



*Florida Department of
Environmental Protection*

Central Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan

Briefing to the St. Lucie County Commission

September 18, 2012



Central Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Subbasin

- Listed as impaired due to seagrass loss in the lagoon compared to historical depths. Nutrient loadings identified as cause.
- FDEP adopted total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in March 2009 to reduce total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP).
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) meetings with stakeholders began in June 2009.



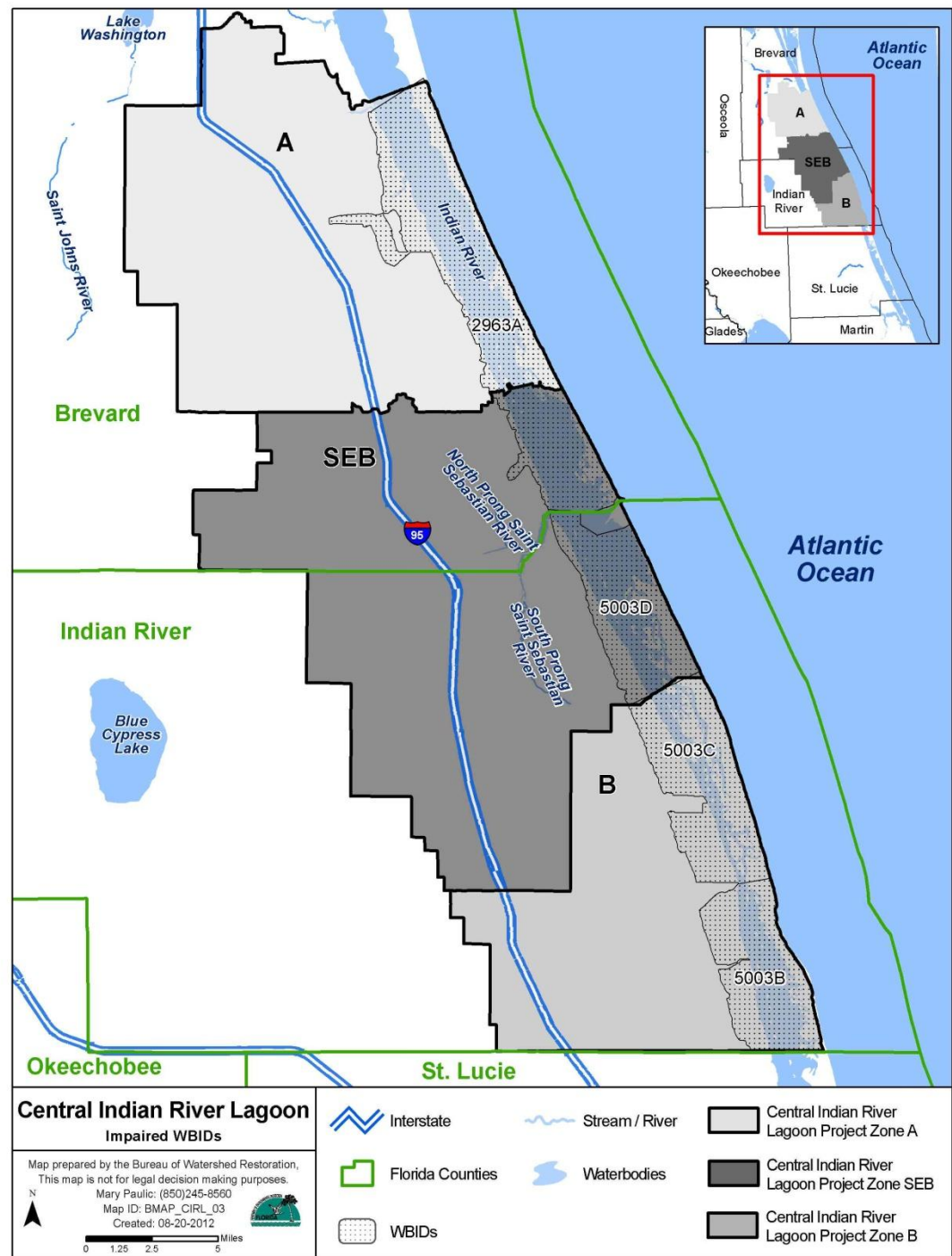


Central IRL Seagrass Evaluation

- As part of the BMAP process, FDEP evaluated the seagrass depths based on newer data than provided for the TMDLs.
 - These data were collected in 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2009.
- The Central IRL is meeting seagrass depth targets for 2003-2007 and 2005-2009.
- Therefore, nutrient reductions beyond planned activities are not required of the stakeholders for the next 5 years.



- The Central IRL subbasin extends from the Melbourne Causeway (U.S. 192) to the boundary between Indian River County and St. Lucie County.





Why is St. Lucie County Included?

- During BMAP discussions, FDEP noted a potential hydrologic connection with the part of the IRL located immediately to the south of the Central IRL subbasin.
- This is the area from the Indian River County/St. Lucie County boundary to the Fort Pierce Inlet. Typically included as part of the South IRL.
- There are impaired waterbodies in this area, but TMDLs have not been adopted by FDEP.

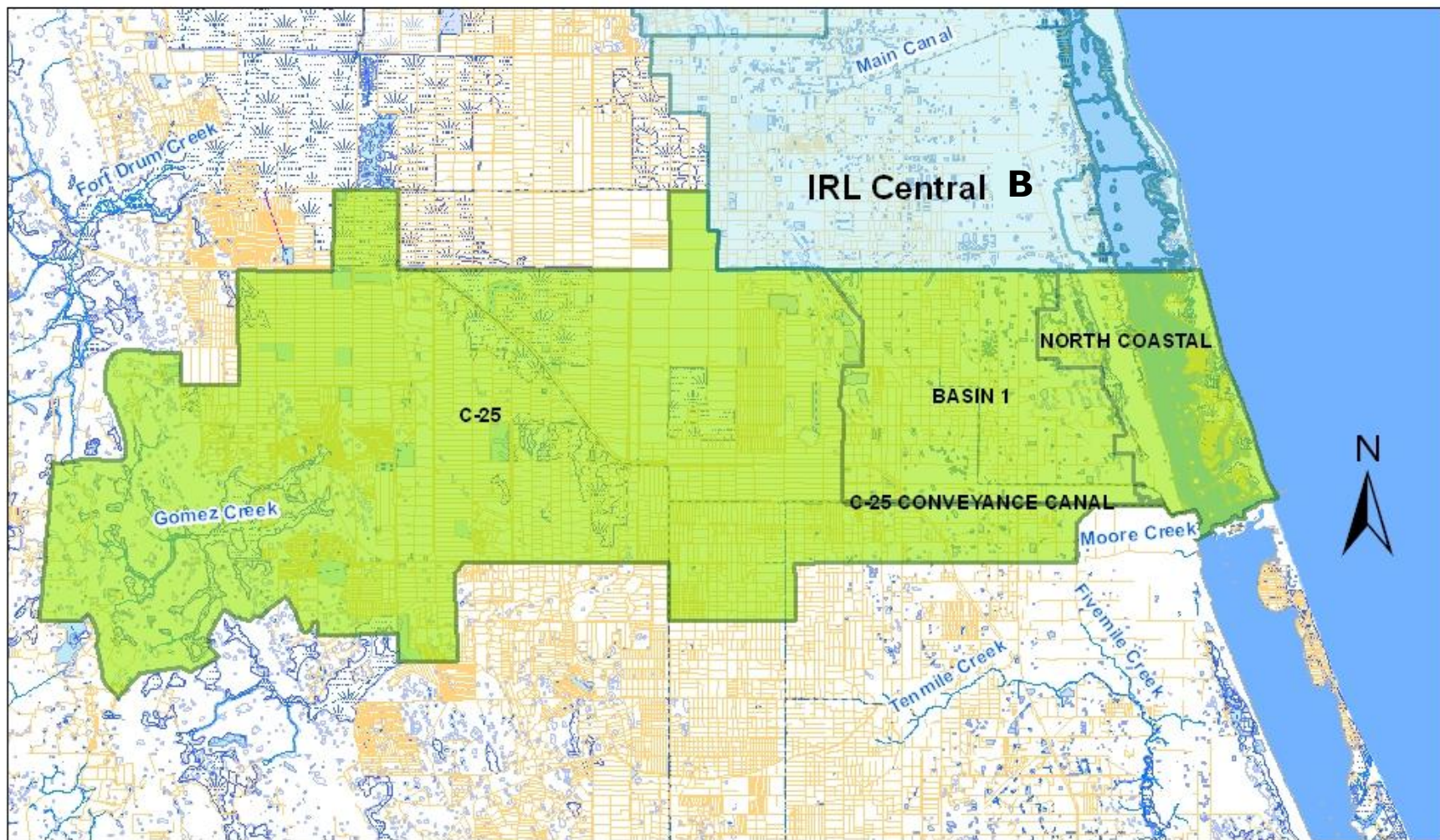




Impairments in the Southern IRL

- The main stem of the IRL in the southern IRL area is listed as impaired for chlorophyll-a and dissolved oxygen, both caused by nutrients.
 - FDEP has not drafted TMDLs for these impairments but has been working with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) on an appropriate seagrass or water quality target.
- Fort Pierce Farm Canal and C-25 are also both listed as impaired for nutrients.
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed TMDLs for these waterbodies to meet the Consent Decree timeline.
 - FDEP, in the future, may consider establishing different TMDLs for these waterbodies.





0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles



Stakeholders in the Southern IRL

- Stakeholders in the southern IRL subbasin include:
 - St. Lucie County;
 - South Florida Water Management District;
 - City of Fort Pierce;
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 4;
 - FDOT Turnpike Authority;
 - Fort Pierce Farms Water Control District (WCD);
 - North St. Lucie River WCD;
 - Town of St. Lucie Village; and
 - Agricultural producers.





Southern IRL Subbasin

- South IRL stakeholders agreed to include their projects in the Central IRL BMAP, as projects will benefit the Central IRL subbasin.
- The projects are not a BMAP requirement and the project schedules are not a compliance plan since reductions are not yet required in this area.
- Benefits of inclusion in a BMAP.
 - Planning time for future TMDLs.
 - Points added to grant application scores.
 - Voice in actions taken by other Central IRL stakeholders that influence water quality.





St. Lucie County Projects

- St. Lucie County included projects that are completed, ongoing, and planned in the next 5 years:
 - Education and outreach efforts;
 - Street sweeping in the subbasin;
 - Paradise Park stormwater improvement project;
 - Harmony Heights stormwater improvement project;
 - Taylor Creek dredging; and
 - Stan Blum Memorial Park stormwater pond.





St. Lucie County projects, continued

- These projects are not a BMAP requirement but should help improve water quality in the Central IRL subbasin.
- The county has the ability to add, remove, or update projects in this list as part of the annual reports on the BMAP.
- Improvements projects undertaken by Vero Beach and Indian River County should also benefit St. Lucie County.





Considerations

- During the first 5-years of the Central IRL BMAP, several items will be evaluated to better understand the southern IRL subbasin:
 - Connection to the Central IRL subbasin;
 - Basin boundary to better identify which areas flow to the impaired waterbodies;
 - Changes in water flows from proposed regional projects; and
 - Development of TMDLs and associated targets.





Future Actions

- FDEP will work with the southern IRL stakeholders as TMDLs for the waterbodies in this area are developed.
- After the first 5-year Central IRL BMAP iteration, FDEP will determine if a separate BMAP will be needed to address the southern IRL impairments.
 - This will depend on the seagrass or water quality targets selected for the impaired waterbodies and the status of these waters at that time.





Comments on the Draft Central IRL BMAP

- The plan for the southern IRL is described in Chapter 6 of the Central IRL BMAP.
- The BMAP is available on FDEP's website at: http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/IndianRiverLagoon/BMAP_Documents/Central_BMAP/.
- FDEP is holding a series of briefing and public meetings on the BMAP to obtain comments.





BMAP Comments, continued

- Comments are welcome on the draft BMAP document and can be submitted through December 7, 2012.
- The BMAP should be adopted by FDEP in early 2013.





FDEP Contacts

- To submit questions or comments on the BMAP, please contact:
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Questions and Comments

