

**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

Agenda 12/16/16

**9 am to 12 pm, Renaissance Center, 435 N. Macomb Street, 1st Floor Conference Room**

**9:00 Opening**

* Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)
* Introductions (Board)
* Secretary Minutes (absent)
* Treasurer Report (Howard Kessler)

**9:30 What’s new**

* Legislative Update – Ryan Smart, President of 1000 Friends of Florida
	+ Anti-fracking bill, Senator Bradley significant, chair, much smaller surplus this year going into billion dollar deficit next year.
	+ House much the same as last year
	+ House, senate and governor, relationship significant
	+ Billion dollars for purchasing land south of Okeechobee. Florida Forever
	+ Amendment 1 funds for septic retrofits
* Capstone project septic tank conversion prioritization – Jamie Hughes

Dropbox location:

* Website and Social Media, Updates – Seán McGlynn
	+ Bob Thompson requested that the wildlife survey summary report be restored to the Resources portion of the Wakulla Springs Alliance website.
	+ Post Jamie Hughes’ Septic tank prioritization document
	+ Links to lakes reports
* Springshed Updates – Cal Jamison
	+ Recent rains have creeks flowing. Black hole is getting water. WKPP divers trying to map connection between black hole swallet and emerald sink. Cal went to sample water from conduits, all clear. Wakulla Springs is getting green water component. Disk visibility is about 36 feet. Green water component is coming from sinking lakes in Tallahassee and Leon County. The green in the water is from algae that only grow in still water, not coming from flowing lakes or flowing springs. Spring Creek not flowing; totally saline. Tannic water is the cleanest, negligible nitrates. Clear water is highest in nitrates. Public relations problem that “dark water” is cleaner than “clear water.” Dark water used to be tannic, now both green water and tannic are called “dark water.”
* Wakulla Springs Eel Grass Transplant Proposal – Bob Deyle
	+ Sean – planting Val grass. Starting in Sally Ward, no swimming traffic. Eel grass growth helps push algae away. Not rooted, creates a micro-habitat. Hydrilla is a mystery. Still there, but not growing.
	+ Cal – A lot of the river bottom is barren, or close to it. Hydrilla is sprigs, mostly carrying flags of algae. Most of the other plants are also diminished.
	+ Bob – Manatees prefer – Hydrilla the most, then Sag, then Val the least. Algae are still the predominant submerged aquatic plant in the system right now. Periphyton is real thick. Still sufficient levels of nutrients to grow the undesirables. Nitrates have decreased since Tallahassee went to advanced treatment, but still enough to grow the undesirables.
	+ Cal – Sally Ward from springs reflects what is seen in river bottom. Sally Ward cavern does not go tannic, but spring run does.
	+ Sean – Sally Ward has higher nitrates than Wakulla Springs. More phytoplankton and algae. If we can get eel grass growing the algae will get replaced.
	+ Bob – Goal of improving plant community by planning Val... Val previously planted doesn’t look good. See periphyton over eel grass. Not seeing it as a real effective measure to improve the health of the plant community by planting Val. Not going to restore the health of the plants by planting Val.
	+ Donna – Putting a lot of money into project. Look at it you don’t go “wow.”
	+ Sean – Not perfect, but a big improvement to have eel grass instead of algae and we get the snails back. Wish we could look at planting Sag, instead of just Val. Much cheaper.
	+ Cal – Reestablish plants in Sally Ward run as a test project and the plants can spread naturally.
* SWIM Plan/Restore Act – Rob Williams
	+ Restore Act money at NWFWMD to redo all SWIM plans, rolling out draft plans in early January. Meetings with technical advisory committee and public committee. Will send to Sean and send to all members of the Alliance. Welcome everyone to come and review it. Initial draft plans are watershed characteristic plans; next phase is to address the impairments in the watershed. Come up with good ideas for projects. Create a list of projects that Restore Act funding can be used for. Multiple pots of money. Lots available. Florida has quite a bit available for projects in the Panhandle. Restore coastal resources, major watersheds, including springs that connect to coastal resources. Wastewater projects that impact coastal resources.
* Nominating Committee, Board Members – Seán McGlynn

These directors’ terms end and can be re-elected: Bob Deyle; Cal Jamison; Todd Kincaid; Seán McGlynn and Rob Williams. These directors have another year: Gail Fishman; Albert Gregory; Howard Kessler; Debbie Lightsey; Jim Stevenson and Tom Taylor.

* + Next meeting is annual meeting. Will need to reelect Board Members and Officers. Looking for new Board Members and Advisors.
* Camp Indian Springs property update – Cal Jamison, Chuck Hess (see attachment)
	+ Need to clear up who owns property. Possibly change from YMCA to Capitol Health.
	+ Cal – Indian Springs has a couple of sources, which one it is determines water quality.
	+ Sean - Jim wants to get rid of Equestrian Center. Chuck Hess wants to keep recreational areas, including equestrian center.
	+ Anthony – About a dozen septic tanks on property. All need to be abandoned except for big building and equestrian facility, which could be retrofitted for nitrogen removing technology.
	+ Doug – Not traditional water management district property because of facilities.
	+ Sean – They want it to be an amenity for Wakulla County.
	+ Could be bought by WMD, owned by state and leased to county for recreation and aquifer protection.
	+ Cal - Very beneficial
	+ Ryan – Florida Communities Trust would be better fit.
	+ Anthony – Better idea to find an appropriate use for the property. Workgroup to find new strategy to conceptualize a new vision for the property.
	+ Sean – Letter will be recirculated for additional edits.
	+ Motion and Second to send letter to Water Management District supporting acquisition of Indian Springs and Corbett property.
	+ Bob D. – Motion to create ad hoc working group on Indian Springs Sean, Cal, Chuck Hess, Anthony, Albert & Ryan Smart to discuss visioning for Indian Spring’s project. Chaired by Chuck Hess
* Corbett property update – Cal Jamison, Ryan Smart (see attachment)
	+ Corbett comprehensive plan amendment pulled from Wakulla County planning commission agenda. Not on January agenda may come back later.
* Ferrell property update – Cal Jamison, Ryan Smart

**11:00 US Highway 319 / Crawfordville Road Widening – Bob Deyle** (see attachment)

 *11:25 Questions*

* Jim – ARC agreed to delay decision for several months to find better way to do retention ponds. Kent Wimmer supported wildlife underpass. DOT doesn’t want to do it because they would have to build highway too high. Good discussion. Imperiled plants on the right of way.
* Anthony – If moved forward – need to make sure that retention ponds are nutrient reduction facilities.
* Bob D. – ARC members want to mitigate nitrate. DOT in bind. Two other alternatives possible. 1. Up the ante on land purchase mitigation by buying additional lands that would be developed and add nitrogen to the system. 2. Find a way to have DOT provide funding to replace existing septic tanks to mitigate nitrogen loading from project.
* Motion and second to allow Jim Stevenson, Bob Deyle, Albert and Anthony, among any other member as deemed necessary to continue to negotiate with DOT, including alternative mitigation proposals. Passed.

**11:30   Wakulla Springs BMAP / OSTDS update – Bob Deyle** (see attachment)

* Discussion of educational grants

**11:50 Items from the Floor** – None

**12:00 Adjourn**

Next WSA Meeting: Annual General Meeting and Board meeting, January 20, 2017. In our **old room, 2nd floor Conference Room, Renaissance Building**