



**HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – March 09, 2026**



Date: Monday, March 09, 2026 Time: 6:00 P.M.

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

The meeting agenda and back-up material are available online at: [Waterways Advisory Committee | Hernando County](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Kathryn Birren called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Kathryn Birren	Chairman	Yes
Maryann Johnson	Vice Chairman	No
Ron Zellmer	Member	Yes
Vacant	Member	
Lucas Johns	Member	Yes
Chris Linsbeck	Community Services Director	Yes
Rob Talmage	Parks & Recreation Administrator	Yes
Carla Burrmann	Department Manager, Natural Resources	Yes
Matt Harrington	Field Supervisor, Natural Resources Dept.	Yes
Lt. Reak	HCSO Marine Patrol Deputies	Yes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

- Motion to approve agenda by Ron Zellmer. Second by Lucas Johns. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion to approve minutes by Ron Zellmer. Second by Lucas Johns. Approved unanimously.

MARINE PATROL REPORT

- Additional officers assisting with patrol on waters during spring break.

Citizen’s Comments for HCSO.

- Airboat Ordinance – how close can they operate to residences?
 - Refer to Article IV, Section 7-73.
 - (c) Airboats are to remain at least one thousand (1,000) feet from any dwelling while in operation. This shall not include airboats leaving or returning to a port, ramp or residence, or airboats operating within a marked channel or seaward of a marked channel.
- Is it illegal for airboats to run over Saltgrass?
 - Repetitive traversing over wetland vegetation may violate state regulations. Additional inspection of area would be needed to determine next steps.

NEW BUSINESS

- BOCC meeting on March 24, 2026
 - WAC dissolution – 3 options being presented to commissioners.
- Hunter's Lake boat ramp / management options
 - Presenting current status of lake and accessibility issues along with options to address.
- Brazilian Pepper tree removal at Roger's Park
 - Replanting will occur once treatment of BP has ended.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Status of ½ mile marker signs on Weeki Wachee River
 - FWC permit was not issued for signs. A request was sent to FWC for confirmation of what type of permit would be required for these signs. No response has been received to date.
- Jenkins Creek Spring Run project – FWC
 - Public workshop scheduled for March 25, 2026. FWC staff will present project and address all public questions/concerns.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Is it possible to have the ends of Pine Island canal dredged out?

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

- Can Hernando County have designated airboat lanes like Citrus County?
 - No. Citrus County does not have designated airboat lanes.
- What is the status of the MPZ?
 - Commissioners requested changes to MPZ survey and clarification to notification list (resident addresses). Item is being presented to the BOCC on April 28, 2026 meeting.
- What is the status of the Weeki Wachee Preserve Park?
 - Currently working on finalizing construction plans.

OTHER –

ADJOURNMENT – Chairman (Kathryn Birren) adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., at the Hernando County Lake House, 1202 Kenlake Ave., Spring Hill, FL, 34606.