

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

DATE: December 1, 2005

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Gainesville, Florida - GRU

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

BWG Members	Affiliation	BWG Members	Affiliation
Jeff Martin	DEP/NED	Alice Rankeillor	City of Gainesville
Joe Hinkle	DEP/Aquatic Plants	<i>Sally Adkins</i>	
	DEP, Paynes Prairie	Jeff Vowell	DACS/DOF
Jody Lee	DACS	Brett Goodman	G'ville Reg. Utilities
Eric Nagid	FWCC	<i>Rick Hutton</i>	
Alan Obaigbena	DOT	Erick Smith	UF
Paul Myers	ACHD		SJRWMD
<i>Anthony Dennis</i>		Phil Gornicki	FL Forestry Assoc.
Chris Bird		<i>Rob Hicks</i>	Forestry Industry
<i>Robin Hallbourg</i>	ACEPD	TBD	Building/Develop.
	ACPW		Sierra Club
R.M. Fry	City WM Committee	Kathy Cantwell	Sust. Alachua Co.
<i>Carol Higman</i>	ACEPAC	Carol Higman	Women/Wise Growth
	Marion County	TBI	Town of McIntosh
Other Attendees	Affiliation	Other Attendees	Affiliation
Mary Paulic	DEP, Tallahassee	Rob Brinkman	ACEPAC
Terry Pride	DEP, Tallahassee	George M. Carter	ACEPAC
Jennifer Gihring	DEP, Tallahassee	Shane Williams	MarionCo.CleanWater
Fred Calder	DEP, Tallahassee	Tom Staley	Micanopy
Fay Baird	Pandion Systems	Paul Davis	G'ville Reg. Utilities
Diana Gijsselaers	ACEPD	Lori Hazel	SJRWMD
Sergio Quintana	ACEPD	John Hurford	Dynan Group
		Maria G. Martin	MACTEC

HOUSEKEEPING

Announcements

None

Updates

- **Basin Map:** Gainesville and Alachua County are revising the boundaries for several sub-basins (e.g. Bivens Arm).
- **BMP Survey:** The BMP survey from U.F. is pending. All others have been received.
- **DEP Groundwater Study:** A Lakes Working Group meeting will likely be convened in January to discuss detailed sampling locations.
- **Analysis of Nutrient Loading from Onsite Wastewater Systems:** A draft of the onsite wastewater analysis was reviewed.
 - o The effects of time and soil type were identified as factors that may influence the nitrogen loading from septic tanks.
 - o The question was raised as to whether we should have a presentation by Animal Control (including discussion on feral cats).
- **Lake Kanapaha Study:** No update – will be given next month

DEVELOPING AN APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING COLIFORM TMDLS

- **Presentations:**
 - Alachua County**
 - Presented their monitoring sites, preliminary results, and actions to date.

**ORANGE CREEK BASIN TMDLS
BASIN WORKING GROUP**

DRAFT Meeting Notes

- They are working with NED and the county so as not to duplicate efforts.
- Alice commented that they can use baseflow data to detect illicit connections and other problems.
- Dr. Fry asked if any estrogens were detected in their monitoring. Robin said there was no monitoring for estrogens.

DEP has no extensive data set

GRU

Phases 1-3 of the GRU coliform source tracing study are completed

They are working with ACEPD, ACHD, etc., beyond the Basin Working Group to identify and fix problems.

ACHD

- ACHD is conducting a coliform source study that focuses on 3 creeks: Hogtown, Tumblin, Sweetwater

- **Discussion**

Approach to Coliform TMDLs

- o Any approach needs to include a measure of success and where in the project timeline that would fit.
- o **Consensus:** Initiate the coliform discussion with the full group, understanding that break-out groups will be established on an as-needed basis.
- o **Funding:** A list of the projects and their associated costs will be needed before we can have a serious discussion about funding sources.
- o Alan Obaigbena raised the question of whether roads were considered anthropogenic sources of coliform. If not, does that mean D.O.T. does not need to address coliforms?
- o Alachua County, GRU, and ACHD will consolidate their information, which will be used to:
 - o Identify hotspots, possible sources, and ongoing projects in the hotspots
 - o Identify what other studies might need to be done
 - o Show benefits to other waters (like the lakes)
 - o Discuss potential funding sources

Homeless Campsites

- o Homeless campsites were identified as a potentially significant source of coliforms.
- o BWG members discussed the idea of a pilot project involving the temporary placement of porta-potties with monitoring before and after installation. Significant logistical, legal, and political issues would need to be resolved within the affected jurisdictions prior to carrying this out. If interest continues, a subgroup may need to be formed to work on ideas.

Lower St. Johns Coliform Proposal: Group members in the Lower St. Johns are developing a manual for prioritizing infrastructure improvements. A draft of the manual should be available in the spring.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

Aquatic plant management has been raised as a concern related to internal recycling of nutrients in Orange Lake. A focused discussion regarding aquatic plant management activities and associated impacts is being planned for the January meeting (**Note:** this has been changed to February). Key entities involved in aquatic plant management are DEP, FWC, & SJRWMD. The discussion included the following points:

- Joe Hinkle noted that:
 - o Chapter 403 provides the statutory basis for DEP's aquatic plant management activities, and exempts aquatic plant management from water quality standards.
 - o Nitrogen is more of a problem in the lakes than phosphorus
- Even if the plants are not causing nutrient impairment, they are a symptom of excessive nutrients in the lake.

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

- We need to know the impacts of internal sources to know how successful we are with external sources.
- The BMAP should characterize and account for all sources, including internal sources.
- BWG members identified the following key questions regarding aquatic plant management:
 - o Are these activities affecting impairment as defined by the TMDL?
 - o What are the cause and effect issues associated with aquatic plant management?
 - o Does the presence/absence of aquatic vegetation contribute to the impairment?
 - o If aquatic plants are a cause of impairment, what type of management is appropriate?
 - o What can be done to address the contribution aquatic plant management has on water quality impairment?
 - o Could aquatic plant management have affected nutrient levels found in water quality samples used for the TMDLs?
 - o Have we properly accounted for aquatic plant management?
 - o How will aquatic plant management factor into the management plan?
 - o How was internal nutrient loading addressed in the TMDL?
 - o What is the relative impact of aquatic plant management activities relative to other anthropogenic sources and natural causes?
 - o Can the effect of aquatic plant management be distinguished from other sources?

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES TABLE

- Question: Why is the timeframe for the Orange Creek Basin project tables limited to 2000-2005, while the timeframe for the Lower St. Johns is 1995-2005?
- Alan Obaigbena commented that if DEP wants to include projects in the BMAP that are outside the current urbanized area of the MS4s, then DEP should expand the urbanized area (so that it becomes part of the MS4). He noted that in the LSJR, allocations are done only in the urbanized area. (**Note:** Allocations themselves do not necessarily limit the geographic location of the projects that will achieve the allocations.)

Next Meeting: January 5, 2006

SUMMARY OF PENDING ACTION ITEMS

BWG Members

- UF to complete BMP survey.
- Review and comment on revised project/activity tables; send any new information, including structural and nonstructural activities.
- Review the draft wastewater analysis and send comments to Jennifer.
- GRU/EPD/AC Health Department will consolidate their coliform information to identify hot spots of high coliform counts in the basin and discuss likely sources (for February meeting).
- Provide Fay with contact information for internal nutrient cycling presenters.

Mary Paulic

- Finalize refinements to the basin map boundaries and distribute via e-mail - change the key to include Hogtown, Tumblin creeks; ID the AS_Basin_Remodeling as Paynes Prairie.
- Develop a map of the basin that shows impaired waters with TMDL due dates.
- Revise project/activity tables and e-mail to BWG for review and comment
 - o Add column to indicate which items should go into the BMAP
 - o Add a "Cooperating Partners" column
 - o Include BMP survey information
 - o Investigate the reason for the discrepancy between OCB and LSJR in the timeframe for projects to be submitted. Modification of the timeframe for the Orange Creek Basin tables may be needed.

**ORANGE CREEK BASIN TMDLS
BASIN WORKING GROUP**

DRAFT Meeting Notes

- Check whether Lake Kanapaha is on the Ocklawaha Basin Strategic Monitoring Plan and inform Alice Rankeillor.
- Coordinate with DEP and SJRWMD staff re: event mean concentrations (EMCs) used in the TMDL for water vs. wetlands (two different approaches)
- Coordinate with UF and DEP re: analyzing contribution of phosphatic soils
- Locate Notice of Intent information to inform agricultural land analyses

GRU

- Draft short paper about upset conditions at Main Street, water quality testing at Main Street, and water quality in Sweetwater Branch. – *GRU will write a summary*
- Provide DEP with locations of privately maintained pump stations connected to GRU system.

Brett Goodman

- Map private lift stations
- May map smoke testing
- Map proximity of septic tanks to storm drains?? – suggested by Chris Bird

Chris Bird

- Coordinate with Alachua Co property appraiser's office to identify properties receiving an ag tax exemption. – *The information was sent to _____?*
- Provide DEP with locations of privately maintained pump stations.

Terry Pride

- Email the Lower St. Johns coliform information to the BWG.
- Arrange for drafting of a description of aquatic plant management activities in the basin (e.g. 1963 management document used by Alachua County, DEP, and FWC) for the BMAP.
- Contact smaller local governments re BMAP process.
- Continue development of the BMAP, including comments received thus far from the BWG.

Fay Baird

- Coordinate internal nutrient cycling presentations for the February meeting. This will include UF limnology professors, Carol Lippencott (SJRWMD), DEP WAS staff, and others.

Jennifer Gihring

- Continue work on analysis of nutrient loading from onsite wastewater systems - add a section comparing the results to the TMDL documents and other studies.
- Develop map and acreage of forestry activities (with information from Diana Gijssels).
- Compile initial results for the December BWG meeting.
- Develop a surface water flow map for the basin.
- Send group members information about the triennial review of water quality standards.

Alice Rankeillor

- Bring summary of Lake Kanapaha study to the January BWG meeting.