

**Wakulla Springshed Regional Partnership  
Memorandum of Understanding**

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla Springshed is a rich and bountiful ground water system that supplies drinking water to the region;

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla Springshed contains unique ecosystems that are dependent upon sustaining a natural balance of dissolved chemicals in both the ground and surface water (nutrients in particular);

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla Springshed provides sustained economic benefits to the region through human enjoyment of the natural springs and spring fed river that issue forth to the surface from this precious ground water system;

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla Springshed includes natural wonders such as Wakulla Springs, the Leon Sinks Cave System and a vast network of navigable underwater caves unsurpassed in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla Springshed exhibits porous and rapid surface-to-ground water drainage south of the Cody Scarp and direct conduits to the ground water through surface drainage to lakes north of the Scarp;

**WHEREAS**, the Wakulla Springshed is easily polluted by land use changes and the associated human activities including wastewater disposal, stormwater management and fertilization practices that alter the natural balance of chemicals in the surface and ground waters;

**WHEREAS**, the degradation of water quality in the Wakulla Springshed has been documented to include increasing levels of nutrients and increasing algal and aquatic plant growth;

**WHEREAS**, this degradation of water quality in the Wakulla Springshed has been of concern for some time, and has been documented in numerous reports, including the May 2005 Peer Review Committee report on the workshop entitled, "Solving Water Pollution Problems in the Wakulla Springshed of North Florida";

**WHEREAS**, at the April 2008 meeting of affected local governments and interests the parties continued to express concern about pollution problems in the springshed and the stated need to consider joint efforts and solutions;

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of Wakulla County, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee to protect our shared regional Wakulla Springshed water resources;

Therefore we agree to participate in the following inter-local efforts:

- To work cooperatively to investigate and consider methods to limit nutrient pollution inputs to surface and ground waters within the Wakulla Springshed;
- To work cooperatively to investigate and consider methods to lessen pollution inputs from both existing and new wastewater disposal systems;
- To work cooperatively to investigate and consider methods to explore the development of either a common regional entity or coordinated and consistently structured local entities to address management of the numerous septic systems in our area;
- To work cooperatively to identify and deploy the stormwater collections, management systems, and best management practices that reduce the generation of pollutants that enter stormwater.
- To allocate staff to jointly review and consider the recommendations derived from the February 25-26, 2009 Wakulla Springs Restoration Workshop and return with recommendations on appropriate follow-up actions by each respective government; and,
- To build upon the recommendations derived from the February 25-26, 2009 Wakulla Springs Restoration Workshop and jointly pursue regional, state and federal funding opportunities to further these recommendations.

I agree to the aforementioned statements and strategies	Date
City of Tallahassee _____	_____
Leon County _____	_____
Wakulla County _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____