

BOARD MINUTES FOR 06/22/01

JUNE 22, 2001

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 8:00 A. M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, ENFINGER, FINCH AND HALL PRESENT. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PETER HERBERT, ATTORNEY GERALD HOLLEY, CLERK LINDA COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN COPE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AND OFFERED PRAYER.

CHAIRMAN COPE STATED THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP WAS FOR FACT FINDING AND GATHERING INFORMATION TO SEE WHAT THE BOARD WANTS TO DO WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTY RELATING TO HOLMES CREEK AND ALL ITS TRIBUTARIES, SPRINGS ON HOLMES CREEK, ECONFINA CREEK AND ALL ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND SPRINGS ON ECONFINA CREEK.

RANDY PARKER, COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING CONSULTANT, GAVE A REVIEW OF THE PLAN THAT FOCUSES ON PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WETLANDS AND SURFACE WATER BODIES. HE PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE FUTURE LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENTS AND ALL POLICIES IN THE COUNTY THAT ADDRESS NATURAL RESOURCES AND SERVE TO PROTECT THEM. SPECIFIC SECTIONS IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THAT CONTAINS POLICY OR REGULATIONS THAT ARE INTENDED TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES:

1. FLOOD PROTECTION
2. ACQUIFER PROTECTION
3. MAJOR MANAGED AREA PROTECTION
4. WETLANDS PROTECTION
5. SURFACE WATER BODY PROTECTION
6. HABITAT OF ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES
7. HISTORICAL SITES
8. ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

PARKER ADDRESSED THERE NOT BEING ANY ONE POLICY IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ON NATURAL RESOURCES; THERE WERE MANY POLICIES AND REGULATIONS THAT WERE STRUCTURED TO EACH SPECIFIC NATURAL RESOURCE. HE ADDRESSED COMP PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR MANAGED AREAS AND WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER BODIES:

1. THE COMP PLAN REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 100' PERMANENT NATURAL VEGETATED BUFFER; THE MANAGED AREAS INCLUDE PINE LOG STATE FOREST, FALLING WATERS STATE RECREATION AREA, CHOCTOWHATCHEE WATER MANAGEMENT AREA, HOLMES CREEK STATE CANOE TRAIL AND ECONFINA STATE CANOE TRAIL.
2. ON WETLANDS AND SURFACE WATER BODIES, THE COMP PLAN REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:
  - A. MAINTAINING OF 25' FROM ALL SURFACE WATER BODIES AS IT IS BEFORE ANY DEVELOPMENT CAN BE DONE.
  - B. A 50' DEVELOPMENT SETBACK FROM ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK OF ALL SURFACE WATER BODIES WITH ONLY ACCESSORY STRUCTURES ALLOWED IN THIS 50'.
  - C. A 75' SETBACK FROM THE SURFACE WATER BODIES FOR HOMESITES SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM FOR SEPTIC TANKS.

PARKER DEFINED THE HIGH WATER MARK AS LISTED IN THE CODE: THE WETLANDS JURISDICTION LINE OR OBSERVED NATURAL WATER LINE WHICHEVER IS MOST LANDWORTHY.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED DIFFERENT AGENCIES, ETC. HAVING DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF THE HIGH WATER MARK AND THIS BECOMES CONFUSING. GARY SHAFFER OF THE FL-DEP, PANAMA CITY OFFICE, AGREED TO SEND THE BOARD INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING THE LANDWARD EXTENT OF WETLANDS AS WELL AS THEIR AGENCY'S DEFINITION OF THE ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK.

SPRING ENTERPRISES, LLC-BILL COBB INTRODUCED SANDY YOUNG WITH BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND JUSTIN STRICKLAND, A GEOLOGIST. COBB ADDRESSED THEY WOULD BE ANSWERING MOST OF THE EXPERT QUESTIONS ANYONE WOULD HAVE PERTAINING TO THE BOTTLING OF WATER OUT OF CYPRESS SPRINGS.

LARRY CARTER-QUESTIONED COBB ON WHAT SPRING ENTERPRISES WAS PLANNING ON DOING AT THE SPRINGS. COBB ADVISED HE WAS A CONSULTANT FOR THE CORPORATION WHO BOUGHT THE SPRINGS AND THEY WERE PROPOSING TO BOTTLE WATER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

LARRY CARTER-QUESTIONED THE MECHANISM OF HOW SPRING ENTERPRISES PLANNED ON BOTTLING THE WATER. JUSTIN STRICKLAND ADVISED THEY WOULD BE PUMPING WATER FROM THE SPRINGS TO A BULK FACILITY AND TRANSPORTING IT TO CHIPLEY, FLORIDA TO A BOTTLED WATER FACILITY WHERE IT WILL BE BOTTLED; THEIR WITHDRAWAL REQUEST IS FOR APPROXIMATELY 340,000 GALLONS A DAY WITH A MAXIMUM OF 1,000,000 GALLONS A DAY.

AS FOR AS THE TRANSPORTING OF THE BULK WATER, COBB ADVISED THEY WOULD BE USING I-10 WHEN TRANSPORTING THE BULK WATER IN TANKERS; THE BOTTLING WATER PLANT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK ASSUMING THE COUNTY GOES FORWARD WITH IT AND THEY WOULD BE USING RAILWAY AND TRUCKING FOR TRANSPORTING.

COBB ADVISED THE SPRINGS WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC WHEN SPRING ENTERPRISES, LLC. TAKES OVER; THE COUNTY AND THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY WOULD PROFIT FROM THE BOTTLING WATER PLANT DUE TO THERE BEING APPROXIMATELY 60 JOBS AVAILABLE.

VICKI MORRISON WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REQUESTED MORE CLARIFICATION ON WHERE THE WATER WAS GOING TO BE PIPED TO. COBB ADVISED THE WATER WOULD BE PIPED FROM THE SPRINGS TO A BULK WATER STATION. MORRISON QUESTIONED HOW FAR FROM THE SPRINGS WAS THE FACILITY TO WHERE THE WATER IS ACTUALLY PUT INTO THE SPRINGS. COBB ADVISED IT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 200' FROM THE BULK WATER STATION.

JUNIOR STRICKLAND QUESTIONED AS LOW AS THE WATER HAS BEEN, WHAT IS IT GOING TO DO TO THE CREEK WHEN THEY START PUMPING WATER. JUSTIN STRICKLAND-IF THEY PUMP 1,000,000 GALLONS A DAY THIS WOULD ONLY BE APPROXIMATELY 1% OF THE FLOW COMING OUT OF THE SPRINGS. JUNIOR STRICKLAND WAS ALSO CONCERNED WITH WHAT THE PUMPING OF WATER OUT OF THE SPRINGS WOULD DO TO HIS WELL AS HE ONLY LIVES ABOUT 3 MILES FROM THE SPRINGS. JUSTIN STRICKLAND ADVISED HE DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD IMPACT HIS WELL AS THEY ARE PULLING FROM WATER THAT IS ALREADY COMING OUT OF THE ACQUIFER; THE WATER HAS ALREADY DISCHARGED AND GOING INTO THE SURFACE WATER BODY WHICH EVENTUALLY WILL GO INTO THE GULF SOME- WHERE. HE ALSO ADDRESSED THE WATER BOTTLING ISSUE WAS IN THE PRE- LIMINARY STAGES AND THEY ARE TRYING TO GET MORE STUDIES UNDERWAY TO MAKE SURE THE IMPACTS ARE GOING TO BE NOMINAL.

JUNIOR STRICKLAND ADDRESSED HIM NOT UNDERSTANDING WHY THE COUNTY WOULD ALLOW SOMEONE TO SELL THEIR WATER AND SHIP IT OFF.

DAVID MUSHOLE QUESTIONED COBB ON THE SPRINGS BEING SHUT DOWN WHEN THEY BEGIN PUMPING WATER. COBB ADVISED ONCE SPRING ENTERPRISES STARTS PUMPING WATER, IT WILL BE UP TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REGULATE WHAT GOES ON WITH THAT WATER; SWIMMING IN DRINKING WATER WILL BE RESTRICTED. COBB REITERATED THE SPRINGS WOULD BE CLOSED OFF WHERE PERSONS CAN'T GET INTO THE SPRINGS.

JOE MINER QUESTIONED HOW SPRING ENTERPRISES WAS GOING TO RESTRICT ANYONE FROM SWIMMING IN THE SPRINGS DUE TO IT BEING SOVEREIGN LANDS. SANDY YOUNG, EQUATIC BIOLOGIST AND ENGINEER, ADDRESSED THE 1,000,000 GALLONS A DAY BEING LESS THAN 2% OF THE FLOW OF THE SPRINGS. IF THIS AMOUNT IS PUMPED, THEORETICALLY YOU LOWER THE HEAD OF THE SPRINGS AND THE SPRINGS REACT TO IT; SO THE SPRING DISCHARGE IN THE SHORT TERM WON'T CHANGE SO THE FLOW OF THE SPRING RUN WON'T CHANGE. IN THE LONG TERM, YOU ARE MINING WATER AND IT COULD BE MEASURED THREE MILES AWAY. IF THERE ARE LONG PERIODS OF DROUGHT, YOUNG ADVISED DRAWDOWNS CAN BE CALCULATED IN THE AREA THAT THE SPRINGS RECHARGE.

AS FAR AS SOVEREIGN LANDS, YOUNG ADVISED THE ORDINARY HIGH WATER MARK IS SOVEREIGN LAND AND ACCESS IS GUARANTEED; HE WAS NOT SURE COBB WAS CORRECT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AG WOULD SHUT THE SPRINGS DOWN DUE TO IT BEING A WATER SOURCE

AS THIS WOULD DEPEND ON WHERE THE INTAKE PIPE WOULD BE. YOUNG STATED SPRINGS ENTERPRISE CAN NOT CLOSE THE SPRINGS NOR CAN THE DEPARTMENT OF AG.

LARRY CARTER QUESTIONED HOW SPRING ENTERPRISES CAN JUSTIFY TAK- ING SOVEREIGN WATER THAT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA FOR A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND FOR A PROFIT. YOUNG ADVISED THIS IS WHY THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE PERMITTING PROCESS.

YOUNG ADDRESSED THERE WERE SEVERAL SPRING WATER ENTERPRISES THROUGHOUT FLORIDA THAT DOES THE SAME THING WITH PUTTING A PIPE IN THE BOIL OF THE WATER; AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO PUT A WELL NEAR THE SPRINGS AND NOT EVEN PUTTING A PIPE IN THE BOIL AND THEY ARE CONSIDERING DOING THIS. DISCUSSION CONTINUED WITH YOUNG ADVISING SPRING ENTERPRISES COULD KEEP PEOPLE FROM COMING INTO THE SPRINGS BY LAND BUT NOT BY WATER; THE DEPARTMENT OF AG CAN'T EITHER.

COBB ADVISED THE BOTTLED WATER PLANT IS INSPECTED BY FDA AND BULK WATER TRANSPORTED IS REGULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

JOHN FOSTER QUESTIONED WHAT SPRING ENTERPRISES FUTURE PLANS ARE IF THE BOTTLING PLANT GOES THROUGH. COBB ADVISED ANY FUTURE PLANS FOR EXPANSION WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE NFWFMD, DEP, FL-DCA AND EVERY OTHER STATE, FEDERAL AND COUNTY AGENCY THAT REGULATES THE FLOW OF THE WATER AND WHAT IS ALLOWED TO TAKE OUT OF THE WATER.

IN REGARDS TO HIS EARLIER REMARK THAT THE SPRINGS WOULD BE CLOSED, COBB ADVISED THE SPRINGS WOULD ONLY BE CLOSED BY LAND AND SIGNS WOULD BE PUT UP ADVISING SPRING ENTERPRISES WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYONE GETTING HURT.

LARRY CARTER QUESTIONED WHY WAS VERNON NOT CONSIDERED FOR A BOTTLING PLANT LOCATION. COBB ADVISED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY WITH VERNON IF THEY HAD A SUITABLE SITE AND WANTED THEM TO LOCATE THERE.

JOE MINER QUESTIONED BORING INTO THE ACQUIFER AND NOT PUTTING A VISIBLE PIPE INTO THE SPRINGS TO MAKE IT APPEAR JUST AS IT IS NOW. COBB ADVISED THEIR BIOLOGIST AND GEOLOGIST IS RECOMMENDING THEY GO INTO A BOREHOLE AND IF THEY CONTINUE WITH THIS RECOMMENDA- TION THAT IS WHAT WILL BE DONE.

SANDY YOUNG ADDRESSED SPRING ENTERPRISES HAVING TO GO THROUGH A PERMITTING PROCESS; THEY HAVE TO GIVE NFWFMD REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT NO HARM WILL BE DONE; ALL THE REGULATIONS, LAWS AND RULES WILL BE FOLLOWED; NFWFMD WILL THEN EVALUATE THIS; MONITORING REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL BE PART OF THE PERMIT WILL BE STRINGENT TO MAKE SURE THEIR PREDICTIONS ARE RIGHT THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN IMPACT AND THERE WILL BE A CONTINUOUS MONITORING PROGRAM THAT WILL COME WITH THE PERMIT THAT WILL ASSURE THEIR PREDICTIONS ARE CORRECT. HE ADDRESSED THE SWIMMING IN THE POOL OF THE SPRINGS BEING DISRUPTIVE AND IF THIS COULD BE CUT OUT BY NOT ENCOURAGING IT FROM THE LAND SIDE, THE SPRING AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS WILL BE ENHANCED.

DAVID AUSTIN ADDRESSED THE PEOPLE IN VERNON WOULD APPRECIATE THE PLANT BEING LOCATED THERE; PEOPLE IN VERNON NEED JOBS MORE THAN PEOPLE IN CHIPLEY.

DAVID MUSHOLE ADDRESSED NOBODY KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN SPRING ENTERPRISES STARTS PUMPING WATER OUT OF THE SPRINGS AND QUESTIONED WHAT WERE PEOPLE GOING TO HEAR WHEN THE SPRINGS GO DRY; COBB ADVISED HE DIDN'T KNOW OF ANY SPRINGS THAT HAD GONE DRY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED THE MAXIMUM TAKEOUT OF WATER FROM THE SPRINGS; COBB ADDRESSED THIS INFORMATION WAS IN THEIR APPLICATION TO FL-DEP.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED IF SOMEONE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIBLY SEE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CREEK AFTER THEY STARTED THE BOTTLING WATER OPERATION IF THEY DIDN'T JUST VISIBLY FOLLOW THE PIPE GOING INTO THE SPRINGS. COBB ADVISED NO ONE WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CREEK UNLESS THEY CAME UP ON THE LAND AND LOOKED FOR IT.

PAUL MUSHOLE QUESTIONED IF SPRING ENTERPRISES WAS GOING TO GUAR- ANTEE THE CREEK WILL STILL BE NAVIGABLE WHEN THEY GET THROUGH PUMPING WATER. COBB ADVISED HE COULDN'T GUARANTEE OR NOT GUARANTEE; THIS IS REGULATED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND FL-DEP; THEY CAN'T STOP A NAVIGABLE WATERWAY AND THERE IS NO IMPACT TO HOLMES CREEK. THEY ARE APPLYING FOR 1.4% OF APPROXIMATELY 90 MILLION GALLONS

OF WATER A DAY; THEY HAVE TURNED IN ALL THE INFORMATION ON A CONSUMPTION USE PERMIT TO THE NFWFMD.

LARRY CARTER ADDRESSED THE CITIZENS PRESERVATION COUNCIL SUBMIT- TED A 600 SIGNATURE PETITION AND APPROXIMATELY 300 TO 400 LETTERS TO NFWFMD VOICING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE SPRINGS.

GARY SHAFFER/FL-DEP PANAMA CITY OFFICE AND VICK KEISLER, DEP COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTOR: ADDRESSED THEIR OFFICE NOT HAVING ANY POLICE POWERS; PEOPLE CANNOT BLOCK NAVIGABLE ACCESS IN WATERS OF THE STATE BUT THEIR OFFICE HAS NO POLICE POWERS.

HE ADDRESSED WHEN A COMPANY APPLIES FOR THEIR PERMIT FOR SOMETHING IN THE SPRINGS, DEP WILL PROCESS THE PERMIT AND MAKE A DETERMINATION BASED ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND STATUTES AND RULES OF FLORIDA; WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR DECISION, BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PETITION FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING.

HE ADDRESSED PEOPLE SWIMMING IN DRINKING WATER; THERE ARE PEOPLE SWIMMING IN DEER POINT LAKE IN BAY COUNTY ALL THE TIME AND IT IS A SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER.

UNDER THE FLORIDA LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM, THE STATE HAS PURCHASED OVER A 1,000,000 ACRES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS INCLUDING SPRINGS.

COMMISSIONER FINCH QUESTIONED IF DEP TRIES AND DISCOURAGES SOMEONE WHEN THEY CALL IN A COMPLAINT AND ADVISE THEM THIS WILL COST THE COUNTY MONIES; IF THE COMPLAINT IS THEN DROPPED WOULD DEP CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE COMPLAINT. SHAFFER ADVISED DEP IS OBLIGED TO INVESTIGATE ALL COMPLAINTS; THERE ARE A LOT OF VARIATIONS ON THESE ISSUES. FINCH ADDRESSED HIM HAVING A PROBLEM WITH A STATE AGENCY ASSESSING ANOTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY FINES. SHAFFER ADVISED DEP DIDN'T MAKE ANY DISTINCTIONS WHEN THEY ENFORCE THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICIES; IF THERE IS A SETTLEMENT, THESE MONIES GO INTO A STATE FUND. HE ADDRESSED THE LEGISLATURE HAVING PASSED AN ADMINISTRATIVE FINE BILL WHICH ALLOWS THERE TO BE ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR CERTAIN THINGS; IT LAYS OUT WHAT THE PENALTIES ARE AND WHAT THE OFFENSES ARE.

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT/BILL CLECKLEY AND TOM PRATT- PRATT SHOWED A FILM PRESENTATION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AS TO WHERE THE WATER COMES FROM AND WHERE IT GOES; RAINFALL IS THE SOURCE OF RECHARGE; DISCHARGE OCCURS INTO SPRINGS; SPRINGS ARE POINTS OF DISCHARGE TO THE FLORIDA ACQUIFER.

PRATT ADDRESSED AN ESTIMATED 1,000,000 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY GOES INTO THE FLORIDA ACQUIFER IN THE HOLMES, WASHINGTON, JACKSON AND CALHOUN COUNTY AREA AND A LOT OF RECHARGE GOES INTO GROUND IN THE SAND HILLS AREA.

COMMISSIONER ENFINGER QUESTIONED WHERE DOES THE GROUND WATER GO; PRATT SHOWED DIFFERENT AREAS WHERE WATER WENT INTO THE GROUND AND WENT INTO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS; SOME FLOWS AND DISCHARGES INTO WEST BAY, SOME FLOWS INTO HOLMES CREEK AND DISCHARGES AND FLOWS ITS SURFACE WATER TO CHOCTOWHATEE BAY AND INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO.

PRATT EXPLAINED THAT ONCE WATER COMES OUT OF THE FLORIDA ACQUIFER AND BECOMES SURFACE WATER OR STREAM FLOW, IT DOESN'T GO BACK INTO THE GROUND.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON CITIES SELLING WATER WHICH COMES FROM THE FLORIDA ACQUIFER; TODD BARFIELD, EMPLOYEE WITH THE CITY OF OF CHIPLEY PUBLIC WORKS, ADVISED THE CITY CHARGES A FEE TO HELP WITH MAINTAINING THE WATER SYSTEM SERVICES.

IT WAS QUESTIONED ON HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR WATER TO GET INTO THE ACQUIFER; A TRAVEL TIME OF A COUPLE OF YEARS, MAYBE LESS; THE TRAVEL TIME TO A DISCHARGE POINT IS ON THE ORDER OF DECADES.

BILL CLECKLEY OF NFWFMD UPDATED THE BOARD ON EXISTING WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LANDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND PROPOSED ACQUISITIONS TO PROTECT THE WATER RESOURCES IN THE COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT NORTHWEST FLORIDA. TWO OF THE MOST RECENT ACQUISITIONS IS AN APPROXIMATE 1100 ACRE CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON THE GLOVER PROPERTY WEST OF VERNON AND THE SAPP, FULMER AND BRUCE PROPERTY NORTHEAST OF VERNON WHICH ENCOMPASSES PART OF HOLMES CREEK AND CYPRESS SPRING

RUN; THE TOTAL ACREAGE FOR BOTH THESE PROPERTIES IS APPROXIMATELY 2300 ACRES. HE ADVISED THE GLOVER PROPERTY WAS BEING ACQUIRED THROUGH A CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND THE SAPP, FULMER AND BRUCE PROPERTY WAS BEING ACQUIRED THROUGH FEE SIMPLE. WHEN QUESTIONED ON FIRST MAGNITUDE SPRINGS, CLECKLEY CLECKLEY ADVISED HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

CHAIRMAN COPE CALLED FOR A TEN MINUTE RECESS.

PURSUANT TO A RECESS, JIM STEVENSON OF FL-DEP UPDATED THE BOARD ON SAVE OUR SPRINGS; PROVIDED THE BOARD A COPY OF THE FLORIDA SPRINGS TASK FORCE REPORT AND SHOWED A FILM PRESENTATION OF WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH SAVE OUR SPRINGS AROUND FLORIDA. HE ADDRESSED:

1. THE PROTECTION OF THE WATER MUST OCCUR BEFORE IT REACHES THE SPRINGS AND THE RECHARGE AREA.
2. THE HARM NITRATES CAN DO TO SPRINGS.
3. THE HARM OF SEPTIC TANKS BEING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SPRINGS.
4. THE HARM WITH AGRICULTURE; LIVESTOCK IN WATER.
5. WHATEVER IS PLACED IN THE RECHARGE AREAS IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF OUR SPRINGS AND OUR DRINKING WATER.
6. SEVERAL INSTANCES OF WHERE SPRINGS HAVE GONE DRY AND REASONS WHY.
7. TWELVE STRATEGIES THE TASK FORCE CAME UP WITH TO PROTECT FLORIDA SPRINGS.
8. MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS MADE ON SPRINGS RECHARGE AREA ARE MADE BY COUNTY GOVERNMENT; LEARNING HOW SPRINGS SYSTEM WORKS IS RIGHT TRACK TO FOLLOW IN TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR SPRINGS.
9. THE NEED TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT SINKHOLES.

STEVENSON COMMENDED THE BOARD FOR HOLDING THE WORKING WORKSHOP ON HOW TO PROTECT THEIR SPRINGS AND ADDRESSED THE DECISIONS THE BOARD MAKE WILL DETERMINE THE LONG TERM FUTURE OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES.

COBB QUESTIONED STEVENS IF HE SEEN A PROBLEM WITH WASTEWATER COMING FROM THEIR BOTTLING WATER FACILITY CREATING A PROBLEM DUE TO THE WATER GOING INTO THEIR WASTEWATER POND HAVING A PH OF 7.

STEVENSON ADDRESSED THERE BEING TWO BASIC ISSUES WHEN TALKING ABOUT SPRING PROTECTION: WATER QUALITY AND WATER QUANTITY; WATER THAT IS CONTAMINATED FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES IN THE RECHARGE AREA AND HOW THE WATER IS REMOVED FROM THE RECHARGE AREA. HE ADVISED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH BOTTLING WATER COMPANIES AND CAN'T SPEAK TO ANY CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE COMING THROUGH THESE FACILITIES.

MS. MORRISON ADDRESSED THERE BEING AN IMPACT TO THE SPRINGS DUE TO THE TRAFFIC AND RUN OFF FROM CARS OF PEOPLE WORKING AT THE PLANT.

JIM STEVENSON ADDRESSED THERE WERE SPRINGS THAT HAVE DRIED UP BUT IT WAS USUALLY DUE TO POPULATION; WASHINGTON COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM NOW BUT AGREED AS THE COUNTY GROWS THE THREAT OF THEIR SPRINGS GOING DRY WILL INCREASE.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE NEED FOR SINKHOLES TO BE IDENTIFIED AND PROTECTED. STEVENSON AGREED DEP WOULD ASSIST THE COUNTY IN IDENTIFYING ANY SINKHOLES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

LOUIE ROBERTSON WITH THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ADDRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN THE FUTURE HEALTH OF THE SPRINGS DUE TO WILDLIFE DE- PENDING ON THEM; THERE ARE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES LIVING IN THESE AREAS. HOWEVER, THEY SERVE AS AN ADVISORY COMMENT; THEIR AUTHORITY IS NARROW AND LIMITED UNLESS IT INVOLVES A DIRECT TAKE OF ANY FISH AND WILDLIFE AND SOMETIMES AN INDIRECT TAKE OF ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES.

PALMER MASON OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADDRESSED WHAT WASHINGTON COUNTY COULD DO FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND LAID OUT SOME FRAMEWORK ON HOW THE COUNTY MAY UNDERTAKE SOME OF THE ISSUES ALREADY LAID OUT ON PROTECTING THEIR RESOURCES:

1. THE FIRST THING TO DO IS FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS IN MEANS OF NATURAL RESOURCES. THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE COUNTY DEALS WITH MOST OF THE MAJOR ISSUES; STORM WATER, RECHARGE AND SPRING PROTECTION, ETC. IT NEEDS TO BE DETERMINED HOW THE COMP PLAN CAN BE TAKEN TO ANOTHER LEVEL. MASON ADVISED THE FIRST STEP TO DO THIS WOULD DO AN INVENTORY OF THE NATURAL FEATURES AND NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES. HE ADDRESSED THERE BEING A LOT OF AGENCIES TO ASSIST AND A LOT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THESE ISSUES. HOWEVER, TO DO THIS WOULD REQUIRE MAPPING ON WHERE THE SPRINGS AND THE RECHARGE AREAS ARE.
2. SECOND STEP WOULD BE TO PRIORITIZE WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES WASHINGTON COUNTY WANTS TO PROTECT; TO DO THIS THEY WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC MEETINGS TO HAVE PUBLIC INPUT. THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS THE TOOL TO BRING ALL THESE ISSUES TOGETHER. HE ADVISED THIS WOULD BE A COMMITMENT OF TIME, EFFORT AND POLITICAL CAPITAL TO. HE PROVIDED THE BOARD WITH HANDOUTS ON PLANNING GRANT MONIES THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HAS TO ASSIST THE COUNTY IN DETERMINING WHAT RESOURCES THEY HAVE THEY WOULD LIKE TO PROTECT. HE ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT WAS ONLY ASKING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A ONE PAGE DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE COUNTY INTENDS TO DO AND WHAT THEY INTEND TO PRODUCE AT THE END OF THE PROCESS; THIS APPLICATION HAS TO BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO AUGUST 1ST.

MASON THEN PROVIDED A HANDOUT FROM THE SMALL COUNTIES FOUNDATION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTY ON ISSUES ADDRESSED TODAY ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION.

HE THEN REFERRED TO WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL BEING ANOTHER AGENCY WHICH CAN ASSIST THE COUNTY. HE ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEVELOPING WHAT HE CALLS A LAND USE INSTITUTE WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF A GROUP OF PLANNERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH QUESTIONS. THE COUNTY COULD ASK THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WHAT KIND OF LAND USE POLICIES THEY NEED TO IMPLEMENT IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PROTECT THEIR SPRINGS. THIRD STEP-THE BOARD NEEDS TO DETERMINE WHAT ARE THEIR STRATEGIES. MASON ADDRESSED THERE BEING REGULATORY STRATEGIES, ZONING OR COMP PLAN STRATEGIES AND LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGIES.

HE ADDRESSED THE FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST HAVING MONIES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE COUNTY WITH ACQUISITION OF PARK LAND, OPEN LAND AND CONSERVATION LAND; THERE WERE A VARIETY OF OTHER SOURCES AVAILABLE ALSO.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED THERE NEEDED TO BE A BALANCE OF KEEPING THE PROPERTIES BEING ACQUIRED ON THE TAX ROLLS, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONTINUING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE OTHER SERVICES THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING. STEVENSON ADVISED THE COUNTY COULD KEEP THE LANDS ON THE TAX ROLLS AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT; HE REITERATED OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH PROTECTING THE NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE AGENCIES POSITIONS ON WHAT THE BOARD CAN DO TO PROTECT WASHINGTON COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES WAS CONCLUDED. CHAIRMAN COPE WENT INTO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION OF THE WORKSHOP AND REQUESTED EACH PERSON LIMIT THEIR COMMENTS TO FIVE MINUTES.

BILL COBB WITH SPRING ENTERPRISES LLC-THE BOTTLING WATER PLANT WILL CREATE JOBS, INCREASE AD VALOREM TAXES AND ENHANCE WETLANDS. THEY WILL FOLLOW ALL THE RULES OF FL-DEP, NFWFMD, ETC.

LARRY CARTER, PRESIDENT OF CITIZENS PRESERVATION COUNCIL IN VERNON, FLORIDA- IF OUR SPRINGS AND WATER ARE GIVEN AWAY, IT WILL TAKE AWAY ONE MORE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE; WHAT ARE A FEW JOBS IN RELATIONS TO SAVING NATURAL RESOURCES; HOW WILL HISTORY TREAT THOSE IN CHARGE WHO HOLD CONTROL OF A PUBLIC

TRUST WHERE LAND AND WATERS COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED BUT WERE NOT. HE ASKED THE BOARD FOR A MORATORIUM ON PERMITS TO USE ANY OF THE COUNTY'S RESOURCES UNTIL ALL THEIR ASSETS AND DEFICITS HAVE BEEN INVENTORIED, CATALOGUED AND ANALYZED.

VIK KEISLER WITH FL-DEP ADDRESSED THE PROCESS TO PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES SHOULD BEGIN WITH EDUCATION. HE SUGGESTED THE COUNTY COMMISSION MIGHT GO TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT PUTTING TOGETHER A CURRICULUM TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

THE BOARD MEMBERS THANKED ALL OF THE AGENCIES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES WORKSHOP.

KATHY FOSTER QUESTIONED IF THE BOTTLING COMPANY HAD RECEIVED ALL THEIR NEEDED PERMITS; SPRING ENTERPRISE REPRESENTATIVES ADVISED THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY OF THEIR PERMITS.

FOSTER QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WAS GOING TO TAKE ANY ACTION TO TRY AND STOP THE WATER BOTTLING COMPANY; CHAIRMAN COPE ADVISED THIS WOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED TODAY DUE TO THIS BEING A WORKSHOP AND IT WOULD BE UP TO THE BOARD SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO TAKE ANY ACTION AT A FUTURE DATE.

FRANK CORSO QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WAS GOING TO CONTINUE TO RETAIN THE OUTSIDE ATTORNEY ON THE SPRINGS ISSUE; CHAIRMAN COPE ADVISED UNTIL THE BOARD TAKES ACTION TO DISCONTINUE THEIR SERVICES, THE OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS WOULD BE RETAINED.

JOE MINER QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WAS GOING TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING SOME OF THE STEPS ADDRESSED AT THE WORKSHOP; THE BOARD'S CONSENSUS WAS TO PURSUE GRANT FUNDING TO ASSIST THE COUNTY IN IDENTIFYING THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WHAT IS NEEDED TO PROTECT THEM.

LARRY CARTER QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD HAD THE AUTHORITY TO PUT A HOLD ON ANY ACTIONS OR PERMITS UNTIL A STUDY IS DONE. ATTORNEY HOLLEY ADVISED THE BOARD WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY PERTAINING TO PERMITS THEY ISSUE BUT COULD NOT PROHIBIT OTHER AGENCIES FROM ISSUING PERMITS.

WHEN QUESTIONED IF WATER MANAGEMENT COULD DO ANYTHING TO PROHIBIT THE PERMITTING OF THE BOTTLED WATER PLANT UNTIL THE STUDY IS COMPLETED; A REPRESENTATIVE REITERATED THE PERMITTING PROCESS AND SHOULD THEY ISSUE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO PERMIT THE BOTTLING PLANT, THERE IS A PROCESS FOR ANYONE TO CHALLENGE WHAT THEY RECOMMEND.

VICKI MORRISON ADVISED THE WITHDRAWAL OF WATER FOR A BOTTLING PLANT WOULD BE CONSIDERED LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A CHANGE TO THE LAND USE PLAN TO ALLOW IT. RANDY PARKER ADDRESSED THE NEED TO LOOK AT THE IMPACT ON ROADWAYS AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR A LAND USE CERTIFICATE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ENFINGER AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CLERK

\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 06/22/01