



*Florida Department of
Environmental Protection*

Basin Management Action Plan

Lake Okeechobee Basin

February 20, 2013



Watershed Planning and Coordination Section



Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Background and Ongoing Efforts
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Components
- Agricultural Implementation Activities in the Basin
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Components and Development Process
- Public Comments and Wrap Up
 - First Technical Meeting: Late March, 2013
 - Location
- Adjourn





Lake Okeechobee BMAP

- Why are we here?
- Why a BMAP?
- What actions do government, citizens, and business interests need to take?





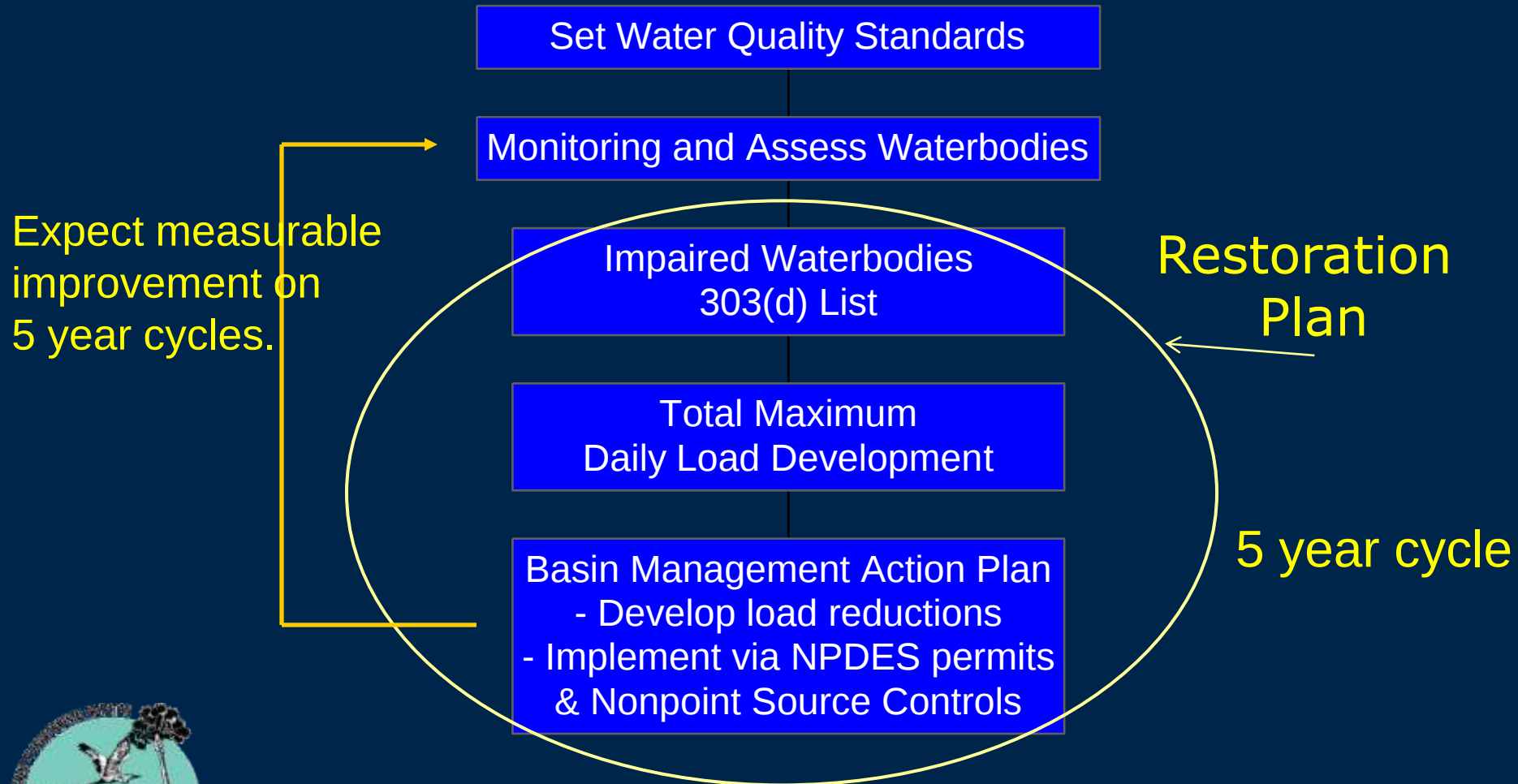
Why Are We Here?

- Inform stakeholders on the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) process.
- **Regulatory Framework**
 - Section 403.067, Florida Statutes (F.S.), known as the Florida Watershed Restoration Act (FWRA).
 - **Spells out issues should be addressed within a BMAP.**





CWA/TMDL/BMAP Process





Lake Okeechobee Watershed

Drainage area spans over 3.5 million acres

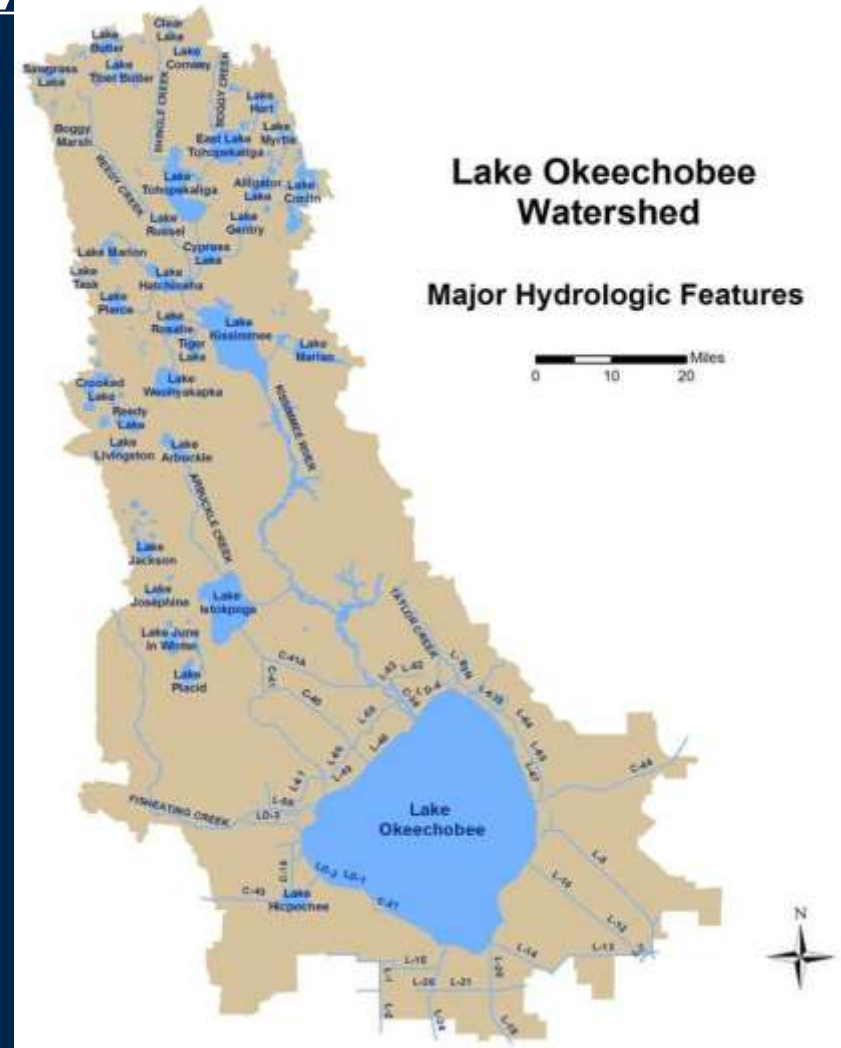
Consists of four distinct tributary systems

Kissimmee River Valley

Lake Istokpoga-Indian
Prairie/Harney Pond

Fisheating Creek

Taylor Creek/Nubbin
Slough





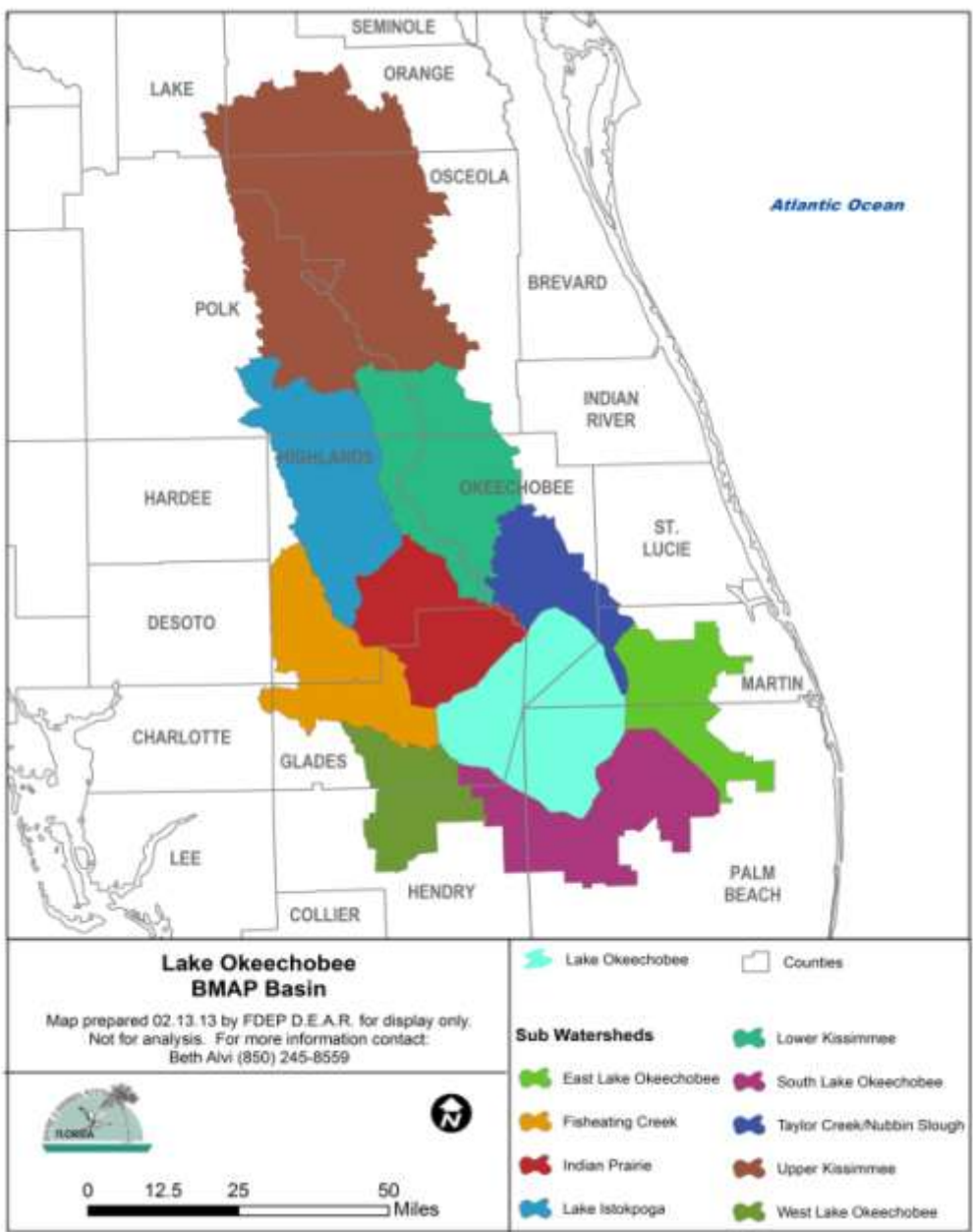
Lake O BMAP Area

Land use

- Agriculture 51.2%
- Natural Areas 35.7%
- Urban 11.9%

Single largest agricultural land use is improved pasture

Some portions of watershed are experiencing rapid urbanization





Why a Basin Management Action Plan

- BMAP is a restoration plan
- Roadmap for water quality improvements
 - No single solution will restore the water quality
 - Details Projects being implemented to improve water quality
 - Develops a Monitoring Plan to track improvements





Basin Management Action Plan

- Document a phased approach to achieve adopted TMDL
- Itemize initial set of nutrient load reduction activities and projects
- Allow for participation of stakeholder, partners and interested parties
- Identify needs for additional study and monitoring





Basin Action Management Plans

BMAP Process

- Developed collaboratively with local stakeholders
- Open meetings with public involvement
- Joint decision making with local partners
 - Counties, Cities, water control districts
agriculture interests, environmental interests,
community interests and others.





Basin Management Action Plan

- Comprehensive set of strategies
 - Wastewater limits
 - Urban BMPs
 - Agricultural BMPs
 - Conservation Programs
 - Estimates future changes





What Will It Take?

- Translation of TMDL to BMAP
- How do We Achieve Reductions?
- What is Our Fair Share - (allocations)?
- How Much Will it Cost?





Who are the Stakeholders

- MS4s (Phase I and Phase II) and Non MS4s
 - Counties
 - Cities
 - WCDs
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities
- Agriculture
- State Agencies





Basin Action Management Plans

Key BMAP Components

- Identifies TMDL(s) being addressed
- Defines area addressed by BMAP
- Details efforts to implement TMDL
Timeline, commitment, and benefit.
- Includes process to assess progress towards achieving the TMDL
Monitoring, reporting, follow-up meetings





Benefits of a BMAP

- Provides equity among stakeholders
- Relies on adaptive management
- Achieves documented commitments
- Provides defined requirements for MS4 permittees and nonpoint sources upon adoption of a BMAP
- Provides citizens with assurances about the future health of a waterbody by providing a restoration plan with milestones and timelines





Regulatory Nature of BMAP

- A BMAP is developed collaboratively with stakeholders [§403.067(7)]
- Point Sources: WWTF and MS4 Permits
- Nonpoint Sources: BMAP Itself Enforceable
- Agriculture: BMPs or monitoring required
- BMAP adopted by Secretarial Order





- Agriculture Implementation Activities in the Basin
 - Clegg Hooks, FDACS





Actions

- **Agricultural producers:**
 - implement appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for their commodities or implement FDEP designed water quality monitoring to show they are not having an impact.
- **Citizens:**
 - Implement BMPs
 - FFYN
 - Proper septic tank maintenance
 - Pet waste control





Actions

- **Local Governments part**
 - Stormwater BMPs
 - Education on water quality impairments and solutions
 - LIDs
 - Ordinances as mandated by the legislature





Actions

- Source control is cost-effective!!!
- Focus on solutions, not blame
- Current available BMPs alone may not result in the reductions needed. Additional actions may be necessary





Groups and Meeting Format

- Technical meetings
- Policy briefings
- One-on-one meetings





Next Steps

Spread the word

- Meet with Local Governments, Agricultural and Environmental Interests.
- Regional Technical Meetings.





Next Meeting

- Next meeting date: March?.
- Ideas for a meeting location?





- Questions?

- Elizabeth.Alvi@dep.state.fl.us
- [http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Lake Okeechobee/](http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Lake%20Okeechobee/)

