



MINUTES OF THE 2025 SPRING GSARP MEETING (Apr 22nd – 23rd)

ORLANDO, FL

GSARP Member Name	Agency	Present
Jessica Marchant	AL DCNR	X
Pam Fuller	Member-At-Large	X
Chuck Jacoby	FL Flood Hub	
Matt Phillips	FL FWCC	X
Sarah Funck	FL FWCC	X
Jim Page	GA DNR	X
Charlie Robertson	GSMFC	X
Robert Bourgeois	LDWF	X
Michael Pursley	MS DMR	X
Ryan Jones (interim)	MS DWFP	
Rob Emens	NC DEQ	X
Tim Ellis	NC Alb-Pam NEP	X
Anna Toline	NPS	
Dana Wusinich-Mendez	NOAA	X
Nida Jimenez	Puerto Rico	
Dr. Ruber Rodriguez Barreras	Puerto Rico	
Lad Akins	Frost Science Museum	

GSARP Member Name	Agency	Present
Julie Holling	SC DES	X
Peter Kingsley-Smith	SC DNR-MRRI	X
Michael Kendrick	SCDNR-MRRI	X
Monica McGarrity	TPWD	X
Polly Hajovsky	TPWD	X
Marcel Bozas	Miccosukee Tribe FL	PROXY
Jon Lane	USACE	PROXY
Zanethia Barnett	USDA Forest Service	X
James Ballard	USFWS	X
Barak Shemai	USFWS	
Don MacLean	USFWS	
Robert McMahan	UT Arlington	X
Wesley Daniel	USGS	X
Michael Sipos	FL SeaGrant	PROXY

Others: Jake Edwards (USACE Proxy); Rick O’Conner (FL SeaGrant); Susan Pasko (USFWS); Jeff Hill (UF); Randy Fink (St. Johns River Water Manage. Div.); Mary Brown (USGS); Mariah McInnis (FL FWCC); Cayla Morningstar (UF); Melany Flint (Miccosukee Tribe FL Proxy); Jonathan Freedman (USGS); Nick Trippel (FL FWCC); Eric Suarez (UF); Arthur Bernhardt (FL FWCC); Matt Nielson (USGS); Annisa Karim (FL FWCC); Kelly Gestring (FL FWCC); Alex Dew (FL FWCC); Dr. Steven Enloe (UF); Dr. Demian Willette (LMU); Dr. Justin Campbell (FIU); Quenton Tuckett (UF); Jeff Hill (UF); Arthur Bernhardt (FL FWCC); Kristen Peterson (FL FWCC); Coleman Sheehy (UF); Brian Bahder (UF)

Call Meeting to Order/Introductions

Chairman Matt Phillips called the meeting to order and introduced panel members and guests. Opportunity for Public Comment was provided, with no comments given.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Matt Phillips indicated a slight change to the agenda (Wes Daniel to give presentation assigned to Cayla Morningstar, who is no longer with USGS). Motion made by Peter Kingsley-Smith to adopt the amended agenda. Monica McGarrity seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Biloxi, MS – May 2024)

Peter Kingsley-Smith made a motion to approve the minutes; Matt Phillips seconded. Motion passed.

GSARP Steering Committee

Jim Page gave update of multiple GSARP Executive/Steering Committee items. These included new State member from TX (Polly H.) and interim member for MS (Ryan Jones – absent). Jim also mentioned that the Panel still has openings for US Coast Guard and US Navy if members have suggestions. Lastly, Jim discussed an updated SOP approved by the Steering Committee and sent last week to the Panel members to review. Motion by Monica McGarrity to adopt the updated SOP. Wes Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

Presentations

- Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Management in Florida – *Alex Dew/Sarah Funck, FWCC*
- USACE Invasive Species Program in Florida – *Jake Edwards, USACE Jacksonville District*
- Research and Outreach Program, Opportunity to Collaborate – *Mariah McInnis, FL FWCC*
- Swamp Eel Control Update - *Nick Trippel, FL FWCC*
- Red Swamp Crayfish – *Kelly Gestring, FL FWCC*
- Technology Talk (Drone, Spray Tracker) - *Alex Dew, FL FWCC*
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Update – *Susan Pasko, USFWS*
- Overview of FWS AIS Activities and Upcoming High Priority Projects – *James Ballard, USFWS*
- Cuban Bulrush Invasion/management Across the Southeastern US – *Dr. Steven Enloe, UF*
- New Introductions and USGS Aquatic Disease & Pathogen Database – *Wes Daniel, USGS*
- **ACTION ITEM:** USGS requests: A) States inform USGS if desire to work with eDNA; B) States identify to USGS which invasive species are most important to their state; C) GSARP members wanting a copy of the NAS database should get one soon in case it is budgetarily cut from the USGS.
- *Halophila stipulacea*: Life History, Identification, and Worldwide Occurrence – *Dr. Demian Willette, LMU*
- *Halophila stipulacea* in Florida and Implications to the SE – *Dr. Justin Campbell, FIU*
- Long-term Removal of Invasive Caiman – *Eric Suarez, UF*
- Tropical Clawed Frog *Xenopus tropicalis* Biocontrol – *Quenton Tuckett, UF*

NO PUBLIC COMMENT - MEETING RECESSED FOR THE DAY

Call to Order/Public Comment

Chairman Matt Phillips called the meeting to order. Opportunity for Public Comment was provided, with no comments given.

Presentations (continued)

- Aquatic Invasive Species Risk Screenings – *Jeff Hill, UF*
- Hydrilla Update (Yale, Apopka, Toho) – *Alex Dew & Ed Harris, FL FWCC*
- Evaluating the Use of a Commercial Haul Seine as a Management Tool for Tilapia in Upper St Johns River Lakes – *Arthur Bernhardt, FL FWCC*
- Tangled Tales of *Vallisneria Spiralis*: Knot Your Average Tape Grass – *Kristen Peterson, FL FWCC*
- Inundative Biocontrol Project – *Mariah McInnis, FL FWCC*
- Lionfish Control in Florida – *Sarah Funck, FL FWC*
- Caecilians in Florida – *Coleman Sheehy, UF*
- eDNA Monitoring for the Asian Swamp Eel – *Brian Bahder, UF*
- Rapid Response Fund Update and Discussion – *Charlie Robertson, GSMFC*

ACTION ITEM: Need volunteers to serve on Application Review Committee – contact Charlie Robertson if interested.

State Reports / Members Forum

Verbal Updates/Reports were provided by the following states and members:

- Texas – *Monica McGarrity; Polly Hajovsky*
- Louisiana – *Rob Bourgeois*
- Mississippi – *Mike Pursley*
- Alabama – *Jessica Marchant*
- Florida – *Matt Phillips; Sarah Funck*
- Puerto Rico – *None/ABSENT*
- Georgia – *Jim Page*
- South Carolina – *Michael Kendrick; Julie Holling*
- North Carolina – *Rob Emens*
- Member – FL SeaGrant – *Rick O’Conner*
- Member – NOAA – *Dana Wusinich-Mendez*
- Member – USACE – *Jake Edwards (PROXY)*
- Member – UT Arlington – *Bob McMahon*
- Member-At-Large – *Pam Fuller*
- Member – GSMFC – *Charlie Robertson*

Other Business

Topic: Award Recognition:

The Panel formally recognized both the GSMFC as a whole and specific GSMFC employees for their outstanding work in previous facilitation of GSARP meetings.

Topic: Recommendations from GSARP to ANS Task Force:

The ANS Task Force has posed questions for the Panel to consider and provide recommendations back. These questions include:

- 1) What are Panel priorities for the last 5 years?

- 2) What are Panel priorities for next 5 years?
- 3) How can the Task Force help with these issues, and are there any recommendations that the Panel has for such help?

During Panel discussion, members suggested multiple crayfish species, golden mussel, giant salvinia, etc. as ongoing priorities. Chair Phillips took notes from this discussion for use in formulating Panel recommendations.

ACTION ITEM: Chair Matt Phillips indicated he will summarize written notes and may collect additional input from Panel. Chair Phillips indicated he will prepare a written response/recommendation on behalf of the Panel and send it to the ANS Task Force.

Next Meeting, Time, and Place

- Fall 2025 meeting to be held in SC. Details TBD.

DISCUSSION POINTS OF FALL 2025 MEETING:

- 1) KNOWN DATE CONFLICTS = Oct. 27-30 (GSMFC Meeting); Nov. 10-14; Oct. 13-17 (SC Aquatic Plant Management Society training)

*Recommend sending a Doodle poll to members for their input after S.C. identifies possible dates that are feasible for hotel.

DISCUSSION POINTS OF CHOOSING MEETING SITES:

Based on the recent experience of MS, TX, and FL reps hosting meetings in the post-GSMFC era, some considerations for choosing meeting sites should include:

- Prefer meeting locations near major airport
- Prefer hotel with shuttle to airport
- Prefer hotel with multiple eating venues within walking distance

NO PUBLIC COMMENT - MEETING ADJOURNED