



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration

***Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs
Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal
System (OSTDS) Remediation Plan***

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December 6, 2016***





Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks.
- Recap Items.
 - Facility plan funding.
 - Priority Focus Area (PFA) document.
- New Items/Discussion.
 - Public education discussion.
 - Summary of science on nitrogen sources.
 - Annual progress report process/schedule.
- Public Comments.
- Summary and Action Items.
- Adjourn.



Sunshine Law Reminders

- Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) Advisory Committee will operate under the Sunshine Laws (Article 1, Section 24, Florida Constitution and Section 286.011, F.S.).
- Discussion or any form of communication between committee members on matters reasonably expected to come before the committee is **prohibited** outside of a publicly noticed meeting.
 - Communication includes but not limited to phone calls, writing, texting, and emailing another committee member.
 - Discussion between a committee member and non-committee members, including staff, is permissible.
 - Discussion of committee topics between a committee member and their alternate representative is permissible.



Facility Plan Funding - Option

- Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) – Technical Assistance Grant.
 - *“The purpose of the grants is to assist counties and municipalities in developing economic development strategies, meeting the requirements of the Community Planning Act, addressing critical local planning issues, and promoting innovative planning solutions to challenges identified by local government applicants.”*
- Examples of projects funded:
 - Developing a Comprehensive Plan Economic Development Element.
 - Comprehensive Plan Updates Based on Changes in Growth Management Laws.
 - Comprehensive Plan Updates Based on Outstanding Evaluation and Appraisal Report / Evaluation and Appraisal Review.
 - Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Plan and Finding of Necessity Reports.
 - Economic Diversification Strategies.
 - Establishing a "Mainstreet" Program.
 - Land Development Regulation Updates.
 - Neighborhood Plans.
 - Recreation Master Plan.
 - Urban Design Master Plan.



OSTDS Remediation Plan



Parts of Remediation Plan

- **Objective 1: Science – Data Collection**
 - Identify, collect, and evaluate existing and any additional data about nutrient impact of wastewater.
- **Objective 2: Projects - Analysis and Prioritization**
 - Wastewater management plan that includes identification and development of strategies (projects).
- **Objective 3: Public Education and Outreach Plan**
 - Provide residents with understandable information about the impacts of nitrogen loading and proper and effective wastewater management.



Public Education



Public Education Discussion

- Discussion objectives:
 - Confirm key audiences.
 - Further refine who are the audiences.
 - Identify some major themes for communications/education.
 - Identify major misconceptions.
 - “Piggyback” opportunities.
- Future discussion:
 - Prioritize actions.
 - List of BMAP efforts.



TAPP: Environmental Crossroads for Wakulla Springs (4:54)



Public Education

- Who are the key audiences to target with the Wakulla Springs public education plan?
 - Homeowners.
 - Elected officials/leadership.
- What specific points do you think we need to convey about OSTDS nitrogen loads?
- Are there additional misperceptions we need to overcome? What are they?
- Are there existing public education efforts with which we could piggyback communications?





Public Education

- Inventory of public education components.
 - Ongoing education efforts?
 - Education needs?
- Overall goal:
 - What do we need in order to increase public education/awareness about:
 - Springs.
 - Local groundwater systems and nutrient connections.
 - Septic tanks, etc.
- Action item for next meeting
 - Complete Public Education Inventory.
 - Identify local priorities.



Scientific Information

- Legislative requirement: *"Collect and evaluate credible scientific information on the effect of nutrients, particularly forms of nitrogen, on springs and springs systems;"*
- Previous committee effort to gather and post related information:
 - http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Upper%20Wakulla/OSTDS%20Remediation%20Plan/OSTDS%20Information/Studies_Reports/
- Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) completed by DEP.
- Are there other OSTDS-related information sources we haven't covered?





Funding Available for Education Programs



319(h) Nonpoint Source Education Grant

- \$1 million available.
- Eligible Applicants: Local governments.
- Grant Schedule:
 - **December 2016**: Solicitation is advertised.
 - **March 2017**: Project proposals are **due** to DEP for review and ranking. Project proposals received after March 31st may be excluded from the selection process.
 - **Spring 2017 – Summer 2017**: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval expected to occur and projects to be evaluated and selected by DEP. Status letters will be mailed to all applicants.
 - **Summer 2017 – Fall 2017**: Contracts will be executed for selected projects. No costs may be reimbursed for work occurring outside the **contract period**.
 - **September 30, 2020**: Contract requirements should be completed. All projects should be completed and invoiced by this date.



319(h) Nonpoint Source Education Grant

- Subjects on nonpoint source pollution education and outreach include, but are not limited to:
 - Preventing nonpoint source pollution.
 - OSTDS maintenance and pollution prevention.
 - Low impact development projects.
 - Activities identified in the BMAPs and targeting BMAP issues.
 - Citizen and volunteer monitoring programs.



319(h) Nonpoint Source Education Grant

Eligible Projects/Activities for Grant Funding:

- Nonpoint Source Education/Outreach Projects that implement adopted BMAPs.
- Projects should include a minimum 40 % non-federal match; 319(h) funding may not exceed 60 % of the total eligible project cost.

Methods of outreach may include but are not limited to:

- Public service announcements.
- Development, publication and distribution of best management practice (BMP) manuals.
- Training through workshops, field days, and classes.
- Creating and providing information through publications such as flyers and notices.
- Posting information on local websites.
- Coordinating with area schools to provide classroom education and nonpoint curriculum opportunities.



2018 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant

- Anticipate \$5 to \$6 million available statewide.
- **Eligible Applicants:** The following Florida entities: state agencies, local governments, state universities, state colleges, and state water management districts.
- **Section 319-2018 Grant Schedule:**
 - **December 2016:** Solicitation is advertised.
 - **March 2017:** Project proposals are **due** to DEP for review and ranking. Project proposals received after March 15th may be excluded from the selection process.
 - **Spring 2017 – Summer 2017:** Projects will be evaluated and sent to EPA for approval. Status letters will be mailed to all applicants.
 - **Spring 2018 – Summer 2018:** EPA will provide comment and/or approval of the draft Work Plan and grant recipients will be notified of the award.
 - **Summer 2018 – Fall 2018:** Contracts will be executed for projects approved by EPA. No costs may be reimbursed for work occurring outside the **contract period**.
 - **September 30, 2021:** Contract requirements should be completed. All projects should be completed and invoiced by this date.



2018 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant (cont'd)

- Eligible Projects/Activities for Grant Funding:
 - Projects that treat nonpoint source pollution at its source.
 - Projects should include a minimum 40 % non-federal match; 319(h) funding may not exceed 60 % of the total eligible project cost.



Annual Progress Report



Annual Progress Report

- Describes the activities that occurred during the reporting period: November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016.
- Report will include the following:
 - Project Updates.
 - Status.
 - Nutrient reductions associated with project implementation efforts (structural/non-structural).
 - Agriculture enrollment.
 - Water quality update.



Annual Progress Report (cont'd)

- **Tentative** Schedule:
 - Request out for project updates: 12/19/2016.
 - Project updates submitted to DEP:
[01/20/2017.](#)
 - Draft Progress Report to stakeholders:
01/31/2017.
 - OSTDS Advisory Committee/Annual Meeting:
02/07/2017.



Wrap Up

- Next meeting date – February 7th?
- Other comments/announcements.
- Action items.
- Prepare for next meeting.



Happy Holidays!

An aerial photograph of a winding river or lake, likely Wakulla River, surrounded by a dense, lush green forest. The water is a deep blue color. On the right bank, there is a small dock with a boat moored nearby. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

Thank you!