



HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – January 12, 2026



Date: Monday, January 12, 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 6:00 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Kathryn Birren	Chairman	Yes
Maryann Johnson	Vice Chairman	Yes
Ron Zellmer	Member	Yes
Brian Woolfolk	Member	No
Lucas Johns	Member	Yes
Chris Linsbeck	Community Services Director	No
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 Maryann Johnson. Second by Ron Zellmer. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MARINE PATROL REPORT

- Slow traffic on waterways.
- #4 – Mooring of Commercial Vessels in Canals.
 - Refer to ARTICLE VI. - MOORING AND DOCKING OF COMMERCIAL VESSELS.
 - Sec. 7-118. - Prohibition on docking or mooring of commercial vessels adjacent to residential areas.
 - In any canal, lake, basin, or other waterway within the territorial jurisdiction of Hernando County, no more than one (1) commercial vessel shall be moored, docked, or otherwise secured in any way to a dock, seawall, boat lift, or other marine improvement or structure that projects from, is attached to, or is located in conjunction with a residential property between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Citizen's Comments for HCSO.

- Can HCSO patrol ISNW areas in Tarpon Canal more frequently?
 - Noted by HCSO.
- Is it possible to provide video proof of violations?
 - No. Incident must be witnessed by HCSO.
- Does HCSO patrol at night?
 - Typically, no.

NEW BUSINESS

- Vote on Chair and Co-Chair positions
 - Kathryn Birren – chair (4-0 vote)
 - Lucas Johns – vice-chair (4-0 vote)
- Port Authority discussion regarding WAC committee
 - Meeting held on December 16, 2025
 - Kathryn Birren provided synopsis of her statement to board.
 - Meetings are becoming volatile, leading to safety concerns.
 - Location of meetings may be an issue.
 - Board requested:
 - Legal review of procedures to disband WAC.
 - Cost to hold meetings in BOCC room.
 - Alternatives to WAC meeting:
 - Updates provided on website.
 - Social media posts
 - WAC members recommended quarterly, daytime meetings in BOCC room.
- Status of 1/2 mile markers signs on Weeki Wachee River
 - Maryann Johnson worked with Keith Kolasa to have signs installed. Mrs. Johnson will provide GPS location of all signs to determine if a permit is required.
- Mooring of commercial vessels in canals
 - Addressed under Marine Patrol Report. See above.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Jenkins Creek Spring Run project – FWC
 - FWC's consultants have finished collecting all data, including bathymetry, shoreline characterization, sediment sampling, etc. FWC is currently reviewing the plans and should have draft plans by the end of February.
- Manatee Protection Zone
 - Work continues on revising survey language regarding MPZ location. This item will be taken back to the board for further discussion.
 - WAC members made a motion to propose Hospital Hole become a Manatee Protection Zone. (Vote: 4-0 approval).
- Weeki Wachee River plantings
 - Six-month maintenance report provided to participants. This item will be on the January 29, 2026 BOCC agenda.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Status of Pine Island canal dredging?
 - Pine Island residents may request an MSBU.
- Can citizens get email reminders of WAC meetings similar to that for P&Z?
- Can an SPZ sign be placed on SWFWMD property adjacent to Hospital Hole?
- Do propeller cages impact boat operation?

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

- Hunter's Lake access – is the County able to use the private boat ramp at PHSC?
- What dredge projects are proposed for FY2027?
- Kathryn Birren made a motion to have request presented to BOCC to remove Brian Woolfolk from the WAC due to lack of participation. (Vote: 4-0, approval). Item will be presented to BOCC at February 10, 2026 meeting.

OTHER –

ADJOURNMENT – Chairman (Kathryn Birren) adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting(s):

The next regular meeting of the Waterways Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., at the Hernando County Lake House, 1202 Kenlake Ave., Spring Hill, FL, 34606.