

St. Lucie River and Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Meeting Summary

*Palm City Community Center
2701 SW Cornell Avenue, Palm City, FL 34990
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
9:00 am – 11:00 am*

Participants

Christian Avila, SFWMD	Celeste Lyon, RES
Venetia Barnes, Fort Pierce	Jonathan Madden, SFWMD
Evelyn Becerra, DEP	Sherry McCorkle, SFWMD
Rebecca Dougherty, SFWMD	Valentina Miele, FL Oceanographic Society
Amy Eason, Martin County	Caitlin Newcamp, Audubon
Yesenia Escribano, FDACS	Sara Ouly, SFWMD
Jessica Ferris, FDACS	Mark Perry, Florida Oceanographic Society
Jake Fojtik, Florida Farm Bureau	HM Ridgely, Evans Properties
Marcy Frick, Tetra Tech	Gil Smart, Friends of the Everglades
Aubrey Frye, SFWMD	Mary Szafraniec, RES
Raichel Gulde, RES	Jennifer Thera, FDACS
Chris Guth, Federico & Associates	Todd Thurlow, Public
Moiria Homann, DEP	Tony Tomalewski, DEP
Megan Jacoby, SFWMD	Diana Turner, DEP
Jacob Landfield, SFWMD	Jessica Wakefield, SFWMD
Mitchell Latzman, Friends of the Everglades	Benita Whalen, FCA

Welcome and Introductions

Marcy Frick welcomed everyone to the St. Lucie River and Estuary BMAP meeting, and the participants introduced themselves and the entity they represent.

Agency Presentations

Diana Turner provided an update on the revised BMAP components, many of which are in response to recent legislation. She noted that the Lake Okeechobee BMAP 5-Year Review document was provided for review a few weeks ago and comments are due on Friday. Diana reviewed the BMAP update schedule, which includes technical meetings this week, draft BMAP update in January for review, another round of public meetings to present on the draft BMAP document, public comment period, and then finalization by July 1, 2025. The BMAP project collection portal was opened early for BMAP updates and it will remain open until mid-January for the Statewide Annual Report (STAR).

Megan Jacoby stated that the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is conducting the five-year update for St. Lucie River Watershed Construction Project (SLRWCP). They have been providing updates on the projects annually in the South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) to provide accountability for the BMAP and to help achieve the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). The SLRWCP has 10 projects in planning or design, 2 in construction, and 11 in operations. These are all SFWMD led projects but they also have projects in conjunction with the Coordinating Agencies. Projects to date have provided over 100,000 acre-feet of storage, with an additional 122,000 acre-feet of storage as the Indian River Lagoon projects come online. SFWMD is also updating the previous model from 2008–2009, and the updated model shows the estimated storage needed for this watershed from the

previous modeling of 200,000 acre-feet is correct. The draft 2025 SFER is available for public comment through December 17.

Jennifer Thera reviewed the staff changes at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). She noted that they are working to update all 12 best management practice (BMP) manuals and the FDACS website has a rule development activities webpage with the latest details on the updates. FDACS is also updating the cost-share program to create a system to evaluate projects and status to provide transparent information. They are also increasing the amount of cost-share if producers provide monitoring data. Jennifer showed the BMP enrollment status for each of the St. Lucie BMAP basins. The FDACS website includes an interactive map showing enrollment, commodity type, and last implementation verification visit.

Poster Session

After the agency presentations, a poster session was held to allow participants to have one-on-one discussions with the agency staff, ask questions, and provide comments. No comment cards were submitted during the meeting.