

Wakulla Springs Alliance

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, June 23, 2023

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM



435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor Renaissance Center

Alternate Zoom link: <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/97207430086>

Recording available at

https://fsu.zoom.us/rec/share/NhpOBDzHviZ1pmGe6-Fde7Yt1vaLdciPhG5lb310T-q3m3PAr4qA0SDsW3XqnTMh.ZpqYvx_uPHpRCdjG

9:05 Meeting called to order by Anthony Gaudio
Welcome and introductions – Anthony Gaudio
Agenda review – Gaudio

9:15 Report on the 6/14 Community Forum on the Draft Wakulla Springs Protection Ordinance Amendment – David Damon

David reported that the forum went very well with about 60 people in attendance, and praised Anthony and Tom's running of the event. Over a dozen people stepped up to serve on a workgroup to write a citizens' version of the ordinance, to be presented at the July 17 Wakulla County Commission meeting.

Hat-tip to Tom Taylor for these highlights of David's report:

- This started with Georgia Oil gas station proposed comp plan amendment.
- That proposed amendment was withdrawn.
- Wakulla County drafted a proposed ordinance that did not do enough.
- County Administrator David Edwards wanted the ordinance dropped because of state preemption.
- Research showed that preemption does not apply to setbacks only existing state regulations.
- The June 14 forum discussed options and voted on recommendations for the ordinance.
- Over a dozen people stepped up to serve on a workgroup to draft an ordinance and seek broader community involvement.
- We may also want to address nitrogen, car washes and new development.

(It was later pointed out by Mark Heidecker that car washes are required to recycle their water.)

9:25 Report from the Community Forum Workgroup on the Draft Wakulla Springs Protection Ordinance Amendment – Ana Garner, Workgroup Chair

Ana reported that the Workgroup formed on June 14 met last Saturday (the 17th) and had already produced a nearly-final version of the ordinance, drawn from discussions at the forum and from other counties' ordinances. Kathleen Von Hoene put in a lot of effort ensuring that it was in compliance with state statutes and mirrored the ordinance adopted by Hernando County. Ana sums it up with "Know What's Below". The group will meet again on Saturday to further refine the proposal.

Workgroup Members:

Kent Zaiser, Wally Ford, Pete Scalco, David Damon, Robert & Peggy Speed Kathleen Von Hoene. Renee Murray, Adrienne Johnson, Jack Davis, Stacey Bian Karen Maguire, Julie Harrington, Ana Garner Chair

Another tip of the hat to Tom for these points:

- We need to organize and mobilize citizens and groups, including getting people to planning commission and county commission meeting.
- There is a need for a more effective growth plan.
- Additional involvement in the committee was requested.
- We need to talk with DEP and have a draft ready for the July 17 Commission meeting.
- Also consider new state legislation allowing businesses to sue based development regulations. <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/170>.

9:55 Financial report - Jim Davis (Appendix C)

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

10:00 Minutes of May 19, 2023 meeting - Brian Lupiani
Cal **moved to accept the minutes**; seconded by Chad and **passed without opposition**.

10:05 Report on Presentation to Wakulla County Charter Review Board on WSA proposed Ballot Initiatives for the 2024 Election – Chad Hanson

NOTE: Lynn Artz and David Damon both serve on the Wakulla County Charter Review Committee. In order to avoid any conflict with Sunshine laws, David left this meeting while the Charter Review issue was being discussed.

Chad and Anthony spoke at the Committee's June 6 meeting on WSA's proposal to expand the Wakulla Springs Protection zone to the entire BMAP area. Some Committee members questioned putting such a provision in the County Charter as opposed to the Comprehensive Plan. Wakulla County Administrator David Edwards, NOT on the Committee but attending the meeting as an observer, opined that the proposal would shut down all growth in Wakulla. Chad's not too optimistic, noting that 10 votes are needed to pass the Committee and go to the ballot.

Lynn Artz isn't very optimistic, either. She thought there were 8 members that would vote yes, and three "maybe"s, but of the most vocal about the proposal not belonging in the Charter, one was one of those yeses and one was a maybe. Lynn will continue to make our case - for instance pointing out that there are precedents in other counties' charters - but doesn't hold out a lot of hope. She said that after all discussion was over, County Administrator Edwards inappropriately went into an alarmist tirade against the WSA proposal, claiming that it would kill the Crawfordville town plan and stop growth in its tracks. He will be WSA's biggest obstacle in almost everything we do in the future,

Anthony is also pessimistic about getting 10 yes votes for the proposal.

Lynn believes that nothing will be done or discussed on the proposal at the Committee's July meeting. Possibly in August or more likely September.

There were no questions for Lynn, Chad, or Anthony.

NOTE: With the Charter Review discussion being over, David Damon was notified that he could return to the meeting, which he did shortly after.

10:20 Florida Springs 2023 legislation update - Ryan Smart, Executive Director, Florida Springs Council

Ryan was not able to attend the meeting, so Anthony gave the update.

HB 1379 Water Bill - Has been signed by Gov. Incrementally better on agriculture, expands BMAP to entire basin, Primary Focus Areas no longer have meaning, eliminates lot size limit for sewer hookup (so if sewer is available you have to connect), \$100 million/year for FL FOREVER (none for springs protection, though).

SB 718, Limiting Initiatives and Referenda on Land Use - Not yet signed, deadline is July 1 to sign, veto, or allow to become law.

SB 540, Mandatory Attorney Fees for Comp Plan Challenges - Sent to Gov, status unreported. Opposed by all environmental groups.

HB 1191, Phosphate Roads - Not yet sent to Gov. Allows phosphate residue to be used in asphalt.

Budget items:

- One year ban on new or amended ordinances for fertilizer blackout periods
- Vetoed \$100 million for Rural & Agricultural Land Acquisition in the Rural & Family Lands Program
- Only \$50 million for Springs, has to be used for land acquisition
- \$850 million for FL Wildlife Corridor - bailout of orange grove industry, state buys land and leases it back for continued use

Chad suggests a presentation/discussion on what HB 1379 means for BMAP boundary changes. Anthony says at Sept meeting (in-person only, in Wakulla County) Moira Homann will be discussing BMAPs.

10:25 Spring shed and river update - Cal Jamison (see slides in Appendix D) Visibility at Wakulla Spring has been varying quite a bit this calendar year. Yesterday's Secchi reading was only 27 feet. Latest Submerged Aquatic Vegetation survey turned up only 4 plant species. But the fish populations are increasing.

Water conditions can change rapidly. Sally Ward Spring Run was crystal clear 2 weeks ago, but now is very tannic.

Despite rains, salinity & nitrates are still staying up instead of dropping - indicating that Spring Creek is still flowing backward toward Wakulla Spring.

10:45 Volunteer needed from Board to be Presentation Co-coordinator – Anthony Gaudio (see Appendix E for list created by Bob Deyle of past presentations)

We have Moira Homann from DEP giving a BMAP update at the September WSA meeting. We need presentations for the July, August, and October meetings.

Debbie suggests a presentation on developable land in Wakulla County. David Damon points out that although the County claims there's little land available for development, the ease and speed of Comp Plan changes, especially from agricultural to residential or other developable, mean there's plenty more that can

become available. Cal points out that about 20,000 platted lots have been approved but not worked on. General consensus is that about 60-66% of Wakulla County is public lands.

Chad says he can take the lead, at least temporarily, on coordinating presentations. Suggests a small group of maybe 3 people to bounce ideas around. Tom points out that Chad has volunteered to be presentations czar.

David suggests broadening the scope to include pressure on natural resources; points out that Sopchoppy just announced a moratorium on new development due to lack of water.

11:00 Other Topics

1. Brian noted that Save The English Forest's Florida Forever proposal passed the first vote of the Acquisition and Restoration Council, and so is still under consideration. Next step is site visit/evaluation in July.
2. Gil said that CWW is a very small nonprofit looking to grow and build on recent efforts. They're launching a scholarship at Wakulla High. They have a legal intern from Michigan State for the summer and available to help WSA if there are any tasks we'd like to delegate. CWW is more of an advocacy group than scientific.
3. Gail reported on the Woodville fish farm, such as it is. It seems there's been some work done on a settling pond - and there's water in it, but most likely it's from rain. She hasn't seen anyone doing anything.
4. Anthony reminded of two important meetings: July 17 Wakulla County Commission and July 10 Planning Commission... which led to discussion of a followup ordinance workshop on July 5 or 6 at Wakulla Environmental Institute. Brian will check with WEI to reserve the room if available. Cal mentioned that none of the sponsoring groups' boards turned out in force at the June 14 workshop, and we really should show up for our events.

Upcoming meetings and events – 4th 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:

July 28 & August 25 Zoom only, September 22 in person only (location TBA in Wakulla County), October 27, December 1 (conference room not available November 17th)

11:08 Adjourn moved by Tom, seconded by Debbie, no opposition

Appendix A

Agenda, Wakulla Springs Alliance April Board Meeting, 06/23/2023[See Attached Doc]



Date: Friday, June 23, 2023
Time: 09:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Location: 435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd 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

9:05 Report on the 6/14 Community Forum on the Draft Wakulla Springs Protection Ordinance Amendment – David Damon [See Attached Doc] 15 Min

9:20 Report from the Community Forum Workgroup on the Draft Wakulla Springs Protection Ordinance Amendment – Ana Garner [See Attached Doc]

30 Min.

Members:

Kent Zaiser, Wally Ford, Pete Scalco, David Damon, Robert & Peggy Speed
Kathleen Von Hoene, Renee Murray, Adrienne Johnson, Jack Davis, Stacey Bian
Karen Maguire, Julie Harrington, Anna Garner Chair

9:50 Financial report - Jim Davis [attached]

9:55 Minutes of May 19, 2023 meetings - Brian Lupiani [attached]

**10:00 Report on Presentation to Wakulla County Charter Review Board on WSA
proposed Ballot Initiatives for the 2024 Election – Chad Hanson 20 Min**

10:20 Q&A of WSA Ballot Initiative workgroup 10 Min

**10:30 Florida springs 2023 legislation signed update - Ryan Smart, Executive
Director, Florida Springs Council 10 Min**

10:40 Spring shed and river update - Cal Jamison 10 Min [See Attached Doc]

**10:55 Volunteer needed from Board to be Presentation Co-coordinator –We have
Moiria Homann from DEP giving a BMAP update at the September WSA meeting We
need presentations for the July, August, and October meetings. See Attached List created
by Bob Deyle of possible presentations. Anthony Gaudio 5 Min**

11:00 Other Topics: 5 Min

5. (?)
- 6.

Upcoming meetings and events – 4th 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 23 In person/Zoom, July 28 & August 25 Zoom only, September 22 in person only
(location TBA n Wakulla County), October 27, December 1 (conference room not
available November 17th)

11:05 Adjourn

Appendix B

06-23-23 WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE Board Meeting Participants

* Indicates those physically present

Officers

Anthony Gaudio, Chair *

Mike Keys, Vice Chair

Brian Lupiani, Secretary

Directors

Gail Fishman

Chad Hanson

Cal Jamison *

Debbie Lightsey

Lindsay Stevens (Nature Cons)

Tom Taylor

Members and Guests

Lynn Artz

David Damon

Gil Damon (Clean Water Wakulla)

Sue Damon

Jack Davis (oysterman) *

Ana Garner

Mark Heidecker (City of TLH)

Caryl Kilinski

Erin McGuire

Ryan Smart (Exec Dir, Florida Springs Council)

Sophie Wacongne-Speer *

Zack Slay (CWW)

Paul Thurman (NFWFMD)

Jichao Zeng (CWW summer intern)

Directors Not In Attendance: Bob Deyle, Rob Gelhardt, Albert Gregory, Howard Kessler, Jim Davis

NOTE: Lynn Artz and David Damon both serve on the Wakulla County Charter Review Committee. In order to avoid any conflict with Sunshine laws, David left this meeting while the Charter Review issue was being discussed, and returned afterward.

Appendix C

WAKULLA SPRINGS ALLIANCE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 5 MONTHS ENDED MAY 31, 2023

INCOME

Donations	\$
Memberships	650.00
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	650.00

EXPENSES

Awards
Florida Corporate Annual Report
Big Bend Environmental Forum

PayPal Fees	19.58
Earl Bacon Agency - Insurance	1,132.78
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	1,152.36

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(502.36)
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BANK BALANCE - 12/31/2022	9,299.81
PAYPAL BALANCE - 12/31/2022	643.61
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TOTAL - 12/31/2022	9,943.42

BANK BALANCE - 5/31/2023	9,427.07
PAYPAL BALANCE-5/31/2023	13.99
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TOTAL 5/31/2023	\$ 9,441.06

Appendix D

(Visibility Chart to be inserted here)









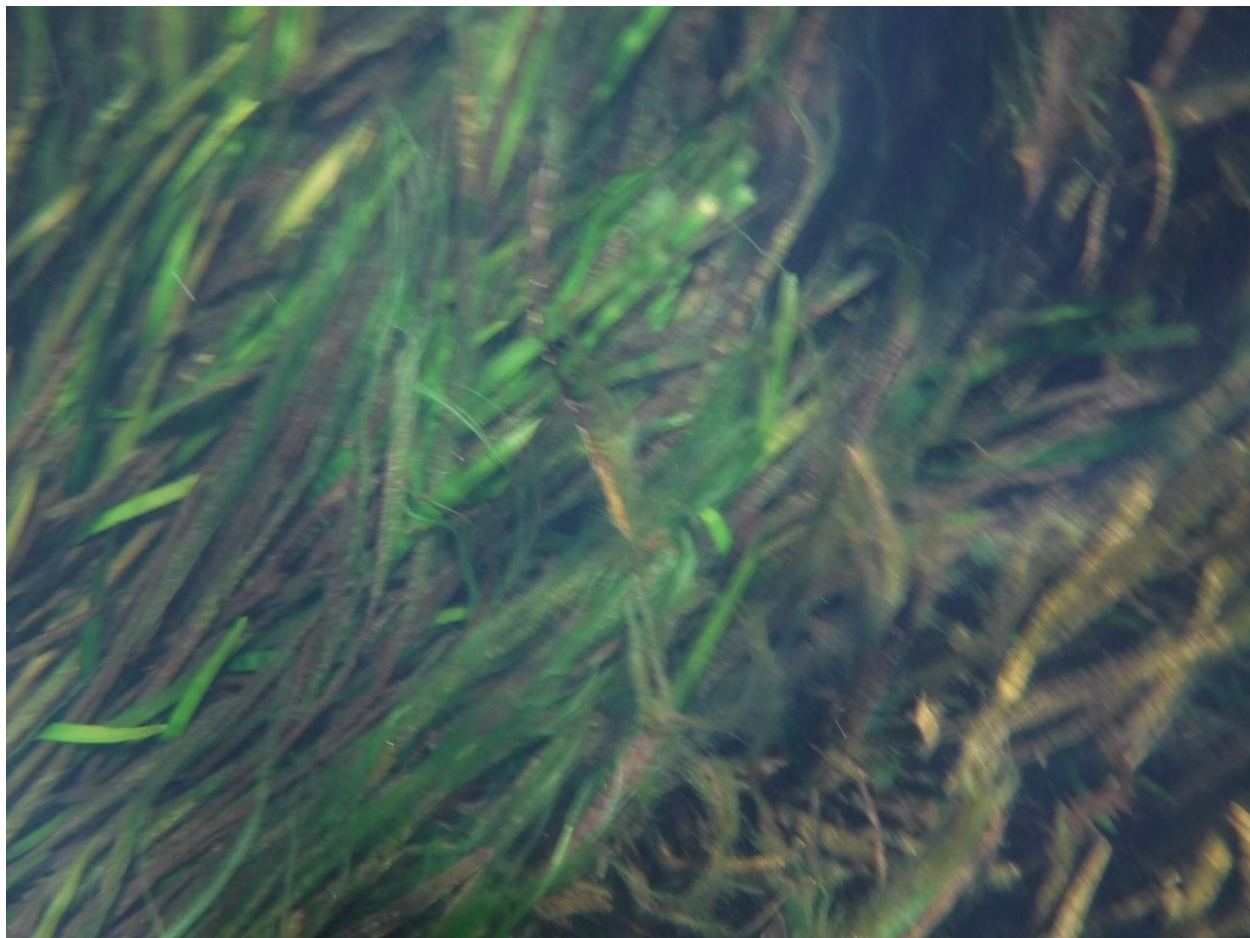












Appendix E

Examples of Possible Past Presentations to be given at WSA Board Meetings

Capital Circle Southwest project – Route 20 to Springhill Road – Clay Hunter, PE, Project Manager, Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Forever land acquisition in the Wakulla springshed - Sine Murray, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands

Northwest Florida Strategic Landscapes Initiative – Kent Wimmer, NWFSL Coordinator, Defenders of Wildlife

Wakulla Springs Wildlife Abundance Trends 1992 - May 2021 Part 1 – Bob Deyle, Monitoring Program Coordinator

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Act and Wakulla Springs — Jason Lauritsen, Chief Conservation Officer, Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation

A Springs and Rivers National Park in North Florida? – Bob Knight, Howard T. Odum, Florida Springs Institute

America's Alligator - Doug Alderson, author, photographer, and Outreach and Advocacy Director for Apalachicola Riverkeeper

Why is the Water Dark? Part II – Bob Deyle

“Wakulla Springs and River Through the Lens of Bob Thompson” (Bob Thompson)

The Florida Manatee: A Review of the Northern Gulf and Wakulla River – Michelle Pasawicz, Manatee Management Program Administrator, FWC

Lake Munson Intact Cell HAB Abatement Pilot Project – Northwest Florida Water Management District and AECOM

Lake Jackson geology – Harley Means, Florida Geological Survey

“The Ferrell Tract addition to Wakulla Springs State Park” (Amy Conyers)

Proposal to expand Wakulla County Springs Protection Zone to include the Spring Creek Springs Group springshed - Chad Hanson

Aquifer Vulnerability Assessments - Alan Baker, Florida Geological Survey

Leon County fertilizer ordinance - Grant Gelhardt, Big Bend Sierra Club Group

A Glimpse of the Past at Wakulla Springs - Dana Bryan

Trends from quarterly submerged aquatic vegetation survey - Bob Deyle

Presentation: Tallahassee's Think About Personal Pollution (TAPP) program – Mark Heidecker, Manager, Stormwater Quality Programs

Interactions Between Wakulla Spring and Spring Creek and Long-Term Trends in Discharge – James Sutton, Northwest Florida Water Management District

Groundwater Model Use in Establishing and Implementing the Wakulla Spring and Sally Ward Spring MFLs – Kathleen Coates, Northwest Florida Water Management District