

# **Welcome to the Technical Meeting for the St Lucie River & Estuary Basin Management Action Plan**



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of Environmental Protection

# **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program**

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Purpose: Identify scientifically-based quantitative goals for restoration of waterbodies that do not meet Florida's water quality standards, and implement a plan to achieve those goals.

***Local information and stakeholder involvement is the foundation of success***

# What is a TMDL?

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**Formal definition:** A TMDL identifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

**Informal definition:** A TMDL establishes numeric water quality goals to restore the health of a lake, river, stream, spring, or estuary.

**Specific to a waterbody and a pollutant**  
(e.g. total phosphorus in the C23 Canal)

# St. Lucie TMDL

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- Included the Estuary, River, & Canal impairments
- Parameters include TN, TP, & BOD
- TMDL adopted March 26, 2009
- Available:

[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/final\\_tmdl.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/final_tmdl.htm)



Photo: SFWMD

# St. Lucie TMDL WBIDs



# BMAP Basics

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Identifies actions needed to achieve the TMDL and who is responsible for implementing those actions

- Guided by provisions of Section 403.067(7) F.S.
- Developed collaboratively with stakeholders.
- Integrates the best available scientific information.
- Includes completed and new projects.
- Involves critical evaluations, studies, and research.
- Provides equity among stakeholders & sources.
- Adaptive management.

# BMAP Basics, Cont.

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Adopted by FDEP Secretarial Order

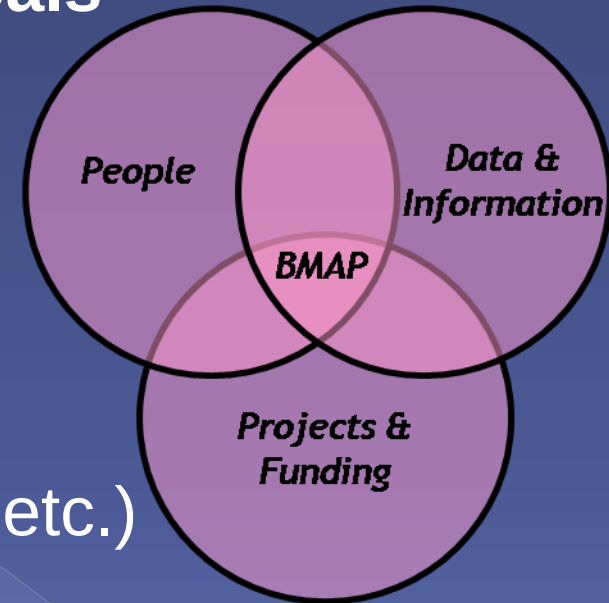
Include statements of commitment from stakeholders

|                                    |        |                                        |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|
| NPDES Point Source<br>(e.g. WWTPs) | Permit | Effluent Limit                         |
| MS4                                | Permit | Specific Projects to be<br>Implemented |
| Agriculture                        | BMAP   | BMP Implementation or<br>Monitoring    |
| Other Nonpoint<br>Sources          | BMAP   | Specific Projects to be<br>Implemented |

# BMAP Components

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- Specific water quality restoration goals
- Refined source identification
- Allocations to responsible entities
- Projects (local/regional, structural/nonstructural, permitted/not permitted, etc.)
- Evaluation of future growth impacts
- Monitoring (water quality & projects)
- Commitments: funding & timelines



# St. Lucie TMDL Implementation

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- One BMAP for the entire St. Lucie watershed (excluding C25 Canal /Ft. Pierce = IRL BMAP)
- Will address TMDL parameters only (not salinity, turbidity, or habitat)
- BMAP will be developed under the assumption that Lake O will meet its TMDL



# St. Lucie BMAP Partners

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|                                                       |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| St. Lucie County                                      | SFWMD                              |
| City of Port St. Lucie                                | FWC & USFWS                        |
| Martin County                                         | FDOH                               |
| City of Stuart                                        | Others?                            |
| Special Districts (selected<br>298s/CDDs)             | Rivers Coalition                   |
| FDOT District 4                                       | Florida Oceanographic<br>Society   |
| The Turnpike District                                 | DEP – CAMA, North Fork<br>Preserve |
| Florida Dept. of Agriculture and<br>Consumer Services |                                    |



# **St. Lucie BMAP Allocations**

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Allocations define responsibility

- 1) Equitable (among stakeholders)
- 2) Detailed (quantified at appropriate scale)

Scale: individual stakeholders, groups of stakeholders, subbasins, land use categories, etc.

# St. Lucie TMDL: Converting the TMDL into a BMAP

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## Spatial Issues

- Focus on reductions needed to meet target in the estuary
- Allows us to allocate by entity and implement cost-effective solutions instead of limiting projects geographically.

## Technical Issues

- Recalculate loads in the BMAP to achieve an equitable allocation

# St. Lucie BMAP Approach

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- Unknowns: Identify, prioritize relative to the BMAP, determine how to address those that are critical, develop long-term plan for the rest
- Allocations: Define allocation entities, calculate allocations and required reductions
- Projects: Collect information about current projects, identify new projects where needed, calculate load reductions, link to permits (where appropriate)
- Develop the adoptable document
- Seek formal & informal local support for the BMAP

# St. Lucie BMAP Items of Note

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- Cooperative projects are strongly encouraged
- Completed projects are eligible for credit (if completed since 2000, or TMDL data period )
- Lack of funding does not mean no action is required
- Appropriate model will be used for allocation and project load reduction calculations



# St. Lucie BMAP Relationship to RWPP

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- Continue to evaluate eligibility of RWPP projects for the BMAP; a preliminary review was completed.
- Eligibility factors apply to all projects (technical considerations, timing, and funding).
- Remember – Projects in a BMAP are enforceable, even without a permit.
- Because BMAP is adopted by FDEP, it will be developed as a stand alone document.



For more information on EPA's  
Numeric Nutrient Criteria and  
related comments on pending rule,  
please go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/florida/>

# For more information...

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