

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Rainbow Springs and Silver Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Meeting Summary
October 30, 2024, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Mary Sue Rich Conference Center-City of Ocala
1821 NW 21st Ave, Ocala, FL 34475

Attendees

Leslie Burges, Geosyntec	Haley Moody, Florida Springs Institute
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Daryl Myers, Hanson
Lauren Campbell, DEP	Mark Nelson, Jones Edmunds
Carol Carroll, Citizen	Walt Nickel, Wright-Pierce
Andrew Carswell, Levy County	Mandy Odom, City of Dunnellon
Cathie Catusus, Lake County	Bob Palmer, FSC
Chris Denmark, FDACS	Jim Peterson, SJRWMD
Jeff Earhart, Lake County	Robyn Preston, City of Ocala
Burt Eno, FSC	Crysta Reaves, FDACS
Kris Eskelin, SRWMD	Captain Erika Ritter, A Cruising Down the
Jessica Fetgatter, DEP	River
Agustin Francisco, FDACS	Lisa Saupp, Aqua Pure
Tiare Fridrich, Save the Manatee	Katherine Saylor, Defenders of Wildlife
Alice Gardner, Citizen	Kim Shugar, DEP
Stacie Greco, Alachua County	Michelle Sivilich, One Rake at a Time
Trisha Green, DEP	Jodi Slater, SJRWMD
Aaron Grimes, FDACS	Ryan Smart, FSC
Roxanne Groover, FOWA	Renee Smith, Vikus Water
Sam Hankinson, DEP	Matthew Stanley, City of Ocala
Maddy Hart, FDACS	Mary Stoker, Alachua County
Tammy Hinkle, FDACS	Nadine Stokes, Town of Reddick
Moira Homann, DEP	Matthew Tadlock, Sumter County
Brian Icerman, Jones Edmunds	Bob Titterington, City of Belleview
Art Jones, One Rake at a Time	Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD
Jennifer Kampwerth, City of Ocala	Chad Ward, City of Dunnellon
Chandler Keenan, DEP	Grace Ward, FDACS
Trevor Knight, Marian County	Scott Weeks, Kimley-Horn
Celeste Lyon, RES	Ondine Wells, UF/IFAS
Bonnie Meyer, Save Lake Weir	Stephanie Wolfgang, Vikus Water

Presentation

Jessica Fetgatter gave a brief overview of the Rainbow and Silver Springs BMAP, basin required reductions, entity required reductions, and the upcoming BMAP schedule. She explained that the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) are 0.35 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of nitrate. Based on recent water quality data, additional reductions of 80% are needed to meet the water quality targets. She noted that for BMAP load reduction and project calculation purposes, the Rainbow and Silver Springs have been combined.

Jessica reviewed the milestones for 2028, 2033, and 2038. The reductions to be achieved by each milestone are 30%, 80%, and 100%, respectively.

Jessica suggested that if there are environmental groups who were not listed in the current BMAP that would like to be listed as stakeholders to contact her with their information.

Poster Session

Posters were presented, along with the opportunity for attendees to review BMAP information and ask questions of DEP and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) staff. St. Johns River Water Management District also had a poster and staff to answer questions.

Written Comments

Erika Ritter commented that she would like to see the Ocklawaha River Preserve included in the Silver-Rainbow BMAP area. She added that it is mostly Silver River by volume. Also, it is a section highly impacted by agricultural runoff via Highway 315.

Art Jones wrote his thanks “for putting us on the BMAP stakeholder list. We live on the Rainbow River.”

Katherina Sayler asked DEP to let her know what the Defenders of Wildlife can do to advocate for long-term enforcement of the changes laid out in the BMAPs. The lift is heavy and wrote that she appreciates the DEP efforts and coordination between agencies. The nitrogen load reduction for Marion County is significant and will require resources to achieve. She asked DEP to call upon her organization for support in advocating for long-term springs improvements for wildlife and people.

Action Items

All--Jessica suggested that if there are environmental groups who were not listed in the current BMAP that would like to be listed as stakeholders to contact her with their information.

DEP—Post the meeting materials online after the meeting.

DEP—Confirm that Art Jones or his organization are on the stakeholder list for the 2025 BMAP update.

DEP—Follow up with Haley Moody on her written question which asked how they can help.