**Wakulla Springs Alliance**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Friday, February 28, 2025

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Zoom Only

Zoom link [https://fsu.zoom.us/j/98002405607](https://webmail.centurylink.net/app/Utilities/gateway_url.asp?umsgid=%7B214902e9-67b4-48bc-9ff2-5dffb776525d%7D&uurl=https%3A//fsu.zoom.us/j/98002405607)

Thanks as always to Tom Taylor, whose notes constitute most of these minutes!

**9:00 Meeting called to order** by Chad Hanson, Chair

**Welcome and introductions** - Chad  (see Appendix B, attendance)

 **Agenda review** – Chad (Appendix A)

**9:08 Financial report** - Jim Davis Anthony Gaudio (Appendix C)

Albert Gregory **moved to accept the report**; seconded by Tom Taylor and **passed without opposition.**

**9:10 Minutes of January 24, 2025 Annual Membership and Board meetings; email “minutes” of WSA Executive Committee decision to move bank accounts** - Brian Lupiani (Attachments 1 and 2)

 Tom Taylor **moved to accept the minutes**; seconded by Albert Gregory and **passed without opposition.**

**9:12  Update and Strategy Discussion for Wakulla Springs Protection Ordinance and Education Activities** - Renee Murray, Chad Hanson, Kellie Keys

* The committee has worked on a proposal and talked with commissioners.
* Will have lunch and learn topics for commissioners and staff at WEI. We will present the topics next month.
* We need to think outside the box and see where to get money.
* Kellie Keys is doing Springs tours & at least 2 Wakulla County commissioners will come.
* Consider other springs’ approaches and ordinances.

**9:18 Status of Land Swap for SW Ga Oil Property report** - Renee Murray

* Purchase completed by Conservation FL for 235 acres from the St. Joe Co.
* 2 swap options 1) corner of 257 and Crawfordville Hwy. 2) location further south
* We have a third option further south, further away from the cave system.
* Attempts to reach Adam Bass have not been successful.
* Conservation FL reached out to WSA. We want above ground storage tanks as far south as possible. It is not clear how the swap and tax advantages will happen.
* Q - Could they have a driveway from Bloxham to a south location. A – Yes.
* They will need a Wakulla County permit and we can intervene then.
* It will also come to the planning commission for a conditional use permit. Chad will make a notice request for Chad and Renee.
* Our State Representative Jason Shoaf can be an advocate for a good solution. Renee will contact Gil to see if he has talked to the Representative.

**9:50 Update and Discussion - Industrial land use (including a fueling station) planned on 95 acres at the corner of CCSW and Orange Avenue W. Intersection** - Debbie Lightsey (see Attachments 3 through 8)

* Facility including a fueling station planned on 95 acres at the corner of CCSW and Orange Avenue W. Intersection.
* This is large and in a vulnerable area on the LAVA map.
* Debbie met with Karen Jumonville and other staff.
* Moore Bass is the consultant that will do a full environmental analysis and will move if it is not appropriate.
* Runoff will go into the sewer. Surface flow will be redirected so it does not go to the Debbie Lightsey Park.
* There may be capacity in the FDOT retention pond.
* They were responsive to our concerns but the project may still be approved.
* FDEP will require double wall underground tanks.
* We are also concerned about more industrial uses on the southside that is more vulnerable. Workforce housing and other alternatives would be preferred.
* They have agreed to set another meeting with Moore Bass.
* Final site plan review may be early summer by the administrators not the commission.
* Thanks to Debbie for all your work.
* It looks like this site has been short listed. Debbie can ask about other sites considered.
* We can suggest above ground tanks.
* If we want to oppose all underground tanks we may want to have ordinance changes.
* The cave system in Wakulla makes that site different.
* Do we have commissioners who will support us? Bill Proctor is interested in helping when appropriate.
* Debbie will ask for another meeting, sooner than later. We need board or other experts to join the meeting.
* There is also a transportation concern about lots of trucks entering and leaving.

**9:55  Recap of Springs Summit and any relevant information sharing** - Brian Lupiani, Anthony Gaudio, Tom Taylor, Kelly Keys

* Have a lawyer and experts involved.
* Befriend decision-makers and staff.
* It was a good experience with good ideas on how to reach out to elected officials and others.
* There was a wide range of ages, many under 30.
* Speakers recommended using words and talking points that appeal to legislators and ones that don’t push their panic buttons.
* Don’t bother protesting lost causes. Present solutions with data on benefits to their constituents.
* Anthony talked about tactics presentation that reinforced what WSA has done.
* [HB 645](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/645) is a good bill on distributed wastewater systems with batch reactors and has an RME managed system. This is superior to the inground biofilters.

**10:10 WSA Actions and Strategy Discussion as part of follow-up from Springs Summit** - Tom Taylor

* Everyone is encouraged to visit the google doc [WSA 2025 Strategic Action Plan](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fUeXuM0DL0eHWG_7K4_FEyePC0RbdZUPEfAow7iPEs4/edit?tab=t.0) add comments and volunteer to lead or participate in actions by clicking on [+].
* The plan includes goals, measures, accomplishments, actions and responsibilities.
* The group voted for the 2 of the first 5 goals they wanted to discuss today.

1 Improve **Water Quality** Policies and Program 7

2 Maintain **Water Quantity** 0

3 Restore **Ecosystems** 2

4 **Acquire and Manage Land** 2

5 Advance **Science/Research** 2

6 **Educate and advocate** with the Public & Leaders

1. Build a More **Effective Organization**
* The group discussed the pie chart of nutrient sources (p 4). The amount of atmospheric deposition getting to the ground water can be reduced by increasing vegetation. Public and private fertilization reduction may be the least costly option. Sewering and enhanced septic systems are costly but an important part of any plan.
* Work on the Wakulla Springs Ordinance is important (Leon and TLH too)
* Renee will take the lead with Chad, Anthony, Tom, Bob and Kellie? To address
	+ Public and private fertilizer use,
	+ Gas stations,
	+ Septic system requirements,
	+ Land use, with LAVA, WAVA, GIS layers, request staff to do this. Bob Deyle will check the Leon website. Anna Padilla will help with this. Chad can help with Wakulla County, Mike Keys
	+ My Views (Debbie Lightsey)
* Pete Scalcro will work on land acquisition and management
* Kellie Keys and the FSU Marine Lab are working on research

**10:50 Springshed and river update** - Cal Jamison

* Wakulla Springs has been moving from brown to green
* Visibility was 80’ in September, went to 16’ and is now increasing and green.
* Creek flow is low and Sally Ward is blue.
* The submerged aquatic vegetation, SAV, analysis shows more sandy bottom. Hydrilla is less because of record number of manatees. They don’t go in the back channel so the grass is flourishing there.
* Gators are breeding all year now.
* There are lots of birds so it is a good time for a boat tour. Contact Cal Jamison if you want to join the Thursday morning water sampling group.
* The river level is up around 5’ with stronger flow. There is evidence of scouring in the channel.
* Cal showed pictures of the car removed from the sink. It can be viewed at [Callaway Auto and Truck Repair](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php/?id=100063554414484), 1502 Shadeville Rd.

**10:58 Other Topics**

**March 28, 2025, WSA Board meeting** Zoom only. Possible topics:

* Hear on legislature, Ryan Smart?
* Update by Kellie Keys and Joel Trexler
* DEP has WQ assessment. Anthony will check on this.
* City and county grant requests.

**Invitation to Water sampling on Thursdays 10:00** (Breakfast 8:30 at Savannah’s)

* Contact Cal Jamison

**11:02 Adjourn**

Brian Lupiani made a **motion to adjourn**, seconded by Tom Taylor and **passed without opposition**.