



## WSA May Board Meeting

### 9:00 Opening

Welcome and meeting agenda review (Seán McGlynn)

Introductions (Board)

[Attendance Sign-in Sheet](#) is attached.

Secretary Report (Bart Bibler, secretary )

[Doug Barr Moved Approval, Jim Stevenson Seconded – Unanimous Approval](#)

Treasurer Report (Jim Davis, treasurer)

[Bart Bibler Moved Approval, Doug Barr Seconded – Unanimous Approval](#)

### 9:10 **Wakulla Springshed/Tallahassee Area Lakes - Michael Hill**

Michael Hill retired Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) lake restoration expert will give us a slideshow of Wakulla Springshed/Tallahassee Area Lakes (Lakes Jackson, Iamonia, Miccosukee, Lafayette/Piney Z, and Munson). Emphasis will be on preserving natural sinkhole lakes vs artificially stabilizing water levels and managing them as stormwater ponds. At the end, there will be a one minute presentation about the plight of the Wacissa River and stabilized water levels as locals contemplate stabilizing water levels there by restoring the old tram/dam to create a pond.

Lake Jackson: Michael is a fishery biologist. Lake Jackson water levels is currently at 81' NGVD, a natural "drydown" is < 76' NGVD. Lake Jackson has over one hundred sinkholes, most in a limestone "crease" running north and south. Porter Sink, a swallet, connects directly with the Floridan Aquifer and formed in 1982. In the middle of September 1999, the lake was dropping by about one foot per day. The lake temporarily filled in about 2003. But a lingering drought contributed to another drydown in June 2006. It was overheard that many concrete blocks were dumped into Porter sink in an attempt to stop the flow of water into the aquifer. Regardless, of their efforts, another sink opened up less than 10 yards north of Porter #2. Now considered Porter Sink #1, #2, and #3. Water exits via evaporation, transpiration, bottom seepage and finally sinkholes (swallets) (in descending order). By the time the swallet is exposed, the vast majority of the lake water has escaped into the atmosphere, when not replenished by adequate rainfall. The lowered aquifer level eventually allows the last of the lake water to drain away. Lake Jackson has no symptoms (tussocks) of stabilized water levels because the lake dries during droughts and fills during adequate rainfall.

Lake Iamonia: Was once dammed from its main sinkhole but it is healing from the negative effects of attempted stabilized water levels. It gets filled by adequate rainfall and the Ocklochonee River during flood stage at the Concord gage. Because Iamonia also contains karst features, a dam was built in 1938 to "Save the Lake." In 1978 a By-Pass Canal was constructed by FWC to enable drawdowns. These drawdowns are management actions to simulate natural drydowns. Drydowns are critically beneficial to the ecological health of our lakes. The downside to lakes being kept artificially full, all the time, is the increased buildup of muck sediments and floating islands (tussocks). The FWC has conducted two muck removal projects (25 acres in

2000 and 28 acres in 2008 of the 5,757 acre lake), which provides a quality substrate for sunfish to spawn. There is also an improvement in water quality –mostly dissolved oxygen and turbidity levels at these sites.

Lake Miccosukee: Was impounded, with a dam being built in 1957 to create a larger, more permanent water body. FWC conducted drawdowns in 2000 and 2012. In 2000, 24 acres of muck was removed from 4 different areas. Of the approximately 6,123 acres of surface area, about 2,000 acres of tussocks plague this otherwise beautiful lake. Efforts to engage a much needed drawdown of Lake Miccosukee has been hindered by duck hunters who would prefer not to have the lake drained during their hunting season.

Lake Lafayette: is segmented into our main sections: Alford Arm, Lower Lake Lafayette, Piney Z Lake and Upper Lake Lafayette. Numerous dams, fence rows, roads contribute to the segmentation. There is also a pop-off channel was created to route water to the St. Marks River when Lower Lake Lafayette became too high, to minimize flooding. Pine trees once planted in the shape of the letter Z is the reason for the name. Piney Z Lake is a Fish Management Area managed by the FWC. Alford Arm has severe tussock infestation, due to the poor connectivity between Alford Arm and Lower Lake Lafayette due to the CXS Railroad. This condition can only be corrected by mechanical harvesting. The FWC would provide habitat enhancement funding, if the County would cooperate with disposal options.

Lake Munson: Is the recipient of a lot of the FSU and COT stormwater. It has a control structure (concrete dam with gates built by Leon County). Drawdowns are easily conducted and should be planned and implemented at least every ten years. The outfall flows to Ames Sink, and goes completely underground and was detected in Wakulla Springs after 20 days. underground. An invasive exotic Island Apple Snail is a voracious herbivore. An 800 year old dug-out canoe was found during the last drawdown.

#### **9:50 Questions**

#### **10:00 Lake Jackson Report - Alan Niedoroda, PhD.**

Alan Niedoroda, PhD. Retired Oceanographer, and current Friends of Lake Jackson President. Comments and questions regarding this BMAP.

FOLJ started in September 1998. Outstanding Florida Water and a State Aquatic Preserve. A stormwater master plan was first developed in 1992 by the Action Jackson Team. Much of it has been accomplished. Jim Stevenson brought up the concern of fertilizers accelerating harmful aquatic vegetation. Septic tanks are also contributing nutrients. Debbie Lightsey pointed out that all of these sinking lakes are surrounded by development without sewer infrastructure. Alan is a member of the Leon County Water Resources Advisory Committee. The original Lake Jackson SWIM Plan was very helpful in directing funding toward projects improving the lake; an update has occurred by the NFWFMD. But, there are no specific projects contained in this SWIM Plan, and the watershed is now just incorporated into the Ocklochonee Basin SWIM Plan. Debbie Lightsey urged that there should be an educational outreach effort to encourage less fertilizer use. A Motion to Write a letter to the FDEP in support of a TMDL for Lake Jackson was offered by Bart Bibler, and Seconded by Sean McGlynn. Motion was Adopted unanimously. Bart will draft the letter, then circulate; it should be sent to the FDEP within the next two to three weeks.

#### **10:05 Questions**

#### **10:10 Tallahassee City Commission Candidate - Howard Kessler**

Howard Kessler our Vice Chairman and wonderful three-time Wakulla County Commissioner, retired orthopedic surgeon who has a proven track record for supporting environmental causes and other progressive issues, is running for the Tallahassee City

Please see: [tallahasseedemocrat.fl.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=20aa48bfe](http://tallahasseedemocrat.fl.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=20aa48bfe)

His campaign donation site will be up in the next few days, but getting the word out would be immediately helpful. Howard lived in Sarasota, but at that time was apolitical. He moved to Wakulla County, and saw the need for better environmental protection and other governmental policies. He has a conservative approach to finances. He is a voice for Wakulla Springs.

## 10:15 Questions

### 10:20 Wakulla Springs BMAP / OSTDS update – Bob Deyle, Bart Bibler and Seán McGlynn

Seán discussed the WSA BMAP comments sent to FDEP, including the omission of the nitrogen contribution by the sinking lakes and streams. Bart explained that the frustrations that we are experiencing with the BMAP process and plan deficiencies are shared by many other Florida springshed advocates. A conference call has been organized by the Florida Springs Council for next Wednesday, to discuss options, including legal challenges. Three Motions were brought forward for discussion:

- 1) *To authorize expenditure of \$500 to hire the Florida Springs Institute to review the draft FDEP Wakulla Springs BMAP, prepare comments in collaboration with the WSA, and as a retainer to provide potential expert witness services to legally challenge the BMAP, if necessary.*

Motion was offered by Doug Barr, Cal Jamison seconded it. Seán pointed out that the WSA has previously given to the Florida Springs Institute's [Council's?] Legal Fund at the time of its startup, and this funding may be unnecessary. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

- 2) *To authorize expenditure of \$500 to hire an attorney as determined by the Executive Committee, as a retainer to communicate its comments regarding the BMAP to FDEP and to legally challenge the BMAP, if necessary.*

Motion was offered by Doug Barr, Cal Jamison seconded it. Seán pointed out that he was uncomfortable with engaging a lawyer at this time, but wants to be ready to take legal action, if necessary. The Motion Passed Unanimously.

- 3) *To ask the Florida Springs Council to consider joining in our comments regarding the Wakulla Springs BMAP to FDEP.*

Motion was offered by Doug Barr, Jim Stevenson seconded it. The Motion Passed Unanimously. Several other environmental advocate groups have indicated that they would like to join the WSA in these efforts, including Manley Fuller of the Florida Wildlife Federation, Grant Gelhardt of the Big Bend Sierra Club, Kent Wimmer of the Defenders of Wildlife; and more will be contacted. Several attorney names have been suggested.

The FDEP Springs Proposed Projects List has just been posted, with comments due by June 8. Doug Barr has prepared a paper discussing his concerns with the funding septic to sewer projects in PFA#2, as this groundwater only flows a fraction of the time toward Wakulla Spring, so nitrogen reduction benefits there are minimal. A Springs Project Subcommittee was created of Jim Stevenson, Doug Barr, Sean and Bart to discuss the list and prepare a recommendation letter for the Executive Committee to approve and send to FDEP. Bart offered a Motion, seconded by Doug; and approved unanimously - *Motion to authorize the Executive Committee to send a letter to the FDEP regarding the FDEP Springs Proposed Projects List based on recommendations of the Springs Project Subcommittee.*

### 11:20 What's New

Since we were running out of time, these items were not discussed.

- WSA Meeting Schedule for 2018
- Legislative Update – Vivian Young
- Dye Study Update – Seán McGlynn
- Basin Tours – Jim Stevenson
- BBEF – Jim Stevenson
- Camp Indian Springs – Cal Jamison
- Land use in vulnerable areas of the Wakulla Springs Springshed – Gail Fishman
- Website and Social Media, Updates – Tom Taylor
- Springshed Updates – Cal Jamison

### 11:45 Items from the floor

Alan Niedoroda pointed out that he is a member of the Leon County Water Resources Advisory Committee. He suggested that it would be helpful to get some WSA members to speak at a future Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting.

**12:00 Adjourn**