

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In re: JACKSON BLUE SPRING
AND MERRITTS MILL POND
BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

OGC Case No. 16-0291

FINAL ORDER ESTABLISHING THE JACKSON BLUE SPRING
AND MERRITTS MILL POND
BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Pursuant to Section 403.067(7), Florida Statutes, this Final Order adopts the attached Basin Management Action Plan ("BMAP") for certain Class III surface waterbodies within the Chipola River Basin. The adopted BMAP, entitled "Basin Management Action Plan for the Implementation of the Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in the Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond Basin" and dated May 2016, is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit 1.

The Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond BMAP has been developed as part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's ("department") Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL") Program, as authorized under the Florida Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067, Florida Statutes). Surface waters covered in the Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond BMAP are designated as Class III waters in accordance with Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."). Class III waters must have

suitable water quality for recreational use and for the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife.

The Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond Basin is located in Jackson County. In May 2013, the department established a nutrient TMDL for Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond within the Chipola River Basin in Rule 62-304.315, F.A.C. Excessive nitrate is the primary pollutant contributing to the impairments. Table 2 in the attached Exhibit 1 identifies the applicable TMDL.

The department worked closely with the affected stakeholders, including local and state agencies, in developing the Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond BMAP to achieve the associated TMDLs. Beyond direct work with the affected stakeholders, the department encouraged public participation to the greatest practicable extent by providing routine updates in technical meetings and requests for comment at technical meetings on the Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond BMAP. The department held a noticed public meeting in the basin on May 12, 2016, to discuss the BMAP and receive comments.

The Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond BMAP represents the collaborative effort of stakeholders to identify current and planned projects and management

actions to achieve pollutant load reductions required by the TMDLs. The adopted BMAP documents the projects and management actions that have been, or will be, undertaken by stakeholders to reduce discharge of pollutants in the watershed. The projects and management actions (completed, ongoing, and planned) identified in the BMAP address known sources of pollutants, facilitate investigation of unknown sources, prevent new sources, and address future loads associated with population growth and land use changes in the basin.

The specific pollutant reduction projects and management actions required of individual entities are set forth in Chapter 4 of the BMAP. All projects and management actions in the BMAP must be completed by the assigned entity within five years of the effective date of this Order unless otherwise noted in the BMAP. Actions that are ongoing in nature (for instance, street sweeping and stormwater pond maintenance) must be initiated within 120 days of the effective date of this Order, and thereafter continued, unless otherwise indicated in the BMAP.

This Final Order and incorporated BMAP are enforceable pursuant to sections 403.067, 403.121, 403.141, and 403.161, Florida Statutes.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the attached Exhibit 1 is hereby adopted as the Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond Basin Management Action Plan.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

The Jackson Blue Spring and Merritts Mill Pond BMAP shall become final unless a timely petition for an administrative proceeding is filed pursuant to the provisions of Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes, before the deadline for filing a petition. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the department's proposed agency action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received) in the department's Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Petitions must be filed within 21 days of publication of the public notice or within 21 days of receipt of this order, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, however, any person who asked the

department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 21 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure of any person to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes, or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the department's action is based must contain the following information:

(a) The name, addresses, and telephone number of each petitioner; the department case identification number and the county in which the subject matter or activity is located;

(b) A statement of how and when each petitioner received notice of the department action;

(c) A statement of how each petitioner's substantial interests are affected by the department action;

(d) A statement of the material facts disputed by the petitioner, if any;

(e) A statement of facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the department action;

(f) A statement of which rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the department action; and

(g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wants the department to take.

A petition that does not disputes the material facts on which the department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301, F.A.C.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the department's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this order. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the department on the petition have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Mediation is not available for this proceeding.

A party who is adversely affected by this order has the right to seek judicial review under Section 120.68 of the Florida Statutes, by filing a notice of appeal under Rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the clerk of the department in the Office of the General Counsel, Mail Station 35, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-3000, and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within thirty days after this order is filed with the clerk of the department.

DONE AND ORDERED this 24th day of May, 2016, in
Tallahassee, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Jonathan P. Steverson
Secretary
Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

FILED ON THIS DATE PURSUANT TO § 120.52,
FLORIDA STATUTES, WITH THE DESIGNATED
DEPARTMENT CLERK, RECEIPT OF WHICH IS
HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Lea Crandall 5-24-16
CLERK DATE