

Withlacoochee, Alapaha, Little and Suwannee River Watershed Coalition; Savannah Reams, Greene Publishing Inc.; Robert Vincent, Florida Department of Health; Matthew Weldon, Levy County Parks Department; Lester Wetherington, Citizen and Phyllis Williams, Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

IV. VALDOSTA SEWAGE SPILLS

The Task Force received a presentation from Council staff concerning the history of raw sewage spills by the City of Valdosta into the Withlacoochee River, the consent order between the City and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and ongoing raw sewage spills.

The Task Force also heard a report from the Florida Department of Health concerning the most recent raw sewage spill which occurred on December 2, 2018.

V. IDENTIFY NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF VALDOSTA SEWAGE SPILLS

The Task Force identified public health, environmental, economic development and tourism as negative impacts of the spills.

VI. IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS IMPACTS

The Task Force identified several strategies including contacting federal and state officials, adopting resolutions, sending letters, meeting with the Valdosta Mayor and City Council and engaging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

VII. IDENTIFY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS/ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST IN IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

The Task Force identified the following local, state and federal partners/organizations Advent Christian Village, canoe/kayak outfitters, chambers of commerce, fisherman/bait shops, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida State Parks, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, municipalities, Nestle Water Bottling Company, realtor associations, Suwannee River Water Management District, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Valdosta citizens and Visit Florida/tourist development councils.

Chair Davis informed the Task Force that the next meeting will be held on January 24, 2019 prior to the next Council meeting at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Lake City.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Rick Davis, Chair

1/24/19
Date