

**Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
Five-Year Review Kick-off Meeting Summary**

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 10:00 AM

*South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Lower West Coast Service Center
2301 McGregor Boulevard, 1st Floor Large Conference Room
Fort Myers, FL*

Attendees

Joe Adams, Pavese Law Firm	Wes Kayne, Barraco and Associates
Rudy Bernmagio, Citizen	Kevin Kellum, Banks Engineering
Amanda Booth, USGS	Steven Kelly, FDOT
Bob Burleson, ATM	Keith Kibbey, Lee County DNR
Jennifer Carpenter, DEP	Lisa Kreiger, Lee County DNR
Marisa Carrozzo, Conservancy of Southwest FL	Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, Lee County HCD
John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper	Frank Mann, Lee County Commissioner
Terry Cerullo, DEP	Ansley Marr, SFWMD
Mallory Clancy, Johnson Engineering	Kirk Martin, Water Science
Ben Clayton, FDOT	Linda McCarthy, Lykes Brothers
Teresa Coley, SFWMD	Britni McDonald, WINK News
Breanna Crowell, DEP	Ruth McGregor, Sierra Club
Deborah Culp, Citizen	Nolin Moon, DEP
Sara Davis, DEP	Stacey Ollis, SFWMD
James Evans, City of Sanibel	Roland Ottolini, Lee County DNR
Phil Flood, SFWMD	Ray Pribble, Janicki Environmental
Derek Free, Dynamic Enviro	Irene Kennedy Quincy, Pavese Law Firm
Cathy Foerster, Wildwood Consulting	Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Alyssa Freitag, DEP	Church Roberts, Church Environmental
Gene Gibson, Calusa Waterkeeper	Brent Setchell, FDOT
Chad Gills, News-Press	Marc Sullivan, Legacy Harbour Marina
Kathleen Greenwood, FDACS	Stewart Swanson, UF
Jennifer Hecker, Charlotte Harbor NEP	Richard Thompson, City of Fort Myers
Robert Himschoot, Crews Environmental	Ron Visness, Citizen
Bob Howard, Alico	Rae Ann Wessell, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Matt Hunter, Florida Senate	Kevin Williams, DEP
Connie Jarvis, City of Cape Coral	

Introduction

Sara Davis, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental Manager, opened the meeting at 10:20 AM by welcoming everyone and apologizing for the technical difficulties. She introduced Kevin Williams, DEP Basin Coordinator. She stated that this is the kick-off meeting for the five-year review of the adopted Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). She and Kevin will provide an overview of the adopted BMAP; discuss relevant legislation and requirements of the five-year review; and discuss the timeline, action items, and next steps associated with the five-year review. She requested that each person in the room introduce them self.

Overview of the Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP

The Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP was adopted in November 2012 to implement a total nitrogen (TN) TMDL that was adopted in 2009. The fourth annual progress report was finalized in April 2017 for the reporting period of December 1, 2015 through November 30, 2016. Sara stated that the required TN

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reduction is 388,718 pounds of nitrogen per year (lbs-N/year). To date, the estimated TN reduction is 183,482 lbs-N/yr (47 % of the required reduction) through projects completed by the City of Cape Coral, City of Fort Myers, Charlotte County, Lehigh Acres Municipal Service Improvement District (LA-MSID), Lee County, Lucaya Community Development District, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and agricultural producers. She advised that the BMAP focuses on a geographic area downstream of Franklin Lock.

Pertinent Legislation

Sara stated that legislation went into effect in 2016 that requires five-year reviews of the Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP, St. Lucie River and Estuary BMAP, and Lake Okeechobee BMAP. The five-year review of the Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP is to be finalized and submitted to the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House in November 2017 (five years from date of adoption [November 2012] of the original BMAP). The review shall include five-year milestones towards meeting the TMDL in the next 15 years (20 years from adoption of the BMAP in 2012); assessment of progress towards meeting the milestones; determination of whether the TMDL can be met within the 20 years, and if not, an explanation as to why; and recommended revisions to the BMAP, such as boundary expansion, monitoring network revisions, etc. Sara stated that this is the first five-year review conducted by DEP; therefore, it is a new product and process for the agency and involved stakeholders. An outcome of the review and process is that DEP will convey funding needs to the Florida Legislature for stakeholder and agency projects and programs to meet the TMDL. The period of record (POR) for the Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP five-year review is December 1, 2012 through May 31, 2017.

Timeline

Sara explained the tentative timeline associated with submittal of the five-year review, and noted that this tight timeline will need to be followed in order to deliver the review to the Florida Legislature on time:

1. July 14, 2017 – Deadline for DEP to receive project updates (for the period of December 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017) and potential new projects (for the next 15 years) from stakeholders.
2. August 31, 2017 – Deadline for stakeholders to upload water quality monitoring data via the Watershed Information Network (WIN) or Florida Storage and Retrieval System (STORET) for samples collected through May 31, 2017.
3. October 2017 – Anticipated timeframe for DEP to conduct a public meeting to present the draft five-year review and obtain comments on the draft. DEP will route the draft document for review prior to the meeting.
4. November 1, 2017 – Approximate deadline for DEP to receive comments on the draft document. The actual deadline will be set when the draft document is made publicly available, and will depend on the actual date of the public meeting held in October 2017.
5. November 30, 2017 – Deadline for DEP to submit the final five-year review to the Florida Legislature.

Outline of the Five-Year Review Document

Kevin presented a series of slides regarding the proposed outline for the review document. The document will consist of three chapters that focus on the past (background information), present (assessing progress), and future (recommendations). The background information includes a summary of the Caloosahatchee TMDL and BMAP regulatory components. To assess progress, DEP will identify projects completed or underway by stakeholders during the POR. DEP will also evaluate ambient water quality and biological monitoring in addition to completing a water quality analysis. DEP will provide recommendations for the five-year milestones; potential changes to allocations due to modeling revisions;

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changes to the water quality monitoring tier system, and any other recommendations that will assist in implementation of the BMAP.

Sara presented slides that provide more details on some potential recommendations. For example, consultants are evaluating and revising the existing models (Hydrologic Simulation Program-FORTRAN [HSPF] and Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code [EFDC]) that were used to establish the TMDL. The results will be a multi-purpose model for the entire watershed in addition to the estuary, and may help guide BMAP implementation. Sara then presented slides on the proposed changes to the water quality monitoring network tier system, which would change from the current four-tier system to a three-tier system. The three-tier system will include monitoring stations designated as tributary, estuary, and bay (the original BMAP contained only tributary and estuary designations) prioritized into three tiers for water quality analyses. She explained the concept of the new three-tier system and welcomed comments on the proposed concept.

Monitoring Data

Sara presented a series of slides on the monitoring data requirements. WIN is now open for uploads and will replace STORET. She mentioned that data quality standards are different for WIN compared to STORET and the upload process is different, too. WIN is a web-based interface in which data is uploaded and verified by providers prior to being available in the database. She mentioned that South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) successfully uploaded data to WIN and that it is a good idea to upload a small data set the first time to work through the kinks.

Sara stated that data collected prior to July 1, 2017 can continue to be uploaded to STORET through December 2017. This may include data that does not meet WIN Minimum Data Quality Standards or corrections for data already in STORET. Data collected on or after July 1, 2017 should only go to WIN, and after December 2017, data can no longer be uploaded to STORET. Sara provided contact information for the DEP STORET/WIN coordinators, so data providers with questions can contact the coordinators directly.

Next Steps

Sara provided an overview slide of the next steps: prepare draft report (DEP with stakeholder input); complete WIN/STORET database uploads (stakeholders/data providers); conduct water quality evaluation (DEP); route draft report and conduct public meeting in October (DEP); submit final report in November (DEP).

Questions/Comments

1. John Cassani: Will DEP look at light attenuation (seagrass health) as a measure of success in meeting the TMDL? Sara: DEP currently evaluates stakeholder projects as one measure of success in meeting the TMDL, and reviews water quality data for TN (the TMDL/BMAP parameter) as another measure. However, modeling discussions continue and there could be other measures of success.
2. Marisa Carrozzo: How many years of data will be included in the water quality analysis and what will be the parameters? Sara: The POR will likely go back to the year of the TMDL (2009), and possibly before, depending on how many years are needed to understand the trend. Parameters will include TN and total phosphorus (TP), and additional parameters will be determined upon review of the data sets that are still being uploaded by providers.
3. Marisa: I suggest that the POR for the water quality analysis is extended as far back to the year of the earliest project benefits identified in the BMAP.

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4. John: We need to see base loading estimates (using flow data) rather than static concentrations. Sara: We plan to look at loading calculated using measured flow wherever possible, but the BMAP area is limited on flow data in recent years. This is one of the recommendations that can be included in the review process.
5. Rae Ann Wessell: DEP needs to look at actual flow data versus modeled flow data. We need to change the way we look at loading. We need to look at real data, identify needs, identify funding opportunities, and look at each entity responsible for reducing loading.
6. Rae Ann: Reuse water is a huge source. We need to target direct sources through advanced wastewater treatment. There needs to also be a TP TMDL. Sara: DEP TMDLs can only be done for impairments determined by rule-based assessments. Your comments are appreciated and will be shared with the appropriate DEP staff.
*DEP staff offers the following response in addition to what was said at the meeting: Per the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Water Resources Act (WRA), DEP is unable to write a TMDL for a parameter that has not been verified as impaired. Per the verified data in the Impaired Surface Water Rule (IWR), the TP is meeting its water quality standard at this time.
7. Brent Setchell: When will the TMDL modeling revisions be complete? When will preliminary results be shared? Sara: Preliminary results were released for comment in February 2017. I can provide the preliminary results to you if needed. I have not been informed of a completion date for the modeling; however, I believe that the TMDL team will be presenting results at a yet-to-be-scheduled public meeting in the next few months.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Action Items

Below are action items from the meeting.

1. Sara: Post final presentation and meeting summary to the DEP BMAP public ftp site.
2. Kevin/Cathy: Provide presentation to Steven Kelly (FDOT) and Joe Adams (Pavese Law Firm).
3. Kevin/Cathy: Provide Terry Cerullo copies of the sign-in sheets.
4. Sara and Kevin: Follow-up with stakeholders regarding project collection and water quality data uploads.