

To: Silver Springs Stakeholders
From: Mary Paulic
Date: April 30, 2013

The next Silver Springs Technical Meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 23. It will be held at the Marion County Growth Management Office Conference Room. Meeting details will follow.

The notes from the April 11 Silver Springs Technical Meeting are available and included as an attachment to this email. Several action items were identified at that meeting as summarized below.

1. Additional seasonal and annual ground water potentiometric surface data will be evaluated to help better define the ground water contributing area for Silver Springs. A technical white paper will be prepared that summarizes what we have learned and will be available for the May 23 meeting.
2. DEP is preparing an inventory of nitrogen sources in the basin and their loadings using 2009 land use. A completion date has not been determined.
3. DEP is checking into the regulation of septage.
4. Questions were raised about the potential connection of Lake Griffin in Lake County and lakes in the eastern portion of the Orange Creek Basin to the Floridan aquifer. Concerns were raised that these lakes could be contributing to water quality problems in Silver Springs through their ground water connection.

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the progress made on action items since the April meeting. Shane Williams and I are doing further investigation into items 1,2 and 4 and anticipate having more information at the May meeting. We have looked at numerous potentiometric surface maps from as early as 1936 to 2010 and representing both wet and dry years. The next step is figuring out how to composite results from multiple years into one map of the ground water contributing area for the springs. An important point must be emphasized that whatever is decided as the Silver Springs springshed, it must be based on good science and be defensible. A decision on where the springshed boundary is located has not been made.

Brian Katz has started work on an inventory of nitrogen sources in the basin (item 2). A draft methodology is expected to be ready in time for the May meeting and hope to present it at that meeting. This inventory of nitrogen sources will help target where the highest loads of nitrogen are coming from and direct corrective actions toward them.