

4. **Once the submissions are received**, the WWALS Songwriting Contest Committee (Committee) will vet them for minimal criteria (see #5) and post them for public online voting.
5. **Once the online voting is completed**, the Committee will select finalists from the entrants using criteria including:
 - a. The song must be about one or more of the Suwannee or its tributaries the Little, Black, or Gopher, the Withlacoochee or its tributaries the Little or New, the Alapaha or its tributaries the Alapahoochee, Willacoochee, Little, Alapaha, or Dead, or other Rivers, creeks, springs, sinks, swamps, or ponds in the Suwannee River Basin or Estuary.
 - a. *Not* about the Santa Fe River or waterbodies in that sub-basin, because there's another contest for that.
 - b. Avoid proselytizing religion.
 - c. Avoid partisan politics or specific candidates, but issues are OK.
 - d. Avoid things that don't exist in the Basin or Estuary (no crocodiles; no flamingos).
 - e. Explicit lyrics (vulgar or violent) will not be accepted.
 - f. New for 2021: **submissions will be put on the web for public voting** before the final committee selection of finalists, taking into account the results of the voting.
 - g. Any judge who is also a member of the Committee shall not vote on selection of finalists, so as to avoid even any appearance of any conflict of interest.
6. **Applicants will be advised by August 4, 2021**, if they have been selected to compete as finalists.