Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)
Question and Answer (Q&A) Summary
Public Meeting on May 24, 2024
1:30 pm – 2:52 pm
Via GoToWebinar

Attendees

Richmond Abellera, DEP
Eesa Ali, Applied Sciences
Mitchell Allen, State Representative Allison Tant's Office
Stephanie Armstrong, SRWMD
Kelly Aue, University of Florida
Nicki Bailey, Levy County
Lisa Bally, ATM
Emily Beach, University of Florida
Evelyn Becerra, DEP
Connie Becker, DEP
JP Bell, Florida Realtors
Marcelo Blanco, DEP
Eric Blount, Palm Bay
Del Bottcher, SWET
Amy Brown, SRWMD
Lynette Brown, BDA
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting
Andrew Carswell, Levy County
Leidyane Carter, SRWMD
Laura Catlow, Citizen
Stacy Cecil, SJRWMD
Unknown, The Florida Channel
Sandra Chupinsky, DEP
Daniel Corbett, DEP
Chris Dawson, Gray Robinson
Mary Diaz, SRWMD
Paul Donsky, University of Florida
Chloe Dougherty, Florida Springs Council
Kim Duffek, DEP
Michael Dukes, University of Florida
Douglas Dycus, FDOT
Kristine Eskelin, SRWMD
Amanda Exposito-Ferree, Atkins Realis
Chris Fagerstrom, Pond Co.
Chris Farrell, Audubon Florida
Jessica Fetgatter, DEP
Casey Fitzgerald, Citizen
Sher Gache, Citizen
Meriah Gannon, CDM Smith
Diane Garte, Citizen
Tina Gordon, Wildwood Consulting
Trisha Green, DEP
Jade Greene, DEP
Roxanne Groover, FOWA
Sam Hankinson, DEP
Kira Hansen, Kimley-Horn
Madeline Hart, FDACS
Kenny Hayman, DEP
Janet Hearn, ATM
Stacey Hectus, Levy County
Ray Hodge, United Dairy Farmers
Robin Holland, FDACS
Moira Homann, DEP
Jason Icerman, City of Tallahassee
Merrillee Jipson, Citizen
Andrew Johnston, Citizen
Dustin Jones, FDOH
Chandler Keenan, DEP
Chuck Key, Citizen
Sean King, SRWMD
Scott Knight, Wetland Solutions
Jacob Landfield, SFWMD
Greg Lang, Mittauer & Associates
Celeste Lyon, RES
Leroy Marshall, SRWMD
Max McAmis, Pasco County
Kelsey McDaid, University of Florida
Morgan Morrow, FDACS
Jim Myles, DB Environmental

Ryne Nimmo, DEP
Trevor Noyes, NFPS
Brittney O'Neal, FDACS
Alan Obaigbena, Citizen
Kevin O'Donnell, DEP
Michael Osborn, Lake County
Robert Palmer, Citizen
Lindsey Pavao, Alachua County
John Petrohovich, Mittauer & Associates
Henry Phillips, Citizen
Elizabeth Pickett Gray, Citizen
Nicolas Pisarello, ATM
Paul Plourde, Citizen
Marty Proctor, Citizen
John S. Quarterman, Citizen
Lorna Radcliff, SRWMD
Joanna Reilly-Brown, Alachua Conservation Trust
Alden Rosner, Suwannee Parks
Kristin Rubin, Citizen
Kimberly Shugar, DEP
Ryan Smart, Florida Springs Council
Patricia Spellman, University of South Florida
John Spencer, Geosyntec
Jennifer Thera, FDACS
John Thomas, Citizen
Debby Tipton, DEP
Joanne Tremblay, Citizen
Jonathan Turner, FDOT
Shreya Vuttaluru, Tampa Bay Times
Brandon Wanner, Stantec
Ken Weaver, DEP
Stefani Weeks, Holloway
Tanya Welborn, DEP
Brenda Wells, Florida Springs Council
Benita Whalen, Dispersed Water
Kim Wheeler, Citizen
Barton Wilder, FDACS
Kevin Wright, Oak River Farms
Sarah Younger, Citizen

Santa Fe River BMAP Overview

Q: Does the Watershed Information Network (WIN) have data on nitrate measurements in the aquifer?
A: Yes, WIN is the state's repository for water quality data, including nitrate from both groundwater and surface water monitoring locations. Please contact Justin Nelson (Justin.M.Nelson@FloridaDEP.gov) for questions related to WIN. Justin is the WIN Coordinator for the northeast region of the state.

Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) Results

Q: For wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs), were all sizes of facilities included in the Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) and did the wastewater loading include biosolids if they are spread onsite?
A: All domestic wastewater facilities were evaluated for the updated NSILT, including those outside the springshed areas which have disposal within the springshed. Biosolids were evaluated as a separate category, but WWTF biosolids were included in the biosolids loading estimates.

Q: From the chart, it appears that only 6.7% of the nitrogen loading at the surface reaches groundwater. This percentage is considerably lower than what was calculated in the 2018 BMAP. Why?
A: We ran this calculation and it is closer to 9-14% depending on the springshed, and the overall percentage will differ based on each basin's makeup of sources and hydrogeological characteristics. There were some methodology changes between the prior NSILT and this update, but the recharge and attenuation stayed the same with the exception of OSTDS attenuation factor. The OSTDS

attenuation was changed from 50% to 30%, so that change increased the OSTDS loading estimate to groundwater. The original NSILT was used as a starting point, but the methodology or assumptions were updated as applicable, which changed the loading estimates.

Q: How are springsheds, priority focus areas (PFAs), restoration focus areas (RFAs), and BMAP area interrelated?
A: The BMAP area is the entire area of concern that may contribute to loading or impacting waters of concern. The springshed areas were the best estimation of the extent of contributing areas to the Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS). The PFAs are generally consistent with the springsheds but can be slightly different due to the statutory requirements on how the PFA boundaries must be defined. PFA boundaries are primarily used for project planning and prioritizing and policy implementation. The RFAs are similar to the springshed boundaries and are fairly consistent to the springsheds that are evaluated in the NSILT and are used as a study area to monitor groundwater quality and evaluate effectiveness of management strategies.

Spring Vent Load Analysis Results
Q: Is the timeline of achieving the BMAP reductions still within 20 years (by 2038)?
A: Yes, the timeline for meeting the TMDLs in the springs BMAPs has not changed.

Q: Are the NSILTs only used within the springsheds?
A: Yes, the NSILTs only address the springshed areas.

Next Steps - BMAP Updates
There were no questions during this section.

Adjournment.
The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.