

**ORANGE CREEK BASIN TMDLS
BASIN WORKING GROUP
DRAFT Meeting Notes**

DATE: August 4, 2005

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Gainesville, Florida - GRU

Meeting Attendees: (Names in bold are BWG members, names in italics are alternates)

Name	Affiliation
Mary Paulic	DEP, Tallahassee
Terry Pride	DEP, Tallahassee
	DEP/NED
Jennifer Gihring	DEP, Tallahassee
Jim Weimer	DEP, Paynes Prairie
	DCA
Shane Williams	Marion Co. Clean Water
	Marion County
	DACS
	DOT
Kathy Fanning	ACEPD
Sergio Quintana	ACEPD
	ACPW
	ACEPAC
<i>Sally Adkins</i>	City of G'ville/GCWP
Alice Rankeillor	City of G'ville
Gina Hawkins	City of G'ville

Name	Affiliation
	ACHD
	SJRWMD
Erick Smith	UF
Brett Goodman	GRU
Paul Davis	GRU
	FWCC
Phil Gornicki	Forestry Industry - FL Forestry Assoc.
<i>Rob Hicks</i>	Forestry Industry
Jeff Vowell	DACS/DOF
R.M. Fry	TCWAC
John Hurford	Builders Association
	Sierra Club
Kathy Cantwell	Sust. Alachua Co.
Walter Willard	GEAC
	Women/Wise Growth
TBI	Town of McIntosh

HOUSEKEEPING

Announcements

- Sally Adkins announced that the City of Gainesville is developing a "green map" to identify sustainable practices/business/developments, etc. She offered to send it around to the BWG for comment. **Action Item:** Sally will circulate the draft "green map" for comment.

Action Items from July

Completed:

- GRU will draft a short paper about upset conditions at the Main Street Plant and water quality in the Sweetwater Branch.
- Carol Higman will continue to work with local governments to collect land use and zoning maps.
- GRU will bring a summary of their infrastructure survey to the next meeting.
- Gail Mowrey will send Marion County's wastewater map to Jennifer Gihring.
- Mary will revise the BMP survey (e.g. remove references to the Wekiva) and email it to the BWG for comments.
- Terry will revise the table and distribute it to the BWG. Members will prioritize the primary issues and return this information to Terry. In addition to other changes discussed by the BWG, the question marks shown under the Main Street Plant (Sweetwater Branch) will be removed.
- GRU will draft a short paper regarding water quality (coliform) testing at the Main Street Plant.

Pending:

- Terry will coordinate with DEP and SJRWMD staff to determine how water vs. wetlands were treated in the TMDL (i.e. why does water have an EMC? Or does this refer to wetlands only?)

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- Mary will coordinate with UF & DEP staff to analyze the contribution of phosphatic soils to background nutrient loading.
- Terry will contact Daryll and provide an update to the BWG on status of the Alachua Sink TMDL.
- Mary will contact Wayne Magley (DEP) regarding any remaining questions on the Alachua Sink TMDL per comments provided by BWG members.
- Mary Paulic will revise the basin map per information received from BWG members.
- Chris Bird will coordinate with the Alachua County property appraiser's office to identify properties in the Lochloosa/Cross Creek and Hatchett Creek subbasins that are receiving an agricultural tax exemption. He will remove the large silviculture areas and coordinate with Sally Adkins and Jody Lee to compare to help identify remaining crop types based on available aerial photos.
- Mary will check with Jeff Vowell to determine if he has information (e.g. NOI submittals) that may inform the agricultural area analysis.

UPDATES

- Dr. Fry informed the BWG that he is still pursuing information on the direction of groundwater flow.
- The Alachua Sink TMDL document is still under review by Daryll Joyner, DEP. It has not yet gone into rulemaking.
- Maps:
 - o Jennifer Gihring reviewed the draft current land use map and future land use map. Dr. Cantwell suggested we include Alachua Co. Forever projects. Erick Smith, UF, offered the university's information. **Action Item:** Jennifer will follow-up with Alachua County EPD and University of Florida regarding land use information.
 - o Jennifer reviewed the updated wastewater treatment infrastructure map. The primary change since the last meeting was the addition of septic tank information from Marion County. **Action Item:** Jennifer will be getting with GRU to get their information.
 - o Mary Paulic provided an update on the basin maps. The MS4 areas have been corrected, but the drainage basins still need updating.
 - o Terry suggested that we develop a surface water flow direction map for the basin. It was noted that the SJRWMD may have something we could start from. (**Note:** Jennifer Gihring will be working on this.)
- Alice Rankeillor noted that the EPA TMDL for Hogtown Creek had been suspended.

BMP SURVEY

- The BWG requested more time to review the survey before it is distributed.
- Sally Adkins discussed the Gainesville Green Mapping Project. She will insert appropriate BMP information into the Green Mapping survey.
- Dr. Cantwell suggested that the survey include a question under each item asking if there are future plans to conduct activities that are not now being done.
- **Action Items:**
 - o Mary will develop a contact list for the smaller communities in the basin.
 - o Mary will add a placeholder in the survey for communities to identify future projects.
 - o Sally will coordinate a meeting of the NPDES partners in the next month or two to discuss the BMP survey.

PRESENTATION ON GRU BACTERIAL SOURCE TRACING STUDY

- Brett Goodman gave a presentation about GRU's ongoing bacterial source tracing study, which is occurring in three phases:
 - o Phase I: Use coliform counts in creeks and ambient coliform data to identify priority areas for Phase II.
 - o Phase II: Test bacteria source tracking methods at 3 pilot sites.
 - o Phase III: Focused bacteria source tracking analyses

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- Budget for this study is \$250-300K
- Brett noted that this study will identify hotspots and focus further source investigations, but will not necessarily identify specific sources (other than whether a source is human vs. wildlife).
- Study Approach:
 - o Human markers: This study component looks at the presence or absence of human markers. These markers do not persist in the environment. As such, if they are found consistently it indicates an ongoing source of contamination from human sources.
 - o Genetic Fingerprinting: This component compares E. coli isolates from water samples to a genetic database to categorize sources of E. coli in the sample. Sources were identified as human, animal, or indeterminate.
 - o Status:
 - Phase I: 6 of 6 sampling events completed (3 wet & 3 dry)
 - Phase II: 3 pilot sites have been selected.
 - Phase III: 2 of 4 events have been completed (10 stations per event).
- Results:
 - o Bacteria levels are high in the creeks in wet and dry weather.
 - o The fecal coliform/enterococci ratios are not consistent with common wastewater ratios.
 - o Coliform sources are split as follows:
 - Sweetwater: 20% human, 50% animal (dog, bird, wildlife), 30% indeterminate. Both human markers were positive.
 - Hogtown (511; Covered Bridge Apartments): 20% human, 67% animal, 13% indeterminate. One human marker was negative, one was a faint positive.
 - Hogtown (537; Rattlesnake): 7% human, 73% animal, 20% indeterminate. Both human markers were negative.
- Conclusions from the first steps completed to date: Contributions from human sources (wastewater treatment plants vs. septic) are indistinguishable. However, we can use this information to target future assessments. Current results indicate that non-human sources of bacteria will need to be addressed to achieve the TMDL.
- A final project report should be available in October or November.
- Brett noted that ACHD may do some septic tank surveys with an eye toward developing a maintenance program, but that they won't re-permit failing systems.

WATER QUALITY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE BMAP

- The group discussed the revised version of "Table 1. Summary of Water Quality Issues/Sources Related to TMDLs Developed for the Orange Creek Basin"
- GRU Main Street Plant
 - o The group discussed the impact of temporary water quality excursions by the GRU Main Street Plant.
 - o GRU reviewed bacteria sampling results for the Main Street Plant. Bacteria levels in the plant's effluent are rarely detectable. No samples have exceeded state standards.
 - o Alachua County remains concerned about the relationship between the Main Street plant and bacteria contamination in Sweetwater Branch.
- Additional revisions to the water quality issues table were discussed and agreed to (see revised table that was distributed on August 8, 2005)
- Several BWG members pointed out the SJRWMD might want to weigh in on the internal loadings issue, regarding whether to change it to a primary issue for a couple of the lakes.
- A revised version of the sources spreadsheet (from SJRWMD) was distributed.
- **Action Items:**
 - o Terry will revise the issues table and distribute it to the BWG. **(Done)**
 - o Terry will review changes to the issues table with SJRWMD staff.

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PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS FOR MAKING ALLOCATIONS

- Regarding nutrient loads, the DEP TMDL and preliminary SJRWMD PLRG values differ. It is unclear if the available data will support detailed allocations for nutrients. The BMAP would still identify existing and planned projects and the reductions from those projects. The BMAP would be implemented while we revisit the TMDL and PLRG values.
- One BWG member expressed concern that not having detailed allocations makes BMAP implementation less enforceable, and too voluntary. However, all BWG members at the table are currently working in good faith, and the BMAP is now connected to permit requirements per statute.
- The BWG agreed not to pursue detailed allocations for coliform impairments. Instead, the group will focus on identifying sources and addressing what can be fixed. Prioritization of these “fixes” will be based on geographic source identification.
- The BWG will give further thought to the applicability of detailed allocations for nutrients.

NEXT STEPS IN BMAP DEVELOPMENT

- DEP staff will revise the draft BMAP to include place holders for the various elements to be addressed, fill in draft information where available, and bring it back to the BWG for review. The BWG will identify who should be responsible for completing various parts of the BMAP, and how to address outstanding issues (e.g. coliforms, future growth).
- **Note:** The BWG will need to discuss the ultimate sign-off process for the BMAP, including endorsement by local elected officials.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR AUGUST MEETING

- o TBD

MATERIALS TO HAVE AT EACH BWG MEETING

- Basin Map
- Issues table
- Sources table
- Other

OUTREACH

- No additional outreach was requested at this time.

Next meeting: September 1, 2005, at GRU