

MEETING SUMMARY
Lake Jesup, Crane Strand, and Long Branch BMAP
Technical Working Group Meeting
October 24, 2007
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Sylvan Lake Park
Sanford, Florida

Meeting Attendees

Troy Attaway, City of Winter Park Barbara Bess, FDEP Tom Bess, FDEP Julie Bortles, Orange County Mary Brabham, SJRWMD Sherry Brandt-Williams, SJRWMD Kelly Brock, City of Casselberry Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting Lisa Curtin, City of Orlando Danny DeCiryman, Seminole Soil Water Conservation Rick Dedman, E-Sciences Gloria Eby, Seminole County Chris Ferraro, FDEP Mark Flomerfelt, Seminole County Fred Gaines, Florida Turnpike Enterprise Ed Hayes, FWC Cecilia Height, Sierra Club/Friends of Lake Jesup Migdalia Hernandez, City of Sanford Dan Homblette, Orange County-EPD	Danielle Honour, CDM Chandy John, BCI Bob Kelly, SAIC Robert King, Friends of Lake Jesup Regina Lovings-Morse, SJRWMD Len Mancini, City of Altamonte Don Marcotte, City of Winter Park Ian McDonald, City of Maitland Kevin McCann, City of Orlando Kim Ornberg, Seminole County Zynka Perez, City of Winter Springs Marcy Policastro, Wildwood Consulting Robert Potts, E-Sciences Amy Tracy, FDEP Joe Walter, PBSJ Bob Walter, Seminole County Shannon Wetzels, Seminole County Ken Ying, BCI
--	--

Opening Remarks

Welcome and Introductions

- Tiffany Busby welcomed the group and participants introduced themselves.
- Bob Kelly noted that information from past meetings is missing from the FTP site.
ACTION ITEM: Tiffany will work with Jennifer Gihring to post the missing information.

Status Reports on Current Studies

- Gloria Eby: Seminole County is working on several Lake Howell water quality studies, including a nutrient management study for Bear Gully Lake and Lake Howell, which is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2008. Harvey Harper is conducting this study with the County. They will bring the results of the nutrient management study to the working group once data are available.
- Robert King: Is there a way to keep track of what nutrient management activities private entities are conducting on Lake Howell (e.g. alum and hydrilla spraying)? Gloria has the contact information for the regional biologist from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Lake Howell. ACTION ITEM: Gloria will let the biologist know that the group is interested in nutrient management activities.

SJRWMD Updates

Interagency Plan Update and Discussion

- Tiffany: The purpose of the interagency plan is to outline regional treatment and dredging projects needed to restore Lake Jesup. Each of the entities will have the option to buy into the regional treatment projects outlined in the plan to help meet their allocations.
- Sherry Brandt-Williams: The interagency plan was created based on input from stakeholders in the area and the three main agencies [Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)]. The draft plan was sent to the three agencies for review in August 2007 and there were several comments received. There is one week left in the comment period before the final draft plan can be released to the public. The plan will remain in draft until it goes through the proper approval process for the three agencies and then it will become a working document/official agreement. The final draft should be ready to send to the working group in the next month or so.
- Robert King: How are pollutants that have settled on the bottom of the lake handled and where will the chemical treatment occur? Sherry: There is no in-lake chemical removal suggested in the plan; all the alum or other active treatment would occur in treatment areas separate from the lake. Options for treating the bottom of the lake include offline tributary treatment, floating wetlands, or closing the lake to clean it up. Robert: The plan is not clear on this issue. ACTION ITEM: Robert will provide comments to Sherry on what parts of the interagency plan are unclear.

Other SJRWMD Updates

- Sherry: Three studies have been completed related to dredging and dewatering. These studies include a literature review to determine the best way to dredge, how to determine if dredging will work, and recommended methods to determine nutrient flux. The conclusions from each of these studies are straightforward and the reports should be available in one week. ACTION ITEM: Sherry will provide these reports for posting on the FTP site. Sherry also noted that the raw data from the Lake Jesup nitrogen fixation study are available to anyone who would like the data.
- The request for proposals (RFP) for the SJRWMD nutrient flux study will be available soon and will be open to everyone. Anyone who is interested in being added to the advanced notification list for the RFP should send Sherry an email. This study will utilize one of the four recommended methods from the study listed above.
- An independent source water quality study is being conducted for Bear Gully. The data from the second sampling event are available and Sherry will provide these data for posting on the FTP site (ACTION ITEM). Sherry: The District will continue to sample this area because the two sampling events conducted to date are inconclusive. Three additional samples events will occur at the existing sites and two new sites. Gloria: Seminole County has data from several years ago where they sampled the transition area from wetlands to the lake. ACTION ITEM: Gloria will send these data to Sherry.
- Regina Lovings-Morse: SJRWMD held a series of meetings with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Turnpike Enterprise to discuss the possibility of these entities buying mitigation credits from the SJRWMD as part of the interagency

plan. The SJRWMD had identified a potential parcel for a regional project but it did not have as much uplands as they wanted. These meetings opened the lines of communication between the three entities and all parties now understand their options. FDOT and the Turnpike Enterprise will follow the normal SJRWMD process for buying mitigation credits and will also explore options to meet their BMAP allocations.

Creation of the Lake Jesup Basin Working Group

Purpose of the Basin Working Group

- Tiffany: The purpose of the Basin Working Group (BWG) and associated Sunshine issues were discussed during the last meeting. The BWG is the voting body that would make recommendations to FDEP and would also be subject to the Sunshine Law. BWG meetings will be held on as-needed basis and will serve as a way to brief the management of the entities involved. The current Technical Working Group (TWG) will continue to function as the information and fact gathering group to provide background information to the BWG for decisions. This organization allows the group to continue local coordination without violating provisions of the Sunshine Law. The naming convention for these groups is similar to what was used in the Ocklawaha Basin.

Review of Seats Recommended at the August Meeting

- Tiffany: During the last meeting, the group decided that BWG should consist of 20 seats: 15 for those entities that are financially involved in implementing BMAP projects, 3 for the key agencies, and 2 for public officials.
- There was discussion about whether the airport has its own MS4 or if is included in the City of Sanford MS4. ACTION ITEM: Migdalia Hernandez will determine if the airport is part of the City's MS4.
- Robert Potts: The Turnpike Enterprise should be listed separately from FDOT District 5 because FDOT does not have jurisdiction over the Turnpike. The Turnpike is responsible for 417 from the Seminole County line. ACTION ITEM: Fred Gaines will determine if FDOT and/or the Turnpike is a co-permittee in the Seminole County MS4.
- CONSENSUS: An additional seat will be added to the BWG for the Turnpike if it is verified that they are a separate permitting entity from FDOT in the Lake Jesup basin.

Names and Contact Information for All Members

- The list of proposed representatives for the BWG was reviewed. ACTION ITEM: Contact information for entity representatives should be sent to Tiffany Busby. Under the list of non-voting organizations, it was determined that the Greater Orlando Airport Authority should be removed because they are not located in the basin. The Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA) should be listed and may also need a voting seat. They are responsible for one mile of 417 in Orange County. Once the modeling has been performed for the allocations, the BWG will decide if the OOCEA needs a voting seat. ACTION ITEM: Tiffany Busby will contact the OOCEA and invite them to the meetings by including them on the distribution lists.

Allocation Strategy

Review of Draft Allocation Table

- Tiffany: During the last meeting, the group requested more information about allocation options. FDEP prepared several scenarios and the group needs to provide feedback on which option makes the most sense based on justifying funding and costs, responsibility for loading, and from a technical standpoint of what the model can do. Several entities have provided information on projects that they have implemented since the TMDL and future projects but there is still a lot of missing information. The project information will be required to complete the allocation table and determine compliance with the TMDL.
- Amy Tracy reviewed the allocation table options. The first option is labeled “Split by MS4/Source Category” and is organized the most broadly with natural (uncontrollable) sources, the three MS4s in the basin, and agriculture (based on land use for the entire basin).
- The columns in the table are the same for all three options and include the original TMDL load and the gross adjusted load, which is based on the work conducted by Joe Walter and Bob Kelly to refine the loads based on land use adjustments and best management practices (BMPs) that were not included in the TMDL. These refinements are explained in the handout provided (“Lake Jesup TMDL – BMPs Incorporated”).
- The columns under the heading “Quantifiable TP Reductions” include reductions attributed to projects completed since the TMDL, projects started/under construction (in the design phase), projects that are planned and funded, and annual maintenance/ongoing projects (i.e., street sweeping).
- The table also includes columns for remaining load reductions needed to achieve the TMDL allocation, potential projects that are currently unfunded, and non-quantifiable reductions.
- Lisa Curtin: Has FDEP quantified the value of projects such as education? Tiffany: FDEP has not determined how to quantify the reductions attributed to education and it will be included in the non-quantifiable reductions column until a way to calculate credit can be determined.
- Kim Ornberg: It would be helpful to see the list of projects that are included in the allocation table to have a better understanding of where the numbers are coming from and to get ideas on what projects to implement. Tiffany: The information in the tables came from the project collection sheets and MS4 annual reports, which can be provided for review (ACTION ITEM).
- Amy presented the second option for the allocation table, which is titled “Split by Jurisdiction/Source Category.” This table assigns allocations to all the entities in the basin instead of assigning an allocation to each MS4 (option 1). Joe Walter: The loads for Site 10 are based on the revised land use information in the updated model.
- Kim: It is important for everyone to be working off the same information when calculating load reductions from their projects and to be using a consistent methodology. The data used should be the same as the model. Danielle Honour: Event mean concentration (EMC) data has been compiled for this area as part of a Wekiva study project and a methodology was developed to determine EMCs for each pollutant. These

- Amy reviewed the third allocation option titled “Split by Subbasin and Jurisdiction/Source Category.” This scenario evaluates the loads from each jurisdiction in each subbasin. While this approach would make it easier to focus on projects for each subbasin, it would be more difficult to split up projects that span more than one subbasin. Kim: This table would be good for planning purposes but may be too complex for the BMAP.
- Kevin McCann: How will upstream jurisdictions, which have low nutrients and attenuation and therefore less impact on Lake Jesup, be incorporated into the allocations? Tiffany: This is a factor in only a few locations and most do not have data to quantify reductions (except Orlando). There are two options for addressing this issue: 1) leave the TMDL allocations as they are and have Orlando show that their required load reductions are occurring with their existing projects, or 2) adjust the allocations based on water quality data, which would redistribute some of the load to other entities. There was general feedback that the group preferred the project approach (Option 1) to modifying the allocation for Orlando (Option 2).
- There was discussion about the effects of attenuation and the decreased benefits to the lake from projects upstream. It was agreed that this issue needs further analysis to determine if project location should be taken into account or not. It was also noted that these considerations may have a significant impact on participation in the regional projects, since those projects are expected to occur very close to the lake and would have the most direct (positive) impact on the lake.
- Danielle: There are also a number of waterbodies in this system that are still on the planning list but could become impaired. Implementing projects in those areas could help meet both the TMDLs for those lakes and Lake Jesup. Amy: Entities can receive credit for the projects they complete in areas where the TMDL process has not started yet (waterbodies on the planning or verified list). Entities can coordinate their efforts with FDEP (Jennifer Gihring) to discuss how credits will be given so that they can move forward with their projects. ACTION ITEM: FDEP will bring list/map of the verified impaired waters and planning list to the next meeting. Waterbodies with phosphorus impairments will be shown separately from the other parameters. Sherry: Regional projects are the key to restoring Lake Jesup because studies have shown that larger projects, closer to the impaired waterbody will have the most impact. This would be true for Lake Jesup since most of the load is coming from near the lake.

- Cecilia Height: How is future development accounted for in the allocations? Tiffany: The group has not yet decided how to address future development but this discussion is a required part of the BMAP.
- CONSENSUS: An allocation table organized by MS4 or by jurisdiction makes more sense than dividing up by subbasin and jurisdiction. These tables will be revised and presented at future meetings.

Agriculture Discussion for November Meeting

The following questions will be sent to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for discussion at the next meeting:

- How will DACS address flooding and water quality problems in urban areas due to the policies of the now defunct agricultural stormwater districts? ACTION ITEM: Robert King will send Tiffany the details on this issue to provide to DACS.
- Overview of the education programs currently being implementing for BMP practices and what they area planning for this basin. Not just what information is available on a statewide basis but what they are actually doing in the Lake Jesup basin.
- How are loads from commercial tree and ornamental shrub farms managed?
- How long do fertilizer and pesticide residuals remain from abandoned fields? Is DACS still responsible once homes are built on the land?
- Update on the new fertilizer rules.
- Efforts to reduce impacts of lawn services and landscapers and education outreach to individual homeowners.
- Process to obtain BMP commitment from growers and what enforcement can be taken if they do not adopt the BMPs.

Next Steps

Next Meeting Potential Agenda Topics

- FDACS presentation about how their programs can support load reductions and BMAP implementation, including the above specific questions.
- The TMDL verified and planning lists will be presented to provide information to local entities as they consider how to handle future impairments in the basin and determine project locations.
- Updated allocation tables.

Next Meeting Date

- TWG: Thursday, November 29, 2007 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at Sylvan Lake Park.
- Meeting dates have been set through the end of 2008 and Tiffany will send this information to the group (ACTION ITEM).

Announcements and Adjourn

- Chris Ferraro announced that a meeting on the Wekiva TMDLs has been tentatively scheduled on the morning of next TWG meeting (November 29, 2007) at Sylvan Lake Park. Chris will provide the official meeting notice when it is available.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Action Items

1. Missing documents from past meetings should be posted on the FTP site.
2. Seminole County will provide updates on their nutrient management study for Bear Gully Lake and Lake Howell (long term item).
3. Gloria Eby will contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding spraying activities on Lake Howell.
4. The group should provide any comments on the interagency plan to Sherry Brandt-Williams.
5. Robert King will provide comments to Sherry on the parts of the interagency plan that are unclear on how chemical treatment of pollutants will be conducted.
6. Sherry will provide the three SJRWMD study reports for posting on the FTP site.
7. Sherry will provide the raw data from the Lake Jesup nitrogen fixation study for posting.
8. Email Sherry to be added to the advance notification list for the SJRWMD sediment flux RFP.
9. Sherry will provide the data from the second sampling event at Bear Gully for posting.
10. Gloria will provide the Seminole County data for Bear Gully to Sherry.
11. Migdalia Hernandez will determine if the airport is part of the City of Sanford MS4.
12. Fred Gaines will determine if FDOT and/or the Turnpike is a co-permittee in the Seminole County MS4.
13. All contact information for the BWG representatives should be sent to Tiffany Busby.
14. Tiffany Busby will contact the Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority and invite them to the TWG meetings.
15. Danielle will provide the EMC information she has from the Wekiva study.
16. Tiffany will post the Lower St. Johns River load reduction calculation tool and talk to Eric Livingston about modifying it for Lake Jesup.
17. A list/map of the verified impaired waters and planning list will be presented in the next meeting. Waterbodies with phosphorus impairments will be shown separately.
18. Robert King will send Tiffany the details on the issue related to the defunct agricultural stormwater districts to provide to DACS.
19. Tiffany will send the TWG meeting dates through 2008.