

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Lower and Middle Suwannee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Meeting Summary
October 30, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
North Florida Research and Education Center – Suwannee Valley, University of Florida-
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS)
8202 CR 417, Live Oak, FL 32060

Attendees

Mace Bauer, 83 Farms	Candler Keenan, DEP
Bryan Buescher, Our Alachua Water	Chris Keller, Wetland Solutions
Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting	Katie Kelly, MBDT
Mario Cabana, BlueTriton Brands	Arnette Land, Citizen
Lauren Campbell, DEP	Laura Land, Citizen
Jay Capasso, UF/IFAS	Melissa Land, Citizen
Andrew Carswell, Levy County	Wanda Laughlin, UF/IFAS
Chris Denmark, FDACS	Jerald Lee, City of Live Oak
Mary Diaz, SRWMD	Celeste Lyon, RES
Sampson Edwards, Town of Mayo	Taite Miller, UF
Kris Eskelin, SRWMD	Steve Peene, Geosyntec
Jessica Fetgatter, DEP	Sherilyn Pickels, Madison County
Jason Furry, Suwannee County Parks	John Quarterman, Suwannee RiverKeeper
Brooks Garland, Lee Peanut Farms	Derek Reiners, FGCU
J. Alton Goff Jr., SRWMD	Larry Sessions, SRWMD
Laura Goss, Florida Peanut Federation	Kim Shugar, DEP
Tom Greenhalgh, Citizen	Bruce Thomas, FDACS
Roxanne Groover, FOWA	Stefani Weeks, Weeks Engineering Services
Sam Hankinson, DEP	Brenda Wells, FSC
Clay Harris, City of Trenton	Barton Wilder, FDACS
Madeline Hart, FDACS	Sydney Williams, NFREC
Bob Hochmuth, UF/IFAS	Tyler Winburn, SRWMD
Moir Homann, DEP	Kevin Wright, Oak River Farms
Andy Jackson, SCCD	Matt Yates, U.S. Military

Presentation

Chandler Keenan gave a brief overview of the Lower and Middle Suwannee River BMAP, basin required reductions, entity required reductions, and the upcoming BMAP schedule. She explained that the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) are 0.35 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of nitrate. Based on recent water quality data, additional reductions are needed to meet the water quality targets in each of the three springsheds: the Madison Blue area assigned reduction is 80%; the Middle Suwannee River area reduction is 84%; and the Lower Suwannee area reduction is 90%.

Chandler reviewed the milestones for 2028, 2033, and 2038. The reductions to be achieved by each milestone are 30%, 80%, and 100%, respectively.

Chandler suggested that if there are environmental groups who were not listed in the current BMAP that would like to be listed as stakeholders to contact her with their information.

Chandler described the Pollutant Load Screening Model (PLSM) that was used to estimate the loads from the surface water areas within the BMAP boundary. She noted that the allocations include entity loads from both the springshed and surface water areas.

Poster Session

Posters were presented, along with the opportunity for attendees to review BMAP information and ask questions of DEP and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) staff.

Written Comments

Bryan Buescher commented that there is a need to implement a crop rotation plan element (not cost sharing) that incentivizes producers to rotate crops. He also asked why cannot DEP coordinate with water districts to implement changes to permitting processes that would incentivize users to improve management and usage?

Action Items

All--Chandler suggested that if there are environmental groups who were not listed in the current BMAP that would like to be listed as stakeholders to contact her with their information.

DEP—Post the meeting materials online after the meeting.