

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Kings Bay-Crystal River &
Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Springs
Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs)
Meeting Summary
November 7, 2024, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Florida Forest Service-Withlacoochee Training Center
24059 Childs Road, Brooksville, FL 34601

Attendees

Vanessa Bauco, FDACS
Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD
Caleb Beville, Texas Aquatic
Alys Brockway, Hernando County
Leonard Brown, Citrus County
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting
Lauren Campbell, DEP
Sandra Chupinsky, Big Bend Seagrasses
Aquatic Preserve
Maxine Connor, Sierra Club
Cory Dilmore, Citrus County
Margaret Dorge, Citrus County
Suzy Folsom, WRWSA
Tiare Fridrich, Save the Manatee Club
Alan Garri, Kimley-Horn
Roxanne Groover, FOWA
Sam Hankinson, DEP
Troy Hays, Jones Edmunds
Tammy Hinkle, FDACS
Ray Hodge, UDFF
Moira Homann, DEP

Roger Ingall, Citrus County
Chandler Keenan, DEP
Eugene Kelly, Florida Native Plant Society
Celeste Lyon, RES
Jessica Mailliez, Sea & Shoreline
Ken Nash, Gulf Archaeology
Lori Olson, Citrus County
Robin Orlandi, Sierra Club
Athena Philips, Citizen
Deevon Quirolo, Sierra Club
Jovanna Radovanovic, Geosyntec
Crysta Reaves, FDACS
Brad Rimbey, Florida Spring Council
Brittany Scharf, UF/IFAS
Aly Schortinghouse, UF/IFAS
Madeline Singer, DEP
Troy Slattery, Crystal River
Jeanete Smith, Citrus County
Savannah Smith, Kimley-Horn
Devon Villareal-Dabbs, SWFWMD
Ken Weaver, DEP

Presentation

Chandler Keenan gave a brief overview of the Kings Bay-Crystal River and Chassahowitzka-Homosassa BMAPs, basin required reductions, entity required reductions, and the upcoming BMAP schedule. She reviewed the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Kings Bay-Crystal River and Chassahowitzka-Homosassa Springs. There are multiple TMDLS implemented by each BMAP, respectively. Based on recent water quality data for Crystal River-Kings Bay, additional reductions are needed to meet the water quality targets of 43%. Based on recent water quality data for Chassahowitzka, additional reductions are needed to meet the water quality targets of 60%. Based on recent water quality data for Homosassa, additional reductions are needed to meet the water quality targets of 65%.

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

Chandler 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.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

Written Comments

Submitted by Deevon Quirolo, Sierra Club: There is an urgent need to greatly increase state appropriations to fund efforts by the counties to meet BMAP required reductions in nutrients and meet TMDLs. We have failed to meet past goals. Nutrient loading is increasing; development is increasing. Request adequate funds for planned projects now to save our springs.

Submitted by Eugene Kelly, Florida Native Plant Society: If the 5 year milestones are not met, what are the consequences to FDEP and/or the local government(s)? Do you move the goalposts/milestones, or are there penalties? If there are penalties, do they include moratoriums on new development or sources of pollution/nitrates?

Submitted by Eugene Kelly, Florida Native Plant Society: I understand the need for local governments to identify projects and estimated costs in STAR – to provide a basis for establishing funding needs to legislature. However, given the necessarily ambitious 5-yr milestones, there is a need for the legislature to begin allocating funds now to jumpstart the projects. Will FDEP make this case to the legislature for 2025 sessions?

Action Items

All-Chandler 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. The Florida Native Plant Society and the Sierra Club-Adventure Coast Group noted during the poster session they would like to be included on the list for both these BMAPs.

DEP—Post the meeting materials online after the meeting.