



# HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES – August 12, 2024



Date: Monday, August 12, 2024 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: Hernando County Lake House  
1202 Kenlake Ave, Spring Hill, FL 34606

Advertised: August 2, 2024, the Hernando Sun CLK24-102

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 (Chris Licata) called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Chris Licata	Chairman	Yes
Sarah Hill	Vice Chairman	Yes
Kathryn Birren	Member	Yes
Ron Zellmer	Member	Yes
VACANT	Member	--
Rob Talmage	Parks and Recreation Administrator	No
Carla Burrmann	Department Manager, Aquatic Services and Waterways	Yes
Steve Snell	Marine Patrol Deputies	Yes
Officer	Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission	No

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- Motion to approve agenda by Kathryn Birren. Seconded by Ron Zellmer.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 17, 2024

- Motion to approve agenda by Sarah Hill. Seconded by Ron Zellmer. Approved unanimously.

### MARINE PATROL REPORT – Deputy Steve Snell

Deputies provided the following updates/information:

- Additional officer assisting over the summer has ended. Back to three marine deputies.
- HCSO is budgeting for a fourth marine deputy for FY 25.
- SPZ six-month education period ends October 2024. A ticket may be issued for failure to abide by the SPZ rule. SPZ citation is \$140.
- FWC has nine officers covering Hernando County. They assist with enforcing rules on our waterways, which includes the SPZ.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. WAC Meeting location and time.

- Date, time, and location of all WAC meetings for calendar year 2025 were presented.
  - Kathryn Birren made a motion to approve. Seconded by Ron Zellmer. Approved unanimously.
- 2. WAC vacancy.
  - Two applications were received. An applicant will be selected at the BOCC meeting on 8/13/2024.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 3. Weeki Wachee River Dredge
  - SWFWMD reports dredge activities are on schedule and should be completed by October 2024.
  - County is in discussions with multiple agencies/organizations to conduct vegetation restoration within the river.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 4. Jenkins Creek Spring run restoration
  - Working with FWC and UF/IFAS Extension Office to identify tasks needed to be addressed to better support manatee population.
- 5. Bendickson Reef deployment
  - County staff with assistance from our consultant (Reef Innovations) deployed additional reef material between tanks 3 and 5.
- 6. Replacement of old/faded signs
  - County staff will be replacing old, faded, and damaged signs on coastal and inland waterbodies as needed.
- 7. Weeki Wachee Preserve Park
  - The County is working with a consultant on phase one activities which include: access bridge, informational kiosk, restrooms, and an Education/Recreation Management Plan.

## **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

The following citizens commented as follows:

- How can educational signs be placed on the Weeki Wachee River? Specifically, manatee awareness/information signs.
- Are the WAC meetings posted on the County Facebook page with all pertinent information listed (date, time, location)?
  - Yes.
- What agency conducts water quality sampling on Weeki Wachee River? Concern noted was the discharge from property adjacent to Big Cypress Canal.
  - Contact DEP's DEAR section.
    - <https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-assessment>
  - UF/IFAS Extension Office conducts water quality sampling monthly.
- Where is the Ecoharvester vessel?
  - Due to depressed water levels currently, the County is unable to launch the vessel safely. Water levels are being continuously monitored.
- Is it possible to have SWFWMD, DEP, SeaGrant Agent at the next meeting to address concerns about water quality and discharge from property?
  - A meeting notification is sent to these agencies prior to each WAC meeting.

## **WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS**

- None.

## **OTHER –**

**ADJOURNMENT** - Chairman (Chris Licata) adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Upcoming Meeting(s):**

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:00 P.M., at the Hernando County Lake House, 1202 Kenlake Ave., Spring Hill, FL, 34606.