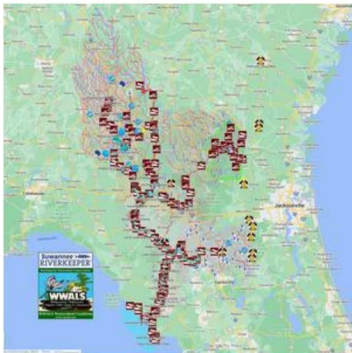
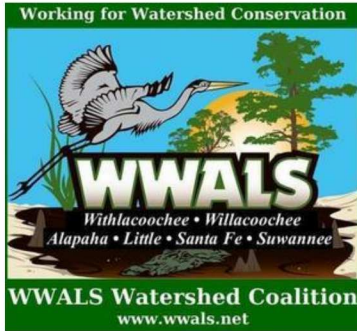


June 8, 2026



PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632
850-290-2350
wwalswatershed@gmail.com

www.wwals.net
[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)
[YouTube](#) [Meetup](#)

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

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



To: Alachua City Commission %: Communications Supervisor
Jacob Fletcher Savannah Clayton
Shirley Green Brown scelayton@alachuapd.org
Jennifer Ringersen
Walter Welch
Jackson Youmas

Re: Farmlands development on fragile karst

Dear Alachua City Commission,

Regarding the Farmlands Commercial PD items on your agenda for this evening, I would like to recommend tabling or rejecting for reasons related to water.

Any large development of that kind involves much impervious surface (roofs, parking lots, and driveways) which produce runoff. In addition I recommend the *geophysical screening and additional geotechnical evaluation* suggested by GSE Engineering & Consulting should be done before the project is approved, rather than later.

Please see the April 1, 2026, letter from GSE, on pages 97-99 of your agenda packet for tonight, especially on page 99, which is page 3 of the GSE letter:

The site is located near the transition of the Cody Scarp to the Gulf Coastal Lowlands geology. The surface of the limestone formation in this area of Alachua is typically on the order of elevation 60 feet. The ground surface at the location of the stormwater management basin for these projects varies from about elevations 90 to 100 feet. If the basin is excavated 10 feet deep, the separation between the bottom of the basin and the limestone formation is expected to be on the order of 20 feet. We have observed multiple sinkholes develop in stormwater management facilities where the separation between the basin bottom and the limestone formation is on the order of 20 feet.

The City of Alachua has policies that allow for the requirement of geophysical screening in its sole discretion and has required this screening on some projects. GSE considers it prudent to conduct geophysical screening and additional geotechnical evaluation at the location of stormwater facilities as part of final design. The intent is to evaluate, determine, and consider the actual sinkhole potential risk in these areas. This information would then be considered and incorporated into the final design.

Thank you for your consideration.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend tonight's City Commission Meeting, so I send this letter.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman

Suwannee Riverkeeper
229-560-4317