

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Springs Coast Steering Committee
Brooksville, Florida July 12, 2017

The Springs Coast Steering Committee convened at 2:00 p.m., July 12, 2017, at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board Room, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida.

Members Present

Kelly Rice, SWFWMD, Chair
Scott Carnahan, Citrus County Commissioner
Ron Oakley, Pasco County Commissioner
Tom Frick, FDEP (via telephone)
Robert Holmes, City of Crystal River Councilman

Members Absent

Kathy Bryant, Marion County Commissioner
Nick Nicholson, Hernando County Commissioner
Ray Scott, FDACS
Shannon Wright, FWC

SWFWMD Staff

Chris Anastasiou
Melissa Gulvin
Sean King
Sky Notestein
Danielle Rogers
Jennette Seachrist

Recording Secretary

Lori Manuel, SWFWMD

Others Present

SWFWMD – Southwest Florida Water Management District
FDACS – Florida Department of Ag and Consumer Services

FDEP – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FWC – Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

A list of others present who signed the attendance sheet is filed in the permanent files of the Springs Coast Steering Committee.

1. Call to Order and Roll

Committee Chair Rice called the meeting to order. Ms. Lori Manuel, called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Committee Chair Rice stated the final draft of the Chassahowitzka River Surface Water Improvement Management (SWIM) Plan will be presented for approval. This plan includes the completion of SWIM Plans for all five of the first magnitude springs systems (Rainbow, Crystal River/Kings Bay, Weeki Wachee River, Homosassa River, and Chassahowitzka River). This is a comprehensive multi-stakeholder plan for the improvement and management of some of the state's most precious natural resources.

2. Action Item: Minutes Approval from 04/05/2017

Committee Chair Rice called for the motion to approve the minutes for the April 5, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 5, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

Committee Chair Rice stated he received two Request to Speak cards. They agreed to address the Board following the presentation on Item 4.

4. Action Item: Final Chassahowitzka SWIM Plan – Dr. Sean King, P.E.

Dr. Sean King, Professional Engineer, provided a presentation regarding the final Chassahowitzka SWIM Plan. This presentation included a summary which outlined water quality, water quantity and

natural systems. Dr. King stated there was one project addition, the Shaw Ronald Eugene parcel. This was a project submitted by a technical working group but was inadvertently overlooked. It has been added to the list of natural systems, which totals eight projects.

Committee Chair Rice addressed the Request to Speak Cards.

Mr. Ben Berauer, introduced the Chassahowitzka River Keepers to the Board and expressed interest for the group's involvement in future endeavors with the District.

Mr. Brad Rimbey, P.E., Chassahowitzka River Keepers, expressed concern regarding the District's potential acquisition of the Roberts David Trustee property on the Chassahowitzka River. Dr. Chris Anastasiou, Chief Environmental Scientist, stated the District is not actively pursuing the acquisition of this property. Committee Chair Rice asked if the acquisition of this property is addressed in the SWIM Plan for purchase. Mr. Hammond responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Scott Carnahan, Citrus County, stated that Citrus County recommends the property remain in the SWIM Plan to allow it to be purchased with Amendment One funds which allows for protection of the spring.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Chassahowitzka SWIM Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation: Update on the Management Committee's discussion for the future mission of the Springs Coast Steering Committee – Dr. Chris Anastasiou

Dr. Chris Anastasiou, Chief Environmental Scientist, provided a presentation outlining highlights from the June 14 Springs Coast Management Committee (SCMC) which addressed the SCSC mission, goal setting, program structure and future meeting schedule.

Dr. Anastasiou stated there were four important points addressed in the SCSC mission: coordination; sharing information; leveraging funding; and assessing progress. Discussion also included status and trends, information sharing and project vetting and prioritization. Dr. Anastasiou provided a graph that indicated the funding requests and funds allocated over the past five years and the amounts requested for FY2018 as part of the 50 million dollar springs initiative. He also provided a graph that showed the planning numbers submitted to the FDEP in the winter of 2017 within the SWFWMD boundaries.

Dr. Anastasiou provided an overview of the proposed goals and meeting dates that were discussed at the SCMC meeting.

Councilman Holmes stated that information sharing is important, and the approach to prioritizing projects will help bring funding to the region.

Commissioner Carnahan stated it was important for the local governments to work together on this.

Mr. Tom Frick, FDEP, stated FDEP is in support of the approach for project review from the SCMC and the SCSC.

6. Next Meeting

Mr. Hammond stated that based on the availability of information, the committee may have to present in January 2018 rather than at the October 4 meeting. Ms. Jennette Seachrist stated that noticing will still be done for the October 4 meeting date.

Committee Chair Rice asked that minutes or other pertinent information from the SCSC be routed to the SCMC members.

7. Adjournment

Committee Chair Rice adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.