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WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity est. June 2012.

WWALS advocates for conservation and stewardship of the surface waters and groundwater of the Suwannee River Basin and Estuary, in south Georgia and north Florida, among them the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds, through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

GEORGIA WATER COALITION
GEORGIA RIVER NETWORK
WATERKEEPERS® FLORIDA
FLORIDIANS AGAINST DIRTY ENERGY
river NETWORK connecting people saving rivers

September 8, 2025

To: Virginia H. Johns
Board Chair
virginia.johns@srwmd.org
Suwannee River Water Management District

Cc: Hugh Thomas
Executive DIrector
Hugh.Thomas@srwmd.org

Re: Please take Nutrien Water Use Permit off the SRWMD Board Consent Agenda

Dear SRWMD,

Staff seem unaware of a recent fish kill on Swift Creek, one of the "offsite discharge locations" cited in the Memorandum on the proposed five-year extension of the Nutrien Water Use Permit 2-047-219878. A fish kill is not a natural system "healthy and functioning well."

That alone should be enough reason to remove that item from the Consent Agenda and to schedule a public hearing on that WUP.

Specifically, on your agenda for Tuesday morning, in this item,

5. Consideration of the following Items Collectively by Consent:

Please remove this one:

- Agenda Item No. 22 - Water Use Permit 219878-7 Nutrien-White Springs, Hamilton County

The corresponding Memorandum on BCS 66 says in its last paragraph:

"District staff inspected the environmental conditions at the mine operation of the offsite discharge locations, Mill Creek, Camp Branch, Swift Creek, Roaring Creek, and Rocky Creek. Staff also inspected reclamation area wetlands. The landcover and natural system appeared healthy and functioning well."

On June 19, a short video of dead fish in Swift Creek was posted on the facebook group, Hamilton County Florida News, Gossip and Ventiing Zone. See still picture attached.

I have corresponded with the person who took that video, Russell Hart. He has publicly confirmed that he took it at the SE 78th Place bridge over Swift Creek, looking southwest into his property. See attached Hamilton County Property Appraiser map.

The attached WWALS map shows Swift Creek running down from the Nutrien mine past that bridge to the Suwannee River.

I don't know how that location fits with the Swift Creek outfall mentioned in the Memorandum, because there were no associated maps or geographical coordinates.

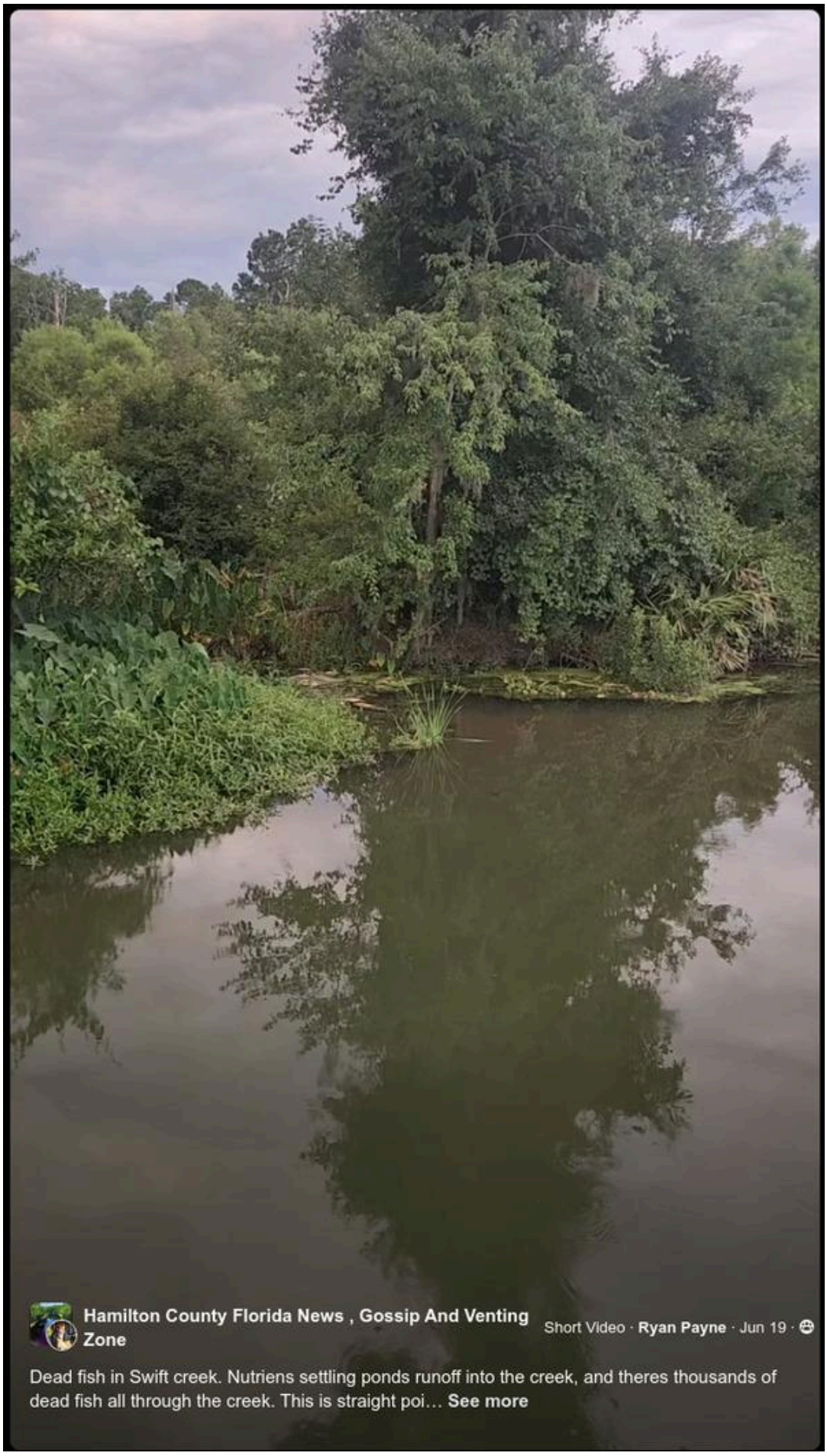
Please hold a public hearing on the Nutrien Water Use Permit 2-047-219878.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman

Suwannee Riverkeeper
229-560-4317

Attachments: Image of dead fish in Swift Creek, Hamilton PA map, WWALS map, And SRWMD Agenda BCS 66 Memorandum.

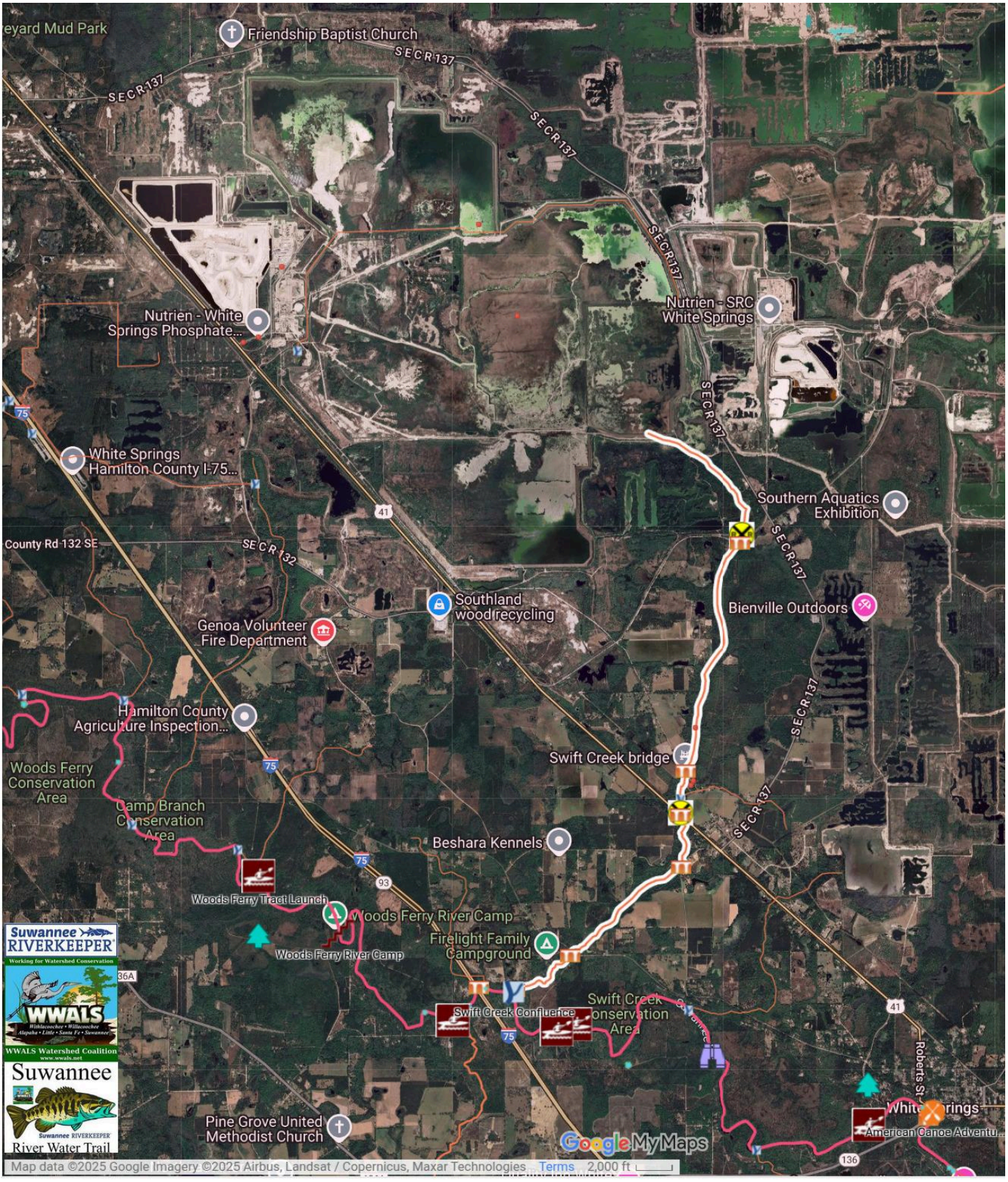

Hamilton County Florida News , Gossip And Venting Zone
Short Video · Ryan Payne · Jun 19 ·
Dead fish in Swift creek. Nutriens settling ponds runoff into the creek, and theres thousands of dead fish all through the creek. This is straight poi… See more

Map from Hamilton County Property Appraiser of parcel ID 1548-025 on .

Parcel ID	1548-025	**Alternate ID**	1548025	**Owner Address**	HART RUSSELL WILLIAM & PAMELA
Sec/Twp/Rng	14-1S-15E	**Class**	IMPROVED AG		6596 NW HWY 41
Property Address		**Acreage**	40.72		LAKE CITY, FL 32055
District	4				
Brief Tax Description	14 1S 15E				
	(Note: Not to be used on legal documents)				

WWALS Map of Swift Creek.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=19oUN8HLVR1q8sc7oHEgOiWDzNRT5hfFQ&ll=30.384737824167182%2C-82.80813549999998&z=14



SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Leroy Marshall, Director, Resource Management/Projects Division

THRU: Tim Alexander, Assistant Executive Director, Business and Community Services

DATE: August 29, 2025

RE: Water Use Permit 2-047-219878, Nutrien - White Springs, Hamilton County

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a five-year renewal of Water Use Permit number 2-047-219878-7, with no change to the 64.1621 mgd groundwater allocation, eighteen standard conditions, and nine special limiting conditions to Nutrien - White Springs, in Hamilton County.

BACKGROUND

This Water Use Permit (WUP) is a renewal for the water requirements of a phosphate mining operation to excavate and transport earth materials, and to operate the mineral processing facilities. The project is an approximately 99,588-acre site located in Hamilton County, Florida, approximately eight miles north of White Springs. The project site is located to the west and north of the Suwannee River, along both the east and west sides of Interstate 75, and south of the Georgia border. The majority of the total water used in the mining project is recirculated and reused. Water use at the site is broken into three categories, material transport, mine dewatering, and material processing.

During material transport, mined earth material is mixed with a combination of collected stormwater, surface water, groundwater, and recirculated water to create slurry mix and transported to the processing facilities through a series of pipelines. Once materials are removed from the slurry, the water used for transport is recirculated back to the mined area. The recirculatory transport system is supplied by groundwater from up to 62 wells and ten surface water pumps with several pumping locations, and two surface water pumps from Eagle Lake, no natural waterbodies are used for surface water supply.

During mine dewatering, mining pits are excavated in wet conditions using draglines, however limited dewater is required to maintain operational mining conditions. Water removed from the pits and perimeter collection ditches is primarily pumped into the mine's recirculatory transport system. Dewatering discharges not used in the recirculatory transport system, are discharged offsite primarily at Swift Creek, with lesser amounts to Hunter Creek, Roaring Creek, and Camp Branch. These streams ultimately discharge to the Suwannee River. These discharges are authorized through NPDES permit number 0000655. Up to ten pumps are used to dewater mine pits.

During material processing, mined material is physically and chemically sorted using individual water streams at the processing facilities. Groundwater from two upper Floridan Aquifer wells is used in the mill as a source of clean water for physical separation of the mined materials and as make-up water, this water is recycled in the recirculatory transport system. Groundwater from two upper Floridan Aquifer wells is used in the chemical processing facilities for air scrubbing, condensers, and cooling tower supply. Much of the blowdown from these processes comes in contact with chemical processes and become wastewater. The process wastewater is then used

to transport phosphogypsum to a disposal area “gypstack” and is reused in a separate recirculatory process system.

District staff inspected the environmental conditions at the mine operation of the offsite discharge locations, Mill Creek, Camp Branch, Swift Creek, Roaring Creek, and Rocky Creek. Staff also inspected reclamation area wetlands. The landcover and natural system appeared healthy and functioning well. Pursuant to the Lower Santa Fe/ Ichetucknee Rivers minimum flows and levels regulatory strategy, the permit duration shall be limited to a five-year duration. The permittee will monitor surface and groundwater use and report monthly water use online biennially. The application is complete and meets the conditions for issuance in Chapter 40B-2, F.A.C.

DK/tm
Attachments