



HERNANDO COUNTY WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – December 9, 2024



Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 Time: 6:00 P.M.

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

Advertised: November 22, 2024, the Hernando Sun CLK24-141

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

Vice Chairman (Sarah Hill) called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Attendance
Chris Licata	Chairman	Yes
Sarah Hill	Vice Chairman	Yes
Kathryn Birren	Member	Yes
Ron Zellmer	Member	Yes
Maryann Johnson	Member	No
Rob Talmage	Parks and Recreation Administrator	No
Carla Burrmann	Department Manager, Aquatic Services and Waterways	Yes
Matt LaPalme & 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 – August 12, 2024

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

MARINE PATROL REPORT – Deputy Matt LaPalme

Deputies provided the following updates/information:

- Update on hurricane efforts including conditions on the east side of the County (Withlacoochee River flooding), comfort stations, and current working locations.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WAC vacancy
 - Two positions will become vacant as of December 31, 2024.
 - Kathryn Birren's application was approved at the BOCC meeting on December 17, 2024.

2. Projects for FY25:

- Lake Townsen boat ramp:
- Canal maintenance study: Our consultant will evaluate the residential navigable canals West of US 19 in Hernando County. The scope of work will include completing hydrographic/bathymetric surveys, volume analyses, and a feasibility memo to summarize dredging recommendations and next steps.
 - Members asked if dredging was planned after this study. Potential activities will be dependent on results from the study.

3. Hurricane Helene and Milton damage

- Numerous signs missing – County staff are diligently working on installing missing/damaged signs throughout our waterways.
- Debris in waterways
- Park closures
 - Pine Island is closed.
 - Restrooms at Bayport, Jenkins Creek, Linda Pedersen, and Roger's Park are closed. Roger's Park play area is also closed. Bayport observation pier is closed.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Weeki Wachee River Dredge – final completion date is January 20, 2025.

- Members asked about the damage to the river from the hurricane. Numerous trees were removed by Waterways staff.
- Kathryn Birren asked about the complaints regarding Bass Canal. FDEP made a final determination that the pipes from George Foster property were not contributing to degradation of water quality to the Weeki Wachee River.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Harvesting Vessel – Hunter's Lake

- Vegetation will be used in the County's composting program.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

The following citizens commented as follows:

- No comments.

WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE / STAFF COMMENTS

- None.

OTHER –

ADJOURNMENT - Chairman (Chris Licata) adjourned the meeting at 7:15 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.