

## **2014 Annual Report of the Science Advisory Committee**

### **January**

Bill Landing was unanimously voted in as Chairman for the Committee. Vincent Salters was unanimously voted in as Vice-Chairman.

John Kraynak discussed the 2013 SAC Annual Report and welcomed input from the committee. Several corrections to the membership listings were recommended and changed in the report, which was scheduled for the Board's February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

During the discussion of the current year's topics, Richard Wieckowicz suggested SAC expand the bylaws to include science literacy for the community. After initial support from committee members, this topic was discussed further and it was recommended that the bylaws remain with no changes.

John Kraynak also discussed the attendance report with the members. After reviewing the attendance report and adhering to the committee bylaws, the committee discussed potentially replacing a couple of members. Article IV-Quorum states, "If any member is absent from two or three consecutive meetings, without cause or without prior approval from the Committee Chairman, the Chairman shall advise the Commissioner who appointed the individual of these absences."

Members discussed the draft springs protection regulations, specific funding, protection of water quality, water flows and regulations of septic & sewer systems.

### **February - No Meeting**

### **March**

John Kraynak discussed the opening of Cascades Park, a Blueprint 2000 project. He gave a description of the amenities offered and a brief summary of the park's history.

Members briefly discussed the City of Tallahassee and Leon County's policies regarding term limits for SAC members.

Potential topics for the year were discussed by committee members. The potential topics consisted of the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, future ordinances and projects for Leon County's Department of Development Support & Environmental Management, and updates on Lake Munson.

### **April**

John Kraynak conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled "The Effects of Stormwater Holding Ponds on the County's Lakes" for the Committee. The presentation began with a synopsis of the water cycle and the effects of urbanization on the water cycle. John clarified the differences between retention and detention ponds, and discussed water quality and the current regulations on the federal and state level for water quality. The presentation concluded with an outline of the impacts and effects of the stormwater ponds on Lake Jackson.

### **May - No Meeting**

## **June**

Bill Landing began the meeting discussing the “Reasonable Opportunity to be heard at Public Meetings” memorandum. The Florida Legislature adopted Section 286.0114, FS (2013) requiring the public be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard during public meetings. Therefore, time will be allotted at the beginning of each meeting for public comment. Although the new policy is in place, public comments throughout the meeting will remain acceptable.

During the public comment period, Jim Stevenson informed the committee about a recent proposal by the Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Environmental Institute (TCCWEI) to acquire 2,000 acres of Wakulla Springs State Park. The proposed use for the land is to build and manage a campground with a swimming area in Cherokee Sink. The sublease would be the first time for a transfer of this kind if it goes through. Mr. Stevenson recommended any person interested in obtaining more information should attend the public meeting on June 17, 2014 at the Woodville Library.

Charley Schwartz, Senior Environmental Engineer at DSEM, briefly discussed the new Education Outreach Center for Stormwater at the Tallahassee Museum. The facility hosts a series on best management practices for stormwater.

Committee members discussed Leon County’s three two-year term limits for committee members and introduced the committees’ newest member, Skip Cook. The committee recording secretary will contact the County’s Agenda Coordinator regarding term limits, and will email the outcome to Bill Landing and John Kraynak.

Johnny Richardson updated the committee on his annual water quality report. The report is currently incomplete due to miscalculated data obtained from a new lab contracted by Leon County. The recoverable data has been retrieved and will be included in the report, with the possible exception of data associated with the new lab in regards to the TMDL process if the nutrient requirements cannot be fulfilled. The data for the impaired water rules requirements will not be fulfilled for 2013.

## **July**

During the public comment period, Johnny Richardson gave a brief update on the water quality report. The 2013 fourth quarter data was finalized and the 2014 first quarter data is currently under review. Ken Espy spoke on behalf of the City of Tallahassee, stating that the errors regarding the City of Tallahassee’s water data were detected early and all questionable data was removed.

Sean McGlynn presented the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and Nitrogen loading for Wakulla Springs. He discussed the Nitrogen Source Inventory and Loading Tool (NSILT) Wakulla Final Report-Draft, December 2013, and a Nitrogen Inventory for the Wakulla Springs BMAP. An updated draft was issued July 2014. This version includes changes in nitrogen values and sinking streams. Due to discrepancies concerning numerical data in the report, committee members will compare the two reports after it has been updated before making any recommendations.

**August - No meeting**

## **September**

The agenda item “Lake Talquin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)” was postponed; Tom Frick and Greg DeAngelo will be invited to address the committee on October 3, 2014.

Bill Landing recognized Jo'Toria Snelling for her contributions as liaison. Jo'Toria is accepting a promotion within DSEM and will serve as the Compliance Board Coordinator with Permits and Code Services at DSEM.

Bill Landing asked for public comment and also noted the upcoming Water Resources Committee (WRC) meeting September 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

John Kraynak discussed upcoming agenda items and referred to the Lake Iamonia Management Plan and permitting issues and processes for permitting properties at Lake Iamonia. John noted completion of the muck removal restoration. He also informed that in the past, the lake would burn as part of its natural processes. John stated the muck removed was placed on property at Tall Timbers. Scott Hannahs inquired if this affected the trees. John responded that Tall Timbers did not indicate any issues with muck storage, as most of the material oxidizes and has little effect on the vegetation.

Johnny Richardson noted sediment sampling was performed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on local lakes. John stated the lake will return to its natural restorative processes and that the WRC was not considering any further plans for the lake. Bill Landing noted when muck is removed from a lake, it effectively resets the clock for at least 20 years.

The members then discussed issues concerning Wakulla Springs and Cherokee Sink, and the phenomenon referred to as “dark water” and how natural changes continue to affect area waterbodies. John Kraynak will e-mail Bob Knight's report to the SAC members.

Johnny Richardson discussed the upcoming Lake Talquin issue, TMDL data and modeling. John Kraynak spoke on the BASF issue, Attapulcus Creek and Little River. Skip Cook asked what levels the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit provided. John informed about the 13,000 acre lake being created by the Tired Creek dam, which has been permitted by the Army Corps.

Mark Tancig inquired to the status of Lake Munson as it is entirely green. Johnny Richardson responded that there is a TMDL on it and that it is a major concern in Leon County. Johnny stated that the next step would be to create a BMAP; the County has the ability to do drawdowns on the lake.

Rich Wieckowicz discussed the Weems Pond construction project. Bob Newburgh stated more funding should be requested with an explanation why it is needed.

John Kraynak discussed urban farms and ongoing efforts from the Office of Sustainability to encourage this practice.

**October - No Meeting**

**November**

Chairman Landing called the meeting to order and introduced Ariel Robinson as the new recording secretary for the Committee. Chairman Landing then introduced and welcomed Mr. Doug Gilbert of the FDEP.

Mr. Gilbert provided a PowerPoint presentation, "Lake Talquin TMDL Development." Items of discussion concerning Lake Talquin were TMDL data and modeling, watershed, impairment status, and historical water quality data. During public comment, a question of whether Lake Jackson flowed into Lake Talquin was addressed and it was explained that there was no direct connection.

### **December**

During public comment period, Mr. Ben Fusaro announced he has stepped down from the committee and introduced Mr. Ed Gardner on Commissioner Jane Sauls' behalf. Mr. Ed Gardner, industrial mechanical engineer, environmentalist, Master Gardener, and a volunteer for many activities, will be sworn in at SAC's January 2, 2015 meeting.

An update on Weems Pond was given; it is now approaching the complete status. There were many unfounded complaints as it proceeded from the construction to the operation phase.

Mr. Johnny Richardson provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation entitled "Annual Water Quality Monitoring Program." The report focuses on the water quality sampling for 13 lakes, 27 streams and 2 rivers. The current state of the lakes was discussed between past and present. The PowerPoint has been made available on the Leon County website.