

**May WSA Board Meeting**

**Friday, June 24, 2022, 9:00 am to 11:00 am**

**Meeting Highlights**

Everyone is encouraged to review the [WSA Strategic Action Plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fUeXuM0DL0eHWG_7K4_FEyePC0RbdZUPEfAow7iPEs4/edit), offer suggestions and identify what you are willing to do to enhance the future of our favorite Florida spring.

**Meeting Minutes**

Action items are underlined



**Welcome and introductions – Rob Williams**

**Agenda review and approval – Rob Williams**

**English forest**

**State agency comments on Dev in WC**

**Response to letter on solar farm**

* **Approved as amended RW BD**

**Approval of the minutes** – Tom Taylor

RW JD approved

**Approval of the financial report** – Jim Davis

**Presentation - Aquifer Vulnerability Assessments -** Alan Baker, Florida Geological Survey

* FAVA 1 was for several counties and then FAVA 2 for Wakulla and other counties
* There are several data driven aquifer models. Wakulla is the Floridian Aquifer
* There are many data layers on the maps, e.g., soil drainage, proximity to karst features, confining unit thickness, and relative vulnerability model output; and monitor well data.
* The areas suggest relative vulnerability not predictions.
* This is similar to sinkhole vulnerability maps.
* Evidential themes are combined to statistically identify relative vulnerability.
* LC is based on LIDAR and WC on topographical maps. Called LACA in LC.
* Q – What models were used in WC and LC? A – Leon’s are not FAVA, WC is FAVA 2. The layers are similar. 16+ training points in LC and 40+ in WC.
* Q – Are all areas of WC and LC vulnerable? A – All of WC and LC are vulnerable and some areas are more vulnerable. There is no confining layer on the eastern half of WC.
* The spray field is in an area with the highest soil conductivity in the state.
* We can see surface water pollution but not in the aquifer.
* Q – How much can we depend on these maps for specific 200-acre sites? The boring maps are not detailed enough to do that because there not enough holes.
* Q – Would there be a benefit to do FAVA 3 analysis for both LC, WC and Jefferson County.
* There are no areas that are not vulnerable. The categories are now vulnerable, more vulnerable and most vulnerable.
* Chad Hanson suggested that we have a working group to continue this discussion.

**Presentation - Wakulla County Golf Course Project** - County Administrator David Edwards

* The WC Infrastructure Facility Plan
* We have $80 m in water quality projects to remove septic tanks, a large forced main upgrade, increases of lines from 12” to 16” and 20” lines, upgrades to the treatment plant,
* We have been staying below the .2 level.
* We are moving water to the golf course to keep it alive. Designers and geologist are working on adjusting the plan and grid layout. We are testing different grasses
* We are building a comprehensive program. We hope the bids will be within the budget.
* We will try to put as much new development on sewer as possible.
* We will have a midart reuse area and irrigate down Highway 98 and some nurseryies.
* Don’t what will happen with the Moore property. It is not in the picture now.
* We are looking at the 88 septic tanks. The BOC had to vote the way they did.

**The English Forest Property**

* Vince George, retired DEP, working with advocates for protection. Save The English Forest, Save TEF.
* We are doing a letter of interest to the $2m grant program of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation to up to 5 recipients. We would like the WSA to be a co-applicant by July 1. There would be an answer by August Accelerating Connection Grant Award. Cut to file a full application. There were 2 projects funded, one in the Red Hills. Funds are through the DEP State Lands. Wakulla State Forest project was funded. The Forest Legacy Program uses federal funds.
* STEF and WSA would be co-applicants in a formal application.
* Q – How is this a corridor if surrounded by development? A – It could be developed less densely and be a conservation area.
* Q – is this in one of the funding priority areas. A – Vince will talk to them today.
* Q – Is this for the whole site. A – It is focused on the ravine areas.
* There may be FL Forever and other funds.
* This would be for limited areas for purchase or easements.
* The areas with karst features would be of most interest to the WSA and these are not ravines. The ravines may relate to stormwater runoff.

**Update on Wakulla County Springs Protection Ordinance** - Bob Deyle

* WC Commission voted to accept the staff recommendation to not have a setback from cave systems for gas stations and other pollution sources and shift to a best-management practices, BMPs in the springs protection zone. Developers would have to conduct analysis such as depth to karst layer. The proposal is to contract with a consultant.
* There is concern about the reliability of the map center lines.
* There are problems with some of the staff assumptions but they are not likely to specify setbacks. There can be a criterion to consider caves.
* We hope to have Hal Davis at our next meeting and invite WC staff.
* Chad Hanson suggested meeting with WC staff about how use FGS and other information. We need state certified information.
* We may want more accurate LIDAR maps that link FAVA to the cave system.
* We may want to know about containment layers and distance to the limestone. This may be best done with site analysis rather than maps. Setbacks may be too little or too much in specific situations.
* The BMPs may or may not be adequate.

**Update on Horton Comp Plan Amendments** - Bob Deyle

* 3 parcels on SE side involving extensions in the USA and change from rural residential to more intense development. WSA focused on 2 parcels and sent letters.
* The 2 commissions met to consider the amendments. Bob testified. The city voted 3-2 an County 3-3 so it was approved by both.
* WSA concern was with the USA extension and higher density without sewer connections.
* It was announced that the developer would pay for connections to sewer. We were not able to comment on this. It is not clear whether the developer really has to connect to sewer.
* BD, BL motion to send a follow-up letter.
* Anthony Gaudio and a LU attorney wrote letters. Southwood is doing an end-around of their DRI to avoid $10,000 in concurrency issues on sewer and road work. The requirements do not go away when the property is sold. Anthony alerted Horton to their potential liability.

**Comp Plan Amendment**

* There was a comp plan amendment to allow 88 residential units. It is not in the SPA that would require advanced treatment.
* We wrote a letter to DEP and the WMD recommending denial. The agency encouraged connecting to sewer or use AWT systems. David Edwards seemed to encourage connection to sewer.
* This needs to be voted on by the Commission to approve the amendment. We may want to do another letter.
* Chad Hanson is on the planning commission and Bob will follow this.
* The DEP and WMD recommend sewer or AWT systems. We haven’t seen the letters yet.
* TT RW letter. unanimous

**Emergent Vegetation Dieback and its Impacts** - Bob Deyle

* A year ago, there was a massive die-off of 3 species, water hemlock, pickerel weed and knot weed (habitat for more hens).
* Considered impacts up and down stream and other water bodies. It appears to be something coming out of the spring vent or low water levels.
* Salinity spikes have been more frequent but there was no correlation.
* Plant tissues was analyzed for herbicides and tests came back negative. The die-off occurred again this May.
* Tests showed disease related to fungi in the pickerel weed but not knot weed and water hemlock.
* Weekly wildlife survey volunteers saw lower levels of 2 species (Pied-billed grebes and common gallinules) in March and April. Declines may be related to different tour boats.

**Response to the Solar Farm Letter**

* WSA received a letter from the City.
* They don’t use roundup.
* They don’t want to use sheep.

**Springshed and river update** – Cal Jamison

* Springs are clearing nicely.
* You can see the ledge of the spring bowl.
* The reading was 62’
* The spring flow was strong.
* Clarity is the result of lower rainfall.
* Water level is 4.7 to 4.8’
* 4.5 to 5 nutrient levels, above the 3.3 maximum level.
* Cal is recruiting folks to record and report their rainfall.
* We have been hosting a 4-H group to do analysis.
* Mike Keys has good data on rainfall.

**Interim Chair Replacement -** Rob Williams

* Rob will be calling
* Anthony volunteered to be a meeting facilitator to reduce the burden on chair.

U**pcoming meetings and events**

* **August 4 BBEF, submit questions to Rob by next Friday.**
* **FOWS July 6, Chris Werner will update the history of cave exploration.**
* **FOWS needs volunteers for the antique**

**Adjourn**

RW CJ

Appendix A



Appendix B

**6-24-22 WAKULLA SPRINGS Board Meeting Participants**

**\* Indicates those present**

Officers

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

Directors

Gail Fishman \*  
Rob Gelhardt

Albert Gregory

Andreas Hagberg

Cal Jamison \*  
Howard Kessler

Mike Keys \*

Debbie Lightsey

Brian Luipani \*

Lindsay Stevens

Members and Guests

James Call

Kathleen Coates \*

Gil Damon

Sue Damon \*

Dyer \*

David Edwards \*

Anthony Gaudio \*

Vince George \*

Maddy Hart

Chad Hanson \*

Mark Heidecker \*

Chuck Hess

Scott Knight \*

Stephen Martin \*

John Quinton \*

Ryan Smart

Johnny Richardson \*

Jim Stevenson \*

Paul Thurman

Sophie Wacongne-Spear \*

Chris Werner \*

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| **WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE** |  |
| **FINANCIAL REPORT** |  |
| **FOR THE 5 MONTHS ENDED MAY 31, 2022** |  |
|  |  |
| **INCOME** |  |
| Donations | $ |
| Memberships | 2,815.00 |
|  | 2,815.00 |
|  |  |
| **EXPENSES** |  |
| Awards | 118.20 |
| Florida Corporate Annual Report | 61.25 |
| Big Bend Environmental Forum | 100.00 |
| PayPal Fees | 135.52 |
| Earl Bacon Agency - Insurance | 1,097.00 |
|  | 1,511.97 |
|  |  |
| **SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)** | 1,303.03 |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - 12/31/2021** | 5,412.79 |
| **PAYPAL BALANCE - 12/31/2021** | 454.17 |
| **TOTAL - 12/31/2021** | 5,866.96 |
|  |  |
| **BANK BALANCE - 5/31/2022** | 6,815.38 |
| **PAYPAL BALANCE- 5/31/2022** | 351.61 |
| **TOTAL 5/31/2022** | **$7,166.99** |

**Appendix C**

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Appendix D

**Letter Regarding TLH Amendments to USA**





Appendix E

