

**Meeting Notes**  
**St. Lucie Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)**  
**March 25, 2010, Technical meeting**  
**Martin Count Blake Library**  
**9:00 AM – 12:00PM**

Kim Gotwals (SAIC contractor for FL DEP) welcomed about 25 attendees to the Technical Meeting. Attendees introduced themselves to the rest of the group in a round-robin fashion. Ms. Gotwals reviewed the general purposes of the meeting: review the basics of the BMAP process, review supporting maps, discuss a proposed allocation strategy, discuss the project table for reduction credits, solicit stakeholder input, and identify other stakeholders who should be invited to the technical meetings.

**Technical Meeting (shift from formal BWG approach)**

DEP is shifting its approach for BMAP preparation, using Technical Meetings where possible, instead of formal Basin Working Groups. Technical Meetings allow for input and information exchange between all parties, and thus provide a productive way to proceed with BMAP development. Formal Basin Working Groups are subject to the Sunshine Law and therefore prohibit communication between members outside of the formal meetings, with the unintended consequence of limiting collaboration on stormwater planning and projects. The Technical Meetings are meant to provide a forum for information exchange; no formal recommendations will be issued from these meetings. Public notice will be provided for all Technical Meetings and meeting minutes will be posted.

**St. Lucie BMAP Basics**

Bonita Gorham (DEP Basin Coordinator) provided an overview of BMAP basics relevant to the St Lucie BMAP, including the TMDLs designated for the estuary, the North Fork and the South Fork of the St. Lucie River and the canals, C23, C44 and C24. The TMDLs set scientifically-based, quantitative goals for restoration of water bodies. The TMDLs have been adopted by the Secretary of the DEP. The Secretarial Order includes statements of commitment from stakeholders. The BMAP will identify the actions needed to achieve the TMDLs and who is responsible for implementation, guided by 403.067 F.S. NPDES Water Treatment Facilities will continue to abide by effluent limits set in their permits. Determining the allocations to be given to responsible entities is a critical component of the work to be done by DEP. Upcoming statewide storm water rules will serve to control stormwater impacts from future development.

**Current Mapping Efforts**

Bonita Gorham reviewed the current status of mapping efforts to capture the information necessary for the BMAP. She directed attention to the Base Planning Map, which shows areas beyond the formal TMDL WBIDs. She also presented the current jurisdictions overlay map. Additional up-to-date boundary files, particularly for MS4 boundaries, are needed to complete the map. A Wastewater Facilities map shows the location of wastewater facilities in the subject area.

**TMDL's and Allocation Strategy**

Wayne Magley (DEP) and Bob Kelly (SAIC contractor for DEP) led a discussion on modeling that will be used in the allocation of pollutant loadings. Modeling is needed to determine accurate loadings from jurisdictions. The loadings results from modeling should reasonably match the loadings used in the TMDL for the TMDL period of record. Mr. Magley and Dr. Kelly reviewed Spreadsheet Loading Models, using data from 1999 time period to early 2004. While the WBID land uses eventually will be updated to reflect current land use, the goal for now is to look at land use comparable to when the TMDL was developed. They also reviewed more complex models (e.g., WaSH models), noting that other modeling options are being assessed for their usefulness in the BMAP process. In the evaluation of model performance, groundwater inputs to the Estuary must be taken into consideration.

## Project Table

Bonita Gorham and Bob Kelly reviewed a slide showing the draft project table (spreadsheet) that will be used to record data about stormwater management projects installed since 2000. The table will be e-mailed to jurisdictions and provided through the website so that jurisdictions may fill in the information pertaining to their projects. Stakeholder's calculations regarding anticipated nutrient reductions will be accepted; DEP staff may call with follow-up questions.

Ms. Gorham discussed provisional BMAP credits that may be provided for non-structural activities. Responsible entities can receive up to a 6% reduction credit for total load for activities and efforts such as outreach and education. (a handout with specifics was provided to attendees). All six types of activities must be included in the project list to receive the full 6%. An FSA study, soon to be completed, will update reduction numbers from street sweeping.

Kevin Carter (South Florida Water Management District) showed slides of several planned District projects. It was noted that shared projects between jurisdictions could be documented in the BMAP, with division of percentage reduction responsibilities specified. Having a signed MOU in place between parties will help to clarify maintenance responsibilities after project installation.

## Summary & Next Steps

Bonita Gorham and Kim Gotwals reviewed the next steps in the St Lucie BMAP process. Technical Meetings will be held at least quarterly, or perhaps every other month as necessary. The tentative meeting date for the next session is June 17, 2010. Before then, DEP will be gathering additional jurisdictional information and up-to-date land use information, and continuing in model analysis for the allocation strategy. DEP may have additional one-on-one meetings with individuals. All materials will be posted on the WEB including the presentations and handouts.

<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/StLucie/>

Filling out the project sheets will be the homework assigned to all stakeholders. If anyone wants to suggest other stakeholders who should be part of the St Lucie BMAP process, please provide names to Bonita Gorham.

## Flip Chart Notes on Points for Clarification or Consideration

- MS4 boundaries – confusion about exact definition of MS4 (census data, land area covered by infrastructure?) and what to draw on the maps. *General guidance should be sought in consultation with Ed Smith, DEP- NPDES Section. Refer jurisdiction specific questions to him for resolution.*
- Role for North St. Lucie, a planning district not covered by impaired WBID; what projects will they need to monitor?
- IRL BMAP is the first basin in which allocations are being made to a 298 District. *Will be seeking guidance in Tallahassee on out whether or not 298 Districts will receive allocation, still unclear.*
- Assumptions regarding Lake O meeting its TMDLs; specifically, what are expected N inputs from the lake?
- Fully-implemented BMPs (as currently written) in agricultural lands may not be sufficient to meet required reductions; other regional projects off farm boundaries may be necessary
- Question about WBID 3194 boundaries – should be St. Lucie County only or also include parts of Martin Co? *(Answer: both)*
- How to parse out publicly-owned lands in counties, including conservation lands? *State and other conservation lands can be defined; however, significance of those holdings (and based on management, passive, recreational, leased for agriculture) for allocations undetermined as of yet.*
- How to account for county roads? *We will attempt to parse out this information if available to see if it has a significant impact overall.*
- How will water re-use be dealt with? *Need to identify extent of water re-use (and biosolid application in the watershed first).*
- How will the EPA nutrient criteria impact the BMAP? *Referred to the EPA website (last slide), and stakeholders encouraged to track progress and stay involved as it continues in FL*
- Quantifying the effectiveness of BMPs is still somewhat vague. *FDEP still waiting on Florida-specific studies, but for now, and on a case-by-case basis using information developed for FDEP in the "Evaluation of Current Stormwater Design Criteria within the State of Florida – Final Report, June 2007)*

Q&A:

|                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Does the jurisdiction cover any facility in Martin County that Martin County maintains?             | Ed Smith in Tallahassee can clarify the MS 4 boundaries and answer questions as to what constitutes an MS 4 boundary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Question about Lake Okeechobee meeting the TMDL's. How will nitrogen in water be addressed?         | At this time, assumption is made that Lake O will achieve its TMDL target for P, per measures to be defined in Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan; N-reductions need to be further identified in this, or other TMDL implementation plans for Lake O, & are not addressed in St. Lucie BMAP.                                                                                                                       |
| A question regarding agricultural facilities                                                        | Once they are signed up under the Notice of Intent (NOI) BMP's can be applied and reviewed; DACS is the lead entity for agricultural BMPs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| What is considered an event?                                                                        | Rainfall, storm events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| What is the effectiveness of BMP's? How does that figure in?                                        | Effectiveness is currently under study in Florida relating to structural BMPs, & now, much of the annual efficiency rates to calculate reductions for BMPs is derived using " <i>Evaluation of current stormwater design criteria within State of Florida – Final Report</i> ", prepared for FDEP in June 2007; evaluations made at sufficiency of effort in BMAP to quantify reductions on case-by-case basis. |
| How are county roads that run through agricultural areas going to be handled?                       | No sure if they will be pulled out or not; an effort will be made to quantify this in planning area to see if this is significant to adjust allocation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Calculating load is very difficult. How will it be done?                                            | These details are being worked out as the process progresses. Dr. Magley and Dr. Kelly are evaluating various modeling approaches in effort to define the best way to develop detailed allocations that are both equitable and reasonable for stakeholders, based on current conditions and local information. It will be a difficult process.                                                                  |
| Is it our responsibility to take current calculated loads below the currently calculated discharge? | Match midpoint of loads during verifying periods. How to do that is challenging.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| How can shared project be showed?                                                                   | Shared projects need to be documented and what percentage is shared based on contributions, both of resources and funding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| How is the evaluation of each project done?                                                         | Upon submittal of all projects, a sufficiency of effort evaluation takes place to determine if the proposed reductions achieved by these projects will achieve TMDL target; may be a phased approach, but need to be adequate enough to reach interim, reasonable targets or goals identified in the BMAP.                                                                                                      |

**For more information contact:**

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