

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Weeki Wachee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Meeting Summary
November 7, 2024, 10:00 pm – 11:55 am
Florida Forest Service-Withlacoochee Training Center
24059 Childs Road, Brooksville, FL 34601

Attendees

Vanessa Bauco, FDACS	Chandler Keenan, DEP
Vivianna Bendixson, SWFWMD	Lisa Kelley, Dewberry
Emily Bennett, Brooksville	Eugene Kelly, Florida Native Plant Society
Juanita Bernal Leon, Pasco County	David Kingsbury, Brooksville
Ed Blommel, FDACS	Bailey Koronich, Sea & Shoreline
Alys Brockway, Hernando County	Celeste Lyon, RES
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Taylor Masnjak, Get Up and Go Kayaking
Lauren Campbell, DEP	Max McAmis, Pasco County
Chris Chittway, Pasco County	Robin Orlandi, Sierra Club
Nicholas Cisek, Hillsborough County	Athena Philips, Citizen
Maxine Connor, Sierra Club	James Polk, Pasco County
Scott Ethier, Dewberry	Deevon Quirolo, Sierra Club
Tiare Fridrich, Save the Manatee	Jovana Radovanovic, Geosyntec
Nick Gagliano, Clearstream Wastewater Systems	Crysta Reaves, FDACS
Julie Gordon, Pasco County	Brad Rimbey, Florida Springs Council
Roxanne Groover, FOWA	Jackie Sampson, FDOH
Janet Grubowski, Florida Native Plant Society	Brittany Scharf, UF/IFAS
Sam Hankinson, DEP	Robin Speidel, SWFWMD
Jonathan Healion, FDOH	Shannon Stephens, Hernando County
Tammy Hinkle, FDACS	Gerrit Van Lent, Paso County
Moiria Homann, DEP	Devon Villareal, SWFWMD
	Ken Weaver, DEP

Presentation

Chandler Keenan gave a brief overview of the Weeki Wachee BMAP, basin required reductions, entity required reductions, and the upcoming BMAP schedule. She explained that the total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Weeki Wachee Spring is 0.28 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of nitrate. There are additional TMDLs addressed in the BMAP for Weeki Wachee River (0.20 mg/L nitrate); Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group (0.23 mg/L nitrate); Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group (0.23 mg/L); and Jenkins Creek Spring (0.23 mg/L nitrate). Based on recent water quality data, additional reductions are needed to meet the water quality targets of 69%.

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 11:55 am.

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?

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.

DEP—Post the meeting materials online after the meeting.