

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Crystal River/ Kings Bay, Homosassa/ Chassahowitzka Springs Group, and Weeki Wachee
Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs)
Question and Answer (Q&A) Summary
Public Meeting on May 30, 2024
10:00 am – 11:28 am
Via GoToWebinar

Attendance List

Lisa Bally, ATM	Nathan Jagoda, DEP
Bob Bates, APTIM	Tony Janicki, ESA
Evelyn Becerra, DEP	Wei Jin, SJRWMD
Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD	Marie E Johnson Nall, Citizen
Juanita Bernal, Pasco County	Andrew Jorgensen, On Top of the World
Allan Biddlecomb, Pasco County	Daryll Joyner, ESA
Marcelo Blanco, DEP	Chandler Keenan, DEP
Beth Brady, Save the Manatee	Eugene Kelly, Citizen
Alys Brockway, Hernando County	Adriana Kirwan, FDOT
Carla Burrmann, Hernando County	Cierra Kuchar, DEP
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Charles Legros, DEP
Stacy Cecil, SJRWMD	Liz Lindsay, Florida Right to Clean Water
Mitchell Chauncey, Ardurra	Celeste Lyon, RES
Ken Cheek, Citrus County	Ken Maguire, FDOH
Carolin Ciarlariello, DEP	Dianne Maughan, Citizen
Amber Connolly, FDOH	Max McAmis, Pasco County
Kristina Deak, SWFWMD	Michael McGrath, Sierra Club
Chloe Dougherty, Florida Springs Council	Matt McKinney, Duke Energy
Burton Eno, Citizen	Micah Minaberry, Pasco County
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS	Stephen Moeller, RioVation
Amanda Exposito-Ferree, AtkinsRealis	Charles Morton, Citizen
Trevor Fagan, SWFWMD	Jessica Mostyn, DEP
Suzannah Folsom, WRWSA	Ken Nash, Citizen
Grant Furnas, WBQ Design & Engineering	Ryne Nimmo, DEP
Diane Garte, Citizen	Sky Notestein, Wetland Solutions
Tina Gordon, Wildwood Consulting	Jackie Noval, DEP
Trisha Green, DEP	Gordon Onderdonk, Hernando County
Roxanne Groover, FOWA	Robin Orlandi, Citizen
Justin Grubich, Pew Charitable Trusts	Ron Patel, Hernando County
Sam Hankinson, DEP	Cisco Pavez, Pasco County
David Herman, WBQ Design & Engineering	Benjamin Pernezny, Ardurra
Gabe Herrick, SWFWMD	Ray Pribble, ESA
Ray Hodge, United Dairy Farmers of Florida	Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD
	Deevon Quirolo, Citizen

Derek Reiners, FGCU
Brad Rimbey, Citizen
Patricia Robertshaw, SWFWMD
Michelle Sempstrott, FWC
James Shannon, Pasco County
Ryan Smart, Florida Springs Council
Tom St. Clair, Citizen
Victoria Steinnecker, Corollo Engineers
Jennifer Thera, FDACS
Haley Thomas, WBQ Design & Engineering
Scott Towler, Anser Advisory
Madison Trowbridge, SWFWMD
Diana Turner, DEP
Unknown, The Florida Channel

Lisa Van Houdt, DEP
Barry Vance, Water & Air Research
Devon Villareal, SWFWMD
Coleen Weaver, Pasco County
Ken Weaver, DEP
Stefani Weeks, Citizen
Tanya Welborn, DEP
Brenda Wells, Florida Springs Council
Scott Wesson, AtkinsRealis
Andrea Wilcock, FDOH
Catherine Wolden, SWFWMD
Erin Yao, FDOT
Rachel Zinck, Citizen

Crystal River/Kings Bay, Homosassa/Chassahowitzka, and Weeki Wachee BMAP Overview

Q: Will future meetings be in person or virtual?

A: There will be one in-person meeting in the basins. The other meetings will likely be virtual.

Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) Results

Q: Can you elaborate upon what 30% attenuation means for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS)?

A: Attenuation happens when nitrogen loading is up taken through surface and subsurface processes. Florida-based studies indicate that about 30% of nitrogen is attenuated from OSTDS.

Q: Did you evaluate urban turfgrass fertilizer (UTF) with considerations of the local fertilizer ordinances in place?

A: Yes, fertilizer ordinances were taken into consideration when we did the evaluations. Our estimates of fertilizer applications were reduced proportionally based on the provisions of the local fertilizer ordinances.

Q: Does atmospheric deposition data include stack exhaust contaminants from coal/gas burning power units at the Duke Energy facility in the Kings Bay/Crystal River BMAP area?

A: Our group used data from but did not perform the Total Deposition Science Committee (tDEP) model. The model is performed by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP); details on the data used would need to be directed there. Presumably, the model would estimate regional deposition rates, not necessarily individual sources, based on their network of air quality monitoring stations.

Q: How was it determined attenuation for agriculture sources is 80%?

A: The attenuation rate was determined through a literature review of what attenuation rates have been observed. The livestock waste attenuation rate is a bit higher since it is an organic source and would likely remain in the soil longer. The attenuation rates for these sources are the same as those used in the prior NSILT.

Q: Was there accounting for stormwater runoff from roads and impervious areas?

A: Stormwater is not a source in itself, it comes from sources such as fertilizer on urban turfgrass, atmospheric deposition, and other loading sources.

Q: Does DEP plan to make any additional updates in the coming year to account for recent changes in wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) loads?

A: There are no plans to update the NSILTs again in the coming year. The period of record will be established by this NSILT update for the 2025 BMAP updates.

Spring Vent Load Analysis Results

Q: Does DEP check for decreasing trends before calculating the current loads? Ten years is a long time, even for groundwater.

A: We are always looking at the updated spring vent numbers. The ten-year period of record was selected to account for variability in the data and is in line with the NSILT period of record.

Q: Can you define “stakeholders”?

A: Responsible entities within the BMAPs include local governments, agricultural producers, and WWTFs, among others. The outreach to individual agricultural producers is handled by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

Q: What are the expectations for the first 5-year milestone?

A: Entities will need to have projects identified or in the preliminary phases to demonstrate that they can meet the first milestone (30% of the reductions needed).

Next Steps - BMAP Updates

There were no questions for this section.

Public Comment

- It sounded that the requirement will be to have a project planned or conceived to meet the first milestone. Will those projects be required to be completed within five years and will the BMAP not be adopted until they are set up? DEP responded that they will be working on the project lists with responsible stakeholders. This question goes into details that DEP will be discussing in the upcoming meetings once we have spoken with the responsible stakeholders. Details on allocations, milestones, and projects will be addressed in the upcoming meetings. The updated NSILT loadings are also being incorporated and addressed in the revised BMAPs.

- It looks like in all of the presentations; we have set the first milestone at 30%. How did DEP come to the 30% number. Is the percentage still up for discussion? DEP responded that they are continuing with the 30% first milestone, which will be applied to each entity's allocation in each basin. The upcoming meetings will cover the responsibilities of each stakeholder. With the new legislation, responsible entities will now be required to meet their own required reductions within each of the five-year milestones, which was not entity-specific before the legislation. This will place a lot more emphasis on each responsible entity's assignment, instead of on source categories.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 11:28 am.