Wakulla Springs Alliance

**Friday, September 28, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

This section provides information on what you and others can do to support research-based actions to enhance water quality and quantity in Wakulla Springs and springshed and to improve related environmental, economic and social systems. Efforts by all, produce results!

**Background on Wakulla Springs**

• Wakulla Springs Information

• WSA Purpose and Plans

• WSA Action Resources

**Upcoming Events**

* Put the WSA Board meeting on your calendar (Oct 26, Nov 30 (5th Fri), Dec 21. All 2018 WSA Board Meetings will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at the Renaissance Building, 435 N. Macomb St.
* **Springs Academy: Class 1 - Springs Overview**, Tuesday, October 2nd 12:00-1:00 PM, North Florida Springs Environmental Center, 99 NW 1st Ave, High Springs, FL 32643. Click to see [past classes](https://www.youtube.com/user/FLSpringsInst).
* [Building Better Boards: The Basics](%E2%80%A2%09http%3A/web.leadershiptallahassee.com/events/Building-Better-Boards-The-Basics-4336/details), Wednesday, October 10, 300 E. Park Avenue, 11:45am-1:00pm, //$20 includes lunch.
* Big Bend Environmental Candidate Forum, Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 5:15 PM, Tallahassee City Commission Chambers, 300 S. Adams St. Tallahassee, FL 32301
* FL Springs Council meeting on BMAP litigation, Nov. 1, Contact Sean about attendance.
* [FL Springs Restoration Summit](https://floridaspringsinstitute.org/2018-florida-springs-restoration-summit-panels-and-keynotes/), Nov 1, 2:00 PM to Nov 3, 4:30 PM with a Paddle Adventure on Sunday, Nov. 4 8:30-2:00.

**Action Items**

* There will be a FL Springs Council meeting on BMAP litigation, Nov. 1, Contact Sean about attendance.
* Everyone is encouraged to attend the [FL Springs Restoration Summit](https://floridaspringsinstitute.org/2018-florida-springs-restoration-summit-panels-and-keynotes/).
* Howard Kessler will ask Chuck Hess for and email update on the status and needed advocacy.
* WSA needs a secretary. Please contact Sean McGlynn to volunteer or nominate someone.
* Represent WSA at the FL Springs Council meeting on BMAP litigation, Nov. 1, in High Springs. Contact Sean about attendance.
* Everyone is encouraged to attend the [FL Springs Restoration Summit](https://floridaspringsinstitute.org/2018-florida-springs-restoration-summit-panels-and-keynotes/), Nov 1, 2:00 PM to Nov 3, 4:30 PM with a Paddle Adventure on Sunday, Nov. 4 8:30-2:00.
* Bob Deyle will send an email to the FL Springs Council to request a report on the status of challenges and extensions, how our money was used and whether future challenges are possible.
* Debbie Lightsey will contact Anthony Gaudio to find out what happened at the Leon County meeting on the $2m project to replace septic systems.
* Howard Kessler will seek quotes for printing the WSA brochure for a decision at the next meeting.
* Cal Jamison is working with WSA and FOWS and a property owner to erect 2 sets of “Burma Shave” save Wakulla Springs signs.
* DOT and Blueprint have agreed to put in a bridge rather than a culvert under Capital Circle SW at the Bradford Chain of lakes. This will allow wildlife and people to move from one side of an 8-lane road to the other. We need to celebrate this victory.
* Howard Kessler will ask Chuck Hess for and email update on the status and needed advocacy regarding requirements for nitrogen reducing septic systems in Wakulla County.
* Volunteers are needed for the archeological dig at the site behind the Wakulla Springs Lodge.
* Review the WSA ever evolving WSA Strategic Plan in Appendix C to see what you can do to advance research, to take actions to improve Wakulla Springs and build a better WSA.

**WSA July Board Meeting Notes**

**Overview**

The Wakulla Springs Alliance held their regular Board meeting on September 28, 2018 at the Renaissance Building. The agenda and participants are in Appendices A and B. Review the action items underlined for your commitments and actions you can help with. Our success in protecting and enhancing Wakulla Springs depends on the actions of the WSA board, advisors and supporters. This report is based on the recorder’s notes and does not capture everything or exactly what was said.

**Opening**

* Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)
* Introductions (Board, advisors and guests)
* Secretary Report (Tom Taylor, substitute secretary) The motion to approve was made by Howard Kessler, seconded by Debbie Lightsey and approved unanimously. We need a new secretary to step up.
* Treasurer Report(Jim Davis, treasurer) The report was presented and had been sent out with the agenda. The motion to approve was made by Cal Jamison, seconded by Gail Fishman and approved unanimously.

**Wakulla Springs BMAP update** – Bob Deyle and Seán McGlynn

* FDEP granted the FL Home Builders request for a 6-month extension for challenges of all of the BMAPs. This is a time for discovery and possibly for negotiating some changes in the BMAPs. The FHBA invited everyone to be involved.
* There will be a FL Springs Council meeting on BMAP litigation, Nov. 1, in High Springs. Contact Sean about attendance. Jim Stevenson prepared a list of points for the meeting. WSA Board or EC may want to adopt a policy statement after the FSC meeting.
* WSA provided $500 for the legal fund and $500 for a review of our BMAP. Sean will send reports upon request. Howard Kessler made a motion, seconded by Debbie Lightsey, that passed unanimously for Bob Deyle to send an email to the FSC and request a report on the status of challenges and requests for extensions, how our money was used and whether future challenges are possible.
* Leon County received $2m to replace septic tanks. Anthony Gaudio invited people to a meeting. Debbie Lightsey will contact Anthony to find out what happened.

[FL Springs Restoration Summit](https://floridaspringsinstitute.org/2018-florida-springs-restoration-summit-panels-and-keynotes/)

* Everyone is encouraged to attend the [FL Springs Restoration Summit](https://floridaspringsinstitute.org/2018-florida-springs-restoration-summit-panels-and-keynotes/), Nov 1, 2:00 PM to Nov 3, 4:30 PM with a Paddle Adventure on Sunday, Nov. 4 8:30-2:00. This summit will include a series of regional panels and invited “speed talks.” Sean McGlynn and Cathleen Coates will be presenters.

**Leon County Wastewater Facility RFP Status**

* The County has received three bids from Pio Lombardo, a national expert who did the previous study, Kimberly Horne, and a Leon County contractor, Santex.

**WSA Brochure**

* Bob Deyle reported that there have been a lot of revisions to clarify the issues of septic tanks and dark water. The map is still being finalized based on agreed upon changes.
* The WSA brochure needs to be widely distributed beyond the spring tours.
* Howard Kessler will seek quotes for a decision at the next meeting.
* We have some funding in the Fish and Wildlife Foundation Springs License Tags Grants for dark water brochures. The estimate was $1000 for 10,000 copies through Harvest Printing.

**Does Anyone Know How to Create a Permit Then Enforce It?** – J. Terry Ryan

* The Canopy Project has received notices of violation from COT, WMD and DEP for storm water projects, breeches and flooding.
* Mr. Ryan provided a history of the project, problems and attempts to get action.
* There has been inadequate inspections and enforcement. There needs to be a change in attitude toward enforcement more than changes in regulations. We need direction from commissioners to staff.
* Debbie Lightsey said there are two ways to deal with this, litigation or citizen action.
* A representative from Buck Lake talked about their efforts using paid and pro bono attorneys.
* The Alliance of Downtown Neighborhoods are forming coalitions. CONA is not as involved as it used to be.

**US Highway 319 widening**

* Cal Jamison reported that construction is progressing including clearing land and digging holding ponds over the Wakulla Springs cave system and near sink holes
* DOT did consider BAM, Biologically Active Material, but it was too late in the process to change.
* The WMD’s hands were tied by permit requirements. They may be able to change their guidelines for future projects.
* There are no simple solutions but getting involved early in the project design phases is crucial.

**Burma Shave Signs** – Cal Jamison

* The idea came from Jim Stevenson
* A committee came up with slogans.
* WSA and FOWS have agreed to fund 2 sets of signs ($275)
* Cal has a willing property owner.
* The Wakulla sign ordinance allows temporary signs that must be changed every 180 days. We swap them back and forth.

**Springshed Updates**

* Cal Jamison reported that not much has changed. All springs still flowing, resulting in black water
* Wakulla Springs had 28.4’ visibility yesterday. Still pretty dark from the tannins. This is a healthy state. The green water is from algae.
* Water levels are dropping a little
* Divers are waiting for clearer water.
* Spring Creek is flowing so water levels are lower. When Loss Creek is flowing water goes out Spring Creek. When it is blocked, water comes out at Wakulla Springs. There can be a ½ foot change at the Wakulla stage gauge.
* Debbie Lightsey’s lake is very high and dark.
* Some mistakenly think dark water is dirty.
* Lake Jackson is very low.

**Bradford Brooks Chain of Lakes Wildlife Corridor**

* Kent Wimmer with the FL Defenders of Wildlife was key to getting support from different environmental groups to put in a bridge rather than a culvert
* This will allow wildlife and people to move from one side of an 8-lane road to the other.
* We need to celebrate this victory.

**Wakulla County Septic Tank Ordinance revisions**

* This will increase the acreage requirements for PBTS so fewer people will be required to install nitrogen reducing septic systems. It is possible that these new systems will have to be replaced in 5 years to meet BMAP requirements, which may be a big waste of money.
* They are still in the process of the comp plan change stage. Then it will need an ordinance change.
* Howard Kessler will ask Chuck Hess for and email update on the status and needed advocacy.

**Archeology at Wakulla Springs (Underwater LIDAR)** –Seán McGlynn & Cal Jamison

* The pdf of the LIDAR map was shown
* Volunteers are needed for the site behind the Lodge to filter for artifacts.
* Cal Jamison found a split pine log near Sally Ward Spring that came from an early structure.
* Volunteers can work on 14,500-year-old relics with world class archeologists. The oldest in SE US.
* They will be excavating a mastodon skeleton near the diving platform.

**Big Bend Environmental Forum (BBEF)** –Seán McGlynn

* Everyone needs to attend, submit questions in advance, post questions at the forum, help person the WSA table, Thursday, October 11, 5:15 PM, Tallahassee City Commission Chambers, 300 South Adams Street.

**WSA Meeting Schedule for 2018** – Seán McGlynn

* Oct 26, Nov 30 (4th Friday), Dec 21

**Killearn Sewage Spill** (100,000 gallons reported) – Seán McGlynn

* Pipe broke/burst. It was bent over another pipe.
* Other pipes are being tested to minimize future problems.

**Adjournment**

* Debbie Lightsey made the motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Gail Fishman and approved unanimously

Appendix A

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Wakulla Springs Alliance

**Agenda, Friday, September 28, 2018**

**9 am to 12 pm, Renaissance Center**

**435 N. Macomb Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

**WSA September Board Meeting**

**9:00 Opening**

Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)

Introductions (Board)

Secretary Report (Tom Taylor, substitute secretary)

 We need a new secretary to step up, Tom and Bart have done their duity

Treasurer Report(Jim Davis, treasurer)

**9:15 Wakulla Springs BMAP update** – Bob Deyle and Seán McGlynn

 Springs Council: update on BMAP litigation

Next meeting November 1, the day before the springs summit, by invitation only

 Springs Restoration Summit: Ocala on November 1-3 at the College of Central Florida.

This summit will include a series of regional panels and invited “speed talks.” This program will be organized regionally, following the Florida Springs Regions and Subregions delineated by the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute in the upcoming Florida Springs Conservation Plan (draft agenda and overview attached)

Leon County Wastewater Facility RFP: status (letter attached)

**9:40 Questions**

**10:00 Does Anyone Know How to Create a Permit Then Enforce It?** – J. Terry Ryan

**10:30 Questions**

**10:35 Whats New**

* US Highway 319 Wideneing – Cal Jamison
* Burma Shave Signs – Cal Jamison
* Springshed Updates– Cal Jamison
* Bradford Brooks Chain of Lakes Wildlife Cooridor (letter attached)
* Wakulla County Septic Tank Ordiance revisons
* Archaology at Wakulla Springs (Underwater LIDAR)–Seán McGlynn and Cal Jamison
* Big Bend Environmental Forum (BBEF)–Seán McGlynn

BBEF General Election Candidates' Forum

Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 5:15 PM

Tallahassee City Commission Chambers, 300 South Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301

* WSA Meeting Schedule for 2018 – Seán McGlynn
* Killearn Sewage Spill (110,000 gallons reported) – Seán McGlynn

**11:45 Items from the floor**

**12:00 Adjourn**

Appendix B

**Board, Advisors and Guests**

\* Indicates 9-28-18 Participants

Board Members

Doug Barr

Jim Davis, Treasurer

Gail Fishman \*

Albert Gregory

Jamie Hughes

Cal Jamison \*

Howard Kessler, V-Chr. \*

Debbie Lightsey \*

Sean McGlynn, Chair \*

Jim Stevenson

Vivian Young

Guests

Robert Allen \*

Pat Cotton \*

Mike Cotton \*

Eric Etters \*

Mark Heidecker \*

Carlos Herd \*

Gerry Miller \*

Terry Ryan \*

Tom Taylor \*

Anne Van Meter \*

Edgar Wade \*

WSA Advisors

Bob Deyle \*

Anthony Gaudio

Pam Hall

Julie Harrington

Chuck Hess

Todd Kincaid

Bob Knight

Terrance McCaffrey

Pam McVety

Dan Pennington

Bob Thompson

**WSA Strategies**

Tom Taylor reported that he reviewed the results of the strategic planning session held on July 26, 2017 and subsequent efforts, including the recent BMAP discussions. He presented the following goals that everyone agrees to. Next the group reviewed the strategies. The comments at the meeting are bulleted “•”.

**Possible WSA Strategic Goals**

1. Improve Water Quality
2. Maintain Water Quantity
3. Support Restore Ecosystems
4. Promote Acquisition and Management Land
5. Advance Science/Research
6. Educate the Public & Leaders
7. Build a more Effective Board
8. Raise Funds for the Alliance

**Goals, Strategies and Responsibilities**

1. **Improve Water Quality** Bart Bibler (chair), Bob Deyle and Cal Jamison.
	1. Monitor BMAP litigation and respond appropriately.
		* Bart is following what the FL Springs Institute is doing
		* The FHBA and other springs have petitioned for a delay
	2. Oppose the Wakulla County PBTS Comp Plan and Ordinance changes.
		* See notes above
	3. Address the damming of Dove Pond in Welaunee-Canopy 1
	4. Complete Comprehensive Wastewater Plan (CWP) RFP for facilities plan
	5. FDEP Discussion of BMAP Feasibility plan “template” (Greg DeAngelo) – Facilities, Financing and Management
	6. Discussion and coordination for financing and management with Septic Tank Companies, Home Builders (TBA), Chamber of Commerce, Development Community (Todd Sperry). Seek agreement about financing and management to bring to local govt (BP-IA, LC), enhancing BMAP requirements for new development
	7. Discuss with ED-FDOH (Alex Mahon) about new OSTDS regulations, relationship to COT and LC LDRs, 1 acre minimum for new development in PFAs
	8. Comp Plan and LDRs - Reconcile PSPZ and PFAs – both LC and WC staff
	9. Credit reduction calculation methods – FDEP staff
	10. Enlist input and help from other organizations and committees such as LC Water Resource Committee, LC&COT Science Advisory Committee, Friends of Lake Jackson, Sustainable TLH, Wakulla organizations?? HOAs?
	11. Advocate for cluster demonstration projects in new and existing developments,
	12. Provide input on the Comprehensive Plan update. (Pam Hall)
	13. Provide input on how BP oil spill funds will be used.
		* 15 Million will be used in Wakulla for sewer
2. **Maintain Water Quantity** Cal Jamison
	1. Support WMD efforts to set minimum flows and levels.
3. **Restore** **Ecosystems** Bob Deyle (Chair), Gail Fishman, Sean McGlynn,
	1. Provide sound data on the natural world encompassed within the Wakulla Springs basin, the changes occurring due to human impacts, and other naturally occurring phenomena.
4. **Acquire and Manage Land** Cal Jamison, and Albert Gregory.
	1. Address this in the SWIM plans, with the local legislative delegation before and during legislative sessions, with state agencies for funding, with local government commissions and departments, and with a campaign to build public support for protection of the Springs zone
* There is an airport advisory board that needs an environmental and resident representatives to address the master plan for management of the land that will affect water quality, wildlife and the eco-system. A lot of development is being considered.
* Ask about the renovation of the FSU Golf Course to consider reuse water and pollution control.
1. **Advance Science/Research** Sean McGlynn (Chair), Bob Deyle, & Cal Jamison
	1. Understanding the role of the lakes in Wakulla Springs ecological status, including better analysis of storm water runoff.
		* There are dye and algae studies being conducted by the WSA.
		* Modeling is needed for storm water runoff from landscape to conveyances to lakes, to groundwater and to the aquifer
		* Quantification of nitrogen budgets for lakes is needed
		* There should be a discussion with COT (Marc Heidecker), LC (Johnny Richardson), FDEP (Brian Katz), hydrologists (Alan Niedoroda, Tom Kwader), etc.
		* Consider the history of lake “clean ups” such as removal of sediments from Lake Jackson, Lake Munson drawdowns, Lake Henrietta, etc.
		* Other sources of nitrogen in runoff than fertilizer
		* Integrate lakes as final receiving water body
		* Consider using storm water treatment studies – Bradfordville Storm Water Study (2000?), Statewide Study (2007)
		* BMAP – Agriculture Fertilizer
			+ Evidence for effectiveness – BMAP literature, staff help
			+ Evidence from existing BMAP plans, first 5-year implementation reports
			+ Re-estimate Ag fertilizer using USDA data?? Is this worth it??
		* Initially done with WSA experts and other groups with expertise or as presentations to them for feedback.
2. **Educate the Public & Leaders** Gail Fishman (chair), Debbie Lightsey, Howard Kessler, and Jim Stevenson
	1. WSA Burma Shave Campaign (see above)
	2. Big Bend Environmental Candidate Forum
	3. Host public presentations at special meetings.
	4. We will get septic tank information out. The CONA-Sustainable Tallahassee sustainability award can include Springs related criteria. Having a TAPP presentation could be a check item.
	5. We could have a special springshed tour for key leaders.
	6. There are PSAs on dog poop. TAPP has a $200k budget and we can talk to them. Debbie will follow-up on this. They have a good video on fertilizer. It would be good to get them to focus on springs as well as lakes.
	7. Keep website and FB current.
	8. Howard Kessler will look for information on pharmaceuticals in the water.
	9. Jim Stevenson is doing an OLLI group that can become advocates. There will also be tours for McClay and other schools.
3. **Build a more Effective Board** Howard Kessler
	1. Review the bylaws should be reviewed to determine if updates are needed, including clarification of definition of “members.”
4. **Raise Funds for the Alliance**
	1. Encourage board members to provide a $100 annual contribution.
	2. Create possible sponsor/supporter categories and amounts, e.g. WS Eagle, Osprey, Limpkin, Coot
	3. Seek grants with administrative fees