**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**5-15-15 Board Meeting Minutes**

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held a Board meeting on May 15, 2015 at the Renaissance Center. The draft agenda and list of participants can be found in Appendices A and B. Review the action items underlined 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.

**Opening**

President Sean McGlynn welcomed everyone, Secretary Tom Taylor reviewed the meeting agenda and everyone introduced themselves. The minutes were amended and approved and the treasurer’s report was presented and approved.

**Isotopic investigation of Source and Residence Time of Springs in N Florida**

There was a presentation by Erica Rau of her research followed by a discussion of implications for the BMAP and other efforts.

**Water Level and Color Report**

* Cal Jamison showed photos and described conditions in Lost Creek, Black Greek, Cheryl Sink, Cold Hole and Spring Creek.
* Cal will take people on a tour of swallets. Contact him to join the tour.

**Land Acquisition**

* Corbett site was mentioned.
* Guy Revel’s site has sink holes that provide a monitoring point. He wants to talk about stormwater from a neighboring development at a future meeting.

**Cave Diving**

* The gates are now open and River and Emerald Sinks for cave diving with no monitoring.
* This needs to be addressed.

Wakulla State Forest Management Plan

* Cal Jamison is representing FOWS and the Wakulla County Soil and Water Conservation District.
* Cal will provide information to get someone to represent WSA on the Management Plan Committee.

**DEP Multiple Use in State Parks: The Future of Wakulla Spring State Park?**

* The legislation for low-impact agriculture bill failed.
* This proposal passed in the House by 88 to 24 and the Senate didn’t take it up.
* 8 parks have grazing. 3 are historical interpretation cracker cattle sites. 5 parks with improved pasture were grazed before state acquisition. Mayaka is the first test case for multiple-use.
* Secretary Steverson is pushing for 100% self-funding of state parks. This is a policy change from single to multiple-use state parks; all uses are equal. DEP is calling it optimization.
* Jim Stevenson and Albert Gregory are working to fight this at Myakka River State Park. There will be a draft unit management plan sent out before the large public meeting and people are coming from around the state. There will be an advisory group meeting the following day. It will later be heard by ARC.
* The plan for Myatka will be on the DEP site and everyone is encouraged to comment. Jim has talking points available.
* 1000 Friends will send out a letter to their members.
* This has been done in memos and spoken guidance by DEP without public review.
* This will probably come out on a park-by-park basis. The Myakka management plan will be the first multiple use plan.
* The Cherokee Sink tract could be a target for this.
* The Friends of Wakulla Springs (FOWS) will have a meeting on Oct 17.
* Wakulla Springs will have management plan update.
* FOWS in negotiations on CSO agreement. The old CSO coordinator has a new position. FOWS will be outspoken and has a large membership.
* Jim and Albert are going statewide with letters from retired state park directors and managers in major papers in FL.
* There is an effort to prohibit local input on fracking.
* FL constitution says the parks are for public use.
* There is meeting May 27-29 for managers and CSO presidents. Madeleine will be there and will report to the next meeting.
* Madeleine will send talking points to CSO presidents.
* CSOs educate, advocate, and raise funds. DEP now sees CSOs as a threat and source of opposition.
* Parks belong to the public. CSOs contribute value to the parks. There have provided 20,000 volunteer hours per year. FOWS has given over $500,000 in recent years.
* There are 85+ CSOs and there is a Friends of FL State Parks that has been effective in the past.
* We need to document the environmental, economic and social benefits of parks not just the revenue potential.
* Howard Kessler and Albert will do a letter to Governor Scott and Secretary Steverson, FL press, state friends and speciific newspapers. Use Change.org and other social media too. We to have the maximum amount of information before it goes out. Register opposition to the concept. Everyone is encouraged to write letters to the editor.

**African American oral history about Wakulla Springs.**

* Madeleine Carr requested approval to submit the “Our Water Through Oral History Grant” to FL Council for the Humanities.
* WSA will be the applicant, and Madeleine will be the consultant.
* Jim Stevenson made the motion, Bob Thompson seconded it and it was approved.

**Environmental Institute Update**

* Construction has started using $400,000 from the legislature.
* They have improved the soil for the building.
* Cal and Sean will visit the WEI site and others are invited.

**BP money in Wakulla Co, $20-40 Million and other grants**

* An environmental firm has been hired for a couple of million dollars to get the money approved and managed it.
* The Marine committee has been given all new members.
* Wakulla Springs projects have not been included yet including FOWS proposals for Cherokee and River Sink restoration and the WSA monitoring proposal.
* There were springs funds for a number of projects. We can ask Wakulla and Leon (Cathy Bird) to talk about the use of these funds in the next few months. Motion passed.
* Sean will put together a list of possible grants and proposals

**Apalachicola Symposium**

* There were a lot of speakers on historical trends, options, etc.
* Woodruff Dam was done for power but there is toxic sediment that would be a problem if removed. Lake Lanier dam provides water for Atlanta. Water levels are down 6 feet because of sediment removal.
* The FL argument that flow is reduced by Atlanta use is not documented based on historic flows.
* An attorney provided case history on multi-state issues. The Special Master hasn’t released his report.
* The recent drought and historic droughts have permanently changed the ecology and it can’t be restored. If the river level is down it affects our aquifer.
* We cam be part of the conference next year.

**Legislative Update,** Charles Pattison started the discussion

* Septic tank pump-out bill failed so land disposal must end in January. Septic contractors have to dispose at approved sites. There is a $0.17/gal. charge for disposal at the Tallahassee Smith Plant.
* Amendment 1 funds being used for FWC and other department costs.
* Senate water bill was supported by conservation groups initially but 1000 Friends and others opposed the final bill. In the end nothing passed. There was a proposed water advisory council in the Senate version. We don’t expect anything until next year.
* We need to see what is considered in the special session and decide what to do. There will be $750,000,000 in the budget for Amendment 1.
* See 1000 Friends update and take approproate action.
* Senate and House agreed on the 6 outstanding springs with 20 years to set MFLs with an assessment by 2018 and a BMAP started within 2 years. Septic tanks need to have a remediation plan in 5 years with no disposal sites in the springshed. Fertilizer ordinances will be required.
* No fracking bill passed.

**Weems Pond**

* Alum treatment has not started yet.
* Alum treatment has started in Cascades Park.

**WSA Logo**

* Howard and Jim will look at Maria’s revised logo. Tom Swihart made a motion, Cal seconded it and it was passed to authorize Howard and Jim to work with Maria to produce the logo with an Anhinga.

**Proposed 5-15-15 WSA Agenda**

**Renaissance Center**

435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**9:00  Opening**

Welcome and meeting agenda review

Introductions

Secretary Minutes

Treasurer Report

**9:15 Isotopic investigation of source and residence time of springs in N Florida**

Presentation by Erica Rau

Discussion of implications for the BMAP and other efforts

**10:15 Break**

**10:30 What’s New**

DEP Multiple Use in State Parks: The Future of Wakulla Spring State Park? – Jim Stevenson

Legislative report – Rob Williams

Tallahassee Lakes, Wakulla Spring and Logo Status – Sean McGlynn

**11:45 Other Business and Action Planning**

**12:00 Adjourn**

Appendix B

**Board, Advisors and Guests**

\* Indicates 5-15-15 Participants

Board Members

Bob Deyle

Albert Gregory \*

Cal Jamison \*

Howard Kessler \*

Todd Kincaid

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

Madeleine Carr \*

Mark Heidecker \*

Jeff Pridde \*