Anna Padilla \*

Johnny Richards \*

Paul Thurman \*

Sophie Wacongne-Spear \*

Edgar Wade \*

Appendix C

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE** |  |
| **FINANCIAL REPORT** |  |
| **FOR THE9 MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022** |  |
|  |  |
| **INCOME** |   |
| Donations |  $  |
|  Memberships | 4,855.00  |
|  | 4,855.00  |
|  |  |
| **EXPENSES** |  |
|  Awards | 118.20  |
|  Florida Corporate Annual Report | 61.25  |
|  Big Bend Environmental Forum | 100.00  |
|  PayPal Fees | 195.70  |
|  Earl Bacon Agency - Insurance | 1,097.00  |
|  | 1,572.15  |
|  |  |
| **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** | 3,282.85  |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - 12/31/2021** | 5,412.79  |
| **PAYPAL BALANCE - 12/31/2021** | 454.17  |
|  **TOTAL - 12/31/2021** | 5,866.96  |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - 9/30/2022** | 8,815.38  |
| **PAYPAL BALANCE-9/30/2022** |  334.43  |
|  **TOTAL 9/30/2022** |  **$ 9,149.81**  |

Appendix D

**Board of Directors**

**Howard Kessler, Chair**

Physicians for Social Responsibility Florida

**Robert Deyle, Vice Chair**

Professor Emeritus, FSU

**Jim Davis, Treasurer**

Retired Exec Director, Sustainable Tallahassee

**Tom Taylor, Secretary**

FSU Adjunct Faculty

and Private Consultant

**Gail Fishman**

Writer

**Rob Gelhardt**

Gelhardt Graphics

**Albert Gregory**

Retired, Department of

Environmental Protection

**Andreas Hagberg**

Global Underwater Explorers

**Cal Jamison**

Wakulla Soil & Water Conservation District

**Michael Keys**

Wildlife Biologist

**Debbie Lightsey**

Former Tallahassee

City Commissioner

**Brian Lupiani**

Springs Research Volunteer

**Lindsay Stevens**, **AICP, Esq.**

**Robert William**

Apalachee Audubon

 **Wakulla Springs Alliance**

*“Protecting and restoring water quality, spring flow and ecological health of Wakulla Spring”*

October 21, 2022

Ms. Mallory Dimmitt, Chief Executive Officer

Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation

2606 Fairfield Ave, South

Building #7

St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Dear Ms. Dimmit,

The Wakulla Springs Alliance is an organization dedicated to conserving, restoring, and protecting the ecological health of the Wakulla Springs and River. Our organization is pleased to offer its full support for the Accelerating Connections Grant project submitted by Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy. Our Executive Committee has reviewed the pre-proposal, entitled “*Strategic Conservation Connections from the Red Hills to the Gulf,*” submitted by Tall Timbers. We feel this project will help our efforts to protect the Wakulla Springs and River by achieving its three primary goals:

* Identifying priority parcels needed to link existing conservation lands together;
* Developing an outreach plan and providing staff support to educate landowners about conservation opportunities on their land; and
* Proving project assistance funds to complete priority land conservation transactions.

Tall Timbers has an excellent track record in land conservation and stewardship, having permanently conserved over 153,000 acres of high-quality habitat. We believe this project will build on that success and will benefit the Wakulla Springs Alliance’s efforts to protect one of Florida’s ecological treasures.

We look forward to seeing this project among the slate of those selected for funding.



Sincerely,

Howard Kessler, M.D., Chair

Appendix E



Appendix F

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 **Wakulla Springs Alliance**

*“Protecting and restoring water quality, spring flow and ecological health of Wakulla Spring”*

October 25, 2022

Mara Gambineri, Chair

Lynetta Usher Griner, Vice Chair

Erin Albury

Thomas Eason

Alissa Lotane

William Palmer

Elva Peppers

Dear ARC Members:

Please accept this letter of support from the Wakulla Springs Alliance for the proposal by Save the English Forest (SEF) to add the “English Property PUD Forest Preserve” to the 2023 Florida Forever Priority List. Preserving the forest ecosystem and protecting the karst sinkhole features on this property will contribute to preserving and protecting the ecological health of the Wakulla Springs and River consistent with the Alliance’s mission.

The area proposed to be acquired encompasses all or part of three sinkholes on the English property that straddle the northern boundary of the Wakulla Spring and River Basin Management Action Plan Priority Focus Area and the Tallahassee-Leon County Primary Springs Protection Zone. Portions of the Springs Protection Zone are categorized as “most vulnerable” on the Leon Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment map. As such, preserving the existing forest vegetation and protecting the surrounding land from development will help protect the aquifer that flows to Wakulla Spring from urban stormwater pollution.

The Alliance therefore urges you to vote to advance the “English Property PUD Forest Preserve” project proposal to the evaluation phase and to ultimately consider adding this worthwhile project to the 2023 Florida Forever List.

Sincerely,



Howard Kessler, M.D., Chair

Wakulla Springs Alliance

Appendix G

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*“Protecting and restoring water quality, spring flow and ecological health of Wakulla Spring”*

October 28, 2022

Leon County Attn:

Anna Padilla,

Marcy Frick

Re: Leon County Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan

The Wakulla Springs Alliance advocated for funding and completion of the CWTFP to reduce nitrogen loads from existing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDSs), as well as future development, to groundwater and surface waters.

Anthony Gaudio and other WSA members have reviewed tasks 1-6 of the plan and ask that the County address these comments in finalizing the plan.

1. Concerns with calculations for N Reduction being used in the CWFTP
	1. Calculations do not adequately address the increase in Load for the capture of waste in Septic to Sewer projects from projects north of the Cody scarp that are in areas with a confining clay layer. Although the COT Wastewater treatment facility treats to a low concentration of N, any added waste from these areas adds pounds of N to the Target Area that may decrease the chances of achieving the 17K+ lbs. of N removal the plan is trying to achieve.
	2. Growth in the county in the 2040 window is not adequately addressed in the plan for both residential and commercial new Septic and sewer connects. The plan does recognize that any growth will be served by either advanced treatment Onsite systems or sewer that will generate low concentrations of N, these new generators of waste will add load to the target area.
	3. Septic to sewer projects assume a high participation rate in the CWTFP to achieve targeted N reduction, but tie in rates have historically been low in past Leon County projects. This is exemplified by the very low tie in rate in Killearn Lakes sewer project.
	4. The use of INRBs as the primary, and almost exclusive, choice for conversions of conventional septic to Advanced treatment poses a significant risk of over-estimating the N reduction from the use of these types of systems for these reasons:
		1. These INRBs that do not conform to the systems that were designed in the Passive Nitrogen Study done for The State of Florida by Hazen and Sawyer. They lack both a liner and pressure dosing which the study systems had.
		2. Lacking a liner reduces the time the Effluent can come in contact with the ligneous carbon source media confined to this part of the drain field. Adequate time is need for the carbon source media to chemically interact with the effluent to reduce N discharge.
			1. Also, without a liner the ligneous carbon media source is in an aerobic environment instead of the anaerobic environment that the liner provides which will result in a much more rapid degradation of the carbon source which may result in:
				1. Loss of efficacy of the carbon source as it degrades resulting in lower ability to remove N
				2. As the carbon source degrades and shrinks in volume it may cause a depression in the drain field area causing the system to fail.
			2. Lacking pressure dosing INRBs, that distributes effluent to the entire drain field, there are challenges for even being able to test them properly. With installations using liners and pressure dosing it is possible to use proven testing methodologies by placing test well Lysimeter in various locations around the drain field to determine how much N is being reduced and discharged into the environment.
				1. DEP has yet to come up with an effective way of testing installations of INRBs without liners and pressure dosing, although some test sites are currently being set up.
			3. INRBs installed without liners and pressure dosing, even though this is a FL DEP approved design, have yet to be tested to determine their ability, in both the long and short run, to actually reduce N and to what degree. INRBs installed with liners and presser dosing have had some limited testing but not enough to demonstrate their efficacy in the short and long run either. Very few of these more robust INRB systems have even been installed.

Sincerely,



Tom Taylor, Secretary

Wakulla Springs Alliance

 **Wakulla Springs Alliance**

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Sincerely,



Howard Kessler, M.D., Chair

Wakulla Springs Alliance

Appendix H

**Comments on Task 1-6 CWTFP October 2022**

1. Concerns with calculations for N Reduction being used in the CWFTP
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