

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Silver Springs and River and Rainbow Spring Group and Rainbow River Basin
Management Action Plans (BMAPs)
Question and Answer (Q&A) Summary
Public Meeting on May 30, 2024
1:30 pm – 2:48 pm
Via GoToWebinar

Attendees

Suzanne Archer, SJRWMD	Tina Gordon, Wildwood Consulting
Nicki Bailey, Levy County	Karrin Gordon, Citizen
Lisa Bally, ATM	Roxanne Groover, FOWA
Michael Barr, DEP	Sam Hankinson, DEP
Sean Beaudet, Lake County	Gordon Hart, Citizen
Evelyn Becerra, DEP	Kenny Hayman, DEP
Connie Becker, DEP	Margarita Hernandez, DEP
Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD	Bob Himschoot, Crew Environmental
Reese Bourgeois, Flow Consulting	Teresa Irby-Butler, FGUA
Beth Brady, Save the Manatee Club	Andrew Jorgensen, On Top of the World
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Chandler Keenan, DEP
Jason Cambre, Marion County	Trevor Knight, Citizen
John Campbell, Citizen	Joy Kokjohn, SJRWMD
Andy Canion, SJRWMD	Charles Legros, DEP
Andrew Carswell, Levy County	Celeste Lyon, RES
Cathie Catusus, Lake County	Allison M Chancy, DEP
Stacy Cecil, SJRWMD	Michael McGrath, Sierra Club
Mitchell Chauncey, Ardurra	Matt McKinney, Duke Energy
Carolin Ciarlariello, DEP	James Moulton, CPH
Terry Clark, Citizen	Ryne Nimmo, DEP
Doneda Cole, Putnam County	Sky Notestein, Wetland Solutions
Amber Connolly, FDOH	Randall Oliver, Vikus Water
Kevin Coyne, FSA	Robin Orlandi, Citizen
Kristina Deak, SWFWMD	Robert Palmer, Citizen
Chloe Dougherty, Florida Springs Council	Jim Peterson, SJRWMD
Bryanna Edgar, Citizen	Wendy Poag, Lake County
Burton Eno, Citizen	Robyn Preston, Ocala
Yesenia Escibano, FDACS	Derek Reiners, FGCU
Kristine Eskelin, SRWMD	Erika Ritter, Citizen
Trevor Fagan, SWFWMD	Mike Saxton, Vikus Water
Jessica Fetgatter, DEP	Christopher Seufert, Jones Edmunds
Barbara Fitos, Citizen	Ryan Smart, Florida Springs Council
Tyler Foerst, Citizen	Randy Smith, SWFWMD
Suzannah Folsom, Withlacoochee Regional	Renee Smith, Vikus Water
Water Supply Authority	Jeff Sowards, Citizen
Diane Garte, Citizen	

Ken Storey, East Central Florida Regional
Planning Council
Kristine Switt, Citizen
Bethany Trees, Vikus Water
Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD
Diana Turner, DEP
Unknown, The Florida Channel
Lisa Van Houdt, DEP

Devon Villareal, SWFWMD
Christine Vrabic, Marion County
Ken Weaver, DEP
Tanya Welborn, DEP
Brenda Wells, Florida Springs Council
Carol White, Citizen
Catherine Wolden, SWFWMD
Sarah Younger, Citizen

Siver and Rainbow Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Overview

There were no questions for this section.

Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) Results

Q: The Villages' stormwater ponds are lined. How was that accounted for in the loading estimates to groundwater?

A: This feature would be captured on the project crediting side. The NSILT evaluates loading based on land use, but reduction credits can be given for best management practices (BMPs) that reduce nitrogen loading.

Q: Was the proximity of golf courses to the Rainbow River taken into consideration?

A: We did not consider proximity to surface waters as a factor in the NSILT. We did look at the geologic recharge characteristics spatially, where more vulnerable areas (areas that have more connection between the surface to deep groundwater) were given a higher weight. Distance from the river was not considered, because the focus was on loading to groundwater.

Q: There are significant farm acres north of Route 40, north of the Rainbow River. It does not show those areas on the farm fertilizer graphic that was shown in the presentation.

A: Agricultural acres are assessed using the Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) which is produced by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). It is possible that the agricultural land is new and may not have been captured in FSAID 9, which was the version used for these updates.

Q: Hay was, by far, the largest contributor among crop types in the Santa Fe and Suwannee BMAPs. In this basin, that loading is trivial. Why is there such a difference?

A: That is more of an FDACS question. We utilize the FSAID, which was provided by FDACS, to identify the various agricultural commodities and location of agricultural land. There were some categories for the farm fertilizer in this basin that were split out into horse farms and cattle farms. The areas classified as horse farm and cattle farm include an estimate of farm fertilizer loading, so some of the acres cultivated in hay may be classified as those categories.

Q: The slide with the summary of House Bill 1557 mentions that *certain BMAPs* will require wastewater facilities to use advanced wastewater treatment (AWT). How is it determined which facilities in the BMAPs are required to use AWT?

A: This legislation was recently signed into state law. The BMAP group will be working with the DEP-Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) to identify which facilities within BMAPs will be subject to that legislation.

Spring Vent Load Analysis Results

Q: Can you elaborate on why the total required reduction for Rainbow Springs is higher than the total annual loading estimate for the basin?

A: The Rainbow and Silver springsheds share a large area of overlapping interactions, so loading can influence both springs, depending on the groundwater dynamics at a given time. The NSILT estimate is based on the best available information we have on current loading sources. The spring vent analysis is based on the most recent 10 years of measured data at the spring vent. Interpretation of the spring vent measurements is complicated by the fact that the water flowing out of the spring vent includes nitrogen that traveled into the aquifer from this year, recent years, and loading from a long time ago. Both the NSILT and the spring vent analysis represent the best information with which we have to make estimates. In these springs, it is important that the responsible entities in both springs areas make progress with their load reductions since the loading affects the concentration in both springs, depending on conditions.

Next Steps - BMAP Updates

Q: Will non-local governments or other statewide entities receive allocations?

A: Allocations will be given to the entities responsible for the nitrogen sources, not only local governments.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.