



HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – January 13, 2025



Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 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:

<https://www.hernandocounty.us/departments/departments-n-z/public-works/aquatic-services/waterways-advisory-committee/agendas-and-minutes>

CALL TO ORDER

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

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Chris Licata	Chairman	No
Kathryn Birren	Member	Yes
Ron Zellmer	Member	Yes
Maryann Johnson	Member	Yes
Rob Talmage	Parks and Recreation Administrator	No
Carla Burmann	Department Manager, Aquatic Services and Waterways	Yes
Matt LaPalme & Steve Snell	Marine Patrol Deputies	No
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 Maryann Johnson. Second by Ron Zellmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 9, 2024

- Motion to approve agenda by Ron Zellmer. Second by Maryann Johnson. Approved unanimously.

MARINE PATROL REPORT – Deputies were not in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WAC vacancy
 - Two positions will become vacant as of December 31, 2024.
 - Brian Woolfork's application will be reviewed at the BOCC meeting on January 14, 2025.
2. Select a Vice Chairman for the Committee.
 - Motion by Maryann Johnson that Kathryn Birren becomes Chair. Second by Ron Zellmer. Approved unanimously.
 - Motion by Ron Zellmer that Maryann Johnson becomes Vice Chair. Second by Maryann Johnson. Approved unanimously.

3. Discussion to disband the Waterways Advisory Committee (requested by Chairman Licata).
 - Chris Licata was not present at the meeting. Kathryn Birren did not agree and feels the WAC should remain active to represent a voice of the public for waterways issues.
 - Maryann Johnson agreed with the Chair and looks forward to addresses/identifying future issues.
 - Motion made by Maryann Johnson that the WAC is not disbanded. Second by Kathryn Birren. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Weeki Wachee River Dredge – update
 - This project is nearing completion and will be closing Roger's Park to allow for the removal of the pipeline and infrastructure related to the dredge.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

5. The WAC website needs to be updated to provide the information below:
 - What does the committee do?
 - What projects are the WAC working on? How to find information on these projects.
 - What community involvement is occurring?
 - Why does clicking on a waterbody take you to a Google Map and not a page that provides information about the site?
6. Why isn't Hernando County conducting water testing after several manatee deaths have occurred?
7. Why isn't SWFWMD water testing data linked to the Hernando County webpage?
8. Why is there red tide on a closed beach in the winter with no information about it on Hernando County's website?
9. Why are the WAC meetings not being recorded?
10. Why were the trees not removed from the Jenkins Spring area after the hurricanes?
11. What data is collected in Jenkins Creek from FWC?
12. Need increased information about manatee health.
13. Provide updates on our website for all current and proposed projects.

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

- What is the status of replacing/repairing ATONs and pilings on HB Channel?
 - Waterways staff are actively replacing all damages and missing ATONs.
- How to have the WAC webpage updated? Would the County's Public Information Officer be able to assist? Add to next WAC agenda.
- Keep active projects on the agenda going forward.
- Was the Coastal Cleanup cancelled?
 - Yes, due to hurricanes.

OTHER –

ADJOURNMENT - Chairman (Kathryn Birren) adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00 P.M., at the Hernando County Lake House, 1202 Kenlake Ave., Spring Hill, FL, 34606.