

Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

Webinar Summary

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

2:00 pm – 2:39 pm

Participants

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Kate English, Pavese Law Firm
James Evans, City of Sanibel
Kim Fikoski, SFWMD
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Marcy Frick, Tetra Tech
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Doug Gaston, Audubon
Chris Guth, Federico & Associates
Noah Handley, Lykes
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Lisa Kreiger, Lee County
Mark Lapp, Hendry County
Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, LCHCD
Donald Lees, Citizen
Linda McCarthy, Lykes
Stacey Ollis, SFWMD
Kelly O'Nan, Hendry County
Tommy Perry, Johnson Prewitt
Robert Potts, E Sciences
Maya Robert, City of Cape Coral
Maria Romero, Lee County
Brianna Rossiter, DEP
Darren Rumbold, FGCU
Mark Serrahn, Landon Companies
Eric Shea, FPL
Amy Thibaut, Pavese Law
Richard Thompson, City of Fort Myers
Andrew Tilton, Johnson Engineering
Pam Wade, SFWMD

The full webinar recording and supporting materials are posted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) file transfer protocol (FTP) site at

http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Caloosahatchee/Meetings/2019_11_06_BMAPUpdateStatus/.

Questions and Answers

Question: How do the updated starting loads compare to what we discussed at the last meeting?

Answer: To clarify what we are doing, the total overall starting load should not change. There is no removal of load from the total, it is just a matter of who the load belongs to in the starting load. If some entity says this belongs to a different entity and the other entity says, "yes that is ours," we just shifted that little piece of the load over to the other entity. It is a matter of shifting the load around, assigning it to different people. The overall load should not be different.

Question: What occurs when the ranking is a three and the nutrient quality improves?

Answer: If it is already a priority 3 and it has an improving trend, it will stay at priority 3. Priority 1 means it needs the most work because it has the highest concentrations compared to the benchmark. The same thing would be true if it is already a priority 1 and it has an increasing (worsening) trend, then it would stay a priority 1 because it is at the highest priority already.

Question: Are there any flow data to determine actual loads?

Answer: There are flow data. There is not a map in this particular presentation. The structures all have flow data collected by either South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). We have several flow stations throughout the watershed. In the current BMAP area, downstream of S-79, I think we have about five flow stations. We added three as a result of the 5-Year Review so in 2018 they were started in partnership with Lee County and SFWMD and there were already, I think, two there. There were an additional three stations in tributaries upstream between S-79 and S-77 that were added by SFWMD in partnership with DEP sometime in 2018, as well. We are looking at loads largely at the structures but where we have the flow on the tributaries, we are looking at those loads, as well, although those are fairly new stations.

Question: If there is an entity that meets the goals based on concentration, is there any way to not have a load reduction?

Answer: You will still have an allocation and required load reduction but one of the reasons we are looking at those concentration data in each basin is to figure out if we do have a lot of projects there, are the concentrations tracking with what we are expecting from those projects. Sometimes they are and sometimes they are not so it is a two-pronged approach that we look at to track progress. Everyone who should get an allocation will but, as we track progress, if we see that the data start looking good then we may back off a little on how many new projects we are asking people for.

Question: How will you prioritize trends to apply?

Answer: The trends we are looking at now are the concentration trends. If we had a flow-weighted mean concentration to do the trend analysis on we would use that trend instead but when this analysis was done it was all concentrations. The schematic is the framework we start with for all three of the BMAPs for this prioritization, and some of the things do not apply yet. We will be looking at the data annually so as we look at the data priorities and things may shift, and as we get more and more flow data online that could come into play.