

August 29, 2024

Alachua County BOCC
12 SE 1st St 2nd Floor
Gainesville, FL 32601

Subject: FWC Gainesville Lab Sewer Connection

To Alachua County BOCC:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) Gainesville Wildlife Research Lab is located on SW Williston Road just east of US 441. There are multiple buildings on the site which house staff offices, field equipment, and a necropsy lab. The complex is located on the northeast side of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. The complex currently uses four septic systems for sewer service. For long-term planning and conversation, FWC would prefer to connect to the Gainesville Regional Utility (GRU) sewer system to provide protection to Paynes Prairie. The nearest sewer is about 0.3 miles to the west on US 331. However, the site is located outside the Alachua County urban cluster zone. In order to make the sewer connection approval is needed from the County. This letter is to request that approval.

GRU has already been contacted and will accept the flow. The plan would involve extending the gravity system that exists on US 331 to the front of the property. The existing septic systems would be retired from service. Three lift stations would be constructed onsite to collect the sewer flow and transmit it to the new gravity system. We have attached preliminary plans of the proposed construction. In order to avoid removal of trees the onsite force main will be installed via the directional drill method. The plan is also being laid out to not impact the wading bird rookery to the northeast of the site nor will it impact any wildlife or nests.

The site already is served by the GRU water system. Once the system is put into operation a licensed operator will be hired to maintain and service the system. FWC will be providing backup power to the master pump station through the onsite generator serving the site.

We hope this project meets with your approval and we will provide further information and details at your request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
DRMP, Inc. on behalf of the FWC

Patrick Day, P.E.
Project Manger