

Wakulla Springs Alliance Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, April 26, 2024

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Zoom Only

Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89786667803>

Recording (with transcript!) available at

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/qzB1bFnPpS_dW9fnq_tDbH3aaLUcQN39SN-2jzxFO2gsatYFXu4Hr9m4XRjktGwX.RWW8XaHi_NUXLc-E?iet=G6exduWx-HPH1Su7eE3ZahQb1QV9xy8cR3yX608cxqg.AG.Txgl8smkqVApLUh_gew8j7UN944YJAE3pG_2TW88KUzDHoN1vxiDZSnyL_AephTXzsyEoDGbfqd95XeJASqr8-HBCgrNvGdKDSnbKaydl43UpfbrWWak5MuoiGuw5Uv.ALF3rxJqgzmo9OReihxoUw.41o79WqgiaEZAe9N

Passcode: d\$D\$&X7G

Thanks as always to Tom Taylor for his thorough notes!

9:03 Meeting called to order by Anthony Gaudio (at 00:42:00 in recording), a quorum of Board members being present.

Welcome and introductions – Anthony

Agenda review – Anthony

9:06 Financial report - Jim Davis (Appendix C)

Brian Lupiani **moved to accept the report**; seconded by Cal Jamison and **passed without opposition**.

9:08 Minutes of March 22, 2024 WSA Board meeting - Brian Lupiani

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

9:10 Proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Apalachicola River Basin - Gil Damon, Downriver Project
(Georgia Ackerman, Apalachicola Riverkeeper, added comments at 10:30)

Oil and gas permit application by Clearwater Land and Minerals. For Details. [Exploratory Oil and Gas Drilling in Apalachicola River Basin – Apalachicola Riverkeeper](#). Recommendation for individual action steps Gerald.A.Walker@FloridaDEP.gov for letters. Article on the issue : [Again? For the third time, another company wants to drill in FL's Apalachicola River floodplain • Florida Phoenix](#)

- 7000 flyers this weekend
- Press Release in the chat with link for making comments.
- See links above and downriverproject.org/oil
- See link in the [democrat](#)
- Please submit comments! DEP has until Monday to submit their draft decision
- Map and details on the oil permit application here.
<https://apalachicolariverkeeper.org/oil-gas-drilling-in-apalachicola-river-floodplain/>

9:17 Wakulla Springs Basin BMAP Update Moira R. Homann Program Administrator Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration Water Quality Restoration Program (00:55:30 to about 01:30:00 in recording)

9:50 Q&A, comments on Wakulla Springs Basin BMAP Update (01:30:00 to 02:00:00 in recording)

Anthony: 2 action items. One, WSA can ask the Wakulla County Commission to put on its agenda a BMAP presentation to bring themselves up to speed. Two, he'll put together a rapid response team when we get closer to July 1 so that WSA could have a response to the draft BMAP.

10:25 Georgia Ackerman (Apalachicola Riverkeeper) additional comments on the Proposed Oil and Gas Drilling in the Apalachicola River Basin

10:30 Special Considerations for Gas Stations in Commercial Zoning Workgroup Update - Chad Hanson (02:05:00 in recording)

- "Special considerations" has been adopted. They have to go to the planning commission for conditional approval.
- We had the first application for a WAWA station near Walmart. They were approved 7-0 and did quality analysis. They said above ground tanks were not an option. There was no one from the public there. There is a lack of public notice for these projects. There is no third-party evaluation of the application information.
- The WSA could provide professional objective reviews. WSA has a group that could consider this. Chad can provide a proposal to the group.

10:35 Spring shed and river update - Cal Jamison (02:10:00 in recording)
(See Appendix F)

- The flow is strong and levels are high.
- Visibility was 9.5 feet.
- The water was dark made it hard to see fish and there was a constant run of mullets out of Sally Ward Spring and many elsewhere. There were 4 manatee and many birds.

10:45 WSA Status of Land Swap for SW Ga Oil property Report -Renee Murray (See Appendix D, Response to SW GA Oil and Appendix E, Letter to DeSantis. (02:22:00 in recording)

- We met with SW Ga Oil and they are listening to us.
 - They agreed to above ground tanks.
 - We are working on a draft that requests above ground tanks, setbacks and land swap agreements.
 - Monday April 29 meeting will hopefully finalize the agreement.
 - We haven't heard from Conservation FL about signing of the appropriation.
 - The motion to authorize the working group to sign the agreement by Anthony and seconded by Albert Gregory. Passed unanimously.
- Renee **moved to authorize the working group to sign the agreement;** seconded by Mike Keys and **passed without opposition.**

11:00 Update on Wakulla County BoCC Springs Protection Ordinance Workshops - Kellie Keys, WCBOCC Liaison For Workshops with Wakulla Environmental Groups for Springs protection and Drinking Water Ordinance Workshops (02:40:00 in recording)

Kellie's unavailable and Mike had to leave the meeting, so he posted in chat that she's meeting Sommer Pell today.

11:05 Other Topics

1. May - Aug 2024 WSA meetings will be Zoom only (Renaissance Center conference room is still reserved every month through December)
2. **Bob Thompson weekly wildlife data and photos on WSA website** - can't do it after all

11:10 Adjourn moved by Brian, seconded by Cal, no opposition (02:48)

Appendix A

Agenda, Wakulla Springs Alliance April Board Meeting, 4/26/2024[See Attached Doc]



Date: Friday, April 26, 2024
Time: 09:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Location of Meeting Zoom Only
Zoom link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89786667803>

Board of Directors Meeting

9:10 Opening WSA Board

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

9:20 Financial report - Jim Davis [attached] **5 min**

9.25 Minutes of February 23, 2024 WSA Board meeting- Brian Lupiani [attached] **5 min**

9:30 Proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Apalachicola River Basin 10 Min Georgia Ackerman Apalachicola River Keepers. oil and gas permit application by Clearwater Land and Minerals. For Details. [Exploratory Oil and Gas Drilling in Apalachicola River Basin – Apalachicola Riverkeeper](#). Recommendation for individual action steps Gerald.A.Walker@FloridaDEP.gov for letters. Article on the issue : [Again? For the third time, another company wants to drill in FL's Apalachicola River floodplain • Florida Phoenix](#)

9:45 Wakulla Springs Basin BMAP Update Moira R. Homann Program Administrator Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration Water Quality Restoration Program **20 Min** The [meeting materials](#) are now available. Please email [Sam Hankinson](#) or call 850-245-8086 with any questions. **(See Attached Power Point)**

10:05 Q&A Wakulla Springs Basin BMAP Update 10 Min

10:15 Special Considerations for Gas Stations in Commercial Zoning Workgroup Update 10 Min Chad Hanson

10:25 WSA Status of Land Swap for SW Ga Oil property Report Renne Murray **10 Min** Adam Bass Conservation Fl update (See attached letters to DeSantis and Response to SW GA Oil) Board Vote to approve Letter to SW GA Oil.

10:35 Update Wakulla County Board of County Commission Springs Protection Ordinance Workshops Kellie Keys WCBOCC Liasson For Workshops with Wakulla Environmental Groups for Springs protection and Drinking Water Ordinance Workshops **10 Min**

10:45 Spring shed and river update - Cal Jamison 10 Min

10:55 Other Topics: 5 Min

1. May 24 WSA meeting Format Zoom or in person?
2. **Bob Thompson weekly wildlife data and photos on WSA website**
3. Announcements

Upcoming meetings and events – 4th Friday of the month
Reservations have been made for use of the conference room at the Renaissance Center for every month in 2024 Formats and locations yet to be determined for those dates from 08:45 - 12:30:

11:00 Adjourn

Appendix B

April 26, 2024 WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE Board Meeting Participants Zoom-only meeting

Officers

Anthony Gaudio, Chair
Chad Hanson, Vice-Chair
Brian Lupiani, Secretary

Directors

Rob Gelhardt
Albert Gregory
Cal Jamison
Mike Keys
Debbie Lightsey
Renee Murray
Tom Taylor

Members and Guests

Georgia Ackerman, Apalachicola Riverkeeper
Lauren Campbell, DEP
Gil Damon, Downriver Project
Sue Damon
Grant Gelhardt, Sierra Club
Sam Hankinson
Scott Hannahs
Maddy Hart, FDACS OAWP
Michele Hatton
Moiria Homann, DEP
Ray Scott
Wayne Toothman
Sophie Wacongne-Spear, Friends of Lake Jackson
Edgar Wade, Leon Co. Public Works

“iPhone”

Directors Not In Attendance: Don Axelrad, Jim Davis, Bob Deyle, Gail Fishman, Howard Kessler, Lindsay Stevens

Appendix C

WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

INCOME

Donations	\$ -
Memberships	815.00
	<hr/> 815.00

EXPENSES

Data Processing Related	-
Printing	-
Florida Corporate Annual Report	61.25
Big Bend Environmental Forum	-
PayPal Fees	51.29
Earl Bacon Agency - Insurance	1,138.50
	<hr/> 1,251.04

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(436.04)
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BANK BALANCE - 12/31/2023	9,709.26
PAYPAL BALANCE - 12/31/2023	1,574.71
TOTAL - 12/31/2023	<hr/> 11,283.97

BANK BALANCE - 3/31/2024	10,847.93
PAYPAL BALANCE - 3/31/2024	-
TOTAL 3/31/2024	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 10,847.93

Appendix D

April 22, 2024

Southwest Georgia Oil Company Inc.

Mr. Mike Harrel CEO/Chairman & Ms. Glennie Bench CFO

The working group formed from the Friends of Wakulla Springs, Wakulla Springs Alliance and the Down River Project with support from their respective organizations recommendation for fuel storage for the retail operation is above ground storage tanks, (ASTs).

The AST shall comply with all requirements outlined in FL CHAPTER 62-762 ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK SYSTEMS.

In addition to chapter 62-762 requirements The AST will have:

- Tertiary 110% containment around the AST.
- All piping for the pump islands will comply with chapter 62-762 plus be contained in a 3rd chaise pipe.
- Stormwater system will be designed to include an oil/water separator for runoff from the site.

The land purchase funded by the State of Florida is intended to protect in perpetuity Wakulla Springs and the Chips Hole Cave. It is designed to relocate a proposed fuel station from development over the cave system. This recommendation of ASTs is made based on the best interest of Wakulla Springs, Chips Hole and associated cave system and the aquafer protection.

It should be noted that the representative organization feel strongly, that due to the proximity to the cave system and the karst geology of the area in question, that the best option to protect the Wakulla Springs, the Chips Hole Cave system and associated aquifer is to have no gas station built on these properties. The mitigation of the relocation of the proposed gas station and ASTs is the next best option for the protection of the Wakulla Springs, the Chips Hole Cave system and associated aquifer. *Should the owner choose to go ahead with their plans for building a gas station, they shall take full responsibility for any failure of their tanks or any petroleum leakage or run off into the aquifer, spring, or cave system.*

Respectfully,

Anthony Gaudio representing the Wakulla Springs Alliance

Renee Murray representing the Friends of Wakulla Springs

Gil Damon, representing the Down River Project



Appendix E

Governor Ron DeSantis

State of Florida

The Capitol

400 S. Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

The Wakulla Springs Alliance requests your approval for the appropriation of \$3.7 million in state funds to purchase 225 acres at the intersection of U.S. 319 and State Road 267. The property is located directly above Chip's Hole Cave, part of a vast underground cavern system that flows into Wakulla Spring, the largest natural spring in the United States. Acquiring the property will help ensure the perpetual protection of this most critical natural area.

We also want to express our appreciation for the leadership displayed by state Representative Jason Shoaf, Senator Corey Simon, the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners and Conservation Florida in making this appropriation possible. Their response to the overwhelming display of public support for protecting Wakulla Springs has been tremendous. We look forward to continuing to work with all of the parties involved to bring this acquisition to fruition.

We hope you will approve this item in the 2024-2025 Legislative Budget and would appreciate your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Gaudio

Chair

Wakulla Springs Alliance

Appendix F

