

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Wacissa Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
Question and Answer (Q&A) Summary
Public Meeting on May 6, 2024
1:00 pm – 1:58 pm
Via GoToWebinar**

Attendees

Mitchell Allen, Florida House of Representatives	Ray Hodge, United Dairy Farmers
Stephanie Armstrong, SRWMD	Moirra Homann, DEP
Kelly Aue, University of Florida	Bryan Hummel, US EPA
Lisa Bally, ATM	Jason Icerman, City of Tallahassee
Evelyn Becerra, DEP	Roxanne Jones, Citizen
Connie Becker, DEP	Chandler Keenan, DEP
Mercelo Blanco, DEP	Scott Knight, Wetland Solutions
Amy Brown, SRWMD	Joel Love, UFL
Kayla Brunson, DEP	Christine Lynch, Pasco County
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Max McAmis, Pasco County
Lauren Campbell, DEP	Sean McGlynn, McGlynn Labs
Stacy Cecil, SJRWMD	Sky Notestein, Wetland Solutions
The Florida Channel, The Florida Channel	Jarek Nowak, FDACS
Carolin Ciarlariello, DEP	Chris Peary, DEP
Savannah Cowen, DEP	Nicolas Pisarello, ATM
Eli Curl, FDACS	Derek Reiners, FGCU
Chris Denmark, FDACS	Keith Rowell, The Florida Conservation Group
SB Dyer, DEP	Kristin Rubin, Citizen
Kristine Eskelin, SRWMD	Jerrick Saquibal, NFWFMD
Amanda Exposito-Ferree, Atkins-Realis	Kim Shugar, DEP
Jessica Fetgatter, DEP	Karen Snyder, RES
Corrine Flumerfelt, DEP	James Sutton, NFWFMD
Ken Friedman, NFWFMD	Douglas Walker, Citizen
Tina Gordon, Wildwood Consulting	Ken Weaver, DEP
Roxanne Groover, FOWA	Stefani Weeks, Holloway
Raichel Gulde, RES	Benita Whalen, Dispersed Water
Sam Hankinson, DEP	Barton Wilder, FDACS
Scott Hannahs, CURG	Katrina Yancey, DEP
Madeline Hart, FDACS	

Wacissa Spring Group BMAP Overview

There were no questions for this section.

Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) Results

Q: How are the tannins being considered in the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)?

A: This would be a question for the TMDL staff. The TMDL is for nitrate concentrations, but the effects of water color (from tannins) and historic algal levels at different nitrate concentrations are reviewed.

Q: How are the attenuation factors derived--a 70% attenuation for turf grass and 85% attenuation for dairies seems high?

A: Attenuation factors are based on published literature values.

Q: What is the difference between the older NSILTs and the new methodology?

A: After reviewing the assumptions, some factors were changed due to new information being available. Some of the larger changes in the new NSILTs were to the onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) and urban turf fertilizer (UTF) categories. For OSTDS, the attenuation factor was updated based on additional literature and updated per person loading. For UTF, we used different sources of information to categorize pervious and impervious percentages. For farm fertilizer, nursery loading was changed for all basins where nurseries are present.

Q: Does the spatial assessment estimate conforms with the general findings from the new groundwater monitoring values and, if so, what appears to be the reason for the high 2.7 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for nitrate at monitoring well number 5?

A: We have just started getting the sampling data in December from the new wells, so we have not done a full evaluation of how those values relate to the surrounding land use or what impact the land use may have on those values. DEP plans to review the groundwater data as things progress but need a longer period of record to do an adequate evaluation.

Q: Is achieving advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) for total nitrogen (TN) at wastewater facilities assumed or modeled to achieve the TMDL at the spring vent?

A New and existing wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) with a DEP-permitted discharge or disposal area within the BMAP are required to meet the effluent limits listed in the BMAP document. Facilities operating at AWT will contribute to the overall reductions needed throughout the springshed to ultimately achieve the TMDL at the spring vent.

Spring Vent Load Analysis Results

There were no questions during this section.

Next Steps - BMAP Updates

Q: Are there are consequences to the responsible entity for not meeting the 5-, 10-, and 15-year milestones?

A: HB 1379 requires any entity with a specific pollutant load reduction requirement established in a BMAP to identify the projects or strategies that the entity will undertake to meet the current 5-year pollution reduction milestones and submit such projects to DEP for inclusion in the

appropriate BMAP. Entities not meeting their reduction milestones will be considered noncompliant with their BMAP requirements and can receive notices of violation or monetary fines.