

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Water Quality Evaluation and TMDL Program

Nutrient TMDLs for Homosassa-Trotter- Pumphouse Springs Group, Bluebird Springs and Hidden River Springs Springs Coast Basin

September 30, 2014





AGENDA

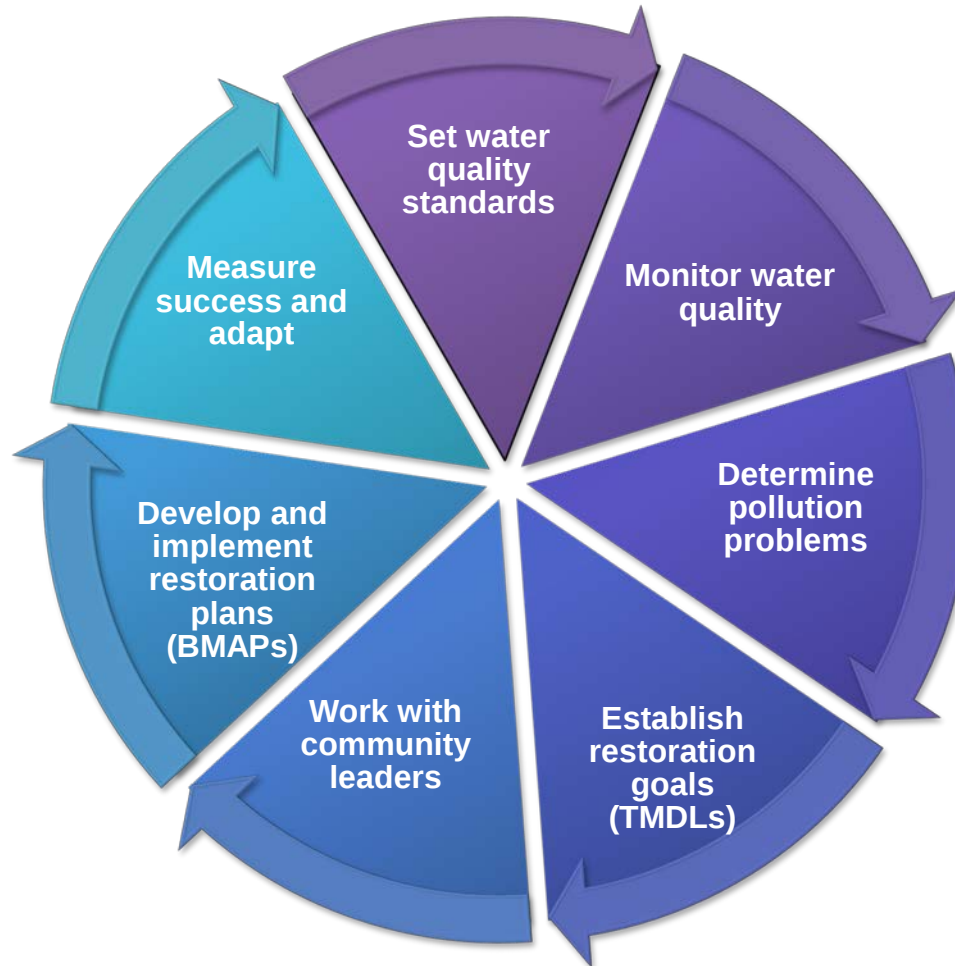
- Water Quality Restoration Program Overview
- Draft TMDLs for Homosassa and related Springs
- Basin Management Action Plan
- Public Comment



WATER QUALITY RESTORATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Watershed Restoration Framework

(to address water quality issues)





Restoration Targets

- We call them **TMDLs** (Total Maximum Daily Loads)
- **TMDLs are water quality restoration thresholds produced for waterbodies that are “impaired”, which means that they do not meet water quality standards**
- They serve as the legal basis for future restoration action (federal CWA, state WRA), particularly for permitted entities. Adopted as state rules.
- For springs, a TMDL serves as the numerical threshold for managing nutrient levels so that they do not contribute to excessive growth of algae in their receiving waters (if the algae is being influenced by nutrients)

Fact: About 180 TMDLs adopted to date, 6 for waters that include springs



Total Maximum Daily Loads

A TMDL is generally defined as:

The maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still maintain its designated uses (e.g., drinking, fishing, swimming, shellfish harvesting)

Under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act and the Florida Watershed Restoration Act, TMDLs must be developed for *impaired* waters.



Federal TMDL Program Responsibilities

The Federal Clean Water Act (1972) established requirements for states in section 303(d).

States must:

- Assess and provide lists of their impaired waters to EPA
- **Develop TMDLs for impaired waters**
- Identify pollutant reductions and allocations
- **Develop implementation plans**



Florida Watershed Restoration Act

The Watershed Restoration Act of 1999*

established a framework for identifying impaired waters, developing TMDLs and developing and implementing restoration plans:

- Authorizes FDEP to do these things
- Authorizes FDACS to work with agriculture to implement BMPs

**(Section 403, Florida Statutes)*



Stakeholder Involvement in TMDL

We need help from you in:

- Reviewing and commenting on draft document (**review comments due by October 31**)
- Providing information on local water quality issues and projects that might influence the TMDL
- Assuring that pertinent local information is used in TMDL development and in report
- Establishing contact with key stakeholders who will help us during the BMAP process



For more information:

- To obtain the draft TMDL document and get more information:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/index.htm>

- Send me an email or give me a call:

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