

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

**Martin County Administrative Bldg, 4th Floor
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida 34996
March 16, 2012
9 am to Noon**

Summary of Meeting

After introductions around the room, and a general status update from Bonita Gorham (DEP), John Abendroth (DEP) provided an update on the Numeric Nutrient Criteria being proposed by EPA. A lawsuit brought against EPA by environmental interests is still in play. Its outcome may affect numeric nutrient criteria in Florida. Optimally, the TMDLs established in Florida would become the numeric nutrient criteria in those specific basins for which TMDLs have been developed. The marine/estuarine criteria are to be drafted by May 21, 2012, with promulgation by January 7, 2013.

Bonita reminded the group of the Portfolio files (collection of GIS maps on the public site) that illustrate how acreages are “clipped out” in a specific order to yield the final acreage assigned to St Lucie and Martin Counties. She then reviewed the primary refinements made to the spreadsheet models used to develop the allocations to entities. The primary changes:

- The sub-basin boundaries were revised slightly to align with the St Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan prepared by the South Florida Water Management District.
- EMCs were revised for some land uses (primarily citrus and improved pasture) in accordance with those used for Lake Okeechobee and the St Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan (in consultation with Del Bottcher)
- ROCs used in estimating loadings were revised to be more reflective of runoff values by land use categories, using an average rainfall of 51.5 inches; the previous ROCs attempted to associate different runoff values with land use categories *and* hydrologic soil groups, but data were insufficient for this approach. (Distributed rainfall data were used to determine allocations by sub-basin however.)

Bonita showed slides containing the final allocations to jurisdictions as well as a slide showing the difference between the preliminary draft allocations developed in March, 2011 and the final March, 2012 allocations. Bonita reminded the group that the allocation is stated in terms of target load per acre. A question about allocations to 298 Districts/Water Management Districts was asked. Bonita responded that DEP has authority to make allocations to 298 Districts and that all parties are needed at the table to contribute to discussions about projects to reduce nutrient loads. Bonita noted that some WMDs have already submitted project information on canal cleaning.

In response to a question about the negative allocation for Sewall’s Point, John explained that given the land uses in Sewall’s Point, the model estimated a lower starting load per acre than the target, thus calculated a negative allocation. In response to a question about nutrient contributions of Lake Okeechobee to the C-44 canal, John responded that St Lucie stakeholders are not responsible for reductions to any loading from Lake O; it is assumed for purposes of the St Lucie BMAP that the Lake O TMDL is being met.

A participant noted that land uses in the model do not match the current situation, particularly with regard to former citrus groves that are now fallow due to the effect of citrus canker several years ago; a FDACs representative added that there is no BMP for fallow lands. DEP is fully aware of this situation and is also mindful of the fact that fallow agricultural lands have the potential for shifting back into

production. John repeated that we need to understand the reduction credits for projects put in place since 2000 and the agricultural BMPs in place before we can assess the need to adjust allocations.

John and Bonita discussed ideas relating to implementation of the BMAP, noting that given the complexity of the basin and the significant reductions required (especially in the agriculture sector), DEP's expectations regarding reductions achieved in the first five years of BMAP implementation will be modest. They noted that the allocations are a starting number; the process going forward will be adaptive. DEP and stakeholders will determine the credits from implementing projects put in place after 2000, along with any applicable provisional credits for non-structural projects. DEP will then be able to assess the nature of reductions already achieved, or expected to be achieved, and work with stakeholders to identify priority projects going forward.

Kim Gotwals (SAIC) provided a summary of provisional credits available to jurisdictions for programs such as Florida-Friendly Yards and Neighborhoods, ordinances, public education programs, and illicit discharge reporting lines. She prepared a preliminary assessment of provisional credits, based on a review of project information submitted thus far by jurisdictions. She noted that the review was preliminary and that entities should provide additional information as appropriate.

Kim reviewed DEP's plans to convene a St. Lucie Technical Committee and a formal Basin Working Group (BWG). The Technical Committee's purpose is to discuss projects, new technologies, and partnerships that will lead to additional nutrient reduction in the basin. Based on the Technical Committee's findings and discussions, DEP may recommend specific projects that members of Basin Working Group can elevate to the decision-making authorities in their respective jurisdictions. In its advisory capacity, the Technical Committee is not subject to the Sunshine Law. Because the BWG will function in making formal recommendations, it *is* subject to the Sunshine Law. John emphasized that all meetings for both the Technical Committee and the BWG are open to the public. DEP will be responsible for providing the required public notice for BWG meetings. Bonita asked entities receiving allocations to name a person and alternate for the Technical Committee and BWG. The following table is a start to that list:

Entity	Technical Committee	Basin Working Group
Martin County	Scott Webber, Greg Nolte	Don Donaldson
Stuart		
St Lucie County	Jason Bessey, Michael Halter	Don West, Chris LeStrange
City of Port St Lucie	Jim Angstadt, Dale Majewski	Patricia Roebing
FDACS		
SFWMD	Kevin Carter	
FDOT – District 4		
Turnpike		
Sewall's Point	Bob Kellogg, John Adams	Joe Capra (consultant)?
Fort Pierce		
Verano WCD	Amy Eason	Scott Martin
Troup Indiantown WCD	Amy Eason	
Okeechobee County	Gary Ritter	
NSLR WCD	Tom McGowan	Peter McClure

Southern Grove		
Tradition CDD		
Copper Creek		
Pal Mar WCD		
Hobe St Lucie Cons Dist		

It is anticipated that the Technical Committee will meet on a more frequent basis to: discuss possible regional projects, devote meetings to specified sub-basins, and eventually develop a monitoring plan for the BMAP, working from the existing network of monitoring already required for 319 projects and permitted MS4 outfalls. The Basin Working Group will meet on a less frequent basis, with meetings called when necessary to initiate formal actions for recommendations on specific projects or plans in the BMAP.

Bonita announced that she had accepted a new conservation position in Florida, and would be leaving the DEP as of March 29th. After receiving congratulations from participants at the meeting, she reminded the group that materials from the meeting, including the final allocations will be posted to <http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/StLucie/>. Meeting participants were instructed to send any materials to John Abendroth, given Bonita's imminent departure from DEP.

The next meeting, the first Technical Committee meeting, will be scheduled for June or July.