Wakulla Springs Alliance 3-31-23 Board Meeting Notes

**9:00    Opening**

∙       **Welcome and introductions** – Anthony Gaudio

∙       **Agenda review** – Gaudio

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

* Debbie Lightsey moved to accept the report; seconded by Brian Lupiani and passed without objection.

**9:15    Minutes of January 27, 2023, meeting**- Brian Lupiani **[attached]**

* Motion to approve January minutes by Lupiani, seconded by Albert Gregory and passed without objection.

**Minutes of February 24, 2023, meeting**- Brian Lupiani **[attached]**

* Motion to approve February minutes with amendment to add Mark Heidecker to the participant list by Gregory, seconded by Lightsey and passed without objection.

**9:20    Wakulla County Ballot Initiatives Workgroup to develop WSA’s recommendations for Wakulla County Ballot Initiatives for the 2024 Election –** Chad Hanson & A Gaudio **20 Min**

1Report on the Workgroups two meetings to date plus the possible impact of two bills in the FL legislature to thwart the process

2. Next meeting 4/14/23 @5PM zoom

* Chad Hasson reported 2 meetings on the Wakulla County Charter Review Committee. Lynn Arts asked WSA to provide recommendations for charter amendments. We will present the proposal the first Tuesday in June.
* There is legislation that may void this effort.
* This will be presented to the WSA board first.

**9:50 Florida springs 2023 legislative update (and more)** - Ryan Smart, Executive Director, Florida Springs Council **10 Min**

* HB1369 SB1362 water bill is good for everyone but springs. It gets rid of PFAs (this is not bad because work in larger areas is needed to meet goals) and prohibition of septic tanks if near a sewer line. It has a definition of a enhanced septic system. It requires 5-year milestones but there aren’t any. There will be no way to challenge the BMAP.
* Any bill not out of House committee by next week is dead. It can be brought up by the Senate.
* HB1191 allows Phosphorus-Gypsum for roads and are likely to pass. Mines kill springs. This makes mining more profitable.
* Mandatory attorney fees for growth challenges will kill public challenges. Probably will pass.
* SB1358 to be heard next week. Forces DEP to assess effectiveness of programs. They waste a lot of money.
* Outstanding FL Springs bill is dead.
* Springs getting $50 Million. Rural and family lands getting more money and Florida Forever less. FSI advocating R&F land use for water quality. This is the most important thing we can do.
* Focus for WSA action
  + #1 Focus on HB41 SB 86 on challenges
  + #2 Support an FSI amendment to the Water bill.
  + #3 support RFL bill
  + Talk to Corey Simon about stop public comment bill.
  + Motion to send a letter to Sen Corey Simon asking for opposition to SB 856 and ask for a meeting made by Tom Taylor; seconded by Debbie Lightsey and passed without objection.
  + Debbie will draft the letter to be approved by the Executive Committee.

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

* Yesterday did sampling and aquatic vegetation observation.
* The water level was low. The hydrilla and algae has grown and blossomed.
* Everyone is encouraged to come out and see the manatee and calves, gators and yellow crowned night herons.
* .47 mgl.
* Dye trace is moving along from Farrel track springs to Wakulla Springs.
* Sean McGlynn, Cal Jamison and divers are installing dye.
* Wa are asking for wells to do sampling.
* Channel 27 had a presentation on the spring but was wrong about the nitrogen levels
* Bob Deyle will do a report at the April WSA meeting.
* Visibility was 50 feet which is better.

**10:05   Draft Wakulla Ordinance updating the Springs Protection Ordinance regarding underground storage tanks –** draft to be released 01/27, public comment until 02/08 **– Chad Hanson** providing commentary and context **20 Min**

* There is no update on this. We are on hold on this.

**10:25 Other Topics: 25 Min**

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

* WSA approved a contribution to this
* April 25 hybrid meeting at Wakulla Environmental Center
* We are marketing this widely. More registrations for streaming.
* Sue Damon and Anthony will send out the flyer

**Outreach / field trip to WS for legislators during session for** **Bipartisan Climate** **Caucus Anna Eskamani**– A Gaudio

* + This is not happening.

**New gas station proposal in the vicinity of Mack’s Meats at SR 61/CR 365 (??**) – Jamison/Damon

* + No new news. Planning has no information on this

**Appointment of WSA’s entitled Representative to replace R Deyle on the FL Springs Council No Longer needed –** A Gaudio

* + They no longer have organization representatives.
  + We may want to get a volunteer for the board.

**Lake Munson Drawdown till Spring 2024 Report.** R Deyle

* + Report next month

**WS Cave System Forum April 25th 6:30 –** C Hanson

* **River Beneath Us April 25th WS Park 6:30-8 –** Co- sponsored by WSA   
  **https://wakullasprings.org/event-5219421?fbclid=IwAR0yJP49quW\_A50VgwjAEMoGnqZyMbLtWdTAy4gbhVkiRXFEc0UWD6HG7tM**
* **FSU Environmental Learning and Communications Workshop April 29 12-4 PM Dogwood Room Wakulla Springs Lodge. –**Free Lunch scan code to RSVP

B. Lupiani

* Strategic planning. TT will suggest something for next month.
* We won the big lawsuit.
* What is the status of our local BMAP and things we should be doing.
* WWF plan insufficiencies. AG contacted Dr. Dow about in-ground biofilters for $7500. The testing and results are questionable because of the differences in the flow of the septic systems. WSA could help identify homeowners for additional samples. We need about 30 of the 1000 systems. The 2 current tests are in Leon County.
* There is a lot we can do with BMAP, which only addresses wastewater and not fertilizer and other sources. We could look at LC and WC codes and launch a campaign. There is a need for a BMAP report card to the counties. Commissioner Thomas in WC claims that they can do any development that they want.
* We should ask for a status report from WC and LC.
* Anna Padilla said they have information on sewer connections in the project areas. She can provide an update at the next WSA meeting.
* Mark Heidecker can provide city information, possibly in July. You could request the report from DEP.
* These DEP reports on projects and results can be used by planning and county commissions. There is a portal that cities and counties use to upload projects.
* Is there a citizen friendly report with visuals that shows money spent and results.
* TLH LC GIS has maps and Anna and Mark will provide links. <https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-restoration/content/statewide-annual-report>
* We need to file with a DOS
* Next meeting will be in-person
* Have some at Wakulla Springs.
* April 28

**Adjourn 10:30**

* Cal Jamison moved to adjourn; seconded by Lupiani and passed without objection.

Final Agenda, Wakulla Springs Alliance 3-31-23 Board Meeting, 

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023

Time: 09:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Location: Zoom Only

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

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**9:40 Q&A for WSA workgroup to make Recommendations on charter revisions 10m**

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B. Lupiani

If you are interested contact Anthony Gaudio for information.

Appendix B

**3-31-23 WAKULLA SPRINGS Board Meeting Participants**

\* Indicates those present

Officers

Anthony Gaudio Chair \*

Michael Keys Vice-Chair \*  
Brian Lupianni, Secretary \*  
Jim Davis, Treasurer \*

Directors

Bob Deyle

Gail Fishman \*  
Rob Gelhardt \*

Albert Gregory \*

Chad Hanson \*

Cal Jamison \*  
Howard Kessler

Debbie Lightsey \*

Lindsay Stevens

Tom Taylor \*

Members and Guests

Sue Damon \*

Westi Jo DeHaven-Smith \*

Scott Hannahs \*

Andreas Hagberg \*

Mark Heidecker \*

Anna Padilla \*

Johnny Richardson \*

Ryan Smart \*

Paul Thurman \*

Edgar Wade \*