

**Weeki Wachee Spring and River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 2:00 PM

*Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), Room 112
2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 32604*

Attendees

Gene Altman, SWFWMD	Roxanne Groover, FOWA
Andy Auner, HELP	Terry Hansen, DEP
Terri Auner, HELP	Janet Hearn, ATM on behalf of FDOT
Juanita Bernal, Pasco County	Steve Katarc, FDOH-Hernando County
Clay Black, Hernando County Public Works	Sean King, SWFWMD
Alys Brockway, Hernando County Utilities	Mary Lusk, UF-IFAS
Will Bryant, FDOH-Citrus County	Christine Lynch, Pasco County
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Kristina Mallams, SWFWMD
Kevin Coyne, DEP	Chuck Morton, Hernando County Task Force
David Demaree, Hernando County Utilities	Jennifer Sagan, Amec Foster Wheeler
Dave DeWitt, SWFWMD	Elke Ursin, FDOH-Tallahassee
Jon Dowler, City of Brooksville	Dawn Velsor, Hernando County Planning
Cathy Foerster, Wildwood Consulting	Kevin Vickers, Hernando County Utilities
Xueqing Gao, FDOH-Tallahassee	John Walkinshaw, GPI

Introduction

Tiffany Busby opened the meeting at 2:00 PM by welcoming everyone. She explained that the focus of today's meeting is to continue the development of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (OSTDS) remediation plan and determination of the priority focus area (PFA). Terry Hansen, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) basin coordinator for Weeki Wachee (WW), will discuss new legislative requirements related to the development of the PFA. We will then recap the discussions from last month on the three components of the OSTDS remediation plan: education, projects, and science, with a focus today on science-related actions. She thanked SWFWMD for arranging the meeting room. She reminded attendees to sign in and to provide their email information should they desire to be on the DEP contact list to receive meeting notices. She then requested that each person in the room introduce themselves.

BMAPs

Since there were a few new people in the audience, Terry provided a brief overview of the BMAP process and the purpose of the BMAP – a watershed restoration plan to reduce the nutrient footprint in a specific geographic area.

Terry displayed a map of the WW study area and discussed pollutant sources as well as the inclusion of the Aripeka springs group in the BMAP even though it is not a first magnitude spring. He followed this with a bar chart that reflected the current discharge of nitrogen out of WW Spring compared to the total maximum daily load (TMDL), and estimated nitrogen loading to groundwater per the DEP nitrogen source inventory loading tool (NSILT). The current nitrogen load is higher than the TMDL.

Questions/comments by attendees

1. Chuck Morton: What portions of Aripeka are included in the BMAP? Terry: The study area defined in the Aripeka TMDL is the area to be included in the WW BMAP.

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PFA

Terry presented a series of slides on the legislative requirements for determination of a PFA – defined as an area or areas of a basin where the Floridan Aquifer is generally most vulnerable to pollutant inputs where there is known connectivity between groundwater pathways and an Outstanding Florida Spring. DEP will work with SWFWMD on the WW PFA determination after the finalization of the procedure for PFA determination, which is being tested on the Crystal River/Kings Bay (CR/KB) springshed and should be completed at the end of this month. The process and methodology agreed to for CR/KB will be the template for the WW PFA determination. As part of the PFA determination, a groundwater contributing area (CA) must be established for the spring. Terry showed a map of the proposed CA for WW. Upon consensus with SWFWMD, DEP will share the proposed WW PFA area with stakeholders. It is anticipated that the PFA will be a sub-area of the BMAP study area. Terry stressed that the PFA determination is a work in progress.

Questions/comments by attendees

1. Juanita Bernal: Do you consider sources when determining the PFA? Terry: Yes, sources are considered, as well as travel time of the nitrogen and groundwater.
2. Alys Brockway: When will the PFA determination be done if the BMAP is scheduled for adoption in June 2017? Kevin: It is anticipated that we will share the proposed PFA with stakeholders at the November 2016 meeting.
3. Gene Altman: Will the PFA boundary be available to the community before the meeting? Terry: Yes, we will email a web link to the PFA materials prior to the meeting.

Planning Projects and Level of Effort

Terry classified this topic as occurring and future activities in the BMAP process. He presented a pie chart with sources of nitrogen loading to groundwater based on the NSILT. On October 19, 2016 at a meeting in Brooksville, the NSILTs for CR/KB and WW will be updated and finalized; also, the draft NSILT for Homosassa/Chassahowitzka will be discussed.

Based on the pie chart, Terry then showed a table that conveyed the proposed nitrogen reduction by source. The overall load reduction targets are 30% of the total within five years; 80% of the total within ten years; and 100% of the total within 15 years. He stated that the goals are aggressive for the first ten years; however, the overall load reduction must occur within 20 years. DEP intends to be aggressive so that it can request funding from the Florida Legislature to meet the load reduction goals.

Terry presented a proposed nutrient reduction strategy that focuses on controllable loads. Loading attributed to atmospheric deposition (AD), an uncontrollable load, is acknowledged but will be set aside for five years. Load reductions will be assigned to each entity and agriculture. Load reduction progress will be tracked yearly and adjustments made as needed. At the five-year milestone, progress will be assessed, load reductions adjusted as necessary, and it will be determined if AD reductions should be assigned. Entities have flexibility in the types and locations of projects as long as they achieve the overall load reduction assigned to the entity. Monitoring of existing groundwater and springs sampling locations is essential. Terry displayed a map of the existing monitoring network within the basin.

Terry reminded the stakeholders of the other source categories (other than septic systems) and requested the stakeholders be prepared to discuss urban and sports turfgrass fertilizer at the next meeting. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will present its plan for addressing agricultural sources at either the November or December 2016 BMAP meeting.

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Terry provided a matrix of current comprehensive plan policies, ordinances, and land development codes related to fertilizer, stormwater, reclaimed water, and septic systems/wastewater for Brooksville, Crystal River, Citrus County, Hernando County, and Pasco County. Brooksville and Crystal River need to adopt fertilizer ordinances. While Citrus County does have a requirement for septic system inspections prior to transfer of title of real property, it is not enforceable due to House Bill 1263.

Terry announced that a joint meeting for CR/KB and WW stakeholders will take place on October 18, 2016 at SWFWMD headquarters in Brooksville. The focus will be on public education efforts and successes. Presentations will be given by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and SWFWMD public affairs office. Based on the presentations, Terry envisions a roundtable discussion of what can be applied in the Springs Coast basin's public education plans.

Questions/comments by attendees

1. Clay Black: Does the NSILT account for transportation networks and commercial properties, current and future implications? Terry: The NSILT is based on 2015 land use classifications; future growth will need to be addressed through the BMAP. Stormwater is integrated and its impact considered as a part of other sources, such as urban turfgrass fertilizer.
2. Andy Auner: Citrus County is strengthening its fertilizer ordinance; other counties should have a similar ordinance.
3. Kevin Vickers: How does the county receive credit for stormwater enhancement since it is integrated into other pollution sources? Terry: That is a very good question and we are seeking ideas on how to calculate credits.
4. Kevin Vickers: Hernando County could team with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on enhancements to FDOT's drainage retention areas.
5. Dr. Gao: Is water quality trading an acceptable type of project? Kevin Coyne: Yes, water quality trading is a project option. Tiffany: Joint projects between entities are easier than formal trades in terms of agreements and credits.
6. Alys Brockway: What are the funding opportunities? Terry: If a project is located in a PFA, it will be considered a higher funding priority.
7. Andy Auner: How do the WW Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan projects fit with the BMAP? Terry: The projects track closely with the BMAP.
8. Mary Lusk: Are there standards of practice for sports turf fertilizer application? Terry: I do not believe so. There appear to be a wide variety of application rates and timing. Roxanne Groover: Parents and grandparents (through parent-teacher associations [PTAs]) are often in charge of fertilizing sports fields.
9. Chuck Morton: Encourage use of shallow wells for irrigation rather than utility-provided water. The shallow water has nitrogen for fertilization.

OSTDS Remediation Plan

Tiffany provided a recap of the OSTDS remediation plan requirements and the plan components (education and projects) that were covered at last month's meeting.

Science-related Actions

Tiffany provided a series of slides on science-related actions and projects that are contained in the draft 2016 WW SWIM plan. She sought concurrence, other ideas, and overall comments.

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1. Elke Ursin: The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) is submitting projects on the SWIM plan that may be relevant to the BMAP: a public education campaign based on the Duval County campaign, a septic system inventory update, and electronic tracking/website application for septic pumpers to indicate sludge disposal sites.
2. Roxanne Groover: I am meeting with a third party septic system testing (NSF) entity in September and will bring data to share at the next BMAP meeting. The data will describe the treatment levels for various types of septic system technologies both at the end of the pipe and at the after the septic field. I recommend that certain septic system manufacturers present at a future meeting. Tiffany: We will make a note that we should check with you for an update for the September 29, 2016 meeting.
3. Chuck Morton: How much of a reduction credit is given if on sewer rather than septic system? Is there information on nitrogen concentration from a wastewater treatment facility compared to OSTDS? Reclaimed water should have less nitrogen, but I have not seen the data.
4. Chuck Morton: Septic system inspections should be required prior to closing on a property. Roxanne Groover: House Bill 1263 did away with the ability to enforce point-of-sale inspections.
5. Elke Ursin: The FDOH Technical Review and Advisory Panel (TRAP) will convene on August 31, 2016 to review proposed rule language on lined drainfield enhancements. This is a required step prior to FDOH rulemaking.

Project Strategy

Tiffany stated that overall reductions are needed by source category and by entity/group. DEP is flexible on the project approach as long as each entity does its fair share. She stated that DEP is also determining how best to calculate project credits. Calculations will be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting. Entities will work on their individual project lists and bring back to the group for discussion.

1. Terri Auner: What projects have been done to date? The public needs to see and understand the progress that is being made. What is happening at Rogers Park? Kevin Vickers: Projects have a long planning, design, and bidding process. Sean King: The Rogers Park low impact development (LID) project is out for bid now and should be under construction by November 2016.
2. Steve Katarc: Will the septic system enhancement requirements be required only at the time of repair or will all existing systems need to be enhanced? Kevin Coyne: DEP needs to decide, but more than likely, enhancement will occur when a system is repaired.
3. Roxanne Groover: Everyone needs to own their piece of the pie, not just at the time of repair. We need to stay focused on the right reasons.
4. John Walkinshaw: Priority septic conversion projects should be those homes that are too close to the water along the finger canals. Incentives are needed for conversion.
5. Andy Auner: There are 30,000 septic systems in Spring Hill should be a priority for conversion and funding.
6. Dawn Velsor: A tracking system is needed so that when septic systems are upgraded, nitrogen reduction can be calculated.

Public Education

Tiffany provided a recap of the recommendations provided by stakeholders at the last meeting on public education target audiences, messaging, and available resources/materials. She then provided a matrix that conveyed the top three priorities identified by Brooksville, Crystal River, and Citrus County on audiences, messaging, and materials. Tiffany would like the stakeholders to contemplate what they are going to do and what they want to do should additional funding become available. The topic of public

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education will be revisited after the October 18, 2016 meeting in which presentations will be given by TBEP on the "Be Floridian" public education campaign and SWFWMD on its education campaigns.

1. Dawn Velsor: Hernando County has submitted for grant funding to survey homeowners on their knowledge of fertilizer.
2. Mary Lusk: The University of Florida-Institute of Food and Science (UF-IFAS) will conduct a homeowner survey pilot project regarding OSTDS and fertilizer in Pasco County and then broaden to other locations.
3. Elke Ursin: Did respondents view the actual public service announcements (PSAs) prior to selecting them as preferred materials? Tiffany: We did not provide the actual PSAs for review.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in the morning on September 29, 2016 in Brooksville at which time we will possibly discuss site considerations/field enhancements for OSTDS; approaches to load reduction calculations; potential efforts/reductions in other source categories, particularly urban and sports turfgrass fertilizer; and third party septic system testing data.

In the meantime, presentations from today's meeting will be placed on the DEP website at the following location:

http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Springs Coast/BMAPs/WW_BMAP/.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Action Items

Below are action items from the meeting.

1. Terry – Present the PFA determination to stakeholders at a future meeting.
2. Terry – Post the meeting presentation on the DEP website.
3. Terry/Cathy – Send out a save-the-date announcement for the September 29, 2016 BMAP meetings, October 18, 2016 joint BMAP meeting, and October 19, 2016 NSILT meeting.
4. Terry/Tiffany – Confirm final time and arrangements for October 18, 2016 joint BMAP meeting. Invite SWFWMD public affairs staff to present at the meeting.
5. Roxanne Groover – Provide third party septic system testing data (NSF) at the September 29, 2016 BMAP meeting.
6. DEP – Continue work on how the BMAP will address future growth.
7. Terry – Coordinate an FDACS presentation for either the November or December 2016 BMAP meeting.
8. Terry – Consider reaching out to PTAs regarding fertilizer reductions on sports fields.
9. Terry – Provide to the group a list of projects completed to date that improve water quality.
10. DEP – Determine what triggers OSTDS remediation.