ORANGE CREEK BASIN TMDLS
BASIN WORKING GROUP

DRAFT Meeting Notes

DATE: February 2, 2006
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**	
Joe Hinkle	DEP/Aquatic Plants	*Sally Adkins*	City of Gainesville
Jim Weimer	DEP, Paynes Prairie		DACS/DOF
Jody Lee	DACS	**Brett Goodman**	
Eric Nagid	FWCC	*Rick Hutton*	G'ville Reg. Utilities
Alan Obaigbena	DOT	**Erick Smith**	UF
		David Walker	SJRWMD
	ACHD	**Phil Gornicki**	FL Forestry Assoc.
Chris Bird		*Rob Hicks*	Forestry Industry
	ACEPD		Building/Develop.
	ACPW		Sierra Club
R.M. Fry	City WM Committee		Sust. Alachua Co.
Carol Higman	ACEPAC	**Carol Higman**	Women/Wise Growth
Shane Williams	Marion County		Town of McIntosh

Other Attendees	Affiliation	Other Attendees	Affiliation
Mary Paulic	DEP/Tallahassee	Rob Brinkman	ACEPAC/Sierra Club
Terry Pride	DEP/Tallahassee	Mike Carter	Stakeholder
Jennifer Gihring	DEP/Tallahassee	Mike Lastine	BCI/BANCF
Fred Calder	DEP/Tallahassee	Gina Hawkins	Gainesville
Xueqing Gao	DEP/Tallahassee	Gary Nichols	SJRWMD
Rick Hicks	DEP/Tallahassee	Paul Davis	G'ville Reg. Utilities
Nathan Bailey	DEP/Tallahassee	Kali Blount	4 A's/Various boards
Jeff Schardt	DEP/Aquatic Plants	Kathy Fanning	AEPD
Stacie Greco	ACEPD	Bruce Jaggers	FWCC
Jim Myles	ACEPD	Clay Coleman	MCTD
Diana Gijselaers	ACEPD	Fay Baird	Pandion Systems

HOUSEKEEPING

Announcements

- None

Updates

- **Alachua Sink**
  - The Alachua Sink TMDL has been noticed for rule development, and will be noticed for adoption in March.

COLLECTING INFORMATION ON FUTURE GROWTH

- Jennifer Gihring distributed a form for collecting information from local jurisdictions on current and projected population statistics, land uses, and growth management measures.
- Alan Obaigbena indicated that the MPO's have transportation information that is accessible to the county.

- The group discussed how different land use types should be categorized. Specifically, the group expressed concern regarding how to categorize wetlands and avoid double-counting.
- The question was raised as to whether we could use future wetlands acreages as a measure of success in preventing additional pollutant loadings. This needs further exploration.
- **Action Items** – Jennifer will:
  - Set-up a conference call with Alachua County, Gainesville, & Marion County to discuss available data, land use categories, and format for the BMAP.
  - Follow-up with Alan Obaigbena and Erick Smith to determine what type of information they could incorporate into the future growth portion of the BMAP.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

- **Overview** – Bill Haller , University of Florida, IFAS
  - Aquatic Plant Management has been ongoing since 1976.
  - 95% of DEP Aquatic Plant Management money is spent south of Gainesville.
  - Mr. Haller reviewed the impacts and management of key problem aquatic plants, including:
    - Water lettuce – 40 acres of water lettuce were treated in Lake Lochloosa last year.
    - Hydrilla – Attaches to the bottom, but grows to the surface (canopy growth). Hydrilla is the only female plant in Florida, there is no sexual reproduction. It is developing a resistance to Flordone (sp?). Hydrilla contains very few nutrients, so harvesting it does not help with pollution abatement.
    - Hyacinths – rapid reproduction; one acre's growth within a year.
  - Management Approaches
    - Herbacide treatment – periodic use of low doses is effective and has less water quality impacts than treating large areas of plant growth infrequently.
    - Mechanical harvesting – is very expensive, about $150,000 a year for one machine. It is used for cutting boat trails. There is about a 25% by-catch. This is not an option for hydrilla.
    - Suction dredging – is also very expensive.
    - Alternative methods – Aquatic plant managers are searching for new bio-controls in East Africa. There is nothing in Asia that works for Florida.
- **Agency Responsibilities, directives, goals, activities with regard to aquatic plant management (APM)**
  - SJRWMD – David Walker
    - The WMD has a strong SWIM program in the Orange Creek Basin, focused on Orange, Newnans, and Lochloosa lakes. They are developing Pollutant Load Reduction Goals for these lakes, which will guide WMD restoration activities, and may influence the re-evaluation of TMDLs for these lakes.
    - The WMD conducts APM on their own properties, but no activities are ongoing in the three lakes at this time.

- DEP – Jeff Schardt
  - DEP conducts APM pursuant to ss. 369.20 and 369.22(7), Florida Statutes. It is the entity responsible for APM.
  - They have a $30 million a year program and manage 450 lakes and rivers (about ¼ million acres) in "state-owned" waters (public waters where the state owns the bottom and there is public access).
  - DEP must consider all uses of the waterbody in its management approach.
  - They coordinate with FWCC and other stakeholders, as they come forward (e.g., SJRWMD, USFWS, etc.)
  - Local OCB agencies can contact Joe Hinkle or the FWC to have input into APM activities, however, the management plan doesn't change much from year to year.
  - There should be a central tracking system on the DEP website before the end of February. It will have the 2004-05 list of priorities (in the appendix of the annual report).
  - **Action Item**: Send out the website link.
- FWCC – Bruce Jaggers
  - The FWCC Habitat and Species Conservation Division mission is to "protect and conserve the state's diverse and unique fish and wildlife populations and their habitats." APM is carried out by the Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Section (AHRES) of the Division.
  - DEP may delegate APM to FWCC, pursuant to statute (s. 369.20, F.S.).
  - The FWCC has a $10 million APM budget.
  - Water quality is considered in the FWCC's management approach.
  - There is a "Guild Review" of its proposed APM budget, along with an AHRES standing team review, executive staff review, and legislative review.

- **Aquatic Plant Management and TMDLs**
  - DEP – Dr. Gao
    - DEP did NOT model APM impacts on water quality when calculating TMDLs in the Orange Creek Basin because the interaction of APM with environmental factors and other inputs is very complicated and there was not enough time to gather the necessary information and meet the TMDL deadline.
    - However, for the period of record used in TMDL calculations (1995-2000), there was no major APM. Therefore, the negative and positive aspects of APM would balance out, and the initial allocations in the TMDL would not have attributed potential loadings from APM to other identified sources.

- **Identification of Concerns and Implications for the BMAP**
  - SJRWMD – David Walker
    - Data collected by the WMD in 2004-05 indicated that a spike in total phosphorus in Orange Lake, probably due to hurricanes, is not coming down as quickly as in other lakes where data was collected (Newnans and Lochloosa). The WMD has not drawn any conclusions as to the reason for this, but feels a possible link to APM should be explored.
    - David suggested that the APM entities increase their coordination in planning for APM.

- DEP – Joe Hinkle
  - Hyacinths are the major problem on Orange Lake. They load organic material and create a lot of sedimentation, resulting in low Dissolved Oxygen.
  - Hydrilla is similar to Hyacinths. In 1977 Hydrilla was very bad, but is now mostly under control. The bluegreen algae in the last 5 or 6 years may be keeping Hydrilla down.
  - Ironically, improved water quality may bring Hydrilla back
  - Disturbed hydrology in Orange Lake, from roads (301), Camps Canal, etc., has encouraged plant growth, creating tussocks. 50% of the lake is still in vegetation. Tussocks are dealt with through mechanical harvesting (cookie cutter)
- Group Discussion
  - Several BWG members acknowledged that, based on the presentations and Dr. Gao's explanation of the TMDL calculations, the current lakes TMDLs would not unfairly allot loadings from APM to other pollutant sources.
  - Chris Bird noted that we need to take APM into account as we go forward with TMDL implementation and pollution prevention.
  - Eric Nagid pointed out that the lakes in the basin are following basically the same trend, and this should be a priority to look into.
  - Jeff Vowell stated that we need to know what effects external management actions have vs. internal (APM), in order to understand how the TMDL can be reached.
  - Alice Rankeillor asked whether the WMD Pollutant Load Reduction Goals will consider internal loadings in this basin. They will not.
- **Action Item**: A proposal regarding APM will be brought back to the Basin Working Group in March or April. It will likely be in the vein of increased coordination and further information gathering.

Next Steps

- New and old action items
- Remaining items for discussion in BMAP development*
- Agenda for March meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Presentation of Greenprint project
- Presentation by Michael Bateman on estimating load reduction values for BMPs
- Review of revised draft BMAP
- Discussion on future growth
- Finalization of projects/activities
- Finalization of coliform strategy
- Development of monitoring/implementation tracking strategy

DRAFT Meeting Notes

SUMMARY OF PENDING ACTION ITEMS

Alachua County EPD

- Coordinate with BWG members to develop maps of coliform hot-spot identification and management activities completed to-date.
- Robin Hallbourg will write the discussion about the unique hydrologic conditions of Alachua Sink and how this may affect management actions.
- Bring summary of the Greenprint Project to the February (now March) meeting.
- Write discussion regarding the County's iron sampling and management activities.

BWG Members

- GRU/AC EPD/AC DOH: develop a summary of coliform-related data and proposed activities to be discussed at the March meeting.

Dave Walker

- Bring detailed source tables and pie charts to the February (or March) meeting.
- Have SJRWMD staff review and comment on OSTDS analysis.

GRU

- Provide DEP with locations of privately maintained pump stations connected to GRU system.

Jennifer Gihring

- Continue work on analysis of nutrient loading from onsite wastewater systems
- Set-up a conference call with Alachua County, Gainesville, and Marion County to discuss available data, land use categories, and format for the BMAP.
- Follow-up with Alan Obaigbena and Erick Smith to determine what type of information they could incorporate into the future growth portion of the BMAP.

Mary Paulic

- Finalize refinements to the basin map boundaries and distribute via e-mail.
- 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
    - Add a column entitled "Cooperating Partners"
    - Incorporate BMP survey information
    - Reorganize to reflect which waterbody would benefit from a particular project.
- Contact appropriate DEP staff to identify monitoring plans for Lake Kanapaha
- Coordinate with UF and DEP re: analyzing contributions of phosphatic soils
- Follow-up with Wayne Magley (DEP Watershed Assessment Section) to determine how or if current hydrologic conditions (connection of Alachua Sink with other surface waters) affect the TMDL.

Jeff Martin

- Get with Brett Goodman re NED sampling.

Fay Baird

- Contact smaller local governments re: participation in the BMAP process.

Terry Pride

- Continue development of the BMAP, including comments received thus far from the BWG.
- Set up call with forestry to decide how to characterize it in the sources table.
- Send out the website link to the APM central tracking system on the DEP website.
- Develop a BMAP proposal for BWG consideration regarding APM (with help from the affected agencies).