



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

***Upper Wakulla River and
Wakulla Springs Basin
Management Action Plan
Remediation Plan***

**Moira R. Homann
February 22, 2016**





Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks.
- Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs Wastewater/On-Site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) Remediation Plan.
- Public Comments.
- Next Steps.
- Adjourn.



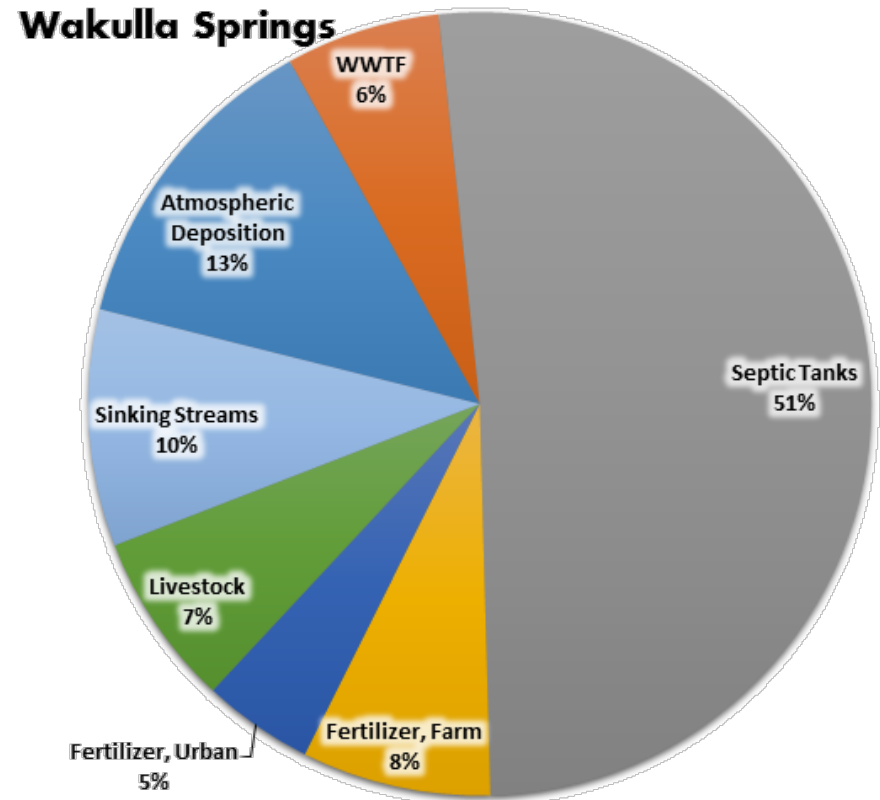
BMAP Status

- Adopted October 27, 2015.
- Includes projects and management actions that are:
 - Proposed;
 - Under Construction;
 - Completed; or
 - Ongoing.



Relative Nitrogen Loads

- Nitrogen Source Inventory and Loading Tool (NSILT).
- Figure shows relative contribution of major sources of nitrogen to ground water in the whole Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs Basin.





Summary of Projects

- Stormwater Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs).
 - Stormwater Treatment Systems
 - Stormwater System Rehabilitation
- Agricultural BMPs.
- Special Studies/Planning/Ordinances.
 - FDEP permit updates
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) fertilizer cessation
- Education and Outreach.
 - Public education coordination
- Stormwater Operation and Maintenance and Street Sweeping.
 - FDOT, City of Tallahassee
- Conservation Land Acquisition.
 - Land Preservation
- Wastewater/OSTDS.
 - Individual system phase out to sewer
- Wastewater Collection System Maintenance.
 - Upgrade to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT)
 - Inspections and maintenance



Wastewater/OSTDS Remediation Plan



To Do List

- First on the to do list:
 - Form an Advisory Committee to provide input to the department for developing the Remediation Plan.
- Committee is a Sunshine Group as defined in Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.



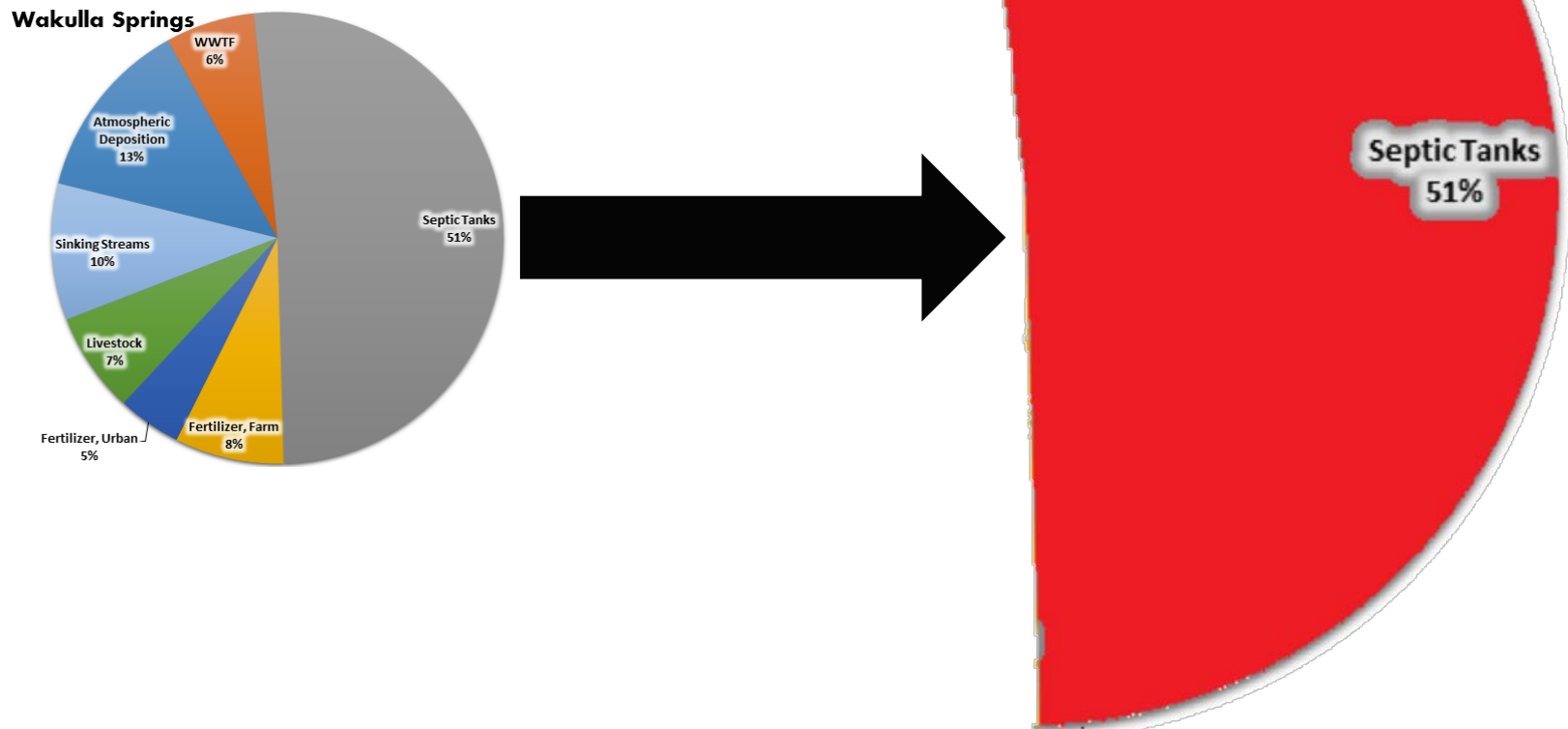
Introduction

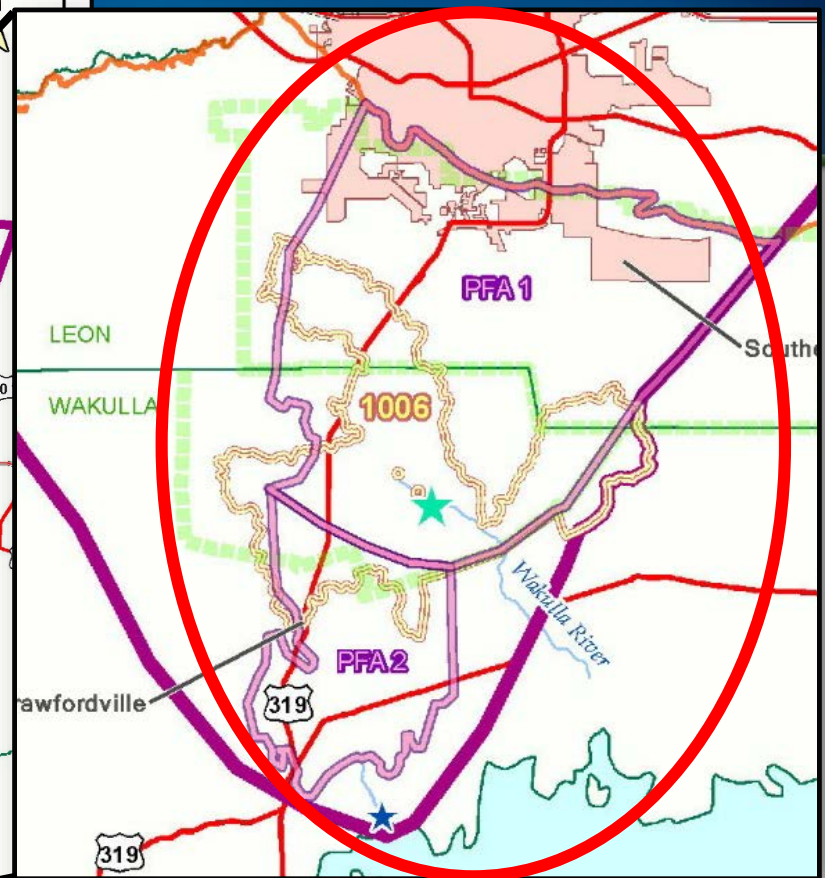
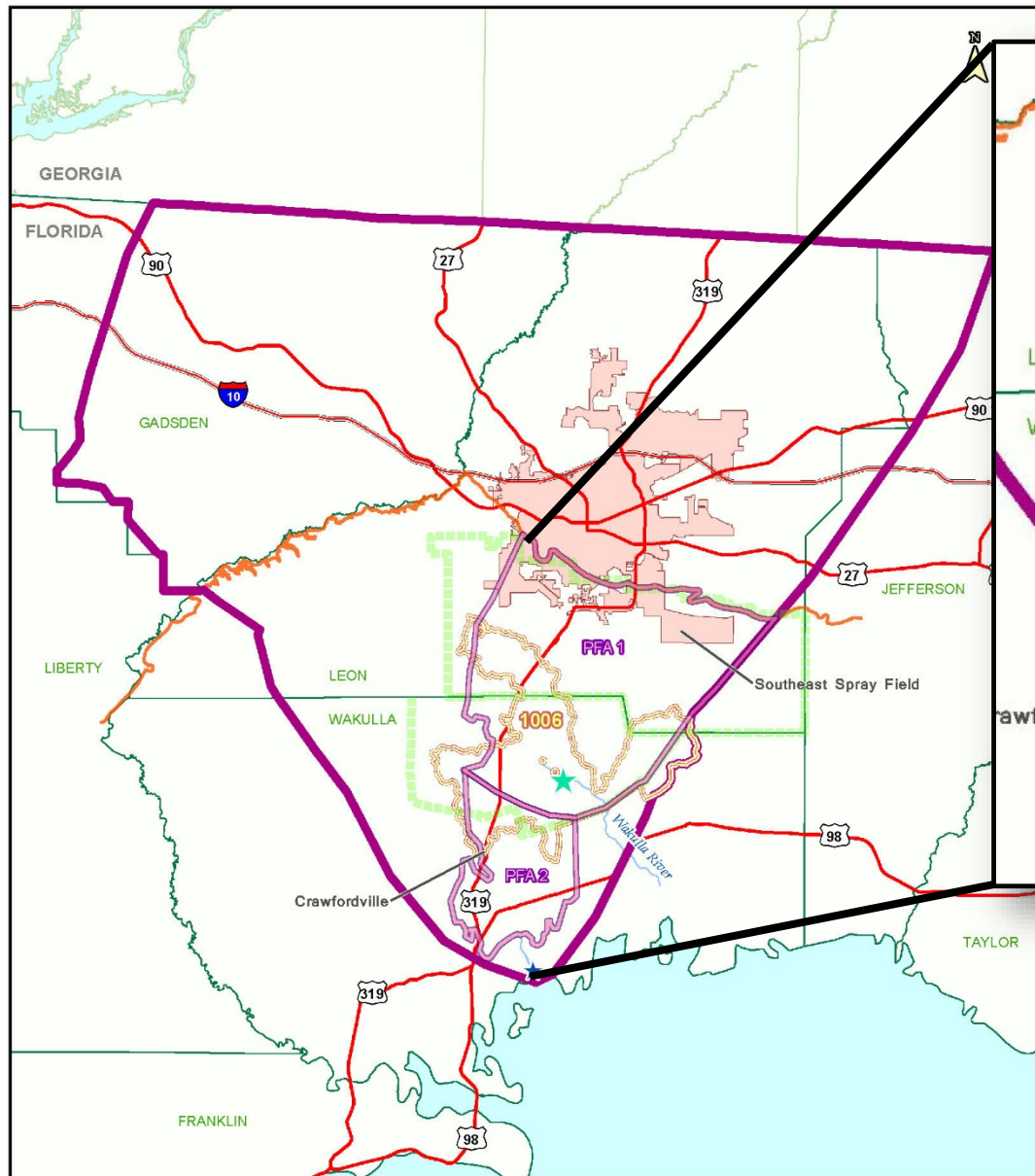
- Develop a Wastewater/OSTDS Remediation Plan to help achieve TMDL reduction for these sources within 20 years.
 - The nomenclature in this BMAP refers to the remediation plan as the “OSTDS Initiative”.
 - The plan will identify:
 - Cost-effective and financially feasible projects.
- Specified by the following:
 - Adopted BMAP language.
 - 2016 Legislation.
 - Chapter 2016-1 Laws of Florida (Section 373.807, F.S.).



OSTDS Initiative and Remediation Plan

This effort is limited to OSTDS and wastewater components of the NSILT.





Priority Focus Area (PFA) 1
PFA 2





Deadlines

- BMAP-stated deadline:
 - Initiate project within 3 months of adoption.
 - February 22, 2016 is the initiation of project.
 - Completion within 36 months from initiation.
- Legislation-specified deadline:
 - July 1, 2018.



Provisions of 373.807, F.S. (2015 Water Bill)

- By July 1, 2018, BMAPs including an Outstanding Florida Spring need the following:
 - PFA(s) developed.
 - Determination if OSTDS Remediation Plan is needed and, if so, adopt by the 5-year BMAP milestone.
 - List of specific projects in OSTDS Plan (if applicable).
 - List of all projects and programs identified to implement nutrient TMDL(s).
 - Project priority rank, planning level cost estimate, & completion date.
 - Financial assistance sources & amount for listed projects. Project nutrient load reduction estimate.

--Continued on the following slide--



Provisions of 373.807, F.S. (2015 Water Bill) (Con't)

- Identification of point sources or category of nonpoint source.
- Implementation Plan to achieve TMDL within 20 years.
 - 5-year, 10-year, and 15-year schedule for the above.
- Local governments with some relationship to the springs must adopt a fertilizer ordinance by July 1, 2017.
- DEP will inform local governments within the PFA of any 10-2 Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) General Permit applications.
- Certain new domestic wastewater, septic tank, biosolid, and hazardous waste activities may be prohibited within PFAs.



Parts of Strategy

- **Objective 1: Data Collection.**
 - Identify, collect, and evaluate existing and any additional data about nutrient impact of wastewater.
- **Objective 2: 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.



Advisory Committee

Things to consider:

- Who will comprise the committee? Which entities or interests or sectors?
- Size.
- Responsibilities and duties.
- Public (nonmember) involvement.
- Selection process.
- Alternates for members.
- Specialized technical (science) support.
- Committee advises DEP. Broad spectrum of input.
- Advisory Committee meeting or topic coordinator.



DRAFT Advisory Committee Makeup

Wakulla Springs - Draft “Advisory Council Sectors”

Category/Sector (# of Representatives)	Sector “Pool”
DOH (1)*+	Florida Department of Health/ Leon County Health Department
County (2)*+	Leon and Wakulla Counties
City *+	City of Tallahassee
Private Utilities *+	If applicable
Environmental Interest (1) +	Friends of Wakulla Springs, Wakulla Springs Alliance, etc.
HOAs, property owners (1) +	Home owner associations, property owners
Other community interest (1) +	Community leaders

* Required by Legislation

+ Per the BMAP



Water Management Districts

- Currently not members of the Advisory Committee.
 - Allows more locally driven process.
- Role of water management districts – Northwest Florida Water Management District
 - Technical discussions.
 - Data collection or source of data and interpretation.
 - Potential source of project funding.
 - Questions related to water withdrawal and minimum flows and levels (MFLs).



Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Duties

- Provide discussion topics/ideas to DEP.
- Advise/provide DEP with opinions or direction on Wastewater/OSTDS Remediation Plan.
- Assist specialized focus “groups” with topics being researched.
- Provide information back to community leaders, decision makers, and homeowners.
- Not a commitment to provide a specific funding amount.



Advisory Committee Selection Process

DEP proposes to send “**Nomination Requests**” to **individual sectors**:

- We will request an individual(s) be nominated to participate in the group.
- Will also include specific information on duties and sunshine law constraints.
- If asked, DEP will work with entities to assist and provide guidance on the most appropriate nominee.
- DEP will use this process for all proposed representatives, and may reach out to local government, water management district, etc., to identify specific groups and/or entities to include.



Advisory Committee

- Public (nonmember) involvement.
 - Attend meetings and provide comment.
 - Review plan.
- Alternate members.
 - Ensure continuity of representation.
- Specialized technical support groups.
 - Develop with specific tasks, as needed.
- Advises DEP on the most suitable options.



Deliverables

- Remediation Plan/Strategy.
 - Priority project list.
 - Implementation schedule.
 - Reductions to be achieved.
 - Data needs.
- Education Efforts and Needs.
- Scientific Studies (as needed).
 - Report results.
- Schedule to implement.



Meeting Schedule and Topics

- Advisory Committee.
 - Periodic Meetings - possibly 2 to 3 months apart.
- Topics - schedule under development.
- Technical Discussions.
 - Opportunity for greater community
 - involvement.
 - Participation may depend on topic.



Government in the Sunshine



Overview of Florida's Government in the Sunshine

The Laws:

- Article 1, Section 24, Florida Constitution.
 - Access to public records and meetings.
- Section 286.011, Florida Statutes.
 - Public meetings and records, public
 - inspection, and penalties.
- Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.
 - Public records.



What Activities are Subject to the Sunshine Law?

- All meetings of any board or commission of any state agency or any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision (except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or Statute), at which official acts are to be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times . . .



Compliance with Sunshine Laws

- Meetings of Sunshine bodies must be open to the public.
- Provide reasonable public notice of the meeting.
- Minutes of the meeting must be taken.



How Do Committee Members Comply?

- No communication between or among committee members on matters reasonably expected to come before the committee, ***except*** at a public meeting.
- Communication includes phone call, writing, text, e-mail, etc.
- No inaudible side discussions.
- No lunch meeting exception.



The Take Home Message~

Because of the Sunshine restrictions, think carefully about whom your organization is nominating for participation on the committee!



For More Information

- Online Sunshine Manual:
<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/sun.nsf/sunmanual>
- Florida Attorney General's website:
<http://myfloridalegal.com/>



In Summary

- Develop a Wastewater/OSTDS Remediation Plan/Strategy as one of the efforts to achieve TMDL reduction for this source within 20 years.
- Remediation Plan is limited to OSTDS and Wastewater sectors.
- First step--formation of Advisory Committee.
- Next public meeting 6 to 8 weeks – early/mid-April.

We have a LOT of work to do in a SHORT period of time!

An aerial photograph of a winding river or stream flowing through a dense, lush green forest. The water is a deep blue color. On the right bank, there is a small, light-colored sandy area with a dock and a boat. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Thank you!



Contacts

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