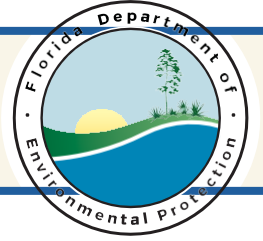


New Statewide Progress Reporting for Water Quality and Quantity Restoration Projects



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announces a new statewide progress report and other changes to the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) annual updates.

Why are we making this change?

By July 2018, DEP will have adopted more than a dozen new and revised BMAPs for areas including all Outstanding Florida Springs. When completed, the state's BMAPs will have placed almost 14 million watershed acres under active basin management—a total area including more than 6.5 million Floridians. An annual statewide report of progress towards implementing water quality and quantity projects will greatly assist policymakers and local stakeholders in keeping track of the myriad restoration strategies. The framework for the statewide annual report will also satisfy a new requirement under Florida Statutes (F.S.) to provide an annual update to the Governor and Legislature (see Section 403.0675, F.S., for details).

How will this impact annual BMAP meetings?

Annual meetings for each of the BMAPs will continue to occur on their current schedules. DEP will request similar BMAP project information from stakeholders and coordinating agencies, but the project collection will occur at the beginning of the calendar year instead of in conjunction with the annual meetings. The new statewide report will replace individual BMAP-by-BMAP annual progress reports.

» **Annual Meetings**—Stakeholders will be able to highlight significant accomplishments and report on restoration projects and management strategies. Water quality information may also be available for discussion.

» **Reporting Period**—The reporting periods for BMAP projects will be synced across the state. The project information collected by DEP in the beginning of the calendar year will represent implementation status as of the end of the previous calendar year (i.e., a snapshot of project status as of the prior December 31).

» **New Content**—The statewide annual report will feature project details such as planning-level estimates of cost, schedule, financial assistance needed, and pollutant reduction to be achieved. The report will also present a proposed priority ranking for project implementation.

» **Coordination**—In addition to the BMAP water quality project information, this statewide annual report will include the status of projects needed to achieve an adopted minimum flow or minimum water level.

When will this change occur?

DEP will request information from the stakeholders and coordinating agencies in December 2017. The first report is due to the Governor's Office July 1, 2018, and subsequent reports will be due by July 1 of each year.

TIMELINE

Early December 2017

- DEP will request stakeholders and coordinating agencies to review and update project information to be current through December 31, 2017.

January 31, 2018

- Project information should be submitted to DEP.

July 1, 2018

- DEP will submit the report to the Governor and Legislature. It will also be posted on DEP's website and the water management districts' websites.