

**SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUDICIAL ANNEX BUILDING
218 PARSHLEY STREET SOUTHWEST
LIVE OAK, FLORIDA 32064**

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 7, 2025, AT 5:30 P.M.

**Invocation
Pledge to American Flag**

ATTENTION:

- The Board may add additional items to this agenda.
- Affirmative action on any item includes authorization of the Chairman's or designee's signature on all associated documents.
- Individual speakers from the audience will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak following recognition by the Chairman and must speak from the podium. Speakers may only make one (1) trip to the podium to address concerns regarding all items on the consent agenda. (Filling out of Comment Card required, and forward to Chairman or County Administrator.)
- Groups or factions representing a position on a proposition or issues are required to select a single representative or spokesperson. The designated representative shall identify the group or faction which (s)he represents and the issues on which (s)he is going to speak. After identification of the group and issues, the Chairman shall ask those at the meeting to raise their hands if (1) they are a member of the group or faction and (2) they wish the designated representative to speak on behalf of the group or faction. A minimum of two members of the audience (not including the designated speaker) must raise their hand at the call of the Chairman. If enough people do not raise their hands, the designated speaker shall be limited to the speaking time allowed to individuals. If the requisite number of people raise their hands, the designated speaker will be allowed to speak for seven (7) minutes following recognition by the Chairman and must speak from the podium. Speakers may only make one (1) trip to the podium to address concerns regarding all items on the agenda. (Filling out of Comment Card required, and forward to Chairman or County Administrator.)
- For general updates or questions regarding County business, contact the County Administrator during regular business hours at (386) 364-3400.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. a) September 16, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
b) September 22, 2025 – Special-Called Meeting
c) September 22, 2025 – Final Budget Hearing

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS:

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

2. Presentation of Resolution proclaiming October 4 -11, 2025, as “National 4-H Week.” (Katie Jones, Extension Agent 1)
3. Presentation of Resolution proclaiming October 19-25, 2025, as “Friends of Libraries” week. (Betty Lawrence, Director of Libraries)
4. Presentation of Resolution declaring October 14, Charlie Kirk’s birthday, as “Charlie Kirk Day”. (Chairman Travis Land)

CONSENT:

5. Approval of payment of processed invoices.
6. Approval of agreement with the Florida Department of Health, in the amount of \$100,000.00, for the operation of the Suwannee County Health Department for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Budgeted item.
7. Approval of destruction of records found on Clerk Records Disposition Request Number 49, consisting of two pages; and County Records Disposition Request Number 29, consisting of one page that has met its retention as required in Section 28.31 of the Florida Statutes, Rule 1B-24 of the Florida Administrative Code.
8. Approval of contribution to the Suwannee County Sheriff’s Office in the amount of \$50,000, to be used only for Call Taker Salaries. Budgeted item.
9. Approval of appointment of Ronald Meeks to serve on the Citizen’s Advisory Task Force to replace Shannon Roberts.
10. Authorization to transfer collected Teen Court Assessment funds equally to the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter.
11. Reappointment of Linda Young and Cody Witt to serve on the Suwannee County Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning Board, retroactive to September 2, 2025.
12. Renewal of Agreement with Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC for a twelve-month term for research, grant writing, and administering. Budget impact: terms remain the same.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS ITEMS:

STAFF ITEMS:

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS:

COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS:

CONSULTANT ITEMS:

GENERAL BUSINESS:

13. Discuss, with possible Board action, the transfer of collected Florida Arts Specialty License Plate funds. (Ms. Chris Flanagan)
14. Discuss, with possible Board action, the springs protection zone on the Ichetucknee River. (Alden Rosner, Parks & Recreation Director)
15. Discuss, with possible Board action, county roads within the city limits. (Chairman Travis Land)
16. **Additional Agenda Items.** The Chairman calls for additional items.
17. Administrator's comments and information.
18. Board Members Inquiries, Requests, and Comments.

5:30 p.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a regular meeting, and the following were present: Chairman Travis Land; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Maurice Perkins; Commissioner Leo Mobley; and Commissioner Franklin White. Deputy Clerk Eric Musgrove, County Attorney Adam Morrison, and County Administrator Greg Scott were also present.

Chairman Land called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America were held.

MINUTES:

The first item on the agenda was approval of the September 2, 2025 Regular meeting; September 4, 2025 Compensation Study Workshop; and September 4, 2025 Tentative Budget Hearing minutes.

Commissioner Hale moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2025 Regular meeting; September 4, 2025 Compensation Study Workshop; and September 4, 2025 Tentative Budget Hearing. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSITUTIONAL OFFICERS ITEMS:

Clerk of Court Barry A. Baker discussed the rate study done by the County Commission and asked to retain \$32,800 of the roughly \$120,000 to be returned to the Board to make some salary adjustments. He noted that he would need to address the issue over a couple of years due to courtside salaries.

Commissioner Perkins moved to allow Clerk Baker to use \$32,800 for salary adjustments. Commissioner White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Baker noted that this was the last regular meeting for County Administrator Scott, and he thanked him for his many years of service.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Moses Clepper, 14581 102nd Path, representing We the People of North Central Florida, questioned the expense on several agenda items, including items related to economic and tourism development and salary adjustments.

Mrs. Wendy Martin, 15850 141st Road, McAlpin, stated that the lawyer for the ironworks hearing heard at the previous regular meeting had been disingenuous and discussed why she believed it to be so. She also discussed domestic violence.

Mr. Bo Hancock, 6135 Wiggins Road, discussed issues he had concerning insurance for the Water Utilities Authority administrator, Mr. Shannon Roberts.

Commissioner White noted that he had been contacted by Mr. Hancock, and he had reached out to Mr. Roberts about having the insurance provider to be available to him.

Mr. Hancock also discussed differences between public comments from groups and individuals.

Attorney Morrison noted that the Board had changed the rules to allow multiple issues for groups.

Mr. Hancock discussed public comments in further detail.

Chairman Land clarified the rules for public comments and suggested the public contact their County Commissioners before meetings to resolve issues, not wait until a meeting to discuss them.

Mr. Wayne Hannaka, 11883 93rd Road, recognized that tonight was County Administrator Scott's last regular meeting, and on behalf of Concerned Citizens of North Florida, read a letter thanking him for his service and then presented him with a plaque.

Mr. Harry K. "Kin" Weaver, no address given, thanked County Administrator Scott for his many years of service to Suwannee County and thanked the Board and their staff for their work.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

There were none.

CONSENT:

Chairman Land pulled item eight from the consent agenda for discussion.

The second item on the agenda was approval of payment of \$4,858,721.55 in processed invoices.

The third item on the agenda was adoption of a resolution authorizing and directing the Suwannee County Property Appraiser to make a First Certification and Extension of the 2025 Tax Roll to the Tax Collector prior to the completion of the Value Adjustment Board hearings to allow for meeting the statutory requirements of issuing tax notices. **(Resolution No. 2025-49)**

The fourth item on the agenda was approval of Task Order No. 4 with Miller Legg & Associates for site planning, infrastructure review, and master plan update services for the Project Summit Regional Shelter. Budget impact: \$410,250.00 to be paid from grant funds. **(Resolution No. 2025-91-04)**

The fifth item on the agenda was approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Emergency Building Use Agreement with the Suwannee County School Board, pending County Attorney review. **(Agreement No. 2025-112)**

The sixth item on the agenda was approval of a supplemental agreement with Madden Media for additional services for Economic Development for a video/photoshoot. **(Agreement No. 2025-113)**

The seventh item on the agenda was approval of an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, in the amount of \$7,421.00 for Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Budgeted item. **(Agreement No. 2025-114)**

The eighth item on the agenda was approval of an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, in the amount of \$23,500, for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Budgeted item.

This item was pulled for discussion.

The ninth item on the agenda was approval of year seven of the Public Emergency Medical Transportation Letter of Agreement with the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration. Budget impact: \$459,107.26 will be paid to Suwannee County Fire Rescue. **(Agreement No. 2025-115)**

The tenth item on the agenda was approval of the Contract for Medical Services with Dr. Grant Barker. Budget impact: \$36,000 annually. Budgeted item. **(Agreement No. 2025-116)**

The eleventh item on the agenda was approval and acceptance of the FDLE drone replacement grant that Suwannee County Fire Rescue successfully received. Budget impact: none, \$50,000 to be provided to Fire Rescue with no match requirement. **(Agreement No. 2025-117)**

The twelfth item on the agenda was approval of Change Order No. 2 with McInnis Services, LLC (LMC Steel) in the amount of \$16,394.43 for labor and materials necessary to construct one ADA-compliant ramp with steps and railings at the emergency exit of the Branford Public Library. Budgeted item. **(Agreement No. 2025-50-02)**

The thirteenth item on the agenda was authorization for the Suwannee River Regional Library to apply for the annual Florida State Aid Grant for the Suwannee River Regional Library System for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **(Agreement No. 2025-118)**

The fourteenth item on the agenda was authorization for the Suwannee River Regional Library to apply for the annual Florida State Aid Grant for the Live Oak Public Library for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. **(Agreement No. 2025-119)**

The fifteenth item on the agenda was authorization to advertise an invitation to bid for the purchase and installation of a generator for the Suwannee County emergency shelter (Pineview Elementary School). Budget impact: none, funded by a grant.

The sixteenth item on the agenda was authorization to apply for a US Economic Development Association grant for \$3,500,000 to construct a water tower at the Catalyst Industrial Park and to allow Miller Legg & Associates to assist staff in completing the application. Budget impact: none, a 20% match is required, but we can use a previously awarded state grant for the match.

The seventeenth item on the agenda was authorization (via resolution) for the Planning and Zoning Department and the Development Services Director to authorize plats or replats pursuant to FS 177.071. **(Resolution No. 2025-50)**

The eighteenth item on the agenda was award of Bid No. 2025-18 and authorization for the Chairman to execute a contract with the lowest qualified respondent, Curt's Construction, Inc., for Airport parking lot expansion/entrance road rehabilitation. Budget impact: none, \$554,171.45, 95% funded by FAA and 5% funded by FDOT. (Bids were opened June 3, 2025) **(Agreement No. 2025-120)**

The nineteenth item on the agenda was award of Bid No. 2025-19 and authorization for the Chairman to execute a contract with the lowest qualified respondent, Curt's Construction, Inc., for Runway 7-25 rehabilitation at the Suwannee County Airport. Budget impact: none, \$3,167,031.78, 95% funded by FAA and 5% funded by FDOT. (Bids were opened June 10, 2025) **(Agreement No. 2025-121)**

Commissioner Perkins moved to approve consent items 2-7 and 9-19. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The eighth item on the agenda was approval of an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, in the amount of \$23,500, for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Budgeted item.

Chairman Land asked about engaging the Planning Council about updating the County's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) and Land Development Regulations (LDRs). Development Services Director Ron Meeks replied that changes were made as needed or requested. The Comp Plan was the County's policy, but there had been few changes since the County established them. LDRs were sometimes changed to suit the Commission's desires, and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council had originally helped the County write its Comp Plan and LDRs.

Chairman Land noted that he had heard from many citizens saying that the County needed to rethink its growth and were concerned about the many large tracts of land being subdivided into much smaller parcels for sale all over the County.

Discussion ensued about previous discussions of impact fees and the relatively small amount of taxes brought in by these many new homes despite the large impact on the County, that it was the Board's prerogative to make changes to the Comp Plan or LDRs, and about redoing the Comp Plan and LDRs.

Director Meeks discussed a vision plan produced approximately 25 years ago that had indicated to the Board that the Comp Plan and LDRs were doing exactly what the citizens wanted.

Further discussion ensued on planning for inevitable growth within the County.

Chairman Land asked for recommendations from Director Meeks for possible changes. Director Meeks suggested expanding and defining urban and high-density residential areas for utility growth (City of Live Oak, Town of Branford, interstate interchanges, etc.).

Discussion continued on options for managing growth and the possibility of future deliberations.

The Board suggested focusing on residential and commercial growth around areas that already have utilities provided (the urban and high-density residential areas).

Further discussion ensued on the matter and that several counties surrounding Suwannee County had increased their impact fees, while Suwannee County still had none.

County Administrator Scott noted that revisiting impact fees was on the list for Assistant County Administrator Jason Furry to work on.

Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Perkins moved to approve an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, in the amount of \$23,500, for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Budgeted item. Commissioner Mobley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2025-122)

CONSITUTIONAL OFFICERS ITEMS:

There were no further comments.

STAFF ITEMS:

Mr. Furry noted a work-related trip to Washington, D. C. to discuss grants and County needs with the Federal government, updated the Board on various projects such as the old John Hale Park building, COVID isolation building, and other ARPA-funded projects, 68th Street work, catalyst site water tower funding, and upcoming special-called meetings for the wastewater treatment plant due to deadlines.

Discussion ensued on several of the projects mentioned by Mr. Furry.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS:

Commissioner Hale discussed the River Task Force he was on and that he had received phone calls from several cities affected by wastewater runoff from the City of Valdosta.

COUNTY ATTORNEY ITEMS:

County Attorney Morrison discussed a Purdue Pharma bankruptcy regarding opioid litigation and recommended the Board approve a plan for compensation.

Commissioner Hale moved to deliver to the County's legal representation that the Board was in favor of the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy proceedings plan for compensation related to opioid litigation. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Morrison noted continued court cases and discussions related to Suwannee Iron Works that had been addressed at the previous regular Board meeting. He added that Suwannee Iron Works had continued to operate, thereby violating the court order. County Attorney Morrison stated that entering the building to move their equipment was one thing, but they were continuing regular work. He noted a hearing on September 25 to hold Suwannee Iron Works in contempt, and that Suwannee Iron Works had recently signed a lease agreement with Hamilton County to move their operations to that county in the very near future. County Attorney Morrison stated that after being questioned about the recent rate study workshop, he had determined that the County could not legally give bonuses to its employees for previously done work.

Chairman Land returned to Commissioners' Items.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS:

Chairman Land noted that there were several questions related to the search for a new County Administrator, including additional advertisement time, cover letters, applications, resumes, etc.

By consensus, the Board agreed to a 30-day (free) advertisement time, the requirement for a cover letter, application, and resume from applicants, that a bachelor's degree in business administration was preferred (but not required), not to advertise with international organizations, and five years of progressive management experience preferred (but not required).

CONSULTANT ITEMS

There were none.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The twentieth item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, a proposed telecommunications tower proposal.

Mr. Gary Freeman, Allpro Consulting Group, Dallas, Texas, and representing Tillman Infrastructure, delivered a presentation about a proposed telecommunications tower on County property immediately north of the Coliseum Complex whose location was due to cellular service requirements and a 500-foot setback from residential structures required by the City of Live Oak. The company proposed renting the land (approximately 0.23 acres) for \$1,500 per month, with an 8% escalator per renewal term after the initial ten years.

Discussion ensued on municipal provisions, other carriers potentially using the tower, the proximity to the airport, the recommendation to not have the tower camouflaged as a tree, the negotiable monthly lease offer, potential interference with County plans for a COVID building on the property, and the use of the service road for egress and ingress to the Coliseum Complex.

County Attorney Morrison suggested that the Board decide whether to move forward with the project, and if so, a proposed monthly lease amount, and allow staff to work out details.

Chairman Land suggested a lease price of \$1,750 with a 3% annual increase in the lease.

By consensus, the Board agreed to move forward with the telecommunications tower with a requested monthly lease of \$1,750 with a 3% annual increase in the price.

County Attorney Morrison would be the contact person for the telecommunications tower.

Mr. Richard Snyder, Branford, asked about abandonment of the tower. Chairman Land replied that it would be discussed if and when the lease was discussed before the Board.

Mr. Clepper discussed using a so-called stealth tower instead of the proposed one. Mr. Freeman replied that stealth towers were much more expensive and rarely used as a result, unless required by the City of Live Oak. He then discussed the tower in further detail.

Commissioner White left the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Director Meeks discussed the 500-foot restrictions by the City and the possibility of affecting other properties' rights. Chairman Land suggested that Mr. Freeman check with the City of Live Oak about the restrictions, so that nearby property owners were not negatively affected.

Commissioner White returned to the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

The twenty-first item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, preliminary plat approval of Dewey Meadows Subdivision.

Chairman Land left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Director Meeks discussed the plat and details of the subdivision, noting that the 5.86-acre parcel with 5 lots was located off CR 49 and the Northern Bypass back to US 129. He added that due to the approval earlier in the meeting, this was probably the last application to come before the Board.

Chairman Land returned to the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Commissioner Mobley noted that he must abstain from voting because his nephew was the owner of the property in question.

Commissioner White moved to approve the preliminary plat of Dewey Meadows Subdivision. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0), with Commissioner Mobley abstaining due to a conflict of interests.

The twenty-second item on the agenda was to discuss, with possible Board action, gain time policy for the Suwannee County Jail.

County Attorney Morrison noted that the Board was the authority for providing a policy for gain time according to the Florida Statutes, not the Sheriff, and a policy was needed. Due to deadlines, he had drafted a resolution recommending 5 days per month for gain time with an additional 5 days per month for good behavior or working as a trusty.

Discussion ensued on the specifics of the proposed policy and that since there was no policy currently authorized by the Board, there was legally no policy per Florida Statutes, even though the Sheriff's Office had been operating with their own for many years.

Sheriff Sam St. John discussed the policy.

Captain Taliah Carver, Sheriff's Office, noted that prisoners did not receive more than one year in county jails and discussed some reasons behind the Sheriff's policy that had been in use for 30+ years.

County Attorney Morrison stated that the gain time policy was an incentive for prisoners to behave while incarcerated and then discussed the legalities of the Florida Statutes.

Commissioner Perkins moved to adopt (via resolution) a gain time policy for the Jail.

Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Resolution No. 2025-51)

The twenty-third on the agenda was additional agenda items.

There were two:

The first additional agenda item was to approve a Letter of Agreement between the State of Florida, agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) and Suwannee County BCC.

Commissioner Hale moved to approve a Letter of Agreement between the State of Florida, agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) and Suwannee County BCC. Commissioner White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Agreement No. 2025-123)

The second additional agenda item was approval of the September 15, 2025 CDBG-DR special meeting minutes.

September 16, 2025
Regular Board Meeting
Judicial Annex Building
Live Oak, Florida

Commissioner White moved to approve the September 15, 2025 CDBG-DR special meeting minutes. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The twenty-fourth item on the agenda was Administrator's comments and information.

County Administrator Scott discussed employee rates based upon the recent rate study, noting that it would cost an additional \$306,000 to bring up County employees to minimum suggested salaries. He also discussed compression issues with increasing some of the salaries and suggested looking at fixing this issue as well at the final budget hearing scheduled for the following week. County Administrator Scott discussed repairs to a hayfield pivot, compactors to be installed on several collection sites, and that the County's agendas were available online. As this was his last regular meeting as County Administrator and a County employee, he thanked the Board for his 37 years of service and acknowledged the community, staff, and family for supporting him and his departments over the years.

The Board presented a gift to County Administrator Scott for his years of service.

The twenty-fifth on the agenda was Board Members' inquiries, requests, and comments.

The Board thanked County Administrator Scott for his years of service.

Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

TRAVIS LAND, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME <i>Mobley Leo Jake</i>	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE <i>BOCC Suwannee County</i>
MAILING ADDRESS <i>6767 180th Street</i>	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF: <input type="checkbox"/> CITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
CITY COUNTY <i>McAlister</i>	NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED <i>9-16-2025</i>	MY POSITION IS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ELECTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTIVE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also **MUST ABSTAIN** from knowingly voting on a measure which would inure to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

* * * * *

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

* * * * *

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you are not prohibited by Section 112.3143 from otherwise participating in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on page 2)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Leo Mobley, hereby disclose that on Sept 16, 20 25:

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- ☐ inured to my special private gain or loss;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- ☒ inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, Senea Construction;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

9-16-2025
Date Filed

[Signature]
Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

4:45 p.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for a special meeting, and the following were present: Chairman Travis Land; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Maurice Perkins; and Commissioner Franklin White. Commissioner Leo Mobley was not present. Deputy Clerk Logan Woods, County Administrator Greg Scott, and Assistant County Administrator Jason Furry were also present.

Chairman Land called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was authorization to waive the County's Purchasing Policy for the direct purchase of electrical distribution equipment for the construction of the Catalyst Wastewater Treatment Plant (FRP No. 2025-29 Catalyst Industrial Park Water Reclamation Facility).

Assistant County Administrator Furry stated that no bids had been received for the project and asked that the County's purchasing policy be waived due to the no-bid response. He discussed the project, special equipment needed, direct procurement, and stated that they did not know the exact cost for the purchase. An agreement would be brought to the Board at a later date.

Discussion ensued on a supplier, direct purchase from Veolia, and later agreement approval.

It was noted that the Board would not know the final amount before it was approved, as Assistant Administrator Furry was asking for approval of direct purchase tonight. The agreement would be approved via ratification later, due to the tight timeline of the project.

Discussion ensued on the project, needed equipment, and not being able to piggyback off the contracts of other counties or entities.

Tori Humphires, North Florida Professional Services, discussed the purchase that would likely be from Veolia, the tight timeline, and the grant amount allotted and specific requirements for the project.

Discussion ensued on specifications.

September 22, 2025
Special Meeting
Judicial Annex Building
Live Oak, Florida

Commissioner Perkins moved to approve waiving the County's purchasing policy for the direct purchase of electrical distribution equipment for the construction of the Catalyst Wastewater Treatment Plant (Catalyst Industrial Park Water Reclamation Facility) due to a lack of bids received. After brief discussion on a later contract approval and grant funds covering the cost, Commissioner White seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The second item on the agenda was to award RFP No. 2025-30 and authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with Mid Florida Diesel, Inc. for Catalyst Industrial Park Water Reclamation Facility Standby Power Equipment, pending County Attorney review (Bids were opened September 9, 2025).

Assistant County Administrator Furry discussed the two bids received for the project and stated that Mid Florida Diesel was the winning recommended bidder.

Discussion ensued on the generator.

Commissioner White moved to award RFP No. 2025-30 and authorize the Chairman to sign a contract with Mid Florida Diesel for Catalyst Industrial Park Water Reclamation Facility Standby Power Equipment. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0). (Agreement No. 2025-124)

Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

TRAVIS LAND, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

5:05 p.m.

The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners met on the above date and time for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 final budget hearing and the following were present: Chairman Travis Land; Commissioner Don Hale; Commissioner Maurice Perkins; and Commissioner Franklin White. Commissioner Leo Mobley was not present. Clerk of Court Barry A. Baker; Finance Director Keith Gentry; Logan Woods, Neena Funicelli, and Gwen Deas, Deputy Clerks; Greg Scott, County Administrator; and Jason Furry, Assistant County Administrator, were also present.

Chairman Land called the hearing to order at 5:09 p.m. and the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America were held.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the final budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Clerk Baker announced that the FY 2025-2026 proposed final millage rate was 9.0000 mils and proposed final budget was \$190,579,209. He also announced the rolled-back rate of 8.3567 mils and that the proposed millage rate would be a 7.70% increase over the rolled-back rate.

Chairman Land opened the public hearing and opened the floor to comments, beginning with Constitutional Officers.

There being none, Chairman Land asked for outside agencies to speak.

There being none, Chairman Land asked for department heads to speak.

There being none, Chairman Land opened the floor to public comments.

Moses Clepper, 14581 102nd Path, commented on the proposed millage rate of 9.0000 mils and discussed the general rise of taxes over the years. He discussed his concerns with the proposed budget, suggested lowering the millage rate, and discussed property taxes.

Discussion ensued on ad valorem taxes, lowering the millage rate, and the Evergreen employee compensation study recently completed.

County Administrator Scott stated that no employee had received a higher salary without taking on more work.

Carolee Howe, 7408 169th Drive, commended Fire Rescue for their hard work, noting she was fine with the increase in the fire protection assessment due to the importance of and need for the services. She also commented on the mandated minimum wage increases that would make it difficult for employers to adjust for compression issues.

As there were no further public comments, Chairman Land closed the floor to public comments.

Chairman Land responded to some of Mr. Clepper's remarks regarding tax raises, noting the millage rate had stayed the same for around 10 years. He mentioned the large businesses that were on the tax roll that greatly contributed to tax revenues and that Mr. Clepper's comment that the Board had raised \$10 million in taxes over the past 10 years was inaccurate. He also commented on the many services provided by different County departments, the Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue, etc., and that they needed more resources to be able to better serve and keep up with County growth. To have quality services, property taxes were a needed revenue.

Commissioner White reminded the public that the Board had been subsidizing the solid waste fees to keep the waste assessment lower.

Discussion ensued on issues with inflation and matching the quality of services to County growth.

Commissioner Hale agreed with the other Commissioners' comments and that although he understood Mr. Clepper's concerns, the County needed the tax revenues to help keep the County running.

Commissioner Perkins echoed the sentiments expressed and noted that they had to be prepared for future major storms. He stressed the need to have money set aside for potential future disaster events.

Chairman Land discussed the Evergreen study and funding needed to correct employee salaries based on the results. He noted the amount in contingency and that if the millage rate was reduced to 8

mills, it would completely wipe out contingency and prevent the Board from funding the balance of some projects that still needed to be budgeted. Chairman Land referenced the salary study results and the suggested budget amount of \$306,011.93 to bring County employees up to minimum salary ranges.

County Administrator Scott stated that the suggested amount of \$306,011.93 was just a place holder in the budget for now, as the actual study results and suggestions would be approved at a later meeting to finalize fixing salaries.

Discussion ensued on bringing employees up to minimum salary ranges for those to whom it applied, costs associated, having some of the amount fixed within each department's budget, and setting aside some funding for salary adjustments tonight.

Chairman Land suggested setting aside \$250,000 and having department heads try to fund salary changes within their own budgets to bring employees up to minimum ranges. Whatever amount that the department could not find within their own budget could then be taken out of the \$250,000.

Discussion ensued on funding salary adjustments and creation of a "pay scale implementation" line in the budget.

The Board agreed by consensus to set aside \$250,000 out of contingency as a "pay scale implementation" line.

Discussion ensued on correcting compression issues over the next few years, if there were other potential expenses that may come up in the next fiscal year, and what had been approved thus far.

It was noted that contingency was now at \$2,278,637 after taking out the \$250,000 for salaries.

Commissioner Perkins wanted to adopt a lower millage rate and suggested lowering by a quarter or a half mil. He stated a rate of 8.75 mills would leave contingency at \$803,517.

Chairman Land felt that amount was too low for contingency.

Commissioner White suggested 8.8 mills, which would leave \$1,688,589 million in contingency.

September 22, 2025
Final Budget Hearing
Judicial Annex Building
Live Oak, Florida

Discussion ensued on lowering the millage rate.

At 5:54 p.m., Commissioner Perkins moved to approve a resolution adopting the levying of a final millage rate of 8.8000 mills for ad valorem taxes for Suwannee County for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0). (Resolution No. 2025-52)

Clerk Finance staff recalculated the budget based off the lower millage rate, for a new final budget amount of \$189,989,161, which would leave \$1,688,589 in contingency.

At 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Perkins moved to approve a resolution adopting a final budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 of \$189,989,161. Commissioner Hale seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0). (Resolution No. 2025-53)

Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Land adjourned the final budget hearing at 6:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____, DC
BARRY A. BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

TRAVIS LAND, CHAIRMAN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Resolution proclaiming October 4 -11, 2025,
as "National 4-H Week." (Katie Jones, Extension Agent 1)



WHEREAS, this year's National 4-H Week theme, "Beyond Ready," reminds us that 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change and equips young people with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today;

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, supporting six million youth across the country; and

WHEREAS, 4-H programs are delivered by the Cooperative Extension System – a community of more than 100 public land-grant colleges and universities across the Nation – that provides experiences for young people to learn by doing;

WHEREAS, 4-H is in every city and county in the United States and helps 6 million youth become engaged, successful and independent; and

WHEREAS, 4-H connects young people and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life through experiential and inquiry-based learning while providing emerging research for positive youth development; and

WHEREAS, expanding from its strong agricultural roots, 4-H helps young people explore the world around them and grow into productive adults; and

WHEREAS, supporting future leaders in science, agriculture and community leadership is an important imperative for U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture 4-H program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Travis Land, do hereby proclaim October 5 –11 2025 as NATIONAL 4-H WEEK throughout Suwannee County, and encourage all our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continues to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hands on this October 7, 2025

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

Travis Land, Chairman


Barry A. Baker, Clerk of Court



Suwannee River Regional Library

1848 Ohio/M.L. King, Jr. Avenue South
Live Oak, Florida 32064
(386) 362-2317 • FAX (386) 364-6071

BETTY LAWRENCE
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES

DATE: September 30, 2025
TO: Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners
FROM:  Betty Lawrence, Director of Libraries
RE: National Friends of Libraries Week Proclamation

Executive Summary

This is to request that the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners approve the following proclamation in recognition of the strong financial support provided by the Friends of the library in order to provide quality library programs and services to citizens in Suwannee, Madison and Hamilton counties.

National Friends of Libraries Week
Proclamation

Whereas, Suwannee County Friends of the Library raises money that enables the Suwannee River Regional Library System to move from good to great -- providing the resources for additional programming, much-needed equipment, support for children's summer reading, and special events throughout the year;

Whereas, the work of the Friends highlights on an ongoing basis the fact that our library is the cornerstone of the community, providing opportunities for all to engage in the joy of life-long learning and connect with the thoughts and ideas of others from ages past to the present.

Whereas, the Friends understand the critical importance of well-funded libraries and advocate to ensure that our library gets the resources it needs to provide a wide variety of services to all ages, including access to print and electronic materials, along with expert assistance in research, readers' advisory, and children's services;

Whereas, the Friends' gift of their time and commitment to the library sets an example for all in how volunteerism leads to positive civic engagement and the betterment of our community.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners proclaims October 19-25, 2025, as Friends of Libraries week in Suwannee County and urges everyone to join the Friends of the Library and thank them for all they do to make our library and community so much better.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 7th day of October, 2025

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

Travis Land, Chairman

Barry A. Baker, Clerk of Court

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Travis Land
Chairman
Executive Summary

- Like most Americans, I was angered, hurt and confused when Charlie Kirk was assassinated on September 10, 2025.
- I join most Americans in valuing the ideals Charlie Kirk represented, that engaging in civic debate is a core part of the American identity and all people should celebrate his example regardless of political affiliation.
- I also condemn all political violence, especially where it is used to silence a prominent voice of any political ideology.
- As I know most, if not all, of Suwannee County shares my values on Charlie Kirk and his example, American ideals and the need to condemn political violence, I am proposing the attached resolution declaring October 14 – Charlie Kirk’s birthday – “Charlie Kirk Day” to encourage reflection on how important free speech and civic debate is to our society.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s

Travis Land
Chairman
Suwannee County Board of
County Commissioners

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHARLES “CHARLIE” KIRK TO AMERICAN DISCOURSE, CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF CHARLIE KIRK AND ALL POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND DESIGNATING CHARLIE KIRK’S BIRTHDAY – OCTOBER 14 – AS “CHARLIE KIRK DAY” TO ENCOURAGE REFLECTION ON THE CIVIC QUALITIES ALL CITIZENS SHOULD FOLLOW.

WHEREAS, Charles “Charlie” Kirk was born on October 14, 1993; and,

WHEREAS, at the age of 18 Charlie Kirk founded Turning Point USA, an organization with the mission to “identify, educate, train and organize students to promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government;” and,

WHEREAS, Charlie Kirk became a prominent conservative voice in American politics by engaging in respectful, civil discourse across college campuses and media platforms; and,

WHEREAS, Charlie Kirk’s engagement and debates on college campuses epitomized the values represented by the First Amendment and freedom of speech; and,

WHEREAS, Charlie Kirk was a devout Christian; and,

WHEREAS, Charlie Kirk was a dedicated husband to his wife Erika Kirk and loving father to his two children; and,

WHEREAS, Charlie Kirk was assassinated on September 10, 2025, while engaging in civic discourse at Utah Valley University; and,

WHEREAS, acts of political violence are to be unequivocally and universally condemned regardless of party, ideology, race or religion as political violence undermines our Republic and threatens to chill speech which is central to our American identity; and,

WHEREAS, the assassination of Charlie Kirk should not divide our society, but instead serve as a reflection point where all persons stand united and committed to the ideals personified by Charlie Kirk, the First Amendment and our Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida that the assassination of Charlie Kirk is condemned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all acts of political violence are condemned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Suwannee County extends its condolences

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

and sympathies to Charlie Kirk's family, including his wife Erika and their two young children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Suwannee County values the example set by Charlie Kirk that frank, civil debate is a core principle of the First Amendment and the United States Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that October 14, 2025, is hereby declared "Charlie Kirk Day" and all persons are encouraged to recommit themselves to valuing and encouraging frank, open debate and expression. Citizens are further encouraged to reflect on the challenge posed by Charlie Kirk and his example, which is to not only tolerate, but civically engage with, the expression of views or ideas that may differ from their own or a group they belong to.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED in regular session with a quorum present and voting, by the Board of County Commissioners this _____ day of October, 2025.

Attest:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Barry A. Baker
County Clerk

Travis Land
Chairperson

Agenda Item No. 5

Approval for payment of processed invoices.

**CONTRACT BETWEEN
SUWANNEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND
STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FOR OPERATION OF THE
SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CONTRACT YEAR 2025-2026**

This contract is made and entered into between the State of Florida, Department of Health ("State"), and the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners ("County"), through their undersigned authorities, effective October 1, 2025. State and County are jointly referred to as the "parties".

RECITALS

A. Pursuant to Chapter 154, Florida Statutes, the intent of the legislature is to "promote, protect, maintain, and improve the health and safety of all citizens and visitors of this state through a system of coordinated county health department services."

B. County Health Departments were created throughout Florida to satisfy this legislative intent through the "promotion of the public's health, the control and eradication of preventable diseases, and the provision of primary health care for special populations."

C. Suwannee County Health Department ("CHD") is one of the created County Health Departments.

D. It is necessary for the parties hereto to enter into this contract to ensure coordination between the State and the County in the operation of the CHD.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth herein, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. RECITALS. The parties mutually agree that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

2. TERM. The parties mutually agree that this contract shall be effective from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, or until a written contract replacing this contract is entered into between the parties, whichever is later, unless this contract is otherwise terminated according to the termination provisions outlined in paragraph 8. below.

3. SERVICES MAINTAINED BY THE CHD. The parties mutually agree that the CHD shall provide those services as outlined in Part III of Attachment II hereof, to maintain the following three levels of service pursuant to section 154.01(2), Florida Statutes, as defined below:

a. "Environmental health services" are those services that are organized and operated to protect the health of the general public by monitoring and regulating activities in the environment that may contribute to the occurrence or transmission of disease. Environmental health services shall be supported by available federal, state, and local funds and shall include

those services mandated on a state or federal level. Examples of environmental health services include but are not limited to, food hygiene, safe drinking water supply, sewage, and solid waste disposal, swimming pools, group care facilities, migrant labor camps, toxic material control, radiological health, and occupational health.

b. "Communicable disease control services" are those services that protect the health of the general public through the detection, control, and eradication of diseases that are transmitted primarily by human beings. Communicable disease services shall be supported by available federal, state, and local funds and shall include those services mandated on a state or federal level. Such services include, but are not limited to, epidemiology, sexually transmissible disease detection and control, HIV/AIDS, immunization, tuberculosis control, and maintenance of vital statistics.

c. "Primary care services" are acute care and preventive services that are made available to well and sick persons who are unable to obtain such services due to lack of income or other barriers beyond their control. These services are provided to benefit individuals, improve the collective health of the public, and prevent and control the spread of disease. Primary health care services are provided at home, in group settings, or in clinics. These services shall be supported by available federal, state, and local funds and shall include services mandated on a state or federal level. Examples of primary health care services include but are not limited to first contact acute care services; chronic disease detection and treatment; maternal and child health services; family planning; nutrition; school health; supplemental food assistance for women, infants, and children; home health; and dental services.

4. **FUNDING.** The parties further agree that funding for the CHD will be handled as follows:

a. The funding to be provided by the parties and any other sources is outlined in Part II of Attachment II hereof. This funding will be used as shown in Part I of Attachment II.

- i. The State's appropriated responsibility (*direct contribution excluding any state fees, Medicaid contributions, or any other funds not listed on the Schedule C*) as provided in Attachment II, Part II is an amount not to exceed \$ 1,438,753.00 (*State General Revenue, State Funds, Other State Funds and Federal Funds listed on the Schedule C*). The State's obligation to pay under this contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature.
- ii. The County's appropriated responsibility (*direct contribution excluding any fees, other cash, or local contributions*) as provided in Attachment II, Part II is an amount not to exceed \$ 100,000.00 (*amount listed under the "Board of County Commissioners Annual Appropriations section of the revenue attachment*).

b. Overall expenditures will not exceed available funding or budget authority, whichever is less, (either the current year or from surplus trust funds) in any service category. Unless requested otherwise, any surplus at the end of the term of this contract in the County Health Department Trust Fund that is attributed to the CHD shall be carried forward to the next contract period.

c. Either party may establish service fees as allowed by law to fund activities of the CHD. Where applicable, such fees shall be automatically adjusted to at least the Medicaid fee schedule.

d. Either party may increase or decrease funding of this contract during the term hereof by notifying the other party in writing of the amount and purpose for the change in funding. If the State initiates the increase or decrease, the CHD will revise Attachment II and send a copy of the revised pages to the County and the State's Office of Budget and Revenue Management. If the County initiates the increase or decrease, the County shall notify the CHD in writing. The CHD will then revise Attachment II and send a copy of the revised pages to the State's Office of Budget and Revenue Management.

e. The name and address of the official payee to whom payments shall be made is:

County Health Department Trust Fund
Suwannee County Health Department
915 Nobles Ferry Rd.
Live Oak, FL 32064

5. CHD DIRECTOR or ADMINISTRATOR. Both parties agree the director or administrator of the CHD shall be a State employee or under contract with the State and will be under the day-to-day direction of the State's Deputy Secretary for County Health Systems. The director or administrator shall be selected by the State with the concurrence of the County. The director or administrator of the CHD shall ensure that non-categorical sources of funding are used to fulfill public health priorities in the community and the Long-Range Program Plan.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. The parties hereto agree that the following standards should apply in the operation of the CHD:

a. The CHD and its personnel shall follow all State policies and procedures, except to the extent permitted for the use of County purchasing procedures as outlined in subparagraph b., below. All CHD employees shall be State or State-contract personnel subject to State personnel laws, rules, and procedures. Employees will report time in the Health Management System compatible format by program component as specified by the State.

b. The CHD shall comply with all applicable provisions of federal and state laws and regulations relating to its operation with the exception that the use of County purchasing procedures shall be allowed when it will result in a better price or service and no statewide purchasing contract has been implemented for those goods or services. In such cases, the CHD director or administrator must sign a justification, therefore, and all County purchasing procedures must be followed in their entirety, and such compliance shall be documented. Such justification and compliance documentation shall be maintained by the CHD following the terms of this contract. State procedures must be followed for all leases on facilities not enumerated in Attachment IV.

c. The CHD shall maintain books, records, and documents following the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and the requirements of federal or state law. These records shall be maintained as

required by the State's Policies and Procedures for Records Management and shall be open for inspection at any time by the parties and the public, except for those records that are not otherwise subject to disclosure as provided by law which is subject to the confidentiality provisions of paragraphs 6.i. and 6.k., below. Books, records, and documents must be adequate to allow the CHD to comply with the following reporting requirements:

- i.* The revenue and expenditure requirements in the Florida Accounting Information Resource System; and
- ii.* The client registration and services reporting requirements of the minimum data set as specified in the most current version of the Client Information System/Health Management Component Pamphlet; and
- iii.* Financial procedures specified in the State's Accounting Procedures Manuals, Accounting memoranda, and Comptroller's memoranda; and
- iv.* The CHD is responsible for assuring that all contracts with service providers include provisions that all subcontracted services be reported to the CHD in a manner consistent with the client registration and service reporting requirements of the minimum data set as specified in the Client Information System/Health Management Component Pamphlet.

d. All funds for the CHD shall be deposited in the County Health Department Trust Fund maintained by the state treasurer. These funds shall be accounted for separately from funds deposited for other CHDs and shall be used only for public health purposes in Suwannee County.

e. That any surplus or deficit funds, including fees or accrued interest, remaining in the County Health Department Trust Fund account at the end of the contract year shall be credited or debited to the State or County, as appropriate, based on the funds contributed by each and the expenditures incurred by each. Expenditures will be charged to the program accounts by State and County based on the ratio of planned expenditures in this contract and funding from all sources is credited to the program accounts by State and County. The equity share of any surplus or deficit funds accruing to the State and County is determined each month and at the contract year-end. Surplus funds may be applied toward the funding requirements of each party in the following year. However, in each such case, all surplus funds, including fees and accrued interest, shall remain in the trust fund until accounted for in a manner that clearly illustrates the amount which has been credited to each party. The planned use of surplus funds shall be reflected in Attachment II, Part I of this contract, with special capital projects explained in Attachment V.

f. There shall be no transfer of funds between the three levels of services without a contract amendment unless the CHD director or administrator determines that an emergency exists wherein a time delay would endanger the public's health and the State's Deputy Secretary for County Health Systems have approved the transfer. The State's Deputy Secretary for County Health Systems shall forward written evidence of this approval to the CHD within 30 days after an emergency transfer.

g. The CHD may execute subcontracts for services necessary to enable the CHD to carry out the programs specified in this contract. Any such subcontract shall include all aforementioned audit and record-keeping requirements.

h. At the request of either party, an audit may be conducted by an independent certified public accountant on the financial records of the CHD, and the results made available to the parties within 180 days after the close of the CHD fiscal year. This audit will follow requirements contained in OMB Circular A-133, as revised, and may be in conjunction with audits performed by the County government. If audit exceptions are found, then the director or administrator of the CHD will prepare a corrective action plan and a copy of that plan and monthly status reports will be furnished to the contract managers for the parties.

i. The CHD shall not use or disclose any information concerning a recipient of services except as allowed by federal or state law or policy.

j. The CHD shall retain all client records, financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and any other documents (including electronic storage media) pertinent to this contract for five years after termination of this contract. If an audit has been initiated and audit findings have not been resolved at the end of five years, the records shall be retained until the resolution of the audit findings.

k. The CHD shall maintain the confidentiality of all data, files, and records that are confidential under the law or are otherwise exempted from disclosure as a public record under Florida law. The CHD shall implement procedures to ensure the protection and confidentiality of all such records and shall comply with sections 384.29, 381.004, 392.65, and 456.057, Florida Statutes, and all other state and federal laws regarding confidentiality. All confidentiality procedures implemented by the CHD shall be consistent with the State's Information Security Policies, Protocols, and Procedures. The CHD shall further adhere to any amendments to the State's security requirements and shall comply with any applicable professional standards of practice concerning client confidentiality.

l. The CHD shall abide by all State policies and procedures, which by this reference are incorporated herein as standards to be followed by the CHD.

m. The CHD shall establish a system through which applicants for services and current clients may present grievances over denial, modification, or termination of services. The CHD will advise applicants of the right to appeal a denial or exclusion from services, of failure to take account of a client's choice of service, and right to a fair hearing to the final governing authority of the CHD. Specific references to existing laws, rules, or program manuals are included in Attachment I of this contract.

n. The CHD shall comply with the provisions contained in the Civil Rights Compliance and Non-Discrimination Certificate, hereby incorporated into this contract as Attachment III.

o. The CHD shall submit quarterly reports to the County that shall include at least the following:

- i.* The DE385L1 Contract Management Variance Report and the DE580L1 Analysis of Fund Equities Report; and
- ii.* A written explanation to the County of service variances reflected in the year-end DE385L1 report if the variance exceeds or falls below 25 percent of the planned expenditure amount for the contract year. However, if the amount of the service-specific variance between actual and planned expenditures does not exceed three percent of the total planned expenditures for the level of service in which the type of service is included, a variance explanation is not required. A copy of the written explanation shall be sent to the State's Office of Budget and Revenue Management.

p. The dates for the submission of quarterly reports to the County shall be as follows unless the generation and distribution of reports are delayed due to circumstances beyond the CHD's control:

- i.* March 1, 2026, for the reporting period of October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025; and
- ii.* June 1, 2026, for the reporting period of October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026; and
- iii.* September 1, 2026, for the reporting period of October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; and
- iv.* December 1, 2026, for the reporting period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

7. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. The parties mutually agree that:

a. CHD facilities shall be provided as specified in Attachment IV to this contract and the County shall own the facilities used by the CHD unless otherwise provided in Attachment IV.

b. The County shall ensure adequate fire and casualty insurance coverage for County-owned CHD offices and buildings and all furnishings and equipment in CHD offices through either a self-insurance program or insurance purchased by the County.

c. All vehicles will be transferred to the ownership of the County and registered as County vehicles. The County shall ensure insurance coverage for these vehicles is available through either a self-insurance program or insurance purchased by the County. All vehicles will be used solely for CHD operations. Vehicles purchased through the County Health Department Trust Fund shall be sold at fair market value when they are no longer needed by the CHD and the proceeds returned to the County Health Department Trust Fund.

8. TERMINATION.

a. Termination at Will. This contract may be terminated by either party without cause upon no less than 180 calendar days' notice in writing to the other party unless a lesser time is mutually agreed upon in writing by both parties.

b. Termination Because of Lack of Funds. In the event funds to finance this contract become unavailable, either party may terminate this contract upon no less than 24 hours' notice.

c. Termination for Breach. This contract may be terminated by either party for a material breach of an obligation hereunder, upon no less than 30 days' notice. Waiver of a breach of any provisions of this contract shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of this contract.

9. MISCELLANEOUS. The parties further agree:

a. Availability of Funds. If this contract, any renewal hereof, or any term, performance, or payment hereunder, extends beyond the CHD fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, it is agreed that the performance and payment under this contract are contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature, under section 287.0582, Florida Statutes.

b. Contract Managers. The name and addresses of the contract managers for the parties under this contract are as follows:

For the State:

Betty Johnson
Name
Business Manager II
Title
915 Nobles Ferry Rd.
Live Oak, FL 32064
Address
Betty.Johnson3@flhealth.gov
Email Address
(386)-339-6112
Telephone

For the County:

Barry Baker
Name
Clerk of Circuit Court
Title
Suwannee County Courthouse
Live Oak, FL 32064
Address

Email Address
(386) 362-3498
Telephone

If different contract managers are designated after the execution of this contract, the name, address, email address, and telephone number of the new representative shall be furnished in writing to the other parties and attached to the originals of this contract.

c. Captions. The captions and headings contained in this contract are for the convenience of the parties only and do not in any way modify, amplify, or give additional notice of the provisions hereof.

d. Notices. Any notices provided under this contract must be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, in person with proof of delivery, or by email to the email address of the respective party identified in Section 9.b., above.

In WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this eight page contract, with its attachments as referenced, including Attachment I (two pages), Attachment II (six pages), Attachment III (one page), Attachment IV (one page), and Attachment V (one page), to be executed by their undersigned officials as duly authorized effective the 1st day of October 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR SUWANNEE COUNTY**

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

SIGNED BY: _____

SIGNED BY: _____

NAME: Travis Land

NAME: Joseph A. Ladapo, M.D., Ph.D.

TITLE: Chairman

TITLE: State Surgeon General

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

ATTESTED TO:

SIGNED BY: _____

SIGNED BY: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: Kerry S. Waldron

TITLE: _____

TITLE: CHD Director or Administrator

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

ATTACHMENT I
SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROGRAM SPECIFIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAMS REQUIRING
COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SPECIFIC MANUALS

Some health services must comply with specific program and reporting requirements in addition to the Personal Health Coding Pamphlet (DHP 50-20), Environmental Health Coding Pamphlet (DHP 50-21) and FLAIR requirements because of federal or state law, regulation or rule. If a county health department is funded to provide one of these services, it must comply with the special reporting requirements for that service. The services and the reporting requirements are listed below:

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
1.	Sexually Transmitted Disease Program	Requirements as specified in F.A.C. 64D-3, F.S. 381 and F.S. 384.
2.	Dental Health	Periodic financial and programmatic reports as specified by the program office.
3.	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (including the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program)	Service documentation and monthly financial reports as specified in DHM 150-24* and all federal, state and county requirements detailed in program manuals and published procedures.
4.	Healthy Start/ Improved Pregnancy Outcome	Requirements as specified in the 2007 Healthy Start Standards and Guidelines and as specified by the Healthy Start Coalitions in contract with each county health department.
5.	Family Planning	Requirements as specified in Public Law 91-572, 42 U.S.C. 300, et seq., 42 CFR part 59, subpart A, 45 CFR parts 74 & 92, 2 CFR 215 (OMB Circular A-110) OMB Circular A-102, F.S. 381.0051, F.A.C. 64F-7, F.A.C. 64F-16, and F.A.C. 64F-19. Requirements and Guidance as specified in the Program Requirements for Title X Funded Family Planning Projects (Title X Requirements)(2014) and the Providing Quality Family Planning Services (QFP): Recommendations of CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs published on the Office of Population Affairs website. Programmatic annual reports as specified by the program office as specified in the annual programmatic Scope of Work for Family Planning and Maternal Child Health Services, including the Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR), and other minimum guidelines as specified by the Policy Web Technical Assistance Guidelines.
6.	Immunization	Periodic reports as specified by the department pertaining to immunization levels in kindergarten and/or seventh grade pursuant to instructions contained in the Immunization Guidelines-Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes (DH Form 150-615) and Rule 64D-3.046, F.A.C. In addition, periodic reports as specified by the department pertaining to the surveillance/investigation of reportable vaccine-preventable diseases, adverse events, vaccine accountability, and assessment of immunization

levels as documented in Florida SHOTS and supported by CHD Guidebook policies and technical assistance guidance.

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|-----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 7. | Environmental Health | Requirements as specified in Environmental Health Programs Manual 150-4* and DHP 50-21* |
| 8. | HIV/AIDS Program | <p>Requirements as specified in F.S. 384.25 and F.A.C. 64D-3.030 and 64D-3.031. Case reporting should be on Adult HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report CDC Form DH2139 and Pediatric HIV/AIDS Confidential Case Report CDC Form DH2140.</p> <p>Requirements as specified in F.A.C. 64D-2 and 64D-3, F.S. 381 and F.S. 384. Socio-demographic and risk data on persons tested for HIV in CHD clinics should be reported on Lab Request DH Form 1628 in accordance with the Forms Instruction Guide.</p> <p>Requirements for the HIV/AIDS Patient Care programs are found in the Patient Care Contract Administrative Guidelines.</p> |
| 9. | School Health Services | Requirements as specified in the Florida School Health Administrative Guidelines (May 2012). Requirements as specified in F.S. 381.0056, F.S. 381.0057, F.S. 402.3026 and F.A.C. 64F-6. |
| 10. | Tuberculosis | Tuberculosis Program Requirements as specified in F.A.C. 64D-3 and F.S. 392. |
| 11. | General Communicable Disease Control | Carry out surveillance for reportable communicable and other acute diseases, detect outbreaks, respond to individual cases of reportable diseases, investigate outbreaks, and carry out communication and quality assurance functions, as specified in F.A.C. 64D-3, F.S. 381, F.S. 384 and the CHD Epidemiology Guide to Surveillance and Investigations. |
| 12. | Refugee Health Program | Programmatic and financial requirements as specified by the program office. |

*or the subsequent replacement if adopted during the contract period.

ATTACHMENT II
SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PART I. PLANNED USE OF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRUST FUND BALANCES

	Estimated State Share of CHD Trust Fund Balance	Estimated County Share of CHD Trust Fund Balance	Total
1. CHD Trust Fund Ending Balance 09/30/25	305617	364936	670553
2. Drawdown for Contract Year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026	-305617	414956	109339
3. Special Capital Project use for Contract Year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026	0	0	0
4. Balance Reserved for Contingency Fund October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026	0	779892	779892

Special Capital Projects are new construction or renovation projects and new furniture or equipment associated with these projects, and mobile health vans.

ATTACHMENT II

SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Part II, Sources of Contributions to County Health Department

October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

	State CHD Trust Fund (cash)	County CHD Trust Fund	Total CHD Trust Fund (cash)	Other Contribution	Total
1. GENERAL REVENUE - STATE					
015040 CHD - TB COMMUNITY PROGRAM	12,507	0	12,507	0	12,507
015040 DENTAL SPECIAL INITIATIVE PROJECTS	6,082	0	6,082	0	6,082
015040 FAMILY PLANNING GENERAL REVENUE	46,914	0	46,914	0	46,914
015040 FLORIDA SPRINGS AND AQUIFER PROTECTION ACT	68,466	0	68,466	0	68,466
015040 PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM	115,812	0	115,812	0	115,812
015040 RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES - CHD EXPENSES	52,000	0	52,000	0	52,000
015040 SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES	76,833	0	76,833	0	76,833
015050 CHD GENERAL REVENUE NON-CATEGORICAL	772,112	0	772,112	0	772,112
GENERAL REVENUE TOTAL	1,150,726	0	1,150,726	0	1,150,726
2. NON GENERAL REVENUE - STATE					
	0	0	0	0	0
NON GENERAL REVENUE TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
3. FEDERAL FUNDS - STATE					
007000 COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CARDIO - PHBG	40,121	0	40,121	0	40,121
007000 FAMILY PLANNING TITLE X - GRANT	46,922	0	46,922	0	46,922
007000 PUBLIC HLTH INFRASTRUCTURE & WORKFORCE/CENTRAL 1	126,815	0	126,815	0	126,815
007000 INFANT MORTALITY	30,314	0	30,314	0	30,314
007000 IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN	5,450	0	5,450	0	5,450
007000 MCH SPECIAL PROJCT DENTAL	2,250	0	2,250	0	2,250
007000 BASE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS CAPABILITY	40,974	0	40,974	0	40,974
007000 RYAN WHITE TITLE II GRANT/CHD CONSORTIUM	10,000	0	10,000	0	10,000
015075 SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES	80,416	0	80,416	0	80,416
FEDERAL FUNDS TOTAL	383,262	0	383,262	0	383,262
4. FEES ASSESSED BY STATE OR FEDERAL RULES - STATE					
001020 CHD STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES	18,282	0	18,282	0	18,282
001092 ON SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PERMIT FEES	160,000	0	160,000	0	160,000
001206 ON SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PERMIT FEES	13,000	0	13,000	0	13,000
001206 SANITATION CERTIFICATES (FOOD INSPECTION)	600	0	600	0	600
001206 SEPTIC TANK RESEARCH SURCHARGE	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000
001206 SEPTIC TANK VARIANCE FEES 50%	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000
001206 PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL PERMIT FEES-10% HQ TRANSFER	300	0	300	0	300
001206 DRINKING WATER PROGRAM OPERATIONS	600	0	600	0	600
001206 TANNING FACILITIES	100	0	100	0	100
001206 ONSITE SEWAGE TRAINING CENTER	700	0	700	0	700
001206 MOBILE HOME & RV PARK FEES	530	0	530	0	530
FEES ASSESSED BY STATE OR FEDERAL RULES TOTAL	197,112	0	197,112	0	197,112
5. OTHER CASH CONTRIBUTIONS - STATE:					
031005 GENERAL CLINIC RABIES SERVICES & DRUG PURCHASES	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000
090001 DRAW DOWN FROM PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT	305,617	0	305,617	0	305,617
OTHER CASH CONTRIBUTION TOTAL	310,617	0	310,617	0	310,617

ATTACHMENT II

SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Part II, Sources of Contributions to County Health Department

October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

	State CHD Trust Fund (cash)	County CHD Trust Fund	Total CHD Trust Fund (cash)	Other Contribution	Total
6. MEDICAID - STATE/COUNTY:					
001057 CHD CLINIC FEES	0	7,629	7,629	0	7,629
001148 CHD CLINIC FEES	0	22,010	22,010	0	22,010
MEDICAID TOTAL	0	29,639	29,639	0	29,639
7. ALLOCABLE REVENUE - STATE:					
	0	0	0	0	0
ALLOCABLE REVENUE TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
8. OTHER STATE CONTRIBUTIONS NOT IN CHD TRUST FUND - STATE					
ADAP	0	0	0	50,189	50,189
PHARMACY DRUG PROGRAM	0	0	0	2,835	2,835
WIC PROGRAM	0	0	0	1,057,335	1,057,335
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES	0	0	0	903	903
IMMUNIZATIONS	0	0	0	79,768	79,768
OTHER STATE CONTRIBUTIONS TOTAL	0	0	0	1,191,030	1,191,030
9. DIRECT LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS - BCC/TAX DISTRICT					
008005 CHD LOCAL REVENUE & EXPENDITURES	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000
DIRECT COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS TOTAL	0	100,000	100,000	0	100,000
10. FEES AUTHORIZED BY COUNTY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION - COUNTY					
001077 CHD CLINIC FEES	0	13,328	13,328	0	13,328
001094 CHD LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL FEES	0	52,000	52,000	0	52,000
001110 VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFIED RECORDS	0	34,000	34,000	0	34,000
FEES AUTHORIZED BY COUNTY TOTAL	0	99,328	99,328	0	99,328
11. OTHER CASH AND LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS - COUNTY					
001029 CHD CLINIC FEES	0	7,797	7,797	0	7,797
001029 GENERAL CLINIC RABIES SERVICES & DRUG PURCHASES	0	1,045	1,045	0	1,045
001090 CHD CLINIC FEES	0	3,566	3,566	0	3,566
010300 MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING INSPECTION H-2A PROGRAM	0	972	972	0	972
011001 CHD HEALTHY START COALITION CONTRACT	0	118,122	118,122	0	118,122
011001 HEALTHY START MEDIPASS WAIVER - COALITION TO CHD	0	914,652	914,652	0	914,652
090002 DRAW DOWN FROM PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT	0	-414,956	-414,956	0	-414,956
OTHER CASH AND LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOTAL	0	631,198	631,198	0	631,198
12. ALLOCABLE REVENUE - COUNTY					
	0	0	0	0	0
COUNTY ALLOCABLE REVENUE TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
13. BUILDINGS - COUNTY					
ANNUAL RENTAL EQUIVALENT VALUE	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify)	0	0	0	0	0
UTILITIES	0	0	0	13,884	13,884
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	8,760	8,760

ATTACHMENT II

SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Part II, Sources of Contributions to County Health Department

October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

	State CHD Trust Fund (cash)	County CHD Trust Fund	Total CHD Trust Fund (cash)	Other Contribution	Total
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	4,800	4,800
INSURANCE	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify)	0	0	0	0	0
BUILDINGS TOTAL	0	0	0	27,444	27,444
14. OTHER COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS NOT IN CHD TRUST FUND - COUNTY					
EQUIPMENT / VEHICLE PURCHASES	0	0	0	0	0
VEHICLE INSURANCE	0	0	0	0	0
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER COUNTY CONTRIBUTION (SPECIFY)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER COUNTY CONTRIBUTION (SPECIFY)	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL CHD PROGRAM	2,041,717	860,165	2,901,882	1,218,474	4,120,356

ATTACHMENT II

SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Part III, Planned Staffing, Clients, Services and Expenditures By Program Service Area Within Each Level of Service
October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026**

	Quarterly Expenditure Plan								Grand Total	
	FTE's (0.00)	Clients Units	Services/ Visits	1st	2nd (Whole dollars only)	3rd	4th	State		County
A. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL:										
IMMUNIZATION (101)	1.25	460	594	38,296	32,827	38,296	33,370	142,769	20	142,789
SEXUALLY TRANS. DIS. (102)	1.20	288	409	30,764	26,371	30,764	26,806	113,827	878	114,705
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION (03A1)	0.08	0	80	1,953	1,674	1,953	1,703	7,283	0	7,283
HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE (03A2)	0.01	0	0	280	240	280	244	1,044	0	1,044
HIV/AIDS PATIENT CARE (03A3)	0.15	17	49	4,762	4,082	4,762	4,148	17,019	735	17,754
ADAP (03A4)	0.04	0	0	1,560	1,337	1,560	1,358	5,815	0	5,815
TUBERCULOSIS (104)	0.56	448	1,444	15,711	13,467	15,711	13,690	57,746	833	58,579
COMM. DIS. SURV. (106)	0.38	0	0	10,022	8,590	10,022	8,732	37,366	0	37,366
HEPATITIS (109)	0.01	0	0	351	300	351	305	1,307	0	1,307
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (116)	1.09	0	0	28,780	24,670	28,780	25,077	107,307	0	107,307
REFUGEE HEALTH (118)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VITAL RECORDS (180)	1.03	4,489	9,707	21,258	18,223	21,258	18,524	0	79,263	79,263
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SUBTOTAL	5.80	5,702	12,283	153,737	131,781	153,737	133,957	491,483	81,729	573,212
B. PRIMARY CARE:										
CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PRO (210)	0.55	0	5	18,310	15,695	18,310	15,955	68,270	0	68,270
WIC (21W1)	0.00	0	0	846	726	846	738	3,156	0	3,156
TOBACCO USE INTERVENTION (212)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WIC BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELING (21W2)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAMILY PLANNING (223)	4.01	576	1,042	98,743	84,642	98,743	86,040	368,075	93	368,168
IMPROVED PREGNANCY OUTCOME (225)	0.03	0	0	8,279	7,096	8,279	7,213	30,867	0	30,867
HEALTHY START PRENATAL (227)	2.79	238	2,492	136,205	116,754	136,205	118,685	0	507,849	507,849
COMPREHENSIVE CHILD HEALTH (229)	0.01	0	0	184	158	184	160	686	0	686
HEALTHY START CHILD (231)	2.75	289	3,190	71,324	61,138	71,324	62,149	0	265,935	265,935
SCHOOL HEALTH (234)	2.78	0	144,408	65,344	56,013	65,344	56,939	243,640	0	243,640
COMPREHENSIVE ADULT HEALTH (237)	1.11	197	249	26,856	23,021	26,856	23,401	100,118	16	100,134
COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (238)	2.19	0	0	50,795	43,542	50,795	44,262	189,394	0	189,394
DENTAL HEALTH (240)	1.29	350	521	29,954	25,677	29,954	26,101	111,686	0	111,686
PRIMARY CARE SUBTOTAL	17.51	1,650	151,907	506,840	434,462	506,840	441,643	1,115,892	773,893	1,889,785
C. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:										
Water and Onsite Sewage Programs										
COSTAL BEACH MONITORING (347)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIMITED USE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (357)	0.08	181	96	3,829	3,282	3,829	3,336	14,276	0	14,276
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM (358)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM (359)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL (361)	3.44	979	1,878	81,931	70,231	81,931	71,391	301,034	4,450	305,484
Group Total	3.52	1,160	1,974	85,760	73,513	85,760	74,727	315,310	4,450	319,760
Facility Programs										
TATTOO FACILITY SERVICES (344)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOOD HYGIENE (348)	0.37	70	185	8,819	7,560	8,819	7,684	32,882	0	32,882

ATTACHMENT II

SUWANNEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Part III, Planned Staffing, Clients, Services and Expenditures By Program Service Area Within Each Level of Service
October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026**

	FTE's (0.00)	Clients Units	Services/ Visits	Quarterly Expenditure Plan				State	County	Grand Total
				1st	2nd (Whole dollars only)	3rd	4th			
BODY PIERCING FACILITIES SERVICES (349)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GROUP CARE FACILITY (351)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MIGRANT LABOR CAMP (352)	0.03	0	0	343	294	343	299	1,186	93	1,279
HOUSING & PUB. BLDG. (353)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOBILE HOME AND PARK (354)	0.08	112	44	2,185	1,873	2,185	1,904	8,147	0	8,147
POOLS/BATHING PLACES (360)	0.08	0	0	1,944	1,667	1,944	1,695	7,250	0	7,250
BIOMEDICAL WASTE SERVICES (364)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TANNING FACILITY SERVICES (369)	0.03	0	0	305	262	305	266	1,138	0	1,138
Group Total	0.59	182	229	13,596	11,656	13,596	11,848	50,603	93	50,696
Groundwater Contamination										
STORAGE TANK COMPLIANCE SERVICES (355)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPER ACT SERVICES (356)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group Total	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Hygiene										
COMMUNITY ENVIR. HEALTH (345)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INJURY PREVENTION (346)	0.00	0	0	1,341	1,150	1,341	1,168	5,000	0	5,000
LEAD MONITORING SERVICES (350)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC SEWAGE (362)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICE (363)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SANITARY NUISANCE (365)	0.24	0	0	7,442	6,379	7,442	6,485	27,748	0	27,748
RABIES SURVEILLANCE (366)	0.15	1	24	4,519	3,874	4,519	3,939	16,851	0	16,851
ARBORVIRUS SURVEIL. (367)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RODENT/ARTHROPOD CONTROL (368)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WATER POLLUTION (370)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INDOOR AIR (371)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH (372)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOXIC SUBSTANCES (373)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group Total	0.39	1	24	13,302	11,403	13,302	11,592	49,599	0	49,599
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUBTOTAL	4.50	1,343	2,227	112,658	96,572	112,658	98,167	415,512	4,543	420,055
D. NON-OPERATIONAL COSTS:										
NON-OPERATIONAL COSTS (599)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURCHARGE (399)	0.00	0	0	5,050	4,329	5,050	4,401	18,830	0	18,830
MEDICAID BUYBACK (611)	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NON-OPERATIONAL COSTS SUBTOTAL	0.00	0	0	5,050	4,329	5,050	4,401	18,830	0	18,830
TOTAL CONTRACT	27.81	8,695	166,417	778,285	667,144	778,285	678,168	2,041,717	860,165	2,901,882

ATTACHMENT III
TRAINING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION CERTIFICATE

1. The CHD agrees to complete the Civil Rights Compliance Questionnaire, DH Forms 946 A and B (or the subsequent replacement if adopted during the contract period), if so requested by the Department.
2. The CHD assures that it will comply with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, P.L. 97-35, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and religion in programs and activities receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance.
3. Assurance of Civil Rights Compliance: The CHD hereby agrees that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.); Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 12131-12189) and as implemented by Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR Parts 35 and 36; Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" (August 11, 2000); all provisions required by the implementing regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (7 CFR Part 15 et seq.); and FNS directives and guidelines to the effect that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the agency receives Federal financial assistance from FNS; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.

By providing this assurance, the CHD agrees to compile data, maintain records and submit records and reports as required to permit effective enforcement of the nondiscrimination laws, and to permit Department personnel during normal working hours to review and copy such records, books and accounts, access such facilities, and interview such personnel as needed to ascertain compliance with the non-discrimination laws. If there are any violations of this assurance, the Department of Agriculture shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal financial assistance, grants, and loans of Federal funds, reimbursable expenditures, grant or donation of Federal property and interest in property, the detail of Federal personnel, the sale and lease of, and the permission to use Federal property or interest in such property or the furnishing of services without consideration or at a nominal consideration, or at a consideration that is reduced for the purpose of assisting the recipient, or in recognition of the public interest to be served by such sale, lease, or furnishing of services to the recipient, or any improvements made with Federal financial assistance extended to the Program applicant by USDA. This includes any Federal agreement, arrangement, or other contract that has as one of its purposes the provision of cash assistance for the purchase of food, and cash assistance for purchase or rental of food service equipment or any other financial assistance extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance.

This assurance is binding on the CHD, its successors, transferees, and assignees as long as it receives or retains possession of any assistance from the Department. The person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this assurance on the behalf of the CHD.

4. Confidentiality of Data, Files, and Records: The CHD agrees to restrict the use and disclosure of confidential USDA, Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) applicant and participant information as specified in 7 CFR § 246.26(d)(1)(i) in accordance with 7 CFR § 246.26(d)(1)(ii), as applicable.

Attachment IV

Fiscal Year - 2025 - 2026

Suwannee County Health Department

Facilities Utilized by the County Health Department

Complete Location (Street Address, City, Zip)	Facility Description And Official Building Name (if applicable) (Admin, Clinic, Envrn Hlth, etc.)	Lease/ Agreement Number	Type of Agreement (Private Lease thru State or County, other - please define)	Complete Legal Name of Owner	SQ Feet	Employee Count (FTE/OPS/ Contract)
915 Nobles Ferry Road, Live Oak, 32064	CHD	County	County	Suwannee County	13,878	31

Facility - a fixed site managed by DOH/CHD personnel for the purpose of providing or supporting public health services. Includes county-owned, state-owned, and leased facilities. Includes DOH/CHD warehouse and administrative sites. Includes facilities managed by DOH/CHD that may be shared with other organizations. Does not include schools, jails or other facilities where DOH/CHD staff are out-posted or sites where services are provided on an episodic basis.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Barry Baker
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Synopsis: Consider approval for destruction of Clerk and County records according to Florida Statutes.

OBJECTIVE:

To have the Board of County Commissioners authorize destruction of Clerk and County records that have met their retention period as required in Section 28.31 of the Florida Statutes, Rule 1B-24 of the Florida Administrative Code, and elsewhere.

CONSIDERATION:

The attached Records Disposition Requests reflect specific Clerk and County records that have met their retention period as provided by the General Records Schedules for State and Local Government Agencies and are now eligible for destruction. Before the records are destroyed, the office(s) must have the Board's approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners review the information presented by the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and approve destruction of records found on Clerk Records Disposition Request Number 49, consisting of two pages; and County Records Disposition Request Number 29, consisting of one page.

September 29, 2025

Prepared By:




**ERIC MUSGROVE
DEPUTY CLERK**

For: **BARRY BAKER
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

RECORDS DISPOSITION DOCUMENT# **Clerk 49**Page 1 of 2 pages**AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS:**Suwannee County Clerk of the Circuit Court
200 South Ohio Avenue
Live Oak, FL 32064**AGENCY CONTACT (NAME AND PHONE #)**Eric Musgrove
Records Manager
386.362.0564**NOTICE OF INTENTION:** The scheduled records listed below are to be disposed of in the manner checked below:☐ Microfilming and Destruction☒ x

Destruction

☐ Other**SUBMITTED BY:** I hereby certify that the records to be disposed of are correctly represented below, that any audit requirements for the records have been fully justified, and that further retention is not required for any litigation pending or imminent.

Signature

Barry A. Baker Suwannee County Clerk of Court

Name and Title

Date

9-25-25

LIST OF RECORD SERIES

Schedule Item	Item No.	Title	Retention	Inclusive Dates	Volume in Cubic Feet	Disposition Action and Date Completed After Authorization
GS1-SL	25	Advertisements: Legal	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	380	Annual Report to the BCC	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	116	Attendance and Leave Records	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	8	Audits: Auditor General	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	56	Audits: Independent	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	73	Audits: Internal	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	83	Audits: State/Federal	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	57	Audits: Supporting Documents	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	70	Bid Records: Capital Improvement Successful Bids	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	71	Bid Records: Capital Imp Unsuccessful Bids	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	72	Bid Records: Non-Capital Improvement	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	88	Budget Records: Supporting Documents	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	334	Committee/Board Appointment Records	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	64	Contracts/Leases/Agreements: Capital Improvement/Real Property	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	65	Contracts/Leases/Agreements: Non-Capital Imp	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	17	Correspondence and Memoranda: Administrative	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	338	Correspondence and Memoranda: Program and Policy Development	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	229	Disaster Preparedness Plans	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	321	Disaster Relief Records	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	340	Disbursement Records: Detail	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	341	Disbursement Records: Summary	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	264	Electronic Funds Transfer Records	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	20	Encumbrance/Certification Forward Records	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	270	Facility Reservation/Rental Records	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	106	Feasibility Study Records	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	271	Fee/Service Schedules	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	84	Financial Account Authorization Records	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	346	Financial Disclosure Statements (Local Gov)	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	107	Financial Reports: Annual (Local Gov)	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	108	Financial Reports: Annual (Local Gov): Supporting Docs	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	435	Financial Transaction Records: Detail	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	436	Financial Transaction Records: Summary	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	422	Grant Files	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	109	Grant Files: Grantor Agency	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	348	Grant Files: Recipient	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	110	Grievance Files	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	23	Information Request Records	1 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2024		
GS1-SL	111	Insurance Records: Agency	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	40	Inventory: Agency Property	3 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2022		
GS1-SL	278	Investment Records	10 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2015		
GS1-SL	405	Lien Documentation Files	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	47	Mail: Registered and Certified	1 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2024		
GS1-SL	210	Ordinances: Supporting Documents	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	407	Passport Records: Daily	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	385	Payroll Records: Court-Ordered Garnishment	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		
GS1-SL	129	Payroll Records: Deduction Authorizations	5 FY	12/21/1858 - 9/30/2020		

[illegible]

RECORDS DISPOSITION DOCUMENT

NO. C029

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

1. AGENCY NAME and ADDRESS

Suwannee County Facilities Dept.
13150 30th Ter.
Live Oak, FL 32060

2. AGENCY CONTACT (Name and Telephone Number)

Paula Chaplinsky
(386) 364 - 6524 Ext.

3. NOTICE OF INTENTION: The scheduled records listed in Item 5 are to be disposed of in the manner checked below (specify only one).

☐ a. Destruction ☐ b. Microfilming and Destruction ☒ c. Other Digitization & Destruction

4. SUBMITTED BY: I hereby certify that the records to be disposed of are correctly represented below, that any audit requirements for the records have been fully justified, and that further retention is not required for any litigation pending or imminent.

Paula Chaplinsky Signature Paula Chaplinsky, Administrative Aide Name and Title 9-30-25 Date

5. LIST OF RECORD SERIES

a. Schedule No.	b. Item No.	c. Title	d. Retention	e. Inclusive Dates	f. Volume In Cubic Feet	g. Disposition Action and Date Completed After Authorization
GSISL	435	Financial Transaction Records	5 yrs	05/20/21 - 09/30/21	.20	Digitized 9-24-25
GSISL	435	Financial Transaction Records	5 yrs	10/01/21 - 09/30/22	.20	
GSISL	435	Financial Transaction Records	5 yrs	10/01/22 - 09/30/23	.20	
GSISL	435	Financial Transaction Records	5 yrs	10/01/23 - 09/30/24	.20	
GSISL	435	Financial Transaction Records	5 yrs	10/01/24 - 09/30/25	.20	

6. DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATION: Disposal for the above listed records is authorized. Any deletions or modifications are indicated.

Custodian/Records Management Liaison Officer Date

7. DISPOSAL CERTIFICATE: The above listed records have been disposed of in the manner and on the date shown in column g.

Signature Date

Name and Title

Witness

Executive Summary

911 Addressing

Description: Contribution for Call Taker Salaries

Contribution in the amount of \$50,000.00 to the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office, to be used only for Call Taker Salaries.

Requested Action: Respectfully request the approval of the contribution in the amount of \$50,000.00, to be used only for Call Taker Salaries.

Budget Impact: This is a budgeted item and will be funded using 911 current year revenues.

Respectfully submitted:

Dated: October 7, 2025

Jennifer Payne
E911/ GIS Coordinator

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Administration

Executive Summary

Objective:

Appointment of Ronald Meeks to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Task Force to replace Shannon Roberts.

Considerations:

The CATF is required to have a minimum of five (5) members.

Former member Shannon Roberts has formally resigned from the CATF.

The appointment of a new member to fill Mr. Robert's space is required.

Budget Impact:

N/A

Recommendation:

Staff respectfully requests that the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners approve the appointment of Ronald Meeks to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Task Force to replace Shannon Roberts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 7, 2025

Jason Furry,
Interim County Administrator

SUWANNEE COUNTY

County Attorney
Executive Summary

Objective:

Transfer Collected Teen Court Assessment funds equally to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter

Considerations:

- Suwannee County had imposed a mandatory \$3.00 court cost to be imposed in criminal and traffic cases to support a teen court program.
- Last year, the BOCC repealed the authorization to collect the \$3.00 teen court assessment as the teen court program had been dormant for years.
- Despite the repeal, the teen court assessment was imposed as part of court judgments until earlier this year.
- It is not possible to amend the court judgments to remove the imposition of the teen court assessment.
- Even if the funds had not been erroneously assessed after the repeal, funds would continue to accrue with the Clerk as part of Court judgments imposed prior to the repeal.
- As of September 25, 2025, the Clerk was in possession of \$20,927.53 of teen court assessment funds.
- The Florida Clerk of Court Operations Corporation gave guidance to our Clerk that – since the funds cannot be used for the statutory purpose of supporting a teen court program – they be used to support youth diversion programs in the area as that is a use which is consistent with funding a diversion program like teen court.
- The Clerk recommends the money be split equally between the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter.

Recommendation

- Enact the proposed resolution so the funds can be put to use in a manner consistent with Florida Statutes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Adam Morrison
County Attorney

SUWANNEE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
BALANCE SHEET AS OF 9/25/2025

STANDARD BALANCE SHEET

ACCT #		YTD AMOUNT
	TEEN COURT	
	ASSETS	
170-101-101	CASH IN BANK-TEEN COURT	3,461.01
	TOTAL ASSETS	3,461.01
	LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	
170-271-000	FUND BALANCE	10,430.09
170	FUND BALANCE/NET	6,969.08-
	TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALAN	3,461.01

9-25-25
Total to move to
#64 Fine & Forfeiture
\$ 3461.01

Prior Balance moved
as of 5-30-25 was
\$17,466.52

SUWANNEE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
Simple Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 9/25/2025
For Fiscal Year: 2025 thru Month: Sep
Fund: 170 TEEN COURT

Account Number	Account Title	Ending Bal	Net Amount
170-101-101	CASH IN BANK-TEEN COURT	3,461.01	
	** TOTAL ASSET**		3,461.01
	** TOTAL LIABILITY**		0.00
170-271-000	FUND BALANCE	10,430.09	
	** TOTAL EQUITY**		10,430.09
	** TOTAL REVENUE**		6,863.51-
	** TOTAL EXPENSE**		105.57
	TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY		3,461.01

0.*

3,461.01+
17,466.52+
20,927.53*

9-25-25
\$ 20,927.53
Total Teen Court Rev

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF COURT TO
DISTRIBUTE COLLECTED TEEN COURT ASSESSMENTS TO
THE FLORIDA YOUTH RANCHES AND POLICE ATHLETIC
LEAGUE, SUWANNEE COUNTY CHAPTER, WHICH ARE
YOUTH PROGRAMS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE
OPERATION OF A TEEN COURT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Florida Statute § 938.19 authorized the Board of County Commissioners to establish a mandatory court cost to operate and fund a teen court program. Teen Court was designed to be a youth diversion program to aid and provide services to juveniles who encounter the legal system early in life; and,

WHEREAS, the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners, in Suwannee County Ordinance 2006-01, assessed a \$3.00 mandatory court cost consistent with Florida Statute § 938.19(2) to be assessed in criminal and traffic cases to support a teen court program; and,

WHEREAS, the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners repealed the imposition of the \$3.00 teen court assessment in Suwannee County Ordinance 2024-02 because the teen court program had not been operational in Suwannee County for years; and,

WHEREAS, the funds from the \$3.00 assessment continue to be deposited with the Clerk due to errors in assessing judgments by the various Courts which included the \$3.00 fee after it was repealed; and,

WHEREAS, the Clerk and Courts have taken the appropriate steps to ensure the \$3.00 teen court assessment is no longer included in judgments prospectively; and,

WHEREAS, the \$3.00 teen court assessment will continue to be deposited with the Clerk for the foreseeable future due to ongoing payment of court costs which were imposed both before and after the teen court assessment was repealed; and,

WHEREAS, it is not possible to amend the court judgments which pre and post date the repeal of the \$3.00 teen court assessment and without amendment of the judgments, the Clerk of Court has a ministerial obligation to continue to collect the imposed assessments; and,

WHEREAS, as the Board of County Commissioners was the party that authorized the imposition of the funds, it is the party that must determine what to do with the teen court funds which can no longer be used for their statutory purpose; and,

WHEREAS, when it is not possible to spend the collected funds in the manner required by statute, the party responsible for the funds must allocate the funds in a manner that is most appropriate and consistent with the intended use; and,

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

WHEREAS, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (created and funded by the Florida Legislature to provide support, guidance and training to the 67 County Clerks of the State of Florida) recommended using the teen court funds to support teen diversion programs in the area; and,

WHEREAS, Suwannee County is fortunate to have two appropriate programs in the area, to wit: Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter; and,

WHEREAS, Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches provides a statewide network of residential and summer camps to offer services to at-risk youth. The flagship camp of Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches is in Suwannee County, and;

WHEREAS, the Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter, is based out of the Douglass Center in Live Oak, and provides mentoring, sports and academic activities between members of law enforcement and at-risk youth with the goal of strengthening community relations and preventing juvenile delinquency; and,

WHEREAS, giving the teen court assessment funds to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter, is a use that is consistent with the intended purpose of supporting teen court as all programs are diversion programs which are designed to help at-risk youth; and,

WHEREAS, as of September 25, 2025, the Clerk is in possession of \$20,927.53 of funds which have been collected as part of the teen court assessment; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners must further assign the teen court assessments which will continue to be collected over the years as court judgments are paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County Florida that all funds currently in possession of the Clerk of Court which were received pursuant to Florida Statute § 938.19 and Suwannee County Ordinance 2006-01 to support a teen court program are to immediately be distributed equally between the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any future funds which are received by the Clerk of Court pursuant to Florida Statute § 938.19 and Suwannee County Ordinance 2006-01 shall be distributed equally between the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and Police Athletic League, Suwannee County Chapter.

(REMAINDER OF PAGE RESERVED)

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

This resolution shall become effective upon its passing by the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED in regular session with a quorum present and voting, by the Board of County Commissioners this _____ day of October, 2025.

Attest:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Barry A. Baker
County Clerk

Travis Land
Chairperson

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.: _____

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Planning & Zoning

Executive Summary Appointment of Zoning Board Members

Objective: Reappointment of Linda Young and Cody Witt to serve as District 4 and District 5 representatives on the Suwannee County Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning & Zoning Board.

Considerations: Both members currently sit on the Zoning Board. Terms are just up for renewal.

Recommendation: We recommend approval of the appointment.

.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Meeks,

Development Services Director

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Administration

Executive Summary

Objective:

To renew the Agreement with Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC, for a twelve-month term for research, grant writing, and administering.

Considerations:

Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC (LPOT) is well-connected to various departments and agencies in Tallahassee.

The twelve-month term coincides with the County's fiscal year.

LPOT has extensive knowledge of grant processes and various types of grant availability.

LPOT has worked well with County staff and other consultants to develop additional opportunities with County staff.

Partnering with LPOT will allow additional flexibility for staff to work on other various grant prospects.

Budget Impact:

Terms remain the same.

Recommendation:

Staff respectfully recommends approval of the agreement with Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC, for research, grant writing, and administering.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 7, 2025

Jason Furry,
Interim County Administrator



MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Scott, County Administrator
Jason Furry, Assistant County Administrator

FROM: Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL, President & CEO
Tim Parson, DPL, Vice President
James Sowinski, MBA, Director of Grants Management

DATE: August 27, 2025

RE: Suwannee County Grant Services Memo – August 2025

Please find below a summary of grant management and compliance consulting services provided to Suwannee County during **August 2025**.

Grant Application and Management Consulting:

This past month, we provided additional information to the US Department of Transportation pertaining to the County's recently submitted US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application, and presented the County with project options for the current Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) cycle. Additionally, Liberty Partners drafted a grant options matrix for the regional sports complex, and will present this document to County staff upon completion.

As a follow-up to the USDOT SS4A application submitted on the County's behalf, the agency requested additional information concerning supplemental budget items. Liberty Partners worked with USDOT to ensure that the review team had all the requested information. This is a standard part of the review process, and helps Liberty Partners build rapport with agency staff which is greatly beneficial during the agreement and program management phases that follow an award.

Additionally, based on the direction of Assistant County Administrator Jason Furry, Liberty Partners began drafting an application for the RIF program for infrastructure at the regional emergency shelter complex. Our staff are currently working with the County to obtain required information such as cost estimates, location information, and infrastructure details, and look forward to working together to finalize this application prior to the September 5th deadline.

Please let us know if you have any questions on the above, and we look forward to our continued conversations regarding upcoming grants.

August 27, 2025

Page 2

Ongoing List of Grants Secured for Suwannee County		
Program	Project	Amount
Broadband MPCF Program	Douglass Center	\$ 1,121,292
Broadband MPCF Program	John Hale Building	\$ 808,614
Broadband MPCF Program	Branford Center	\$ 2,298,691
	TOTAL	<u>\$4,228,599</u>

cc: Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

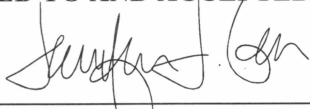


**CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES**

LIBERTY PARTNERS OF TALLAHASSEE, LLC & SUWANNEE COUNTY

1. *Client.* Our client in this matter is Suwannee County (the “Organization”). Both parties intend to extend Suwannee County Agreement No. 2022-99-01.
2. *Term of Engagement.* Both parties agree Suwannee County Agreement No. 2022-99-01 shall be extended for twelve (12) months from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026. All terms unless specified herein shall remain the same.
3. *Staffing.* Firm consultants involved in this engagement shall include the firm President, Vice President, Director of Grants Management, Director of Governmental Affairs, Director of Client Relations and the firm’s Economic Advisor. Other staff or consultants may be added to this engagement, at our cost, to fulfill our scope of services.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

By: 
Jennifer J. Green, President & Owner
Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC

Date: 9/18/2026

By: _____
Jason Furry
Interim County Administrator

Date: _____

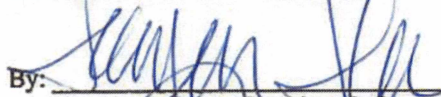


**CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR
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2. *Term of Engagement.* Both parties agree Suwannee County Agreement No. 2022-99-01 shall be extended for twelve (12) months from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. All terms unless specified herein shall remain the same.
3. *Staffing.* Firm consultants involved in this engagement shall include the firm President, Vice President, Director of Grants Management, Director of Governmental Affairs, Director of Client Relations and the firm's Economic Advisor. Other staff or consultants may be added to this engagement, at our cost, to fulfill our scope of services.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

By: 
Jennifer J. Green, President & Owner
Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC

Date: 10/22/2024

By: 
Greg Scott
County Administrator

Date: 10/15/24



Board of County Commissioners

13150 80th Terrace Live Oak, FL 32060
Travis Land, Chairman

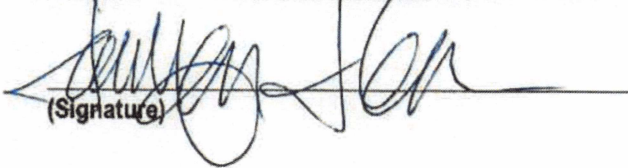
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFFIDAVIT

Affiant swears under pain and penalty of perjury that the company or entity does not use coercion for labor or services as defined by Florida Statute § 787.06 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC

(Company or Entity Name)

Affiant who is an Officer/Authorized Representative of Company or Entity:


(Signature)

10/16/2024

(Date)

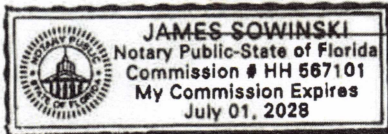
Jennifer J. Green

(Printed Name)

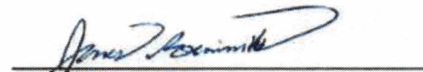
STATE OF Florida)

COUNTY OF Leon)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16 day of October, 2024 by
Jennifer J. Green, by means of physical presence and
☒ who is personally known to me or has produced
 as identification.



(NOTARY STAMP)


Notary Public
James Sowinski



January 31, 2023

The Honorable Franklin White
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Suwannee County
13150 80th Terrace
Live Oak, FL 32060

Dear Chairman White:

We would like to thank the Suwannee County Commission for their confidence in Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC (FEI/EIN #271494189). We are pleased to provide governmental consulting services for your consideration.

2023-24 CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1. *Client; Scope of Services.* Our client in this matter will be the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners (the "Organization"). We will be engaged to advise the Organization in connection with researching, writing, securing and management and compliance of federal and state related grant funding opportunities detailed in Attachment A.

2. *Term of Engagement.* The term of the engagement will be for eight (8) months beginning on February 1, 2023 and ending on September 30, 2023. It is not the intent of either the Organization or the firm to terminate this contract prior to September 30, 2024, but either of us may terminate the engagement without cause by a 30-day written notice. In the event that we terminate the engagement, we will take such steps as are reasonably practicable to protect the Organization's interests in the above matter and, if you so request, we will suggest to you a possible successor firm and provide it with whatever papers you have provided to us. Unless previously terminated, our representation of the Organization will terminate upon our sending you a final statement for services rendered in this matter. Following such termination, otherwise non-public information you have supplied to us which is retained by us will be kept confidential. At your request, your papers and property will be returned to you promptly upon receipt of payment for outstanding fees and costs.

January 31, 2023

Page 2

3. *Fees.* Based on the scope of services outlined in Attachment A, these services shall be retained at a rate of:

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GRANT RESEARCH:** The monthly retainer for these services will be \$2,500 per month.
- **GRANT WRITING:** The fee for this service will be based on the customary fee in the industry (1% of the amount of the grant application amount) or such other factors as the parties deem appropriate for the particular grant. The fee for each grant writing assignment will be agreed to by the parties prior to commencement of writing the particular grant as reflected in a County issued task order.
- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND GRANT COMPLIANCE:** The fee for this service will be based on the customary fee in the industry (5% of the amount of the grant award amount) or such other factors as the parties deem appropriate for the particular grant. The fee for each grant management and compliance assignment will be agreed to by the parties prior to undertaking management services as reflected in a County issued task order. The fee arrangement shall apply whether or not a particular grant prohibits a grant management fee.

Full payment is due promptly upon receipt of our statement. If this statement remains unpaid for more than 30 days, we may cease performing services for you until arrangements satisfactory to us have been made for payment of outstanding statements and the payment of future fees.

4. *Conflicts.* As we have discussed, you are aware that the firm represents many other companies, organizations and individuals. It is possible that during the time that we are representing the Organization, some of our present or future clients will have disputes or transactions with the Organization. The Organization agrees that we may continue to represent or may undertake in the future to represent existing or new clients in any matter that is not substantially related to our scope of services outlined in Attachment A even if the interests of such clients in those other matters are directly adverse to you. You should know that, in similar engagement letters with many of our other clients, we have asked for similar agreements to preserve our ability to represent you.

5. *Confidentiality.* From time to time, the firm may be provided with non-public or proprietary information related to the Organization in order to assist the firm in performing the services outlined in this contract. All such information, whether provided orally or in writing, shall be considered confidential unless subject to disclosure under Florida public records laws. The firm agrees not to disclose any such information to any person without your prior written consent and will provide prompt notice to you of any judicial or quasi-judicial demand for such information.

6. *Client Responsibilities.* The Organization agrees to cooperate fully with us and to provide promptly all information known or available to you relevant to our engagement as well as furnishing the firm with any forms required by the Organization to comply with Florida procurement laws. The Organization agrees to provide the firm with all pertinent information to draft the grant application, to sign off on final grant applications before submission, designating the firm as the point of contact for each grant application, as

2/16/2023

January 31, 2022

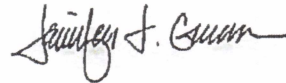
Page 3

appropriate, to maintain the role of awardee for all grant applications and adhere to any requirements as such. You also agree to pay our statements for services in accordance with paragraph 3.

7. *Staffing.* I will be the primary contact for this engagement along with Tim Parson, Vice President. As needed, we will engage other members of our firm including our Director of Grants Management, Director of Governmental Affairs or any other staff or consultants needed to fulfill the services outlined in this engagement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 528-8809 should you have any questions regarding the terms of our engagement. If you are in agreement with these provisions, please sign the contract and return it to my attention: Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC, P. O. Box 390, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

Sincerely,



Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED:

Suwannee County

By: 

Greg Scott
County Administrator

Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC

By: 

Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL
President & Owner

Date: 02.21.22

Date: 2/16/2023

Attachment A

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GRANT RESEARCH

This service includes holding initial discussions with Commissioners and staff to determine the priority projects for the County while keeping in mind the attractiveness of funders to regional or cooperative projects. This planning would also include discussions with the County's lobbyist to determine past and future appropriations projects and leveraging current funding as a match to other state grants. Key steps include:

- Identifying potential grant opportunities and determining eligibility requirements, deadline for application, timeline for funding and evaluating matching requirements, if any.
- Assisting in the development of a list of priorities and specific project funding requests (grants) for programs and priorities on the County's capital improvement plan.
- Identifying which of these priorities and specific project funding requests should be addressed at a particular agency and assist in developing written material on each request detailing the project scope, budgetary impact and the funding request amount.
- Researching, identifying and recommending potential state grant or funding opportunities appropriate for the County including those related to economic development and infrastructure.

The monthly retainer for these services will be \$2,500 per month.

2. GRANT WRITING:

This service includes coordinating with, and gathering information from, County vendors or staff such as engineers, planning departments or finance departments and having pre-application discussions with the awarding agencies prior to grant submission. Those agencies include, but are not limited to, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of State, Florida Department of Transportation and, as appropriate, the Suwannee River Water Management District. Key steps include, but are not limited to:

- Carefully assessing each funding opportunity to clearly understand each item requested in the grant application and any requirements for receipt of the award.
- Incorporating a case study of another similar program where funding was awarded and yielded a positive return on investment from that grantee, if applicable.
- Analyzing previously funded grant applications as a guide to develop an effective narrative for the application.

Each assignment for grant writing shall be made by task order issued by the County. Each grant writing assignment shall include a fee agreed to by the parties prior to commencement of writing the particular grant. The fee shall be based on the customary fee in the industry (1% of the amount of the grant application amount) or such other factors as the parties deem appropriate for the particular grant.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND GRANT COMPLIANCE

This service includes preparing the County's grant award reporting requirements to the awarding agency and coordinating with County staff to meet submission deadlines, reimbursement deadlines and vendor payments. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing the communication process between the organization and the awarding agency prior to grant application submission.
- Positioning the County with the awarding agency through long-term agency relationships.
- In consultation with the County Administrator and County Attorney, negotiate the grant agreement and terms with the awarding agency, on behalf of the County in the most favorable position to the County.
- Reviewing all terms and conditions of the grant award, including payment processes, cost sharing, and program income requirements.
- Supporting the County in meeting required procurement and public hearing deadlines.
- Setting up payment processes, tracking expenditures and preparation of reports of expenditures, preparation of the requests for funding to the agency, and preparation of all required interim grant program reports.
- Guiding the County through changes in budget or scope that affect continued grant eligibility and working with the awarding agency on the extension of grant award deadlines.
- Guiding the County through grant close out issues including preparation of final reports.

Each assignment for grant management and compliance shall be made by task order issued by the County. The fee for this service will be based on the customary fee in the industry (5% of the amount of the grant award amount) or such other factors as the parties deem appropriate for the particular grant. The fee for each grant management and compliance assignment will be agreed to by the parties prior to undertaking management services as reflected in a County issued task order. The fee arrangement shall apply whether or not a particular grant prohibits a grant management fee.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Suwannee County Commission Members

FROM: Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL, President
Tim L. Parson, DPL, Vice President
James Sowinski, Director of Grants Management

DATE: October 20, 2023

RE: Pre-Contract Renewal Update on Grant Application and Consulting Progress

Please find below a summary of professional consulting and grants compliance and monitoring services provided by Liberty Partners of Tallahassee (LPOT) to Suwannee County (the County) over the duration of our previous eight-month agreement (Suwannee Co. Agreement Number 2022-99-01).

This update includes the period from February 16, 2023 through October 2023. The update pertaining to our previous agreement covering the period from August 2, 2022 through January 2023 is also attached for reference.

As outlined in the agreement, LPOT's services for the County are categorized into three primary deliverable categories:

- Strategic Planning and Grant Research
- Grant Writing
- Project Management and Grant Compliance

Below is a summary of our activities as it relates to these categories, along with notes on correspondence and work outside the scope of these normal activities.

Strategic Planning and Grant Research

In addition to holding regular meetings with the County to discuss current projects and future funding opportunities, LPOT notified the County of the following grant opportunities via email and offered to assist in writing an application, should the County wish to move forward. For reference purposes, the date of correspondence on each item is included after the program name.

- **DEP Resilient Florida Program (September 1, 2023):** This program for projects that address flood risks that have been identified during previous vulnerability assessments and prioritizes solutions that address risks towards critical assets. Suwannee County is exempt from the match requirement due to their rural status. Awards vary greatly based on the scope of each project, but most fall in the \$600,000 to \$7,000,000 range.
- **US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program (April 13, 2023):** The US DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program provides funding for projects that develop, refine, or implement Action Plans to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Projects should consider all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, and commercial vehicle operators. Planning awards will range from \$100,000 to \$10 million, and implementation awards will fall between \$2.5 million and \$25 million. The applicant must contribute at least 20% of the project cost as a match, using non-federal sources. The application deadline was 5:00 PM EDT on Monday, July 10, 2023.
- **Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (April 13, 2023):** The Federal Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding for Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing Rehabilitation, and Commercial Revitalization program areas. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) also has funding available in the Economic Development program area for job creation and/or retention activities. Non-entitlement units of local government are not eligible to apply if they have an open CDBG subgrant in one of the three program areas. Awards generally range from \$600,000 to \$700,000.
- **US DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (April 13, 2023):** The US DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI Program) will provide local communities and other entities with funding to deploy publicly accessible Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, hydrogen fueling infrastructure, propane fueling infrastructure, and natural gas fueling infrastructure. The program includes a focus on rural areas as well as other federally defined disadvantaged communities. \$350 million will be offered nationwide for projects outside of Alternative Fuel Corridors, and grant awards may range from \$500,000 to \$15,000,000.
- **Department of Environmental Protection Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit (VCTC) Program (March 27, 2023):** This program awards tax credits to offset the cost of site rehabilitation or solid waste removal, and was recommended based on the County's efforts to develop a designated Brownfield Site.
- **DEO Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Refund (March 27, 2023):** This program offers a \$2,500 tax refund to businesses for each new job created on or abutting a site with a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement (BSRA). To qualify, the business must be a Qualified Target Industry (QTI) or make an eligible capital investment of at least \$2 million, create at least 10 jobs, and provide benefits to its employees. This program was

- also recommended based on the County's efforts to develop a designated Brownfield Site.

In addition to the items listed above that were communicated in writing, LPOT has discussed a variety of other state and federal programs during regular discussions with the County. Subsequent to being notified about several of these programs (including the CDBG program in writing, and the FWC Boating Improvement Program as discussed), the County chose to pursue funding and complete an application internally or through other means.

Grant Writing

LPOT recently submitted three separate grant projects through the Florida Commerce Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program.

These applications required a substantial application package requiring months of preparation and a wealth of supporting information for each project. Each of the three applications submitted consisted of a 22-page questionnaire, followed by fourteen separate attachment documents, totaling an average of approximately 80 pages per application.

A brief summary of each of these applications is noted below, along with the total request amount.

- **Douglass Center Community Facility Enhancement:** Using funds from the MPCF Grant Program, Suwannee County plans to undertake a complete redevelopment and renovation of the Douglass Center. As the last remaining structure that was once part of a historic African American school, this building is a living cornerstone and natural meeting point for many in the surrounding community. This is by far the County's top priority through this program, and an award would provide the County with \$1,121,292.76 towards the addition of telehealth facilities, multiple multi-purpose rooms, and a large computer lab and classroom. Using these resources, the County would be able to offer the surrounding community with education through UF IFAS and the County Health Department, job training through CareerSource North Florida, and telehealth visits through multiple providers.
- **Branford Community Facility Enhancement:** Suwannee County plans to purchase an existing privately-owned warehouse located in the Town of Branford and convert this facility into a usable community space through a full building renovation. If awarded, this grant will provide the County with \$2,298,691.90 towards the addition of a classroom, computer lab, telemedicine suite, multipurpose area, and volleyball court.
- **John Hale Building Community Facility Enhancement:** The existing county-owned John Hale Building is in deteriorating condition, and in need of upgrades to ensure it is suitable for future use. The application included a request of \$808,614.61 that would support a complete renovation of the space, including many of the same amenities listed as part of the Branford project above. This facility is located alongside one of the county's sports

October 20, 2023

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complexes, and is a highly competitive application due to this proximity to recreational facilities.

The total amount requested through these three applications is \$4,228,599.27. The Department of Commerce has indicated that there will be a window following the application period during which they will conduct outreach to applicants to obtain additional information. Following these conversations and the Department's 30-day review period, we are hopeful for a positive outcome as a result of our team and the County's tremendous efforts.

LPOT looks forward to pursuing additional grant opportunities, following the County's direction and approval.

Project Management and Grant Compliance

An updated Capital Improvements Plan is of the most important steps for any local community seeking to manage multiple projects concurrently.

Over the course of several months, LPOT worked towards getting an updated CIP list from the County, since the existing list was significantly out of date (Issued December 2016) and provided very little direction on which projects the County wishes to prioritize. An updated Capital Improvement List is incredibly helpful, as it allows us to research and isolate grant programs based on the County's greatest needs.

To assist the County in this process, LPOT created a seven-page Priority Capital Project List (attached) based on content mentioned during our regular meetings. This included a wide range of projects – everything from wastewater construction to resurfacing and bridge improvements, along with one or more grant opportunities that we identified for each option. This document was subsequently updated and distributed to the County again based on conversations and feedback.

In September, we were notified that the County had formally updated their Capital Improvement List. We are grateful for the direction that this document will provide and look forward to identifying grants consistent with the items included therein.

In addition to assisting the County in updating their Capital Improvements Plan, LPOT also conducted outreach to state and federal agencies including the US Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Commerce as needed to discuss specific matters brought forth by the County. These discussions included multiple conversations regarding the SAFER Grant, Department of Commerce Broadband Programs, as well as outreach related to the CDBG-ED program.

Additional Items

Liberty Partners is a step above other firms because we pride ourselves on providing the highest quality of service, personal attention, and individualized strategy to each client. To advance our common goals, we have gone above and beyond to remain in consistent communication with the

October 20, 2023

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County via email and phone, traveled to the County for site visits and other valuable engagements, and remained available at any hour of the day to assist whenever our services are needed.

To this end, we have traded dozens of calls with County staff, held numerous internal meetings to discuss how to best accomplish the County's priorities, communicated via email with the County on over 60 occasions, held bi-weekly discussions with County staff on a regular basis, met with the County virtually as needed, and traveled for in-person discussions on at least three occasions.

We are grateful for our continued teamwork, and look forward to help the County better accomplish their mission and objectives throughout the coming year.

**CC: Greg Scott, County Manager
Jimmy Norris, Chairman, North Florida Economic Development Partnership**



Suwannee County - Priority Capital Project List (Updated 7/5/2023)

Project Description	Project Cost	Request Amount	Potential Grant Opportunity	Priority
Catalyst Site - Wastewater Collection Line Construction	\$ 2,619,800		Potential alignment with DEP Wastewater Program. Looks like the county already identified this possibility as an option, and this alignment looks good. This grant program is provided to governmental entities for wastewater projects that reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan (BMAP), alternative restoration plan adopted by final order, or rural area of opportunity.	High
US 129 Corridor Infrastructure Improvements – This project includes water transmission mains, sewer mains, lift stations.	\$ 13,000,000 (Subject to change)		DEP Alternate Water Supply Grant – Supports projects that provide regional benefit, projects that benefit water bodies with adopted minimum flows or minimum water levels. Also provides funding for projects that provide dual benefits to water supply and quality or projects that complement the efforts of AWS and provide water conservation, flood protection, or recreational benefit. This may present the opportunity to partner with the City for construction of lift stations south of I-10, in proximity to the Walmart on US 129. This project also would align with the Rural Infrastructure Fund program, but the application would have to be submitted during the next funding cycle.	High
180 th Street Bridge Reconstruction – This project involves the reconstruction of a historic bridge that has structural repair	Unknown (Pending study and bridge design)		Potential match to FDOT Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). SCOP is available to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing road-related drainage improvements, resurfacing or reconstructing county roads, or constructing capacity safety improvements on county	Medium



Suwannee County - Priority Capital Project List (Updated 7/5/2023)

needs. The price of restoration is reasonably high due to the historic nature of the structure.			roads. Funds are available to counties that have a population of 200,000 or less.	
164 th Road Bridge Replacement (no funding sources identified by county)	Unknown		Potential match to FDOT Small County Outreach Program (SCOP). SCOP is available to assist small county governments in repairing or rehabilitating county bridges, paving unpaved roads, addressing road-related drainage improvements, resurfacing or reconstructing county roads, or constructing capacity safety improvements on county roads. Funds are available to counties that have a population of 200,000 or less.	Low
184 th Road Construction (no funding sources identified by county)	\$ 2,975,263.67		Potential match to FDOT Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) SCRAP assists small county governments in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads. Funds are available to counties that have a population of 75,000 or less per the 1990 US Census data.	Low
County Road 137 Reconstruction and Resurfacing	\$ 3,487,040.69		<p>Potential match to FDOT Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) SCRAP assists small county governments in resurfacing and reconstructing county roads. Funds are available to counties that have a population of 75,000 or less per the 1990 US Census data.</p> <p>Potential match to FDOT Transportation Regional Incentive Program - TRIP was created to improve regionally significant transportation facilities in "regional transportation areas". State funds are available throughout Florida to provide incentives for local governments and the private sector to help pay for critically needed projects that benefit regional travel and commerce. FDOT will pay</p>	High



Suwannee County - Priority Capital Project List (Updated 7/5/2023)

			up to 50 percent of the non-federal share of project costs for public transportation facility projects.	
Improvements to Suwannee County Airport	TBD (Based on Project)		Potential match to FDOT Aviation Grant Program - The Aviation Grant Program provides financial assistance to Florida's airports in the areas of safety, security, preservation, capacity improvement, land acquisition, planning, and economic development. Program funds assist local governments and airport authorities in planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining public-use aviation facilities.	Low
Trail Lighting and Crosswalk Improvements (Live Oak/Branford)	TBD		US DOT SAFER/SS4A Grant Program, Potential match to other US DOT and FDOT grant programs (TBD)	
Historic Douglass Center Site (Building previously demolished)	TBD (Based on Project)		<p>Possible DEO Community Planning Technical Assistance Project – Appears to be ideal for this project due to the fact that the community has not yet reached a conclusion regarding what they want to do with the site.</p> <p>CPTA grants provide counties, municipalities, and regional planning councils the opportunity to create innovative plans and development strategies to promote a diverse economy, vibrant rural and suburban areas, and meet statutory requirements for planning, while also</p>	Low



Suwannee County - Priority Capital Project List (Updated 7/5/2023)

		<p>protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Awards are typically \$40,000-\$50,000.</p> <p><i>Depending on what they would like to do with the site, the following grants may also be considered:</i></p> <p>DEO Community Development Block Grant - The project must either benefit low- and moderate-income persons, eliminate slum and blight, or address an urgent need. The project must also support Economic Development, Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing Rehabilitation, or Commercial Revitalization. It has not yet been announced, but there may be an upcoming funding cycle for this program before next year.</p> <p>DOS African American Cultural and Historical Grant – The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for construction projects at facilities in Florida that highlight the contributions, culture, or history of African-Americans.</p> <p>Priority shall be given for, but is not limited to, projects that encourage the design or construction of a new facility or the renovation of an existing facility in an area with great cultural significance in which no facility exists, enhance the beauty or aesthetic value of facilities named for significant African-Americans, or restore facilities on the National Register of Historic Places. Awards are up to \$500,000 with no match, or \$1,000,000 with 50% match from other sources.</p>	
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Suwannee County - Priority Capital Project List (Updated 7/5/2023)

			<p>DOS Library Construction Grants - Funds provided may be used to cover the cost of construction projects that result in a completed library facility. Awards may be up to \$500,000, but require a 1:1 match.</p> <p>DEP Florida Recreation Development Program - Provision of outdoor recreational sites and facilities for the use and benefit of the public. No match required for projects \$50,000 or less. 50% match required for projects up to \$200,000 (maximum award). Would have to wait until next summer to apply.</p>	
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FDOT Work Plan Items:

I64TH ST. OVER LITTLE RIVER BRIDGE NO374004		BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
I80TH STREET OVER LITTLE RIVER BRIDGE NO374002		BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
CR137 FROM SR10(US90) TO CR136		WIDEN/RESURFACE EXIST LANES
CR250 FROM I93RD ROAD TO SR51		WIDEN/RESURFACE EXIST LANES
CR49 FROM CR252 TO US90		WIDEN/RESURFACE EXIST LANES
D2-SUWANNEE COUNTY TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT		TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SYSTEM
I-10(SR8) @ SR51(US129)	SIS	INTERCHANGE - ADD LANES
I-10(SR8) FROM SR10(US90) TO SR51(US129)	SIS	RESURFACING
I-10(SR8) SUWANNEE COUNTY EASTBOUND REST AREA	SIS	LANDSCAPING



Suwannee County - Priority Capital Project List (Updated 7/5/2023)

SUWANNEE COUNTY AIRPORT - PURCHASE NEW AIRFIELD EQUIPMENT	AVIATION REVENUE/OPERATIONAL
SUWANNEE COUNTY APT DESIGN & CONSTRUCT AVGAS FUEL FARM PFL0013232	AVIATION REVENUE/OPERATIONAL
SUWANNEE COUNTY APT OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL PFL12463	AVIATION SAFETY PROJECT
SUWANNEE COUNTY APT PURCHASE JET A FUEL TRUCK	AVIATION REVENUE/OPERATIONAL
SUWANNEE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX-RAIL CROSSING REPAIR	RAIL PRESERVATION PROJECT
SUWANNEE COUNTY MASTER PLAN/ALP UPDATE PFL12466	AVIATION CAPACITY PROJECT
SUWANNEE COUNTY RESURFACING RESERVE BOX	FUNDING ACTION
SUWANNEE COUNTY ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
SUWANNEE COUNTY ROUTINE MAINTENANCE - INTERSTATE	ROUTINE MAINTENANCE



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Franklin White

FROM: Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL, President
Tim L. Parson, DPL, Vice President
James Sowinski, Director of Grants Management

DATE: January 17, 2023

RE: Summary of Professional Governmental Consulting and Grant Research Services

Please find below a timeline of grant research services provided by Liberty Partners of Tallahassee, LLC ("**LPOT**") to Suwannee County (the "County") since the formal execution of our agreement on Tuesday, August 2nd 2022.

To date, all work has been provided to the County at no cost.

- On Tuesday, August 2nd, LPOT attended the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners meeting to discuss our role and support the County's adoption of a formal agreement with LPOT.
- On Friday, August 26th, LPOT traveled to the County to meet with several members of the Board of County Commissioners, the former County Manager, Suwannee County Economic Development Office, and representatives from County staff and the City of Live Oak. This discussion allowed LPOT the opportunity to learn about the history of the County's development efforts to date.
- On Friday, September 9th, LPOT followed up with the County with a list of suggested grant opportunities that corresponded with the County's projects and outstanding needs. Since many of the grants follow the state fiscal year cycle, the focus of our work concerns opportunities that are offered in mid-2023.
- During September, LPOT conducted outreach to DEP to assess the status of the DEP Resiliency Grant Application that was previously submitted by the County.
- Throughout the month of October, LPOT held several internal meetings to discuss grant strategy for the County. Additionally, the County contacted DEO to learn more about the Broadband Capital Improvements program, which will be funded sometime in 2023 and may benefit the County directly.

- LPOT spoke with FDOT during the month of October to discuss several of the County's projects, and requested authorization from the County to add LPOT as a contact for purposes of communication with FDOT.
- In late October, James Sowinski with LPOT spoke with the Chief Professional Engineer at Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD). This conversation helped LPOT ascertain the availability of funding for capacity projects within the County. During this discussion, LPOT introduced SRWMD to many of Suwannee's needs surrounding the Catalyst Site.
- On Friday, November 18th, LPOT attended the North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP) Board of Directors and General Membership meeting. This meeting, which was also attended by representatives of the County, gave LPOT the opportunity to network with individuals involved in private sector economic development efforts. Jennifer Green, LPOT's president, also spoke on legislative issues that would affect the County and other areas in North Florida during the upcoming year.
- On Tuesday, December 6th, LPOT attended the Suwannee County Commission Meeting and spoke on the firm's ability to handle federal grant opportunities if the need arose based on County personnel changes.
- On Wednesday, December 14th, LPOT met with the County and Florida Gulf and Atlantic Railroad to discuss funding opportunities for a rail crossing and turn lane extension at the Catalyst Site.
- On Thursday, December 22nd, James Sowinski with LPOT met with the County virtually to discuss the RAISE grant, its applicability to the railroad's needs within the Catalyst Site, and other transportation issues surrounding the site. Prior to this meeting, LPOT spoke with representatives from US DOT to help answer some of the County's previous questions regarding the RAISE program. LPOT was able to offer a detailed overview of this program, and offer guidance concerning the eligibility of various projects.
- On Tuesday, December 20th, LPOT attended the Suwannee County Commission Meeting. During this meeting, the County authorized LPOT to apply for a Federal DOT RAISE Grant or State Appropriation Request for the construction of 184th Street.
- In early January, LPOT contacted Shannon Roberts with the County to learn more about the fire suppression and life safety needs surrounding the Catalyst Site, and gain additional information about the long-term plans for this project and nearby US-90 that will prove useful for future grant applications.

In addition to the items listed above, LPOT has remained in consistent communication with the County, serving as a valuable tool for consulting, and standing as the County's advocate during conversations with agencies, private sector entities, and within the halls of State Government. LPOT looks forward to our continued work with the County, and stands ready to help the County build the infrastructure needed for a pro-business climate, robust workforce, and long-term prosperity.

GENERAL BUSINESS:



Discuss, with possible Board action, the transfer of collected Florida Arts Specialty License Plate funds. (Ms. Chris Flanagan)

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

Executive Summary

Objective:

FWC is requesting comments on a springs protection zone on the Ichetucknee River

Considerations:

- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is considering whether or not a spring protection zone should be established on the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River in Columbia/Suwannee County, Florida. Specifically, the request is from the Ichetucknee Springs State Park boundary to the confluence at the Santa Fe River.
- FWC is required by statute to consult and coordinate with the water management district, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the governing bodies in which the spring protection zone being considered is located.
- The FWC is requesting feedback from Suwannee County regarding this request, specifically regarding whether or not the available evidence demonstrates significant harm (to include negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species) predominately caused by the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels such that a spring protection zone is necessary and appropriate in the requested area.
- The FWC would like feedback about the need for this spring protection zone by 10/24/2025.

Budget Impact:

No Budget Impact

Recommendation:

For the board to discuss if they would like to provide a comment to FWC on the proposed springs protection zone.

Respectfully submitted,

October 2, 2025

Alden Rosner
Suwannee Parks and Recreation

SUWANNEE

Parks & Recreation

Alden Rosner <arosner@suwanneeparks.com>

FW: Request for Springs Protection Zone- Ichetucknee River

Cook, Madison B. <MadisonB.Cook@myfwc.com>

Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 9:09 AM

To: "Pasawicz, Michelle" <Michelle.Pasawicz@myfwc.com>, "Mallison, Craig" <craig.mallison@myfwc.com>, "Guy.Means@FloridaDEP.gov" <guy.means@floridadep.gov>, "Susanna.Hetrick@srwmd.org" <susanna.hetrick@srwmd.org>, "Cook, David" <David.Cook@myfwc.com>, "D07-SMB-Tampa-WWM@uscg.mil" <d07-smb-tampa-wwm@uscg.mil>, "Nagid, Eric" <eric.nagid@myfwc.com>, "arosner@suwanneeparks.com" <arosner@suwanneeparks.com>, "town@fortwhitefl.com" <town@fortwhitefl.com>, "Jessica.Patronis@FloridaDEP.gov" <jessica.patronis@floridadep.gov>, "bccadmin@columbiacountyfla.com" <bccadmin@columbiacountyfla.com>, "Chuck.Hatcher@FloridaDEP.gov" <chuck.hatcher@floridadep.gov>, "Moir.Homann@FloridaDEP.gov" <moira.homann@floridadep.gov>, "John.p.fellows@usace.army.mil" <John.p.fellows@usace.army.mil>, "John.Palmer@usace.army.mil" <John.Palmer@usace.army.mil>, "Savoia, Caity" <Caitlyn.Savoia@myfwc.com>
Cc: "Bryant, Rachel" <rachel.bryant@myfwc.com>

All,

Thank you to those who took the time to join Captain Bryant and I yesterday in the meeting, we hope it was beneficial for you all.

As requested, I have added in the documents showing the rule/statutory language change in the Google Drive. Also, we have received **additional videos and photos** from the submitter, it has now been added into the Google Drive as well. Below is a recap of my original email, along with the requested date for your feedback on this matter.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is considering whether or not a spring protection zone should be established on the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River in Columbia/Suwannee County, Florida. Specifically, the request is from the Ichetucknee Springs State Park boundary to the confluence at the Santa Fe River. All spring protection zones must be established in accordance with section 327.45 Florida Statutes and rule 68D-24.0035, Florida Administrative Code. The statutory language was revised as of July 1, 2025, and the FWC is in the process of revising the FAC to reflect the new statutory changes, those revisions were approved at the August Commission meeting. The *revisions* to the statutory language are copied below and the approved rule language is attached for reference.

*Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 327.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 327.45 Protection zones for springs.— (2) The commission may establish by rule protection zones that restrict the speed and operation of vessels, or that prohibit or modify the allowable means of anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels, to protect and prevent **significant** harm to first, second, and third magnitude springs and springs groups, including their associated spring runs, as determined by the commission using the most recent Florida Geological Survey springs bulletin. **Significant harm** includes negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species where the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of **vessels is determined to be the predominant cause of negative impacts.***

You are being contacted about this matter because FWC is required by statute to consult and coordinate with the water management district, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the governing bodies in which the spring protection zone being considered is located. If the zone includes navigable waters, the commission will also coordinate with the United State Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

FWC has also gathered all known available evidence that a spring protection zone may be necessary in the requested area in accordance with the law. If you or your agency has additional evidence of the type and nature identified in the above laws relevant to consideration of this spring protection zone, please provide it to us for consideration and so we can share with others reviewing these documents. The FWC is requesting feedback from your agency/county regarding this request, specifically regarding whether or not the available evidence demonstrates significant harm (to include negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species) predominately caused by the operation,

anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels such that a spring protection zone is necessary and appropriate in the requested area. The statute and rule allow for restrictions of speed and operation of vessels along with prohibiting anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels. Please note in your feedback which of these restrictions, if any, is supported by the available evidence. If you are not the correct person to consider this request and provide feedback, please forward as needed and let me know who future updates or requests in this area should be routed to.

The files relevant to this request are too large to send as an attachment but will be provided via Google Drive (SPZ Google Drive). Please let me know if you have any issue accessing the folder.

The **2025 Second Request** folder will have the most recent request within it. The **2022 First Request** folder will have the evidence which was submitted with the original request.

We would like to have your thoughts about the need for this spring protection zone by 10/24/2025.

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

Rule language -Notice of proposed 68D-24.0035 SPZ-062425.doc
32K



68D-24.0035 (1).doc
34K

Date: July 29, 2025

To: Captain Rachel Bryant (Rachel.bryant@myfwc.com)
Major Bill Holcomb (William.holcomb@myfwc.com)
Rob Klepper (Robert.klepper@myfwc.com)

From: Linda L. Weseman

Subject: Request to Create a Springs Protection Zone on the Lower Ichetucknee River

Current recreational use by motorized vessels on the lower half of the Ichetucknee spring run is resulting in shoreline erosion and turbidity that is detrimental to the overall health of the spring run. These issues are primarily and predominantly caused by motorboats and personal watercrafts (PWCs). It is recommended that the Commission establish a Springs Protection Zone that creates a no wake zone on the Ichetucknee from the boundary of Ichetucknee Springs State Park to the confluence at the Santa Fe River, the "lower Ichetucknee". It is additionally recommended that personal watercrafts, PWCs, be restricted from operating on this section of the Ichetucknee spring run.

The purpose of establishing a no wake zone on the lower Ichetucknee is to reduce shoreline turbidity and erosion, stabilize the sediment on the river bottom and shoreline, and promote macrophyte photosynthesis to reestablish a healthy and diverse aquatic plant ecosystem. This action would provide remediation of a spring run suffering degradation due to motorboat and PWC disturbance and damage. It would also serve to reduce the risk of injuries to protected West Indian Manatees, turtles, including the imperiled Suwannee Cooter, fish, and other wildlife. Establishing a no wake zone will additionally decrease the risk of hazardous interactions between motorboats and tubers, paddle craft, snorkelers, and swimmers, including the risk of injury or death.

There is an urgent need for the restriction of PWCs on the bottom half of the spring run to provide for human safety, while minimizing the adverse effects of turbidity and erosion. Typical operation of PWCs at high speeds in the shallow, narrow run presents a significant threat to the safety of swimmers, tubers, and paddlers – the predominant users of the spring run in both the upper protected segment within Ichetucknee Springs State Park, and the lower unprotected segment. Furthermore, the operation of jet propulsion engines in shallow water, even at minimum speeds, creates shoreline turbidity and erosion. The dramatically increased weekend and holiday use of PWCs on the lower Ichetucknee in combination with wakes created by motorized vessels of all types, are the primary and predominant cause of shoreline turbidity and erosion negatively impacting the spring run ecosystem, denuding it submerged vegetation, and threatening its most prominent inhabitant, the manatee.

Background

The Ichetucknee River is a unique six mile spring run, internationally renowned for its clear water and natural beauty. It flows from the first magnitude headspring in Ichetucknee Springs State Park to the Santa Fe River. The lower Ichetucknee spring run is approximately three miles long, beginning at the southern boundary of Ichetucknee Springs State Park near the US 27 bridge. The spring run serves as the border between Suwannee and Columbia counties. A scenic rails-to-trails trail crosses over the river via a historic arched trestle, along the abandoned railbed of the Savannah & Western Railroad. Beneath the arch, still within the jurisdiction of the state park, the river runs over shallow rapids – a blind passage and potential zone of lethal collisions between high speed PWCs and kayakers and canoeists. Downstream, the riparian properties on the lower segment of the spring run are privately owned and are primarily residential in nature with the exception of a short stretch just below the US 27 bridge and railroad trestle on the Suwannee County side that is owned by Ichetucknee Springs State Park.

The Ichetucknee River provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including the threatened West Indian Manatee, the iconic Longnose Gar (which preferentially spawns on spring run aquatic vegetation), otters, beavers, alligators, a variety of shore birds, and turtles and is believed to be a nursery for the imperiled Suwannee Cooter (Johnston). Wildlife watching and photography is a major activity engaged in by tens of thousands of tubing and paddling visitors annually. The flora and fauna of the overall spring run are threatened by unrestricted access and ecosystem degradation by motorized vessels on the lower, unprotected segment of the spring run. That vulnerable section is the shallow and narrow migratory corridor of the manatee in its daily movements up and down the spring run from within the state park down to the Santa Fe River confluence. Motorized vessels represent a significant threat to the manatee, especially high speed vessels capable of inflicting deep lacerations from props and broken ribs from high speed impacts. Motorized vessels are also the primary and predominant cause of shoreline turbidity which impacts macrophytes and benthic organisms and causes shoreline erosion.

No Wake Zone

The lower Ichetucknee is currently accessible to all motorized vessels traveling at safe speeds and is not a no wake zone, though most residents in the area believe it to be so and do maintain a minimum wake. The vessels traversing the lower Ichetucknee on plane or at higher speeds result in shoreline turbidity and erosion and pose a danger to other recreational users, including paddle craft, tubers, and swimmers. No wake zones have been determined to effectively reduce the impact of boats on aquatic plants (Asplund and Cook 1999).

Personal Watercrafts

PWC use on the lower Ichetucknee primarily consists of individuals visiting the area with many vessels launching at either Ellie Ray's or Sandy Point marinas in Branford, Florida and a small portion

of vessels being based on the Ichetucknee and Santa Fe rivers. Many of these PWCs are engaged in organized group rides which can include anywhere from 20 to several hundred vessels. An organized ride in April, 2025 brought over 100 PWCs up the lower Ichetucknee on a single day, including a single group of over 20 vessels. Many of these riders seek the adrenaline rush of “running the bridge”, accelerating rapidly to traverse the railroad and US 27 bridges (See video - 04212025 Shoreline and Wake: <https://youtu.be/HXkvQfBwiAE>). The thrill is enhanced by running it blind with an obstructed view of oncoming traffic.

PWCs have the unique ability to navigate most areas of the Ichetucknee spring run, including the shoreline, often at higher speeds, and are observed to do so on a regular basis (See video - 06242025 Jetski Donut.mp4: <https://youtu.be/W32g9ehHVPo>). This observed behavior by PWCs contradicts the Boat U.S. Foundation’s advice that users operating PWCs should keep clear of shallow water. Because PWCs can be operated in shallow water at high speeds and in areas not usually frequented by boats, disturbance to wildlife may be more of a concern than with other types of motorized watercraft. The turbulence produced by the jet propulsion system is known to disturb plant growth and sediments, especially during acceleration and turns when the thrust is downward (Asplund). It is common for PWCs to traverse the entire length of the lower Ichetucknee to “run the bridge”, accessing the lower section of Ichetucknee Springs State Park and often traveling as far up as the Last Takeout for the tube run (See Figure 1). As the vessels “run the bridge”, significant acceleration is required to overcome the swift current, destroying the submerged aquatic vegetation, SAV, in the very shallow region immediately below the bridge, including an established field of eelgrass, and in the sections above the bridge. When this occurs, rafts of SAV, primarily eelgrass, can be observed floating downstream (See Figure 2 and see video - Jetski with Eelgrass: https://youtu.be/Qa8_2ibETek). In addition to damaging the river, these activities pose a grave danger for paddlers, tubers, and swimmers floating downstream under the bridge. Of note, the concessionaire in the state park has recently added a shuttle for guests choosing to paddle the full length of the Ichetucknee, continuing down the Santa Fe River to the pickup location at the US 129 bridge. These unsuspecting guests have limited ability to avoid a collision should a PWC choose to blindly accelerate under the bridge headed upstream as they float down.

The jet propulsion design of PWCs creates excessive turbidity under virtually all conditions, more so in shallow streams such as the lower Ichetucknee than in deep water. While most, not all, PWCs maintain low speeds until approaching the bridge, the design of these devices creates significant wakes (See Figure 3) in addition to disrupting the stream bed by the intake and jet output of the vessel (See video - 04172025 High Wake Approaching Kayak: <https://youtu.be/wlrhhkrTsQQ> and the associated shoreline turbidity - 04172025 Disturbed Shoreline: <https://youtu.be/gIIASogs-MA>). Observations indicate that PWCs create far greater turbidity on the lower Ichetucknee on a case by case basis than motorboats. Organized group outings multiply these effects many times over (See Figure 4). The wakes result in shoreline erosion, turbidity along the river bed and shoreline (See video - 07022024 Turbidity: https://youtu.be/UC3JOxQP_Y), and disrupt turtle basking (See Figure

5). Turtle basking is the primary mechanism used by many freshwater turtles to maintain their body temperature in a range that maximizes physiological performance. Reduction in metabolic rate decreases the rate of energy assimilation which could translate into reduced growth and reproductive output (Jain-Schlaepfer). In the 6 hours following disturbance of basking behavior by a motorboat wake, basking was 43.8% less than before the disturbance (Bulte).

PWCs are designed to be extremely maneuverable (See video - 04262025 Maneuvers: <https://youtu.be/cLZL15pQms>). Many of the PWCs will circle midstream waiting for their group to assemble, resulting in increased turbidity and a virtual brown out of the otherwise crystal clear river (See video – Shriners Convention: <https://youtu.be/7FbT3z2dMQY>). They are built for quick, sharp turns, low radius circling, and rapid acceleration. PWCs are only maneuverable with the throttle engaged. To maintain steerage, throttle must be applied (Boat U.S. Foundation). This design feature poses an inherent risk on the lower Ichetucknee where tubers, paddle craft, and swimmers share a narrow channel with motorized vessels, including PWCs (See Figure 6). The design of PWCs in which the vessel must accelerate on a narrow, often crowded river to maneuver around tubers is exceedingly dangerous.

PWCs impact macrophytes both directly through contact with the boat hull or jet intake and indirectly through turbidity and wave damage. Whole plants can be uprooted by operation in shallow water. Beaching PWCs, a practice commonly observed on the lower Ichetucknee, can crush or damage macrophytes and cause damage to the shoreline (See Figure 7 and see video - 04262025 Beaching in macrophytes: <https://youtu.be/DCp7SBDCYmA>). Boat U.S. Foundation urges PWC users to avoid beaching where macrophytes are located, educating users that these plants are essential to the ecosystem because they control erosion and provide a nursery ground for animals vital to the food chain, such as crustaceans, mollusks, and small fish. In spite of this urging from within the industry, PWCs commonly beach on the lower Ichetucknee, causing damage to this fragile ecosystem.

Due to the vessel design and observed operator's behavior, PWCs are prohibited in units of the National Park System except in certain designated areas (Federal Register). Likewise, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has restricted the use of PWCs within the sanctuary because they pose a unique and significant threat to sanctuary habitats and wildlife. Frequently observed PWC behavior on the Ichetucknee warrants restricting PWCs from this fragile spring run for the same reasons (See video - Jet Ski Crashes into Dock: <https://youtu.be/ZIjTmGkgZ44>). It is significant that when environmental concerns were raised following a group sponsored ride on the lower Ichetucknee that involved over 100 PWCs, Jet Rider Nation Florida, members responded with laughing emojis and shrugs (See Figure 8), evidence that the PWC community is unwilling to police itself.

As presented above, it is requested that the FWC Commission establish a no wake zone on the lower Ichetucknee spring run and restrict PWCs from operating on the lower Ichetucknee spring run to prevent further harm and encourage recovery of the fragile ecosystem.

Citations

Asplund, T.R., 2000. The effects of motorized watercraft on aquatic ecosystems. PUBL-SS-948-00.

Asplund, T.R. and Cook, C.M. 1999. Can no-wake zones effectively protect littoral zone habitat from boating disturbance? *Lakeline*, 19(1): 16-18+.

Boat U.S. Foundation. 2025. Boat US Foundation for boating safety and clean water. Boatus.org.

Bulte, G; Leveillee, MB; Blouin-Demers, G; et al. 2020. Observations on the short-term effects of motorboat disturbance on the use of basking sites by female northern map turtles. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal* 19(2), 302-304.

EPA 841F21007D, July 2021. Factsheet on water quality parameters. Turbidity.

Federal Register. 40 CFR Part 9.

Hilton, J. and Phillips, G L. The effect of boat activity on turbidity in a shallow broadland river. *J. Appl. Ecol.* 19:143-150.

Jain-Schlaepfer S.M.R; Blouin-Demers, G;Cooke, S.J; Bulte, G. 2016. Do boating and basking mix? The effect of basking disturbances by motorboats on the body temperature and energy budget of the northern map turtle. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 27(2): 547-558.

Johnston, G.R; Mitchell, J.C.; Suarez, E.; et al, 2016. The Santa Fe River in northern Florida: Effect of habitat heterogeneity on turtle populations. *Bulletin of Florida Museum of Natural History* 54(5):69-103.

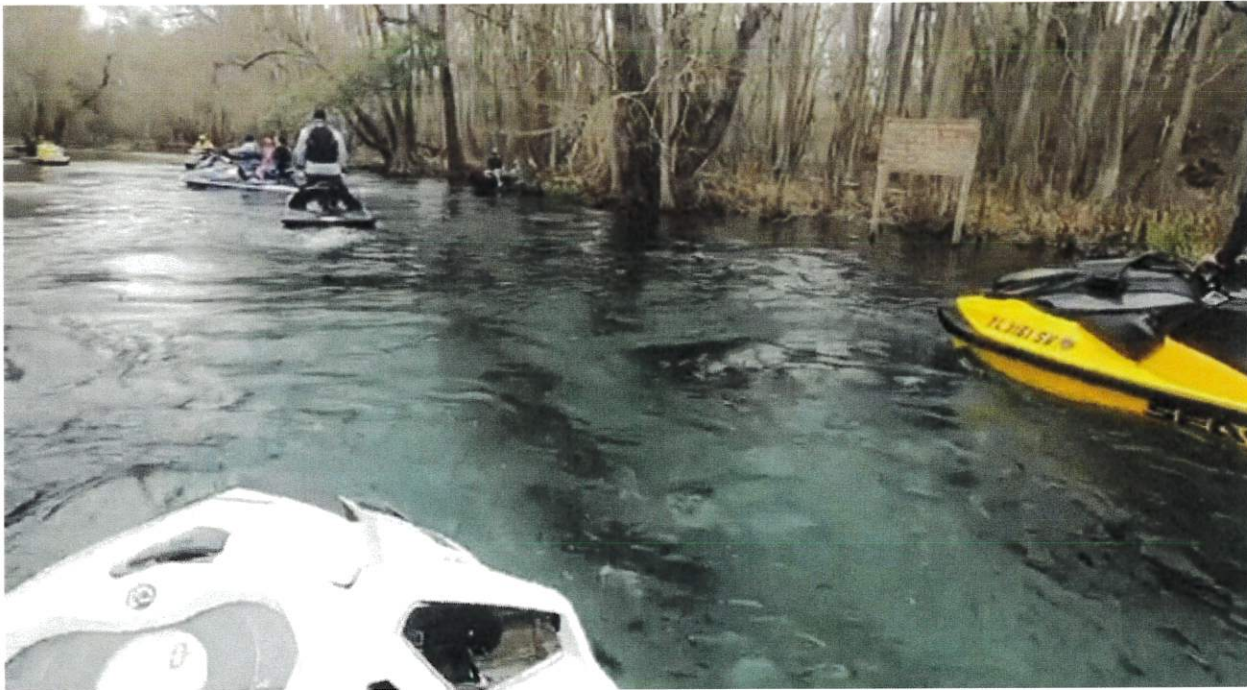


Figure 1. PWCs “running the bridge” upstream and entering Ichetucknee Springs State Park.

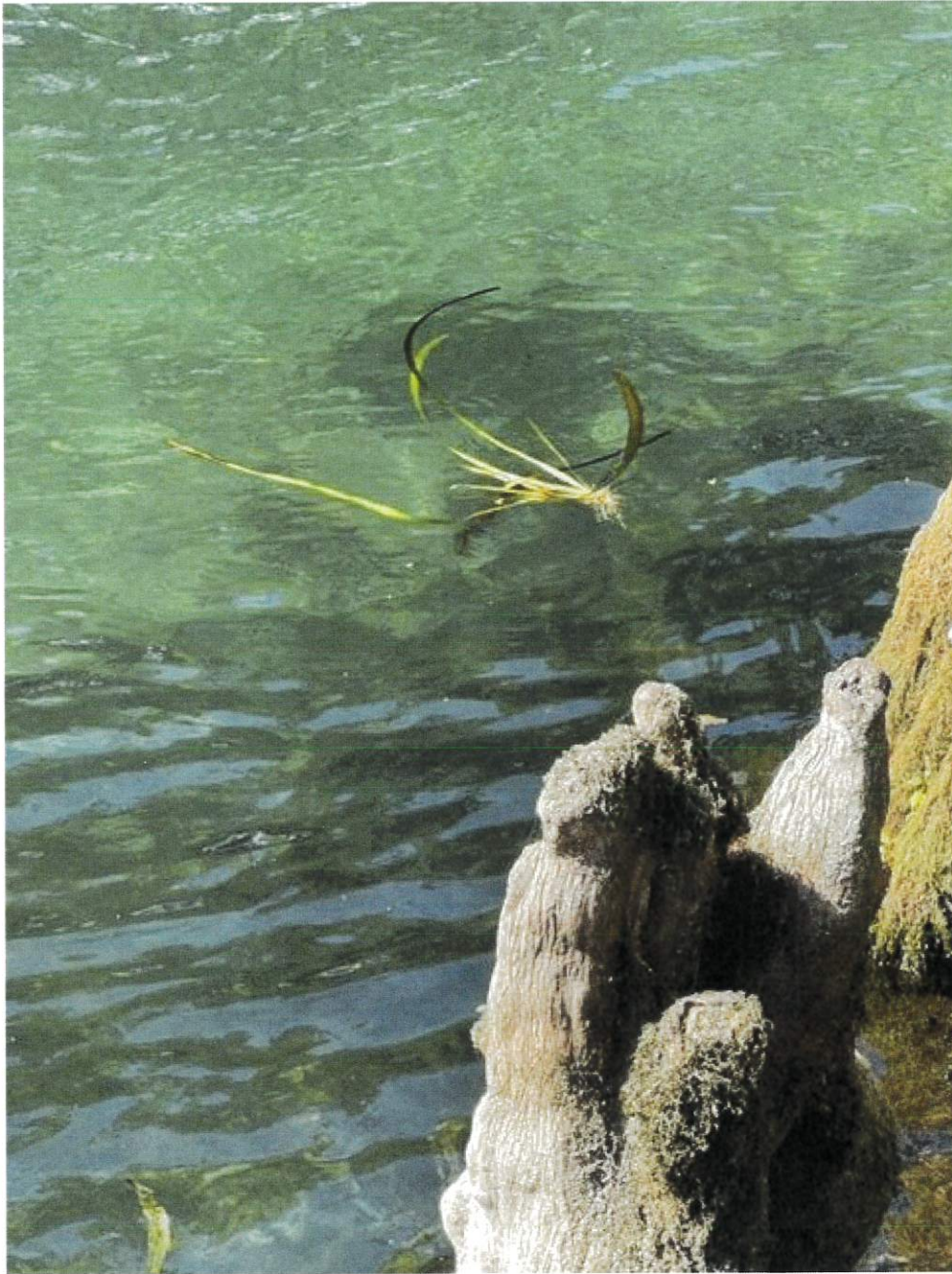


Figure 2. Example of eelgrass uprooted by PWCs “running the bridge”

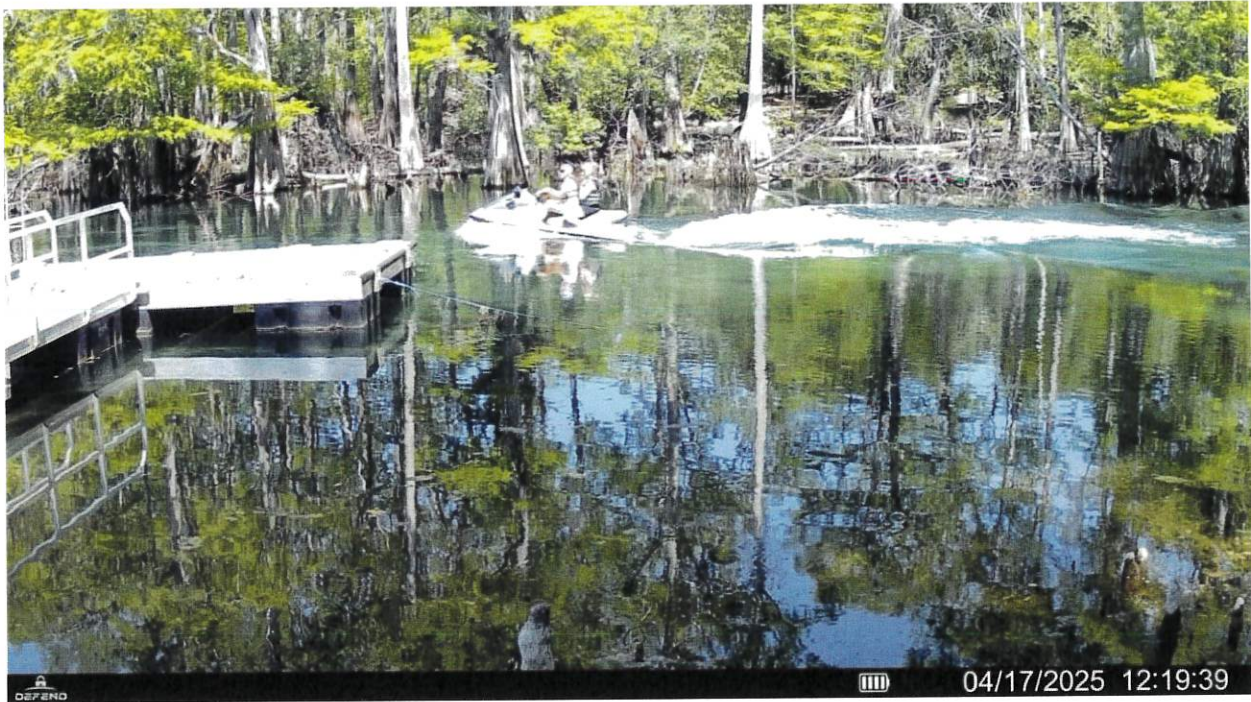


Figure 3: PWC wakes at low speed

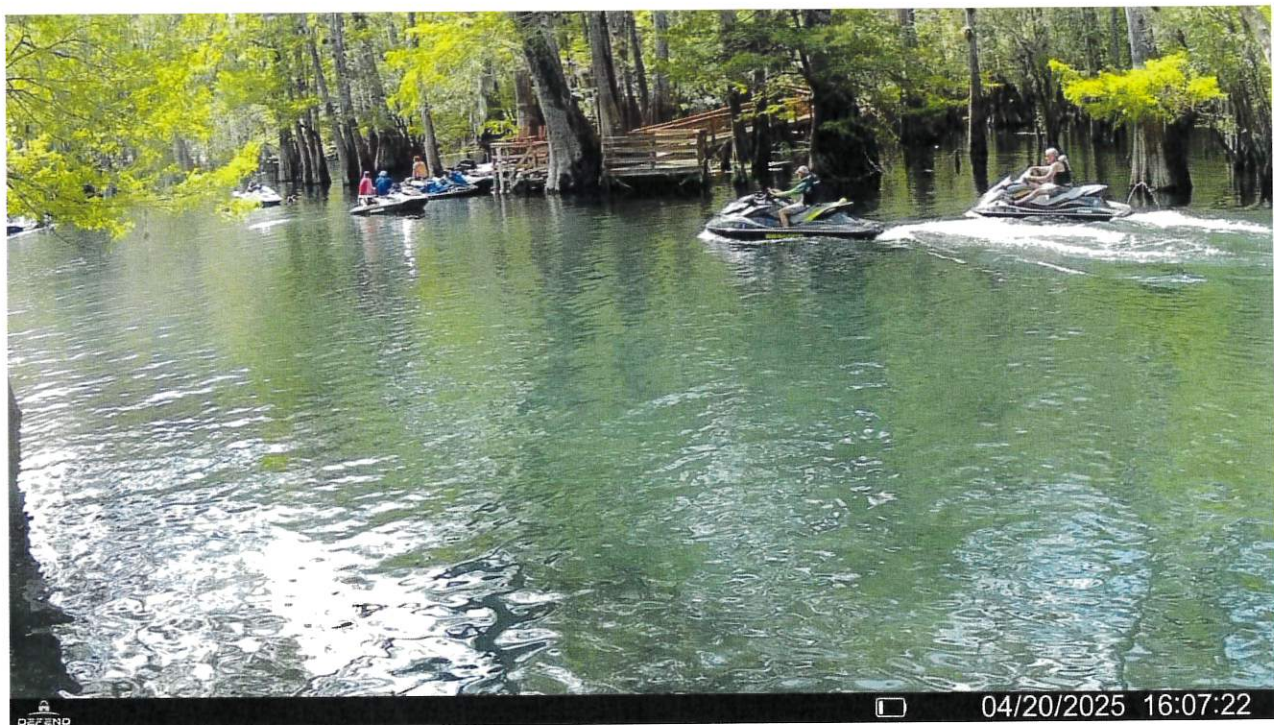


Figure 4: PWC group outing

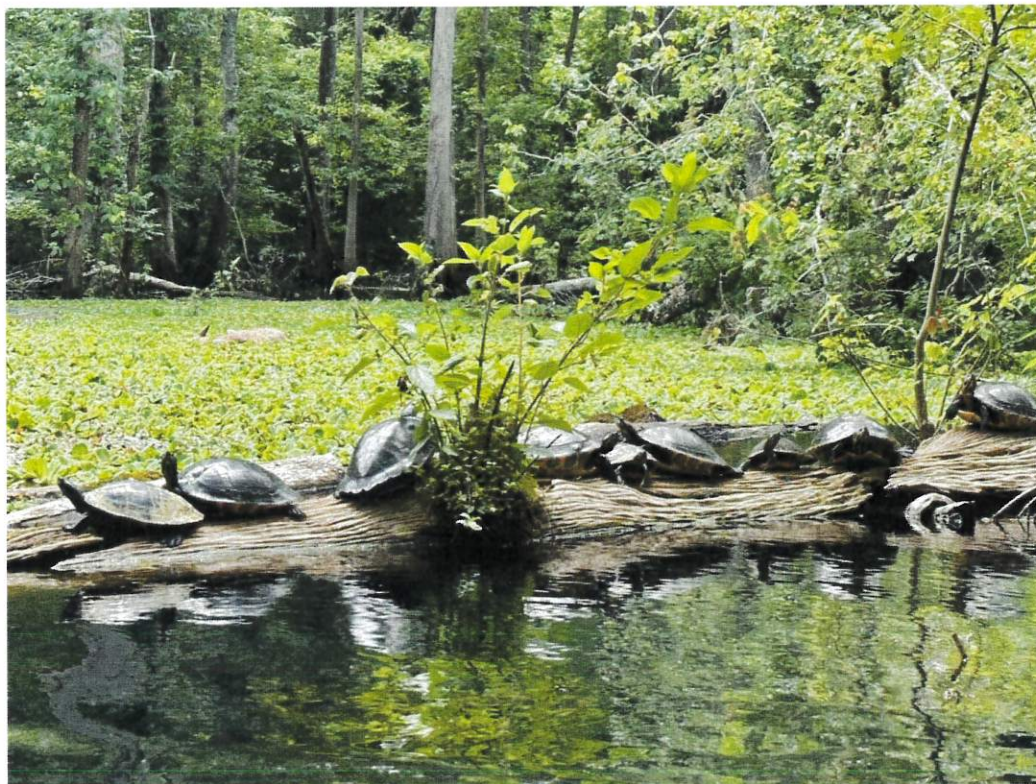


Figure 5: Basking imperiled Suwannee Cooters

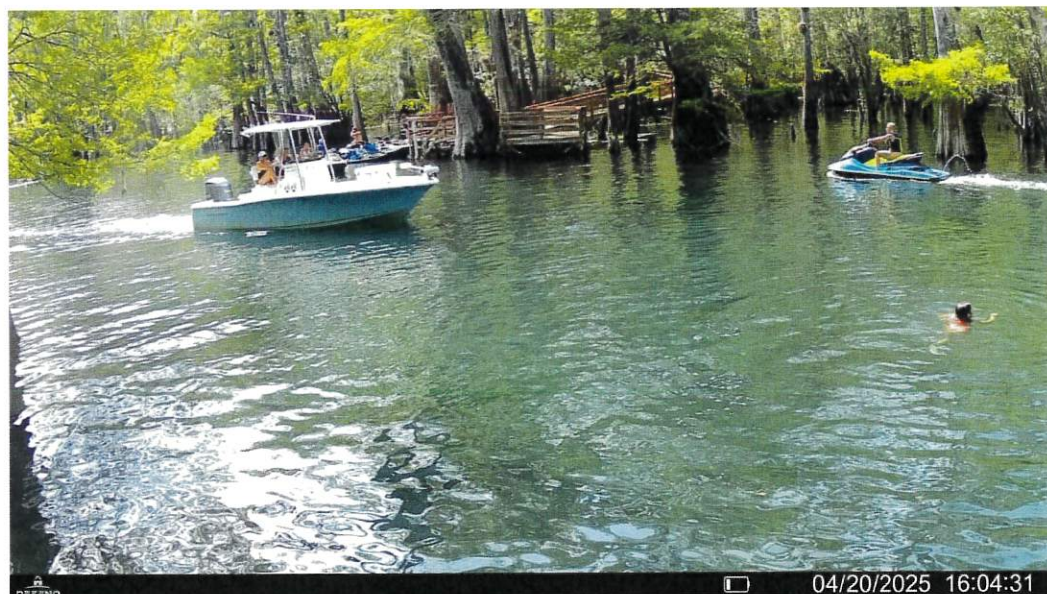


Figure 6: Motorized vessel sharing the channel with young swimmer

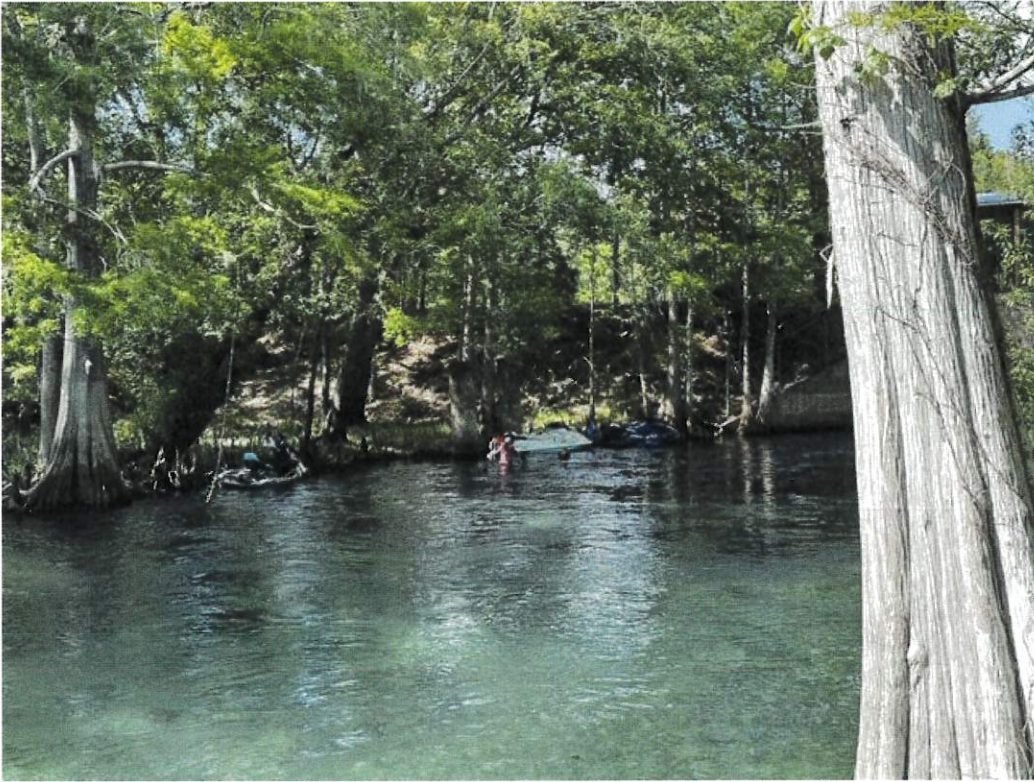


Figure 7: PWCs beaching on Ichetucknee Springs State Park shoreline

9:40



< **Jet Rider Nation Florida** Jun 21 •

PWCs tearing it up on the Ichetucknee today. The entire run was brown all the way to the Santa Fe. Low water levels kept all of the other motorized vessels at the confluence.

This, folks, is what leads to PWCs getting banned from spring runs.

A Three Rivers Estates Official Chat
David Morgan • Jun 21 •

So...water quality, and why its is horrid sometimes.....



Like Comment Share



Like Comment Share

3

Most relevant ▾

JetSki Donny
No different than a boat that has a pro power. They're gonna turn it up. They're not even going faster in no way and if they're going up river, they have to use a little bit of gas to get up.

6d Like Reply

Anthony D R Willis • Follow

1w Like Reply

Figure 8: Jet Rider Nation feedback

Date: September 8, 2025

To: Captain Rachel Bryant (Rachel.bryant@myfwc.com)
Major Bill Holcomb (William.holcomb@myfwc.com)
Rob Klepper (Robert.klepper@myfwc.com)

From: Linda L. Weseman

Subject: **Supplemental Evidence – 07/29/2025 Petition for a Springs Protection Zone on the lower Ichetucknee River**

Additional evidence has become available since the submission of a petition for a Springs Protection Zone for the lower Ichetucknee on July 29, 2025. Please consider the following:

Boating activity, including wakes, has had a significant impact on submerged aquatic vegetation near the shoreline above TREPO Hodor park. Figure 1 shows the abundant eelgrass and diverse SAV beneath the private dock at 218 SW Riverside Ave, Fort White, Florida in 2016. In comparison, the SAV beneath this dock on September 6, 2025 currently consists primarily of filamentous algae. The soil erosion around the pilings is quite dramatic as shown in Figure 2.

The shallow regions immediately above and below the railroad bridge have hosted lush eelgrass fields in the past. These areas have become increasingly popular for PWCs running the bridges. The intake for the jet propulsion system has had particularly harsh consequences for this shallow vegetation, uprooting it and cropping the remaining vegetation near the root. Figure 3 shows the eelgrass field above the railroad bridge prior to construction of the covered walkway, a 2024 project. The current situation from September 3, 2025 is depicted in Figure 4. While the vegetation is virtually impossible to observe, short leaves and root systems are present, giving hope for restoration if this petition is approved. A similar scenario can be observed downstream of the railroad bridge, as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6.

The narrow channel of the lower Ichetucknee spring run combined with shallowness create a dangerous situation in which both tubes and motorized vessels share the channel. Interactions between tubers and vessels are unavoidable with the potential for injury or death being high (see Figures 7 & 8). It should be noted that while Florida does not have a statutory requirement to maintain a 100 foot buffer between motorized vessels and other recreational users, this is the case in most states and is the standard for safety. This standard is impossible to meet given the narrow spring run.

PWCs are designed to be highly maneuverable, can traverse shallow water, and accelerate rapidly. The impact of these features is detrimental to a narrow, shallow spring run such as the Ichetucknee as can be observed in this clip (Click <https://youtu.be/FAEOkAb1yfk>).

The following series of clips demonstrate the impact of just two Personal Watercrafts (PWCs) traversing the river while fully off plane. At 3:16 pm on August 21, 2025, the PWCs pass the camera location headed upstream. Even off plane, the vessels produce a large wake. Some areas near the shoreline on the Suwannee County side of the river immediately brown out while the main channel remains clear at this time (Click <https://youtu.be/9DG-QjrQTps>). The second PWC clears the area shortly after the first (Click <https://youtu.be/hERlznklhnk>) with shoreline turbidity rapidly spreading. By 3:22 pm, six minutes after the first PWC passed, the river is essentially browned out. SAV can be observed floating downstream after the vessels traverse the bridges into Ichetucknee Springs State Park (Click <https://youtu.be/TEZmeSv9MvM>). Both PWCs came back down river at 3:24 pm, eight minutes after passing the camera location headed upstream. At that time, the river was entirely occluded with disrupted SAV continuing to float downstream (Click <https://youtu.be/cYkA8YYt2FA>). SAV can be observed continuing to float downstream eight minutes after the PWCs first passed (Click <https://youtu.be/Mdr20U3pZEE>). By 3:48 pm, thirty two minutes after the arrival of the PWCs, some slight reduction in turbidity can be observed. The clarity remains extremely poor as a group of swimmers and floaters come through, highlighting the impact of PWC generated turbidity on other recreational users (Click <https://youtu.be/BDrxqr8af6k>).

The degradation of the upper section of the lower Ichetucknee from 218 SW Riverside Ave to TREPO Hodor Park can be observed in the following videos from September 26, 2016 (Click <https://youtu.be/JjUjVnwmOO4>) and September 3, 2025 (Click <https://youtu.be/SwSvFRyN99w>).

The overall impact of recreation on the lower Ichetucknee and issue of trash on the river bears mention. I personally swim the Ichetucknee year round on a daily basis from Dampier's Landing in Ichetucknee Springs State Park to the confluence of the Santa Fe River, a 4.5 mile stretch, traversing the entire section of the lower Ichetucknee. Over the five years of swimming the river, I have picked up thousands of pounds of trash, transforming the river bottom. Currently, I retrieve about 200 pounds of trash a week from the river during the warm months (see Figure 9), less during the quieter off season. These numbers do not include large items, including floating docks (see Figure 10), boats, the occasional bicycle, lawn chair, wheelchair (see Figure 11), and numerous concrete blocks. In addition, our community and river friends join in on large cleanups such as one in May, 2025 in which over 2600 pounds of pressure treated lumber in the form of three abandoned docks was removed (see Figure 12).



Figure 1: Year 2016. Diverse submerged aquatic vegetation and soil beneath private dock at 218 SW Riverside Ave, Fort White, FL.



Figure 2: 09/06/2025. Submerged aquatic vegetation primarily consists of filamentous algae. Loss of soil around pilings beneath private dock at 218 SW Riverside Ave, Fort White, FL.

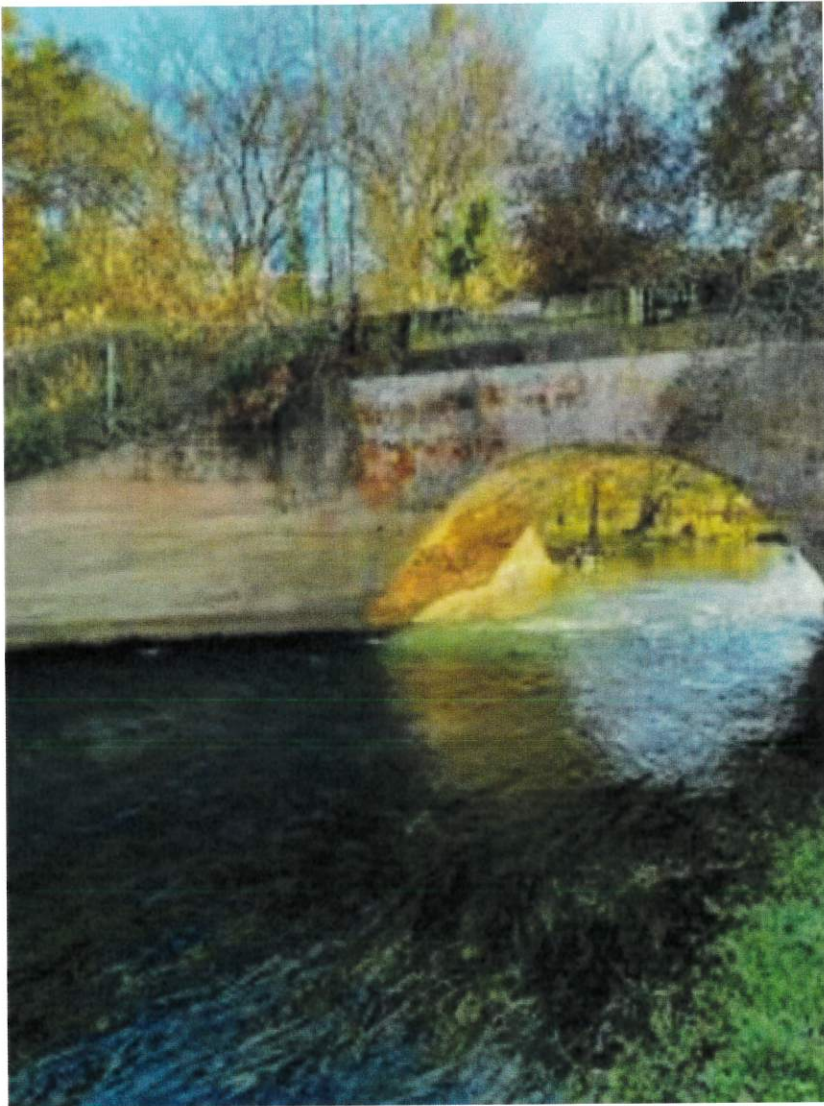


Figure 3: Abundant eelgrass and SAV upstream of the railroad bridge, as viewed from the US 27 embankment, prior to overpass construction in 2024.



Figure 4: Loss of diversity of SAV, especially eelgrass, above the railroad bridge as of September 3, 2025 as viewed from the US 27 embankment looking downstream.

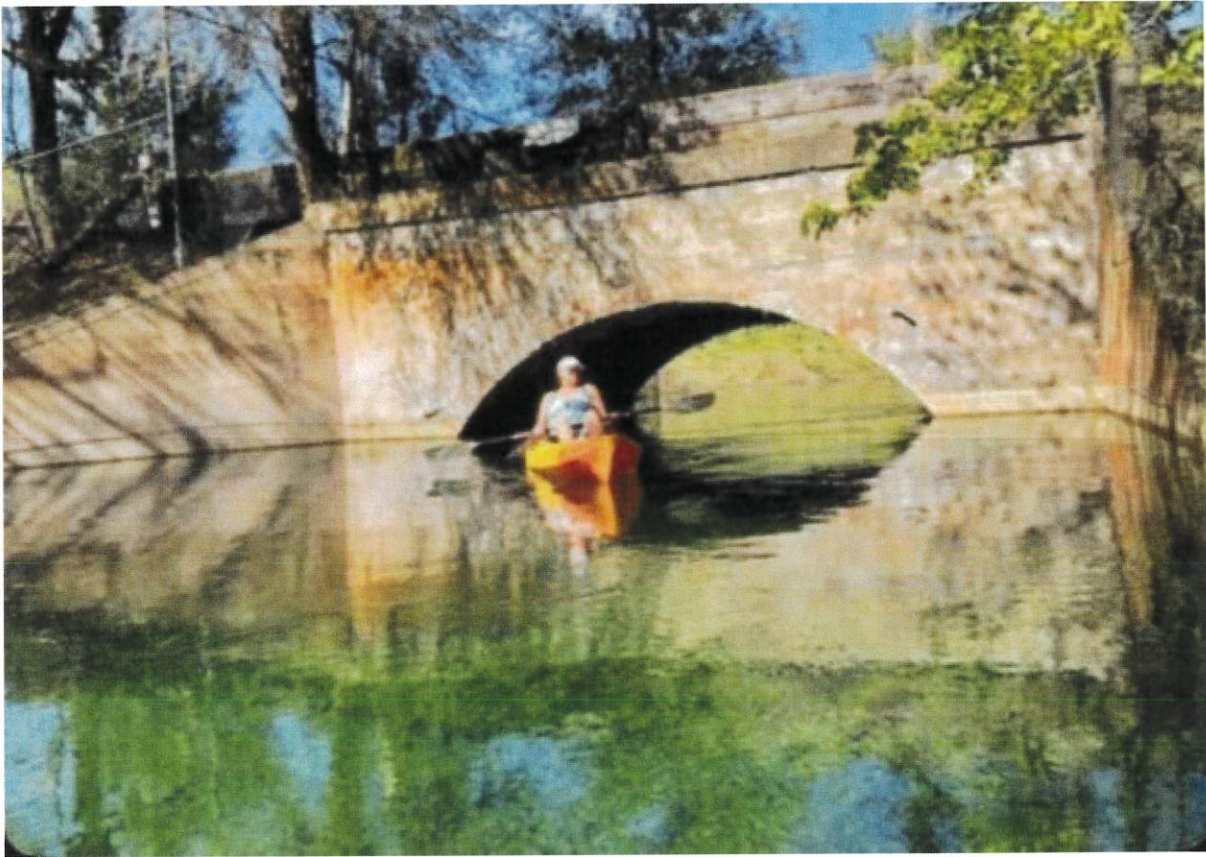


Figure 5: Abundant eelgrass is observed downstream of the railroad bridge on March 10, 2021.

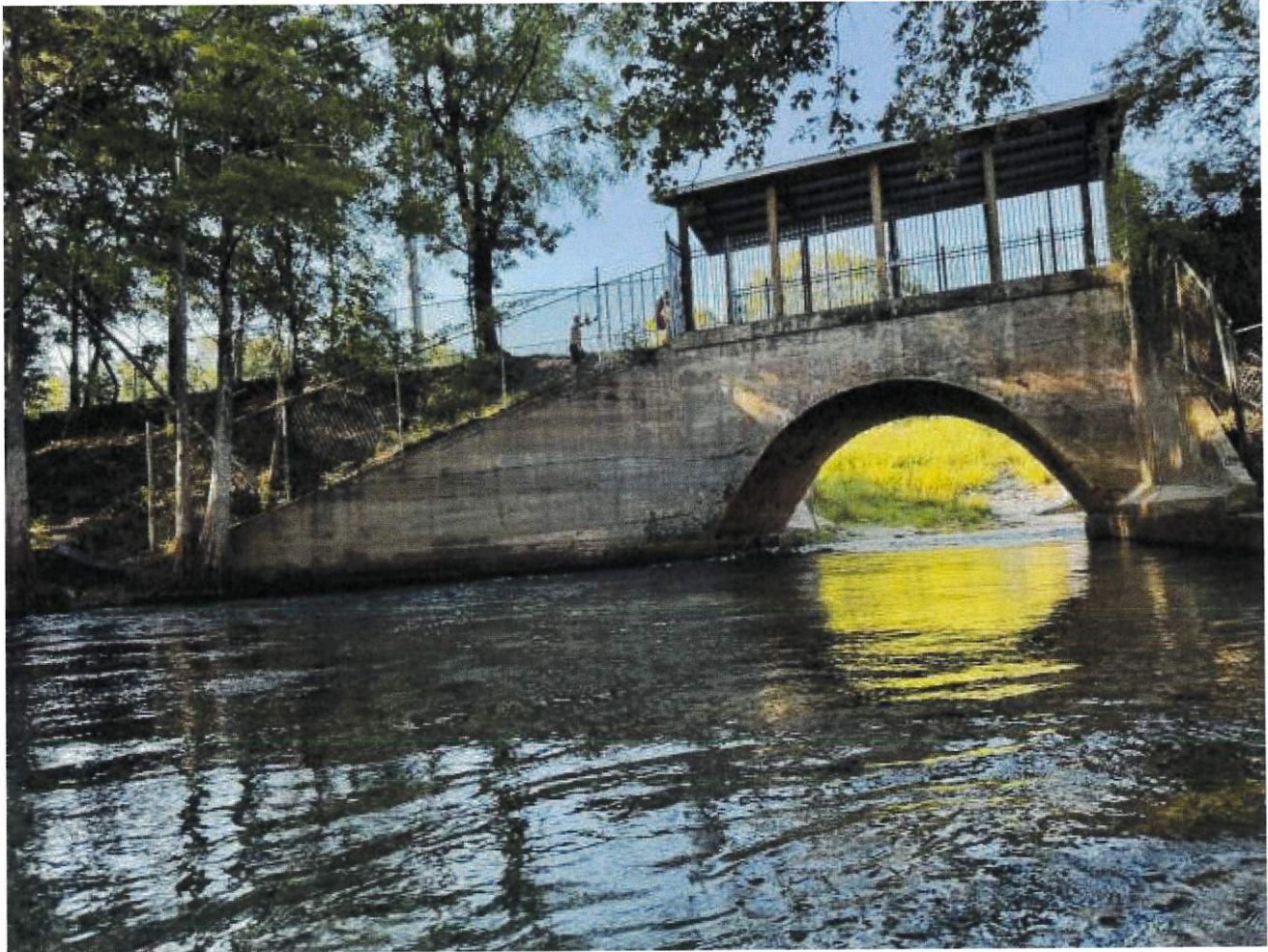


Figure 6: Eelgrass field below the bridge is in extremely poor condition as of September 3, 2025.



Figure 7: Interaction between tubers and motorized vessel.



Figure 8: Interaction between tubers and motorized vessel.





Figure 9: Examples of daily trash collections on the lower Ichetucknee.



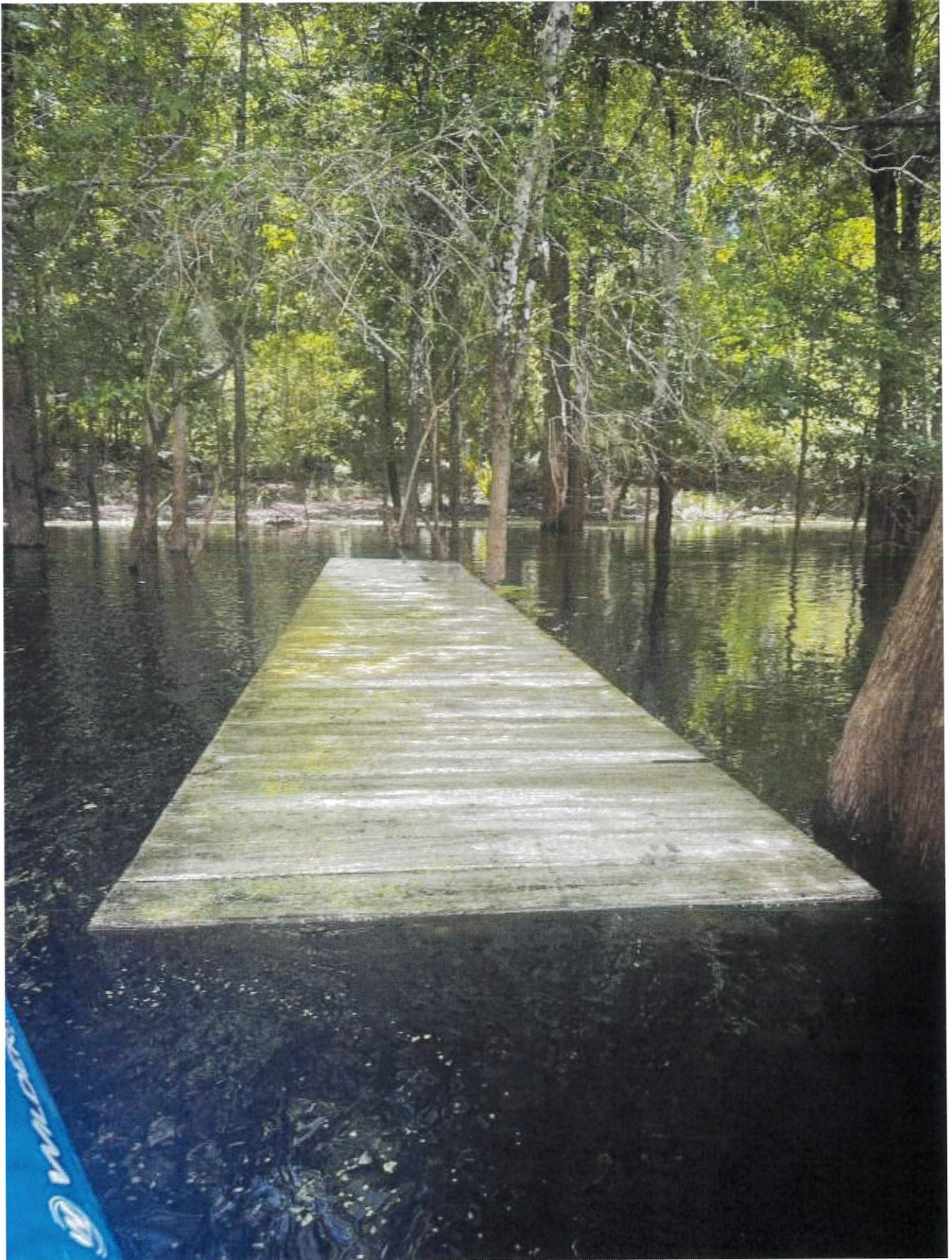




Figure 10. Abandoned floating docks salvaged from the lower Ichetucknee.



Figure 11. Larger trash retrieved from the lower Ichetucknee.

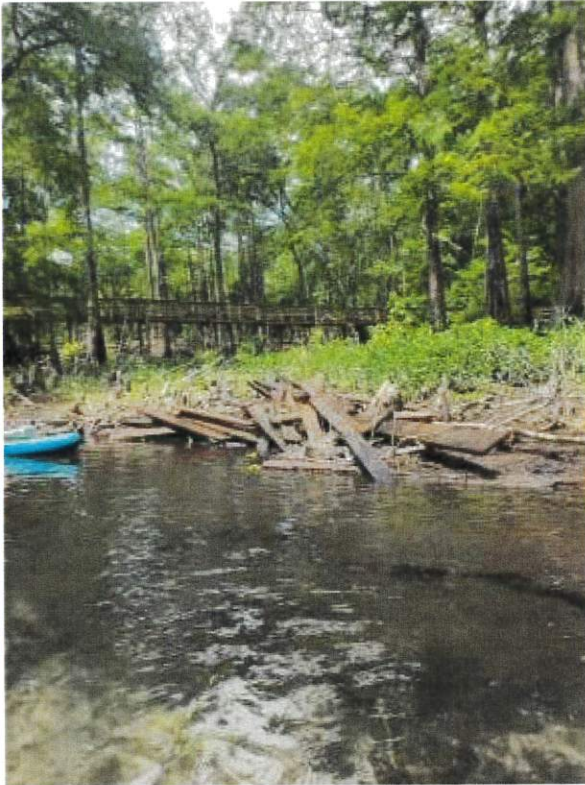
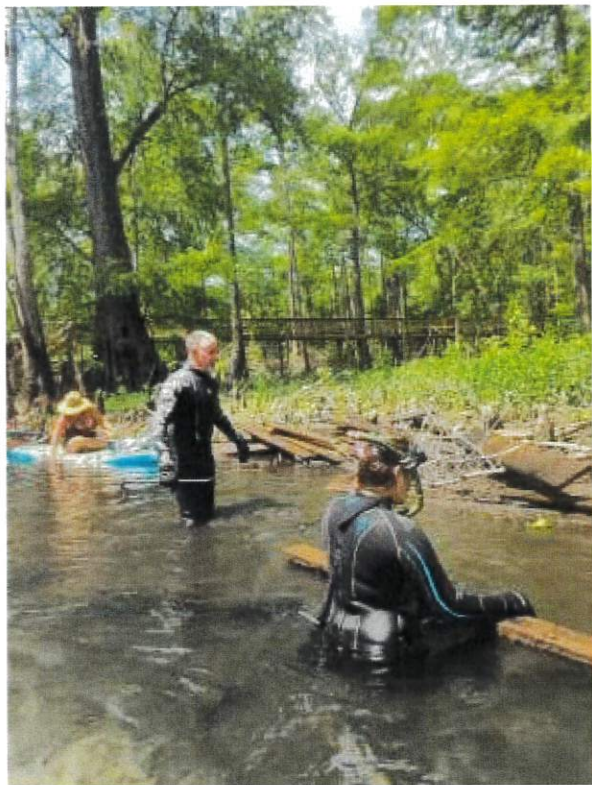
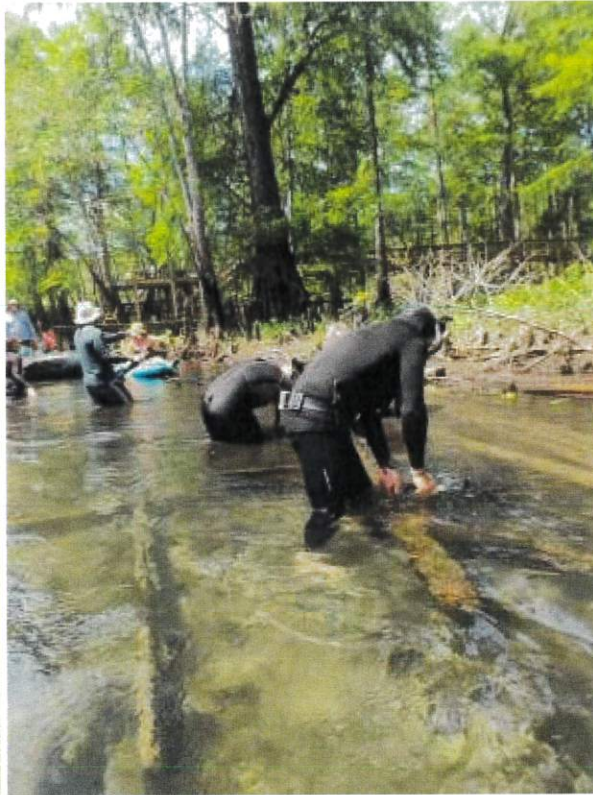


Figure 12. Removal of three abandoned docks consisting of over 2600 pounds of pressure treated lumber.

Notice of Development of Rulemaking

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Vessel Registration and Boating Safety

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

68D-24.0035 Protection Zones for Springs

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: This rule amendment will update the criteria for the establishment of protection zones for springs in accordance with legislative changes to section 327.45, Florida Statutes.

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Protection zones that restrict the speed and operation of vessels to protect and prevent harm to springs.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 327.04, FS; 327.45(2), FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 327.45, FS

IF REQUESTED IN WRITING AND NOT DEEMED UNNECESSARY BY THE AGENCY HEAD, A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE NOTICED IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Major William Holcomb, Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section, 620 South Meridian St., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, (850)488-6251, William.holcomb@myfwc.com

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE.

Notice of Proposed Rule

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Vessel Registration and Boating Safety

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

68D-24.0035 Protection Zones for Springs

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The rule is being amended to comport with legislative changes to section 327.45, which now requires a showing of significant harm to the springs and allow for modified anchoring, mooring, beaching or grounding as necessary to protect springs and associated spring runs.

SUMMARY: This amendments to the rule are necessary so that it is consistent with section 327.45, FS, and provides notice of the harm to the springs which must be demonstrated and the ability to modify anchoring, beaching, mooring, or grounding.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency. The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein:

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 327.04; 327.45, FS

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 327.45, FS

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Captain Rachel Bryant, Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section, 620 South Meridian St., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600, (850) 717-2124, rachel.bryant@myfwc.com.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

68D-24.0035 Protection Zones for Springs.

(1) The Commission will establish a springs protection zone restricting speed and operation or that prohibit or modify the allowable means of anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels within a first, second, or third magnitude spring or spring group, and associated spring runs when evidence demonstrates that a zone will protect or prevent the spring, spring group, or spring run from significant harm as described by and of the type identified in Section 327.45, F.S.

(2) No change.

(3) No change.

(4) No change.

(5) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 327.04, 327.45 FS. Law Implemented 327.45 FS. History 2-7-22, New _____.

20251388er

1
2 An act relating to vessels; amending s. 327.45, F.S.;
3 specifying that the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
4 Commission's authorization to establish protection
5 zones includes modifying the allowable means of
6 certain vessel positioning to prevent significant harm
7 to certain springs; revising what constitutes
8 significant harm; amending s. 327.56, F.S.;
9 prohibiting an officer from performing a vessel stop
10 or boarding a vessel without probable cause;
11 prohibiting an officer from performing a vessel stop
12 or boarding a vessel under certain circumstances;
13 providing that a violation of safety or marine
14 sanitation equipment requirements is a secondary
15 rather than a primary offense; amending s. 327.70,
16 F.S.; requiring the commission, in coordination with
17 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles,
18 to create the "Florida Freedom Boater" safety
19 inspection decal for specified purposes; providing for
20 the award of such decal; providing requirements for
21 such decal; authorizing an officer to stop a vessel
22 for a lawful purpose when the officer has probable
23 cause or knowledge to believe a violation of certain
24 provisions has occurred or is occurring; creating s.
25 327.75, F.S.; providing a short title; defining the
26 terms "energy source" and "watercraft"; prohibiting
27 specified entities from restricting the use or sale of
28 watercraft based on the energy source used by such
29 watercraft; amending s. 379.226, F.S.; revising

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provisions prohibiting the issuance of a license to a vessel owned by certain alien powers; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 327.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327.45 Protection zones for springs.—

(2) The commission may establish by rule protection zones that restrict the speed and operation of vessels, or that prohibit or modify the allowable means of anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding ~~of~~ vessels, to protect and prevent significant harm to first, second, and third magnitude springs and springs groups, including their associated spring runs, as determined by the commission using the most recent Florida Geological Survey springs bulletin. Significant ~~This~~ harm includes negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species where the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels is determined to be the predominant cause of negative impacts.

Section 2. Section 327.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327.56 Safety and marine sanitation equipment inspections; probable cause; qualified.—

(1) An ~~No~~ officer may not ~~shall~~ board any vessel or perform a vessel stop in this state unless ~~to make a safety or marine sanitation equipment inspection if the owner or operator is not~~

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59 ~~aboard. When the owner or operator is aboard, an officer may~~
60 ~~board a vessel with consent or when the officer has probable~~
61 ~~cause or knowledge to believe that a violation of a provision of~~
62 ~~this chapter has occurred or is occurring.~~

63 (2) An officer may not perform a vessel stop or board a
64 vessel for the sole purpose of performing a safety or marine
65 sanitation equipment inspection. A violation of safety or marine
66 sanitation equipment requirements is a secondary offense, rather
67 than a primary offense ~~An officer may board a vessel when the~~
68 ~~operator refuses or is unable to display the safety or marine~~
69 ~~sanitation equipment required by law, if requested to do so by a~~
70 ~~law enforcement officer, or when the safety or marine sanitation~~
71 ~~equipment to be inspected is permanently installed and is not~~
72 ~~visible for inspection unless the officer boards the vessel.~~

73 ~~(2) Inspection of floating structures for compliance with~~
74 ~~this section shall be as provided in s. 403.091.~~

75 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 327.70, Florida
76 Statutes, is amended to read:

77 327.70 Enforcement of this chapter and chapter 328.—

78 (2)(a)1. The commission, in coordination with the
79 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, shall create a
80 "Florida Freedom Boater" safety inspection decal for issue at
81 the time of registration or renewal, signifying that the vessel
82 is deemed to have met the safety equipment carriage and use
83 requirements of this chapter. Upon demonstrated compliance with
84 the safety equipment carriage and use requirements of this
85 chapter at the time of registration or renewal ~~during a safety~~
86 ~~inspection initiated by a law enforcement officer, the operator~~
87 of a vessel shall be issued a "Florida Freedom Boater" safety

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88 inspection decal ~~signifying that the vessel is deemed to have~~
89 ~~met the safety equipment carriage and use requirements of this~~
90 ~~chapter at the time and location of such inspection.~~ The
91 commission may designate by rule the timeframe for expiration
92 of, and the specific design for, the "Florida Freedom Boater"
93 safety inspection decal. However, a decal may not be valid for
94 less than 1 calendar year or more than 5 years at the time of
95 issue and, at a minimum, must meet the standards specified in
96 this paragraph. ~~All decals issued by the commission on or before~~
97 ~~December 31, 2018, are no longer valid after that date.~~

98 2. The "Florida Freedom Boater" safety inspection decal, ~~if~~
99 ~~displayed,~~ must be located within 6 inches of the inspected
100 vessel's properly displayed vessel registration decal. For
101 nonmotorized vessels that are not required to be registered, the
102 "Florida Freedom Boater" safety inspection decal, ~~if displayed,~~
103 must be located above the waterline on the forward half of the
104 port side of the vessel.

105 (b) ~~If a vessel properly displays a valid safety inspection~~
106 ~~decal created or approved by the division, a law enforcement~~
107 ~~officer may not stop the vessel for the sole purpose of~~
108 ~~inspecting the vessel for compliance with the safety equipment~~
109 ~~carriage and use requirements of this chapter unless there is~~
110 ~~reasonable suspicion that a violation of a safety equipment~~
111 ~~carriage or use requirement has occurred or is occurring.~~ This
112 subsection does not restrict a law enforcement officer from
113 stopping a vessel for any other lawful purpose when the officer
114 has probable cause to believe that a violation of this chapter
115 has occurred or is occurring.

116 Section 4. Section 327.75, Florida Statutes, is created to

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read:

327.75 Watercraft Energy Source Freedom Act.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
"Watercraft Energy Source Freedom Act."

(2) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the
term:

(a) "Energy source" means any source of energy used to
power a watercraft, including, but not limited to, gasoline,
diesel fuel, electricity, hydrogen, and solar power.

(b) "Watercraft" means any vessel or craft designed for
navigation on water, including boats and personal watercraft.

(3) PROHIBITION ON RESTRICTIONS BASED ON ENERGY SOURCE.—
Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a state agency,
municipality, governmental entity, or county may not restrict
the use or sale of a watercraft based on the energy source used
to power the watercraft, including an energy source used for
propulsion or used for powering other functions of the
watercraft.

Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 379.226, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

379.226 Florida Territorial Waters Act; alien-owned
commercial fishing vessels; prohibited acts; enforcement.—

(3) No license shall be issued by the Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission under s. 379.361, to any vessel owned in
whole or in part by any alien power, ~~which subscribes to the~~
~~doctrine of international communism, or any subject or national~~
~~thereof, who subscribes to the doctrine of international~~
~~communism, or any individual who subscribes to the doctrine of~~
~~international communism, or who shall have signed a treaty of~~

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146 ~~trade, friendship and alliance or a nonaggression pact with any~~
147 ~~communist power. The commission shall grant or withhold said~~
148 ~~licenses where other alien vessels are involved on the basis of~~
149 ~~reciprocity and retorsion, unless the nation concerned shall be~~
150 ~~designated as a friendly ally or neutral by a formal suggestion~~
151 ~~transmitted to the Governor of Florida by the Secretary of State~~
152 ~~of the United States. Upon the receipt of such suggestion~~
153 ~~licenses shall be granted under s. 379.361, without regard to~~
154 ~~reciprocity and retorsion, to vessels of such nations.~~

155 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Email Response from DEP Chuck Hatcher, Director of Division of Recreation & Parks

Regarding Ichetucknee SPZ 2025 Request

9/4/2025

"Hello Madison,

Thank you for reaching out for comment on the proposed Ichetucknee River Springs Protection Zone.

The Florida Park Service has spent decades protecting the spring run and adjacent uplands while allowing park visitors to enjoy recreating on park lands. While the majority of the state park is located north of Highway 27, a small portion of park land is located just south and west of the highway and adjacent to the proposed area.

Beginning in 1990 to protect the resources of the river and to limit the introduction of exotic invasive aquatic vegetation, motorized watercraft were restricted from going upstream of Highway 27. Paddle craft are welcome to enter the park. Each year more than 100,000 tubers experience the pristine waterway while floating downstream inside the park.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks does not oppose the establishment of the Springs Protection Area.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Chuck Hatcher



Chuck Hatcher, Director

Division of Recreation and Parks

Chuck.Hatcher@FloridaDEP.gov

Office: 850-245-3015

Cell: 850-294-9024"

Email from Craig Mallison, FWC Associate Research Scientist at Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Regarding Ichetucknee SPZ 2025

9/22/2025

"I reviewed the files in the 2025 Second Request folder along with my notes from 2023 regarding the 2022 First Request. In my opinion the evidence does not demonstrate significant harm that was predominately caused by the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels such that a spring protection zone is necessary and appropriate in the requested area. Some concerns are documented by photo and video, but evidence of resulting harm (streambank erosion, degradation of aquatic vegetation) was not demonstrated. I do believe it is a valid safety concern to have outboard motors operating in an area with swimmers and tubers – this may warrant further investigation from a safety standpoint.

Craig Mallison

Associate Research Scientist

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

3900 Drane Field Road, Lakeland, Florida 33811

863-648-3814 (office)

863-559-3103 (cell)

Craig.Mallison@MyFWC.com"

Email Response from SRWMD, Susie Hetrick, Office of Water Resources

Regarding Ichetucknee SPZ 2025 Request

9/26/2025

"Good afternoon, Ms. Cook. I am emailing you in response to your September 9, 2025 request for agency feedback regarding the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) consideration of a spring protection zone on the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River in Columbia/Suwannee County, Florida.

Suwannee River Water Management District (District) staff have reviewed the documents FWC made available to stakeholders through the SPZ Google Drive link in your September 9 email. In addition, District staff have reviewed all studies and datasets related to the Ichetucknee River for which the District is a direct participant in the data collection. Based upon this review, District staff have determined that studies and data collection performed or overseen by the District focus primarily on the Ichetucknee River upstream of US Highway 27, and not in the area being considered for a spring protection zone.

The District is supportive of a review of available data and a scientific assessment of the effects of the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels in the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River, and is willing to support an effort to secure grant funding for this purpose.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information or action from me.

Sincerely,

Susie Hetrick

Office of Water Resources

Suwannee River Water Management District

9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060

386.362.1001

800.226.1066 (FL Toll Free)

386.647.3122 (Direct)

www.MySuwanneeRiver.com"

GENERAL BUSINESS:



Discuss, with possible Board action, county roads within the city limits.
(Chairman Travis Land)

CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS AND INFORMATION



BOARD MEMBERS' INQUIRIES, REQUESTS, AND COMMENTS

