

Technical Meeting Notes
St. Lucie River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

Havert L. Fenn Center, Room 122
2000 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL

May 24, 2011
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Meeting Notes:

An informal meeting was held on May 24th, 2011 to discuss information needs for preparation of the St Lucie BMAP. In addition, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss any questions relating to the draft allocations and modeling process used to derive the allocations. After introductions around the room, Bonita Gorham (DEP) projected a slide containing a compilation of the project sheets submitted by entities included in the St Lucie BMAP. She noted that almost all entities had submitted information, with the exception of a few Community Development Districts (CDDs) and the Town of Sewall's Point. She thanked everyone for submitting their project information and encouraged entities to continue to submit other structural and non-structural projects, either on the ground or planned, for consideration. She also highlighted data needs for many of the submitted projects, especially Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Permit Number and drainage area acreage.

Bonita referenced the handout (dated March 25, 2010 and posted on DEP's website) that describes provisional credits available for non-structural projects, such as local funding to implement the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program, ordinances on fertilizer use and irrigation practices, educational pamphlets and surveys on fertilizers, pet wastes, etc. A question was asked about level of detail in describing educational efforts for provisional credit. For example, will DEP require that the entity measure effectiveness of educational efforts to change behaviors? DEP does not require that an entity perform surveys or other efforts to gauge effectiveness; however, entities should provide enough detail to demonstrate that they are making a good faith effort to distribute materials or advertise messages that will lead to behavior changes. She reminded the group that Florida Stormwater Association's (FSA) street sweeping study will be released soon and may provide FDEP additional guidance on projected nutrient reductions for provisional credits in the BMAP.

Ms. Gorham reminded the group that DEP is developing a spreadsheet on calculating nutrient reductions for different types of Best Management Practices (BMPs). This spreadsheet will help to automate and standardize the BMPs nutrient reduction calculation process.

Ms. Gorham and Kevin Carter (SFWMD) also reviewed provisions relating to the alignment of the BMAP with the SFWMD St Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan (SLRWPP). DEP and SFWMD continue to work together to establish better consistency between the two efforts:

- The watershed boundaries will be revised to improve consistency.
- DEP's contractor, Bob Kelly, and SFWMD's contractor, Del Bottcher, will be meeting soon to discuss any appropriate changes to the assumptions about agricultural land uses in the St Lucie watershed that may affect modeling results.
- The TMDL had excluded one year of data, due to abnormal rainfall rates that year. The SFWMD will use the same period of record dates (1996-2005) in the next update of the watershed protection plan such that data forming the basis for the two efforts will be consistent.

Kevin Carter reminded the group about the meeting scheduled for Thursday (May 26th) to discuss the scope and schedule of the SLRWPP update, which is due in March, 2012. The Thursday meeting will be held at the Martin County/St. Lucie Service Center Building in Stuart.

Ms. Gorham indicated that DEP is currently seeking a legal opinion on the authority of DEP to give allocations to the three Water Control Districts (WCDs) that have received draft allocations.

A couple of attendees commented that an explanation of rationale and assumptions used in the modeling would be helpful. In particular, it was noted that the runoff coefficients used in the modeling to support the draft allocations were not consistent with those used in Harvey Harper's work. Tom McGowen (AECOM) pointed out that in Harper's report, the State had been divided into five regions but that information used in the (allocation) model spreadsheet was not consistent with the data for the regions to which the St Lucie was assigned (Regions 2 & 4, though Dr. Kelly had used Region 5). Agricultural loadings were higher in the allocations modeling than would be expected if the assumptions used in Dr. Harper's work were applied in the modeling. Amy Eason (AECOM) also questioned land use information for the North St. Lucie Water Control District area. Ms. Gorham responded that all comments and concerns with the model allocations and relating to land use are being taken up now, and said DEP would look into the regional differences question (and how that might affect the allocations as we do further refinements); but also that if anyone wanted to submit other (informal or) formal comments on the model, or the allocation process, that now was a good time for DEP to receive those comments. AECOM noted that they will formalize these comments in writing.

A related question was asked about how the land use information is tied into the modeling effort and whether certain agricultural uses were "clumped together"? Bonita answered that certain agricultural land uses were clumped together, based on commodity categories and intensity of use, and that this information is reflected in the model spreadsheet. When asked for locational information or the various land uses in the basin, Ms. Gorham noted that the (GIS) attribute tables (as posted GIS data files on the ftp site) can be used to identify the specific location points areas used in the model, and are shown by latitude/longitude.

Next steps:

- DEP will "clean up" the projects spreadsheet and post it to the ftp site.
- At AECOMs request, FDEP will post minutes from the 5/13 meeting with WCDs and post to the web site.
- DEP will post the GIS information that had been on a temporary outgoing file onto the permanent file web site. (That information has been relocated here: <http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/StLucie/Meetings/May24,2011%5ETechMtg/GIS-RelatedData&Text/>)
- Entities are to continue to submitting additional projects or information (including operations and maintenance programs), if missing from presentation project lists, to supplement the current projects list and to submit that information by mid-August (prior to next meeting).
- Entities are encouraged to think about collaborative regional projects, or the "what's missing" in terms of ongoing projects and programs.

The next meeting is to be scheduled after Labor Day (September 5th); and most likely shoot for the 2nd or 3rd week of September. Bonita asked that stakeholders provide her information relating to any meeting conflicts associated with those weeks as soon as possible. This meeting may also include a "maps-on-the-table" exercise to pinpoint projects that will/are achieve(ing) needed TN/TP reductions.