

Everglades West Coast Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

Webinar Summary

Thursday, February 4, 2021

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Participants

Charles Avery, Citizen
Christian Avila, SFWMD
Martha Avila, DEP
Patricia Burke, SFWMD
Lauren Campbell, DEP
Emily Canney, SFWMD
John Cassani, Calusa Water Keeper
Stacy Cecil, DEP
Angela Chelette, FDACS
Carolyn Ciarlariello, DEP
Kevin Coyne, DEP
Sara Davis, DEP
Rebecca Elliott, FDACS
Kate English, Pavese Law
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS
Phil Flood, SFWMD
Marcy Frick, Tetra Tech
Rebecca Groover, FOWA
Ron Hamel, FGCU
Noah Handley, Lykes
Maddy Hart, FDACS
Kenny Hayman, DEP
Janet Hearn, ATM
Jennifer Hecker, CHNEP

Steven Kelly, FDOT
Yogesh Khare, Everglades Foundation
Lisa Kreiger, Lee County
Juli LaRock, SFWMD
Celeste Lyon, Wood
Jacob Newberry, DEP
Kevin O'Donnell, DEP
Roland Ottolini, Lee County
Chris Pettit, FDACS
Irene Quincey, Pavese Law
Gary Ritter, Florida Farm Bureau
Bree Rossiter, DEP
Darren Rumbold, FGCU
Ted Saltos, DEP
Patrick Shearer, E Sciences
Ed Shinouskis, Citizen
Jerry Smith, Citizen
Jennifer Thera, FDACS
Amy Thibault, Pavese Law
Nikki Tinsley, Citizen
Kalina Warren, DEP
Rhonda Watkins, Collier County
Kaylene Wheeler, Hydro Solutions
Manual Zamorano, 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/EWC/Meetings/2021_Feb_AnnualMeeting/.

Questions and Answers

Question on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

presentation: Can load reductions from agricultural best management practices (BMPs) be quantified or are they presumed? Also have any agricultural interests chosen the water quality monitoring option?

Answer from Maddy Hart, FDACS: In certain instances, load reductions can be quantified but we do not have monitoring onsite at every single farm in the state so a lot of times they are based on research. As was mentioned in my presentation, we have a very robust research catalogue with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Regarding whether anyone has chosen to enroll in water quality monitoring, I do not know of anyone who has chosen to do that. I know a couple of years ago when we were working on the springs BMAPs, it was a talking point that we have not heard of anyone choosing that option.

Question on the FDACS presentation: If a farm chooses to perform water quality monitoring rather than sign a notice of intent (NOI) to implement BMPs, what are they required to test for?

Answer from Maddy Hart, FDACS: I believe that DEP has adopted a policy for choosing to perform water quality monitoring in rule so I would refer to DEP's website for that (link to monitoring rule: <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=62-307.200>).

Answer from Sara Davis, DEP: We do have a rule for that and we have not had anyone reach out to us and try to work on a monitoring plan in lieu of BMPs yet. There is a system in place for that but it has not been needed yet.

Question on the FDACS presentation: Maybe you can explain what "stocker" and backgrounding" are since people may not understand the agricultural jargon or understand what the new BMP manual is for.

Answer from Maddy Hart, FDACS: Basically this manual revision is to cover what we consider to be all aspects of raising and doing cattle production in the state of Florida, and we are using it to fill in certain gaps in information that we felt was lacking in the original manual. We have worked with the cattle industry and other stakeholders in the manual revision. I do not specifically know the definitions of those two terms verbatim, but you can send me an email and I talk with our field staff and have them research that to get you a clear answer.

Comment on the DEP presentation: Can you show all the new waterbody identification numbers (WBIDs) on one map?

Answer from Kevin O'Donnell, DEP: I do not have a map and I know that is probably more helpful. I can definitely create that and put it in the final presentation.

Question on the DEP presentation: Can you remind me when the Everglades West Coast BMAP will be updated with the new Senate Bill 712 requirements for the sewer master plan?

Answer from Sara Davis, DEP: Whatever deadlines are in statute are the deadlines we are following. I think there is a specific deadline for that and I want to say it is July 1, 2025.

Question on the DEP presentation: Regarding the required reductions that have been met, are those for the first five-year increment or the total required reduction?

Answer from Bree Rossiter, DEP: Those are the total reductions required in the 2012 BMAP. Those tables were specifically from the report.

Question on the FDACS presentation: What is the likelihood of agricultural BMP implementation verification ever being done in the portion of Everglades West Coast (south Florida canals) that has no numeric nutrient criteria and therefore will not have a nutrient impairment/total maximum daily load (TMDL)/BMAP?

Answer from Maddy, FDACS: There is no statutory requirement for a producer or operator in a basin that is associated with a waterbody that does not have an impairment, an adopted TMDL, or BMAP to enroll in our program.

Question on the DEP presentation: Were the reductions based on monitoring results or reduction estimated from a type of BMAP activity?

Answer from Sara Davis, DEP: I think this is asking about the total reductions towards the required reductions. Both the goals for the required reductions and the numbers we subtract from those total

requirements are typically estimates. We start with some sort of model, in this case it was a spreadsheet model using event mean concentrations and other data like rainfall and land use, to set the targets/goals. Then, depending on the type of project, it typically uses that same method so we are doing an apples-to-apples comparison. In some cases, there are unique projects types, for example street sweeping, which has a tool that we use for all BMAPs that is based on the actual weight or volume of collected material to estimate the nutrient benefits. There are other types of projects like that which have methods that might be more specific or based on measured data. If there are projects that are structural and they have measured data, then we will take those data, as well, and use them in place of an estimate method.

Question on the DEP presentation: When can we expect TMDLs for other local nutrient impaired waterbodies including Estero Bay, Spring Creek, Mullock Creek, and Cocohatchee River? Also, when will we see TMDLs for bacteria impaired waterbodies in the Everglades West Coast boundaries?

Answer from Sara Davis, DEP: We do have a separate program, our TMDL program, and they have a prioritization method that they use for determining when TMDLs are done for the impaired waterbodies. I cannot specifically answer the question that you asked but if you are interested, I can get you a contact in that program and they can talk more specifically about it.