**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**4-23-21 Board Minutes**

**Opening**

* Welcome and introductions – Howard Kessler
* Agenda review - Howard Kessler

**Match 26 minutes** - Tom Taylor

* Debbie Lightsey made the motion to approve, seconded by Albert Gregory, which passed unanimously.

**March financial report** – There was no financial report

**Capital Circle Southwest project – Route 20 to Springhill Road** – Clay Hunter, PE, Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation

* Project started in 2013 and plans are to be completed at the end of 2021.
* Right of way acquisition to be done later this year.
* Segment is from Springhill Road to Orange Ave,
* There will be 3 lanes each way with bike lane and sidewalk.
* There is a stormwater management plan with 5 dry retention ponds and 1 wet retention pond. There will be minimal wetland impacts. The small impact will be mitigated with a mitigation bank.
* Bradford Brook Bridge Crossing has a wildlife tunnel and a 17’ channel, big enough for kayaks. The bridge will be built in 2 phases.
* Erosion control measures will minimize impacts.
* Debbie Lightsey, Sierra Club, Blueprint, FDOT and others were recognized for efforts to protect wildlife, wetlands and groundwater.

**Debbie Lightsey nature park and greenway** – Autumn Calder, AICP, Director, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

* This part of the SW Blueprint project.
* 131A were acquired by Blue Pring in 2006 for stormwater treatment and wetland mitigation.
* Greenways master plan has 32 greenways including the Capital Circle SW greenway.
* Robert George made the presentation including a video. See notes and link to the video in Appendix C.
* There will be parking, walking and mountain biking (2.2 m) trails, board walks, observation points, benches, a bike repair area, signage, wetland mitigation area, natural play area and more.
* There was extensive public engagement that identified interests and priorities.
* The design provides open views, ADA accessibility, user safety, environmental enhancement, low-impact development, education and more.
* Park trails tie into the Munson Slough Multi-Use Trail and other trails.
* There has been a natural resource inventory, that did not find gopher tortoises.
* The Golden Aster Trail will provide public access to the Golden Aster Preserve that many are not aware of.
* Q - Look for and protect Golden Aster and milk weed on the site.
* Q – How will you limit access and prevent driving and trash on these parks? A – The gate system will be moved and there will be bollards to restrict vehicle access. More people will help discourage trash dumping. Landscaping will also be used to control use.
* Q - There has been mud bogging and this needs to be controlled. A – There may need to be a gate to keep them from coming in. This will be a dusk to dawn facility.
* Q – What about lighting. A – There will only be lighting in the parking facility with downward lighting that will minimize wildlife impacts. This is a dusk to dawn facility.
* Q – Is there a plan for a restroom for the play area and others. A – This will be considered.

**Legislative update**

* Follow [1000 Friends of Florida](https://1000fof.org/legis/2021session/), the [Florida Springs Council](https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/) and [Florda Conservation Voters](https://fcvoters.org/) and support and oppose legislation on an individual basis.

**Springshed and river update -** Cal Jamison

* The clarity in the spring is clear and the color is green.
* Recent rains have streams flowing strongly with tannic water.
* Spring Creek has reversed and if flowing strongly.
* We aren’t seeing as many fish in the spring basin, possibly because of less vegetation.
* Sally Ward Spring is clear blue.

**Cave exploration update**

* WKP has gotten a permit to dive in Leon Sinks and other places in the National Forest over the next couple of years.

**Wakulla County wastewater facilities improvement plan update** – Cal Jamison

* The Monday Wakulla County Commission meeting passed authorization for lift stations and right of way access for the golf course wastewater disposal. They seem to be leaning toward the golf course option rather than the Moore property. The 100-acre site could be used for emergency disposal. The golf course is near Lost Creek that connects to Spring Creek.
* There are gopher tortoises on the Moore property that need to be protected.
* If they do the golf course disposal, can they utilize constructed wetlands techniques there?
* We also need to monitor alternative uses of the Moore property.

**Strategic plan update** - Tom Taylor

* Tom showed the draft [2021 WSA Strategic Action Plan Google Doc](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fUeXuM0DL0eHWG_7K4_FEyePC0RbdZUPEfAow7iPEs4/edit#heading=h.v80q8exly1z4).
	+ This includes, Goals, Measures, Past Accomplishments, Strategies, Tasks and responsibilities
	+ All WSA officers, directors, members and supporters are encouraged to click on the [+] in the menu to suggest changes and additions.
	+ WE NEED EVERYONE TO VOLUNTEER TO LEAD AND/OR SUPPORT ONE OR MORE STRATEGIC GOALS OR SPECIFIC ACTIONS.
	+ The WSA is an all-volunteer organization and nothing happens unless someone commits to and does it.  The [Names] in brackets are from an older document and need to be confirmed. (Confirmed names) are in parentheses.
	+ This [draft WSA Strategic Action Plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fUeXuM0DL0eHWG_7K4_FEyePC0RbdZUPEfAow7iPEs4/edit?usp=sharing) will be regularly reviewed and refined periodically at WSA board meetings.
	+ If each person makes a commitment to implement one or more action items we can make a real difference in the incredible Wakulla Springs resources we all love.
	+ We have an ongoing role in responding to immediate issues. People involve us. We need to educate and advocate
* Jim Stevenson will help with education.
* Debbie Lightsey will follow-up with ~~the Sierra Club, Leon County and Tallahassee on education of neighborhood associations about fertilizer use, especially Killearn.~~ Grant Gelhardt on liaison with neighborhoods as part of the Leon County Fertilizer ordinance public involvement plan.
* Sean McGlynn has a lot of this data and Cal Jamison posts the information. Tom Taylor will talk to Sean.
* WMD will help with the measures section. Brett Cyphers suggested talking with Kathleen Coates.
* The WSA should have an in-depth discussion of what the Spring will look like with the impacts of sea level rise and other trends.
* We can’t do much about tannic water, but we can influence the green color, especially if we can use the DNA studies to pinpoint sources of algae from the sinking lakes. Then we may be able to get local government to take targeted actions. The City has provided data on the color and there is not enough evidence now to show violations of standards.
* Have the research meeting on green water and produce a research plan. It has been too nebulous. It could be a regular WSA or a separate meeting. WMD will be glad to host this meeting.
* The final report on color that is being revised.
* Bob Deyle is very aware of this and can put this together in a paper.
* In a 1837 journal, Mr. Williams said the water has a slight shade of green, so the green water may not be new.
* Look at history of the river and the actions that have impacted it. Also look at the present and future in ways that speak to the public. We all have different strengths, and it is important to meet monthly to continue to enhance our understanding of the Springs.
* WSA can use the accomplishments in the Strategic Action Plan for a PR document that sets out accomplishments separately.
* See [this trailer for The Fellowship of the Springs](https://www.floridasmagicwaters.com/). It is a 60-minute documentary with shorter pieces that feature the springs in north Florida and compare them to other places in the world. We need to help raise funding and get PBS to show it.

**Upcoming meetings and events** – Howard Kessler

* **May 21** – Presentation TBA **[note this is the third Friday of the month]**
* **June 25** – Presentation TBA

**Appendix A**

****

**Agenda**

**April 23, 2021**

**9:00 to 11:55 am, via Zoom**

**9:00 Opening**

* **Welcome and introductions** – Howard Kessler
* **Agenda review** - Howard Kessler

 **9:10 Match 26 minutes** - Tom Taylor

 **9:15 March financial report** - Jim Davis

 **9:20 Capital Circle Southwest project – Route 20 to Springhill Road** – Clay Hunter, PE, Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation

 **9:50 Debbie Lightsey nature park and greenway** – Autumn Calder, AICP, Director, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

**10:20 Legislative update** - Ryan Smart

**10:35 What’s new?**

* **Springshed and river update -** Cal Jamison
* **Cave exploration update** – Andreas Hagberg
* **What else?**

**10:50 Wakulla County wastewater facilities improvement plan update** – Cal Jamison

**11:00 Strategic plan update** - Tom Taylor

**11:45 Upcoming meetings and events** – Howard Kessler

* **May 21** – Presentation TBA **[note this is the third Friday of the month]**
* **June 25** – Presentation TBA

**11:50 Other business**

**11:55 Adjourn**

Appendix B

**4-23-21 WSA Meeting Participants**

**\* indicates those present**

Officers

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

Directors

Gail Fishman \*

Albert Gregory \*
Rob Gelhardt

Andreas Hagberg

Cal Jamison \*
Brian K. Katz
Terry Ryan
Lindsay Stevens
Jim A. Stevenson \*

Members and Guests

Junious Brown

Autumn Calder

George Cavros

Jim Cook

Brett Cyphers

Mike Freedon

Grant Gelhardt

Robert George

Mark Heidecker

Clay Hunter

Sandy Husky

Brian Lupiani

Dallas Marshall

Johnny Richardson

Earl Wills

**Appendix C**

**From:** Junious Brown <junious.brown@Blueprintia.org>

**Subject:** April 23 Wakulla Springs Alliance meeting

Good morning Everyone. Thank you again for having us at the April 23 Wakulla Springs Alliance meeting. Please see the provided link at the bottom of this correspondence that will enable you to download the presentation and video. We truly enjoyed the engagement and will be following up with you on the suggestions/concerns. We plan to re-engage the group once a site visit is scheduled to inspect the following matters of concerns:

**Debbie Lightsey Nature Park (DLNP)**

1. Confirm impacts to the milkweed plants. The location of the parking lot will impact existing milkweed habitat.

2. Opportunity to remove invasive species, particularly the china berry species.

3. Site lighting provided in the parking lot will need to direct downward towards the parking area and not cast light into the natural areas to disrupt existing habitat.

4. Consider making a connection between the two picnic areas between the two stormwater management facilities. This will be a natural location where individuals will gather and should be interconnected.

5. Expressed concern on the illegal waste that is dumped within the power line easement and how will the illegal dumping be stopped or deterred.

6. Identified the locations for the vehicular and pedestrian access. Vehicular ingress/egress from Capital Circle Southeast and pedestrians will have access from Patrick Avenue.

7. Discussed the ability to limit pedestrian use of the trail system to individuals and eliminate the use of vehicles and all-terrain vehicles (ATV). Recommended solution will be to add bollards to prevent ingress/egress of motor vehicles and ATV’s.

8. Discussed restrooms and presently a restroom facility has not been designed for this park. A space has been provided for future restroom facilities.

9. Identified that trash receptacles will need to be bear proof.

**Lake Munson Trail Connection**

10. Discussed that stormwater design incorporated Low Impact Development (LID) criteria that complied with City of Tallahassee Department of Growth Management.

11. No comments were made regarding the Lake Munson Connection.

**Golden Aster Trailhead & Connector Trail**

12. Requested that biologist review trail alignment to confirm no impacts to the existing golden bent aster.

13. Discussed that stormwater design incorporated Low Impact Development (LID) criteria that complied with City of Tallahassee Department of Growth Management.

Anyone with this link can view the Video and Presentation.

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l9yicrsrseyh798/AAB9ZcVchkrgaCGcpsw6jOsAa?dl=0](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.dropbox.com/sh/l9yicrsrseyh798/AAB9ZcVchkrgaCGcpsw6jOsAa?dl=0__;!!PhOWcWs!kqRN73ndXJ5fzS6H7vskoqo2X4TcpwYc6IH7K50sxhm4dulEVqDX-ToaZ5OHVg$)

Kind regards,

***Junious***

Project Manager • Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

315 S. Calhoun St., Suite 450 • Tallahassee, FL 32301

850.219.1060

[BlueprintIA.org](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https*3A*2F*2Fprotect-us.mimecast.com*2Fs*2F--GUCOYEnqFpM4NJIEKuxl*3Fdomain*3Dnam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com&data=02*7C01*7C*7Cb54f06b592444cd0f93408d762448e32*7Cb83d23e43e8a4e549426be16e2ce2693*7C0*7C0*7C637085918928813073&sdata=*2BKgEtnsbE4or9GVZPEd60qNQuTuwEft*2F9TGxi1e2AwE*3D&reserved=0__;JSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSUlJSU!!PhOWcWs!nxa0CUW33JlwznrHcmQft2-7Fnb_8FjMKRjVdkCwMnUrBIIVm0D08tocIHanJIY$)