



HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – February 21, 2024



Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Weeki Wachee Area Club
7442 Shoal Line Blvd, Spring Hill, FL 34607

Advertised: February 2, 2024, the Hernando Sun CLK24-13

The meeting agenda and back-up material are available online at:
<https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-n-z/public-works/aquatic-services/waterways-advisory-committee/agendas-and-minutes>

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman (Kathryn Birren) called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Kathryn Birren	Chairman	Yes
Sarah Hill	Vice Chairman	Yes
Chris Licata	Member	Yes
Ron Zellmer	Member	Yes
James Stalter	Member	Yes
Rob Talmage	Parks and Recreation Administrator	Yes
Carla Burrmann	Department Manager, Aquatic Services and Waterways	No
Matt LaPalme	Marine Patrol Deputy	Yes
David Craighead		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF AGENDA (Limited to Staff and Committee Only)

- Motion to approve agenda by Chris Licata. Second by Sarah Hill. Agenda approved without changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2023

- Motion to approve meeting by Chris Licata. Second by Sarah Hill. Meeting minutes approved without changes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers for 2024
 - Chris Licata stated his interest in becoming Chair of the WAC.
 - Sarah Hill stated her interest in remaining Vice Chair of the WAC.
 - Ron Zellmer nominated Chris Licata to for Chair; seconded by James Stalter. Approved unanimously.
 - Kathryn Birren nominated Sarah Hill for Vice Chair; seconded by Ron Zellmer. Approved unanimously.

MARINE PATROL REPORT – Deputies Matt LaPalme and David Craighead

Deputies provided the following updates/information:

- Springs Protection Zone rule enforcement on the Weeki Wachee River.
- Explained waterways patrolled by HCSO.
- Total of three marine deputies with the HCSO currently.
- All motorized vessels must be registered per Florida law.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee suggestions for additional projects from RESTORE funding (Pot 1 or Pot 3)
 - Update on Artificial Reef project (follow up on next mtg).
 - Pine Island – RESTORE money has not been allocated for this area.
2. Canal Maintenance Study – update
 - Pine Island canals are included.
 - Contract has not been executed at this time.
 - HB South canal (follow up on next mtg)
3. Weeki Wachee River Springs Protection Zone
 - FWC is awaiting a permit from DEP. Once received, the signs will be created and sent to the County for installation.
 - Marine Deputy LaPalme stated violation of the SPZ will result in a non-moving violation with a \$123 citation fine.
4. Weeki Wachee River Dredge
 - Project is on schedule.
 - Resident voiced concern over Grand Cypress Canal. SWFWMD has reviewed pre and post surveys in that area and have confirmed that the elevation in the canal has not changed.
5. Pine Island dredge
 - This area will be evaluated under the Canal Maintenance Study.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- No items.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

The following citizens commented as follows:

- Pine Island notification sign placement. Rob Talmage stated the location was chosen based on traffic patterns and access.
- Health of the Weeki Wachee River and mortality of manatees.

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

- James Stalter made a motion to change frequency of WAC meetings from bimonthly to monthly; Ron Zellmer seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
- Kathryn Birren made a motion to discuss location options for WAC meetings on June 19, 2024. James Stalter seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

OTHER –

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., at the Hernando County Building Department Training Room, 789 Providence Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34601.