

Winter Haven Chain of Lakes & Peace Creek Watershed Discussion 27JAN12

Discussion with Mike Britt (City of Winter Haven) on how to proceed with the Chain of Lakes (COL) area TMDL implementation and also to address the Peace River hydrologic restoration areas identified in the Winter Haven Sustainability Water Resource Management Plan on Figure 13 (attached).

BACKGROUND

The Southern COL has eight existing FDEP TMDLs and Northern COL has two EPA TMDLs all will need to be accounted for in the MS4 Phase I Prioritization Plan due in March 2012. Additionally, six of the Northern COL and the WBIDs where hydrologic restoration is proposed are impaired waterbodies.

POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Designate a BMAP area that includes the North and South COL and the Peace River hydrologic restoration area. This will allow a watershed approach to restore water quality in a logical manner and increase water quantity to the Peace River. Placing all the existing TMDLs, FDEP and EPA, in a BMAP will allow Winter Haven to develop a MS4 priority plan and implement water quality projects where they are most beneficial to the watershed.

NEEDS

- Agreement with SWFWMD and FDEP on water quantity issues.
- Consensus among Polk County MS4 co-permittees on the plan.
- Consensus that a BMAP Area is the vehicle to utilize.

MOVING FORWARD

A meeting bringing together FDEP, SWFWMD, and local stakeholders to explain the process should be held. FDEP can lead the meeting and explain the BMAP process and how it will allow the local stakeholders to achieve water quality improvements in a logical manner. SWFWMD will need to discuss water quantity concerns (MFLs, hydrology). The message to be delivered is that FDEP is empowering the stakeholders to work together to improve the Peace River Watershed.

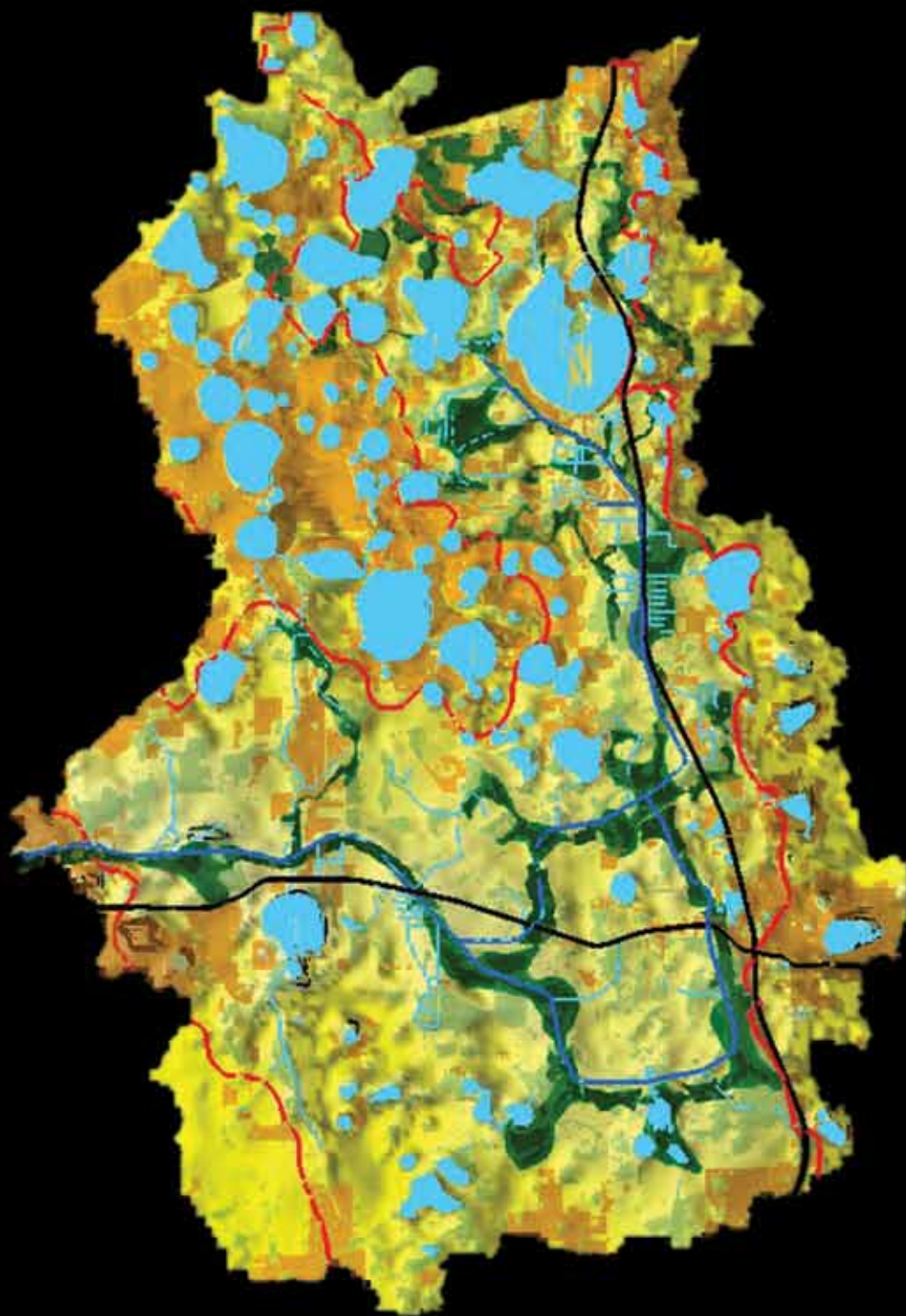


FIGURE 13. A plan view of the reconnected hydrologic network in the Peace Creek watershed, with restoration features (shown in dark green) that provide treatment and infiltration in the headwaters/Ridge area of the watershed, and an interconnected series of wetlands that provide storage and conveyance in the middle and lower reaches/Polk Uplands area. Source: PBS&J