

# Wakulla Springs Alliance

## Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, April 28, 2023

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Leon County's Renaissance Community Center second floor conference room  
(457 W Virginia St, Tallahassee, FL 32301) <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086>

Recording available at:

[https://fsu.zoom.us/rec/share/BeMARn9HVOMHOQgsBHsLCk4O8SHcPNawtNkNSU23EbJqUrN8q3X-ppIIPe-CdbT1.pX4f7EVOCWSEwM\\_a](https://fsu.zoom.us/rec/share/BeMARn9HVOMHOQgsBHsLCk4O8SHcPNawtNkNSU23EbJqUrN8q3X-ppIIPe-CdbT1.pX4f7EVOCWSEwM_a)

**9:08 Meeting called to order** by Anthony Gaudio

Welcome and introductions – Anthony

Agenda review – Anthony (Appendix A)

NOTE: Because Jim Davis, our Treasurer, and Lynn Artz both serve on the Wakulla County Charter Review Committee, and Lynn is in this meeting to discuss the Committee, Jim is not attending this meeting in order to avoid any conflict with Sunshine laws.

**9:14 Financial report** - Jim Davis (Appendix C)

Brian **moved to accept the report**; seconded by Mike and **passed without opposition.**

**9:15 Minutes of March 31, 2023 meeting** - Brian Lupiani

Cal **moved to accept the minutes**; seconded by Brian and **passed without opposition.**

**9:16 Wakulla County Ballot Initiatives Workgroup to develop WSA's recommendations for Wakulla County Ballot Initiatives for the 2024 Election** – Chad Hanson

Presentation on Proposal to Charter Review Committee June 6.  
(PowerPoint)

**9:40 Q&A, discussion of WSA workgroup recommendations on charter revisions**

**10:14 Bob made a motion to follow the process articulated by Lynn Artz whereby our representatives appear before the Charter Review Commission and propose option 1 A; if that is voted down offer as an alternative option 2 A; seconded by Lindsay and passed without opposition.**

**10:16 Spring shed and river update** - Cal Jamison

Water is pretty clear. Yesterday's Secchi reading of visibility was 54.3 feet, down about 10 feet from the weeks before - but prior to the drying-out period 6 weeks ago, it was 14 feet. Water color is still green from chlorophyll. Plant growth in the spring and river has gotten a boost; eel grasses have expanded quite a bit. Hydrilla is coming back, downriver and near Sally Ward. A lot of wildlife along the river. A least bittern was seen a few weeks ago, a rare sight. A lot of large alligators. One tour boat is operating, which

can hold at least 24 people. Bill Snowden of the Wakulla Sun rode along and Cal expects an article will be published soon.

**10:20 Florida springs 2023 legislative update** - Anthony is asking Ryan Smart (Executive Director, Florida Springs Council) to provide an update on legislation of interest:  
HB1379

SB1240/HB1197 Eliminates local government's ability to fight water pollution,  
SB856 Prohibits initiatives or referendum process on land development regulation  
amendments

As of 4 days before this meeting, neither had been voted on by the Senate.

**10:25 Presentation on Nitrate Trends at Wakulla Springs** - Bob Deyle

**10:55 Draft Wakulla Ordinance updating the Springs Protection Ordinance Amendment**  
– Anthony Guardio and Chad Hanson

Anthony had emailed to the Board two documents containing public comments responding to the draft ordinance. He said he'd read many of the comments and none suggested that the proposed ordinance went too far; most urged the County Commission to do more.

Chad: WSA sent a short letter to the County Commission saying the draft ordinance doesn't go far enough, public workshops should be held, and the public comment period should be extended.

**11:15 Tom made a motion to have Mike and Bob represent WSA at the May 1 County Commission meeting** and present our issues, including that the ordinance should apply countywide, "hazardous wastes" should include petroleum products and they should all be stored aboveground, and the ordinance should further address discharges of nitrogen and other contaminants. Motion seconded by Brian and **passed without opposition.**

Cal stated that he'd attend the Commission meeting as well, to comment on the Tallahassee fertilizer inconsistency - though not as a representative of WSA.

(NOTE: This Wakulla Sun article is about the May 1 Wakulla County Commission meeting and the Springs Protection Ordinance. The last paragraph includes a few sentences about the observations made the previous Thursday morning:

<http://www.thewakullasun.com/archive/2023/05.04.23/index.html> )

**11:17 WSA 2023 Strategic Plan update** - Tom Taylor  
Due to running short on time, this topic has been postponed until our next meeting.

**11:20 Other Topics**

**Organizational support from WSA** for a Wakulla Springs symposium for the community and elected officials this spring – Chad

This is actually a vestigial topic, as the idea for this morphed into the...

**Rivers Beneath Us Event** - Chad

Only \$28 was spent on publicizing the event, mostly on Facebook ads. Almost 100 people attended in person, and over 250 more online. It was recorded, and Rob Gelhardt is uploading it to YouTube. Very successful event, and well-timed with the Springs Protection Ordinance being considered. Three Wakulla County commissioners were present, and the County Administrator was supposedly watching online. Rob - The link to the recording will be on the Wakulla Springs Alliance and Friends of Wakulla Springs websites, in addition to Wakulla Springs' YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/wakullasprings>

Cal noted that the management of the Wakulla Springs Lodge is very supportive of protecting Wakulla Springs and working with the Friends of WS and may be interested in being a business ally to WSA. Anthony said having business partners is a good idea, let's explore it outside this meeting.

**11:25 Survey Results on Meeting Style - Tom**

Results show that some people are against every option, and there was nothing close to a consensus.

**Anthony suggests hybrid meetings on May 19 and June 23, Zoom only on July 28 and August 25, and in person only at the WS Admin building on September 22.**

Agreed to by all without opposition,

**11:30 Adjourn**

Debbie **moved to adjourn**; seconded by Tom and **passed without opposition**.

Appendix A

## Final Agenda, Wakulla Springs Alliance April Board Meeting, 04/28/2023



Date: Friday, April 28, 2023  
Time: 09:00 AM – 11:00 PM  
Location: 435 N. Macomb Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Renaissance Center  
Alternate Zoom link: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086>

### Board of Directors Meeting

#### **9:00 Opening**

- **Welcome and introductions** – Anthony Gaudio
- **Agenda review** – Gaudio

#### **9:10 Financial report - Jim Davis [attached]**

#### **9:15 Minutes of March 31, 2023 meetings - Brian Lupiani [attached]**

#### **9:20 Wakulla County Ballot Initiatives Workgroup to develop WSA's recommendations for Wakulla County Ballot Initiatives for the 2024 Election – Chad Hanson 30 Min**

Presentation on Proposal to Charter Review Committee June 6.  
(PowerPoint)

**9:50 Q&A for WSA workgroup to make Recommendations on charter revisions 10 Min**

**9:55 Florida springs 2023 legislative update** - Ryan Smart, Executive Director, Florida Springs Council B1240/HB1197 Eliminates local government's ability to fight water pollution, SB856 Prohibits initiatives or referendum process on land development regulation amendments **5 Min**

**10:00 Spring shed and river update** - Cal Jamison **5 Min**

**10:05 Presentation on Nitrate Trends at Wakulla Springs.** Bob Deyle **20 Min**

**10:25 Draft Wakulla Ordinance updating the Springs Protection Ordinance Amendment – Chad Hanson [See Attached Docs]** Response to WBOCC from WSA. Discussion of what we would like to see in the amendment if our request for extension of public comment time and public meetings is adopted. **20 Min**

**10:45 WSA 2023 Strategic Plan update.** Refine WSA goals, leads and teams, Schedule 3 goals to address at the next 3 meetings. **[attached]** Tom Taylor **10 Min**

**10:55 Other Topics: 5 Min**

1. **Organizational support from WSA for a Wakulla Springs symposium for the community and elected officials this spring** – Chad Hanson & Sue Damon
2. **Report Rivers Beneath Us Event.** Damon
3. **Survey Results on Meeting Style.** Taylor

**Upcoming meetings and events** – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month

Currently, reservations have been made for use of the conference room at the Renaissance Center for the following dates in 2023 from 08:45 - 12:30:

June 6 Charter Review Comm. Presentation. May 19, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, December 1 (conference room not available November 17<sup>th</sup>)

**11:00 Adjourn**

Appendix B

**04-28-23 WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE Board Meeting Participants**

\* Indicates those physically present

Officers

Anthony Gaudio Chair \*

Michael Keys Vice-Chair \*

Brian Lupiani, Secretary \*

Directors

Bob Deyle \*

Gail Fishman

Rob Gelhardt

Chad Hanson

Cal Jamison \*

Debbie Lightsey

    Lindsay Stevens (Nature Cons)

    Tom Taylor \*

Members and Guests

Lynn Artz

Kathleen Coates (NFWFMD)

Westi Jo DeHaven-Smith (LWV)

Andreas Hagberg

Mark Heidecker (City of TLH)

Johnny Richardson (Leon County Public Works)

Jim Stevenson

Chris Werner (WKPP)

NOTE: Because Jim Davis, our Treasurer, and Lynn Artz both serve on the Wakulla County Charter Review Committee, and Lynn is in this meeting to discuss the Committee, Jim is not attending this meeting in order to avoid any conflict with Sunshine laws.

Appendix C

<b>WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	
<b>FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2023</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	\$ -
Memberships	610.00
	610.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Awards	-
Florida Corporate Annual Report	-
Big Bend Environmental Forum	-
PayPal Fees	18.57
Earl Bacon Agency - Insurance	1,110.78
	1,129.35
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	(519.35)
<b>BANK BALANCE - 12/31/2022</b>	9,299.81
<b>PAYPAL BALANCE - 12/31/2022</b>	1,123.20
<b>TOTAL - 12/31/2021</b>	10,423.01
<b>BANK BALANCE - 2/28/2023</b>	8,412.57
<b>PAYPAL BALANCE-2/28/2023</b>	1,491.09
<b>TOTAL 2/28/2023</b>	<b>\$ 9,903.66</b>