

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Work Plan – 2022

January 2022

FLORIDA WATER RESOURCES MONITORING COUNCIL

Members

Pending

Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

David Polk (David.Polk@flhealth.gov)

Florida Dept. of Health

Siobhan Gorham (Siobhan.Gorham@myfwc.com)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Jay Silvanima

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Christopher McArthur (mcarthur.christopher@epa.gov)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Christopher Sinigalliano (christopher.sinigalliano@noaa.gov)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Scott McBride (wmcbride@usgs.gov)

U.S. Geological Survey

Edward Chelette (Edward.Chelette@nwfwmd.state.fl.us)

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Susanna Hetrick (susanna.hetrick@srwmd.org)

Suwannee River Water Management District

Christine Mundy (cmundy@sjrwmd.com)

St. Johns River Water Management District

Catherine Wolden (catherine.wolden@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Linda Crean (lcrean@sfwmd.gov)

South Florida Water Management District

Chips Kirschenfeld (itkirsche@co.escambia.fl.us)

FLERA Northwest Region

Greg Owen (gowen@alachuacounty.us)

FLERA Suwannee River Region

Randall Sleister (rsleister@volusia.org)

FLERA St. Johns River Region

Jeffery Nelson (jeffery.nelson@mymanatee.org)

FLERA Southwest Region

Lisa Spadafina (lspadal@miamidade.gov)

FLERA South Region

Mark Hoyer (mvhoyer@ufl.edu)

Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Sean McGlynn (mcglynnlabs@gmail.com)

Florida Lake Management Society

Member Alternates

Pending

Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Bob Vincent (robert.vincent@doh.com)

Florida Dept. of Health

Pending

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Rick Copeland (Rick.Copeland@dep.state.fl.us)

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Pending

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Pending

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

David Sumner (dmsumner@usgs.gov)

U.S. Geological Survey

Tony Countryman (Tony.Countryman@nwfwm.state.fl.us)

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Stephanie Armstrong (Stephanie.Armstrong@srwmd.org)

Suwannee River Water Management District

Pending

St. Johns River Water Management District

Sandie Will (sandie.will@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Julianne LaRock (ilarock@sfwmd.gov)

South Florida Water Management District

Pending

FLERA Northwest Region

Pending

FLERA Suwannee River Region

Pending

FLERA St. Johns River Region

Stacey Day (sdav@co.pinellas.fl.us)

FLERA Southwest Region

Rob Robbins (rrobbins@co.palm-beach.fl.us)

FLERA South Region

Pending

Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Pending

Florida Lake Management Society

Pending

Florida COOS Consortium

Carolyn Voyles, *Staff Liaison*

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Dan Dourte, *Chair; consultant*

The Balmoral Group

Mission

To protect, preserve, manage and restore Florida’s water resources by coordinating water resource monitoring among all levels of government, improving data quality and effectiveness, and sharing information widely.

Introduction

This work plan for the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council outlines a strategy for improving the coordination among water quality monitoring and data management personnel in order to enhance the efficiency of data collection, analysis, and visualization. The main efforts addressed in the work plan are workgroup oversight, Water-CAT maintenance, and information access/consolidation initiatives.

Background

The Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council (Council) is a coordinating body of multiple stakeholder organizations from many disciplines that participate in water resource monitoring and management. Water resources consist of surface water and groundwater, and include both marine and fresh water. The Council members represent federal, state and local agencies and organizations who collect, manage, compile and disseminate information about hydrological, chemical, physical and biological properties associated with Florida’s waters. The current Council (restarted in 2011) has been broadened to inform, plan and ultimately coordinate Florida water resources monitoring efforts at the state, local, and federal levels. Council authority for statewide coordination and cooperation are described in Chapter 373.026(3), Florida Statutes.

The Council develops its projects and statewide structure with the expertise of its members, partners, and workgroups. New challenges and opportunities have arisen since the Council first convened and are being addressed by focusing on newly identified topics and challenges. The Council leverages efforts with concurrent and convergent projects of its members and partners, thereby conserving fiscal and human resources. The ultimate outcome is to improve the quality and efficiency of monitoring activities in Florida. This ensures that water resource managers have the best scientific data available to make comprehensive decisions regarding the protection and preservation of Florida’s water resources in the 21st century.

This Work Plan for 2022 lays out the Action Items and Initiatives for the coming year to help achieve the Council mission.

Action Items

Short-term Action Items

Action Item S - 1: Advance Continuous Monitoring Workgroup

A. Timeframe

Target for completion of group activities by end of 2022

B. Outcome(s)

- The outcome: more consistency across the state in how continuous data are collected, QA/QC'd, and accessed/visualized; consensus minimum quality assurance requirements. Key outputs: "Best Practices Manual for Continuous Water Quality Data"; proposed new/additional statewide DEP SOP language to address ambient surface water continuous monitoring topics. This will be achieved by a group of people (inside and outside Water Council members/alternates) that collaborate to ensure lessons learned about continuous monitoring are shared widely with all who might benefit.

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Draft Best Practices document (currently in progress) – workgroup lead Robin Speidel

TASK 2: Workgroup meetings as needed to review/edit Best Practices Manual and proposed DEP SOP language

TASK 3: Workgroup meetings to discuss data analysis and data access/use

Ongoing Action Items

Action Item O - 1: Provide oversight and guidance to Council workgroups

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- Workgroups – 1) Water Catalog Workgroup, 2) Continuous Monitoring Workgroup – are achieving goals in a timely manner

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Incorporate workgroup updates into Council meetings (teleconference/webinar)

TASK 2: Provide guidance to workgroups to keep groups on task and reach goals

Action Item O - 2: Maintain Water-CAT

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- A well-maintained tool that continues to provide valuable environmental monitoring information to stakeholders across Florida

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Contribute to Water-CAT development as needed via existing Workgroup process

TASK 2: Council Members/ Representatives from members' agencies contribute to Water-CAT maintenance by providing updates of changes to their monitoring network to Water-CAT contractors.

TASK 3: Support long-term Water-CAT maintenance.

Information Access/Consolidation Initiatives

Information Initiative I - 1: Saltwater Intrusion

A. Timeframe

Early-2022

B. Outcome(s)

- Water Council discussion meeting on saltwater intrusion, groundwater monitoring and modeling; next steps TBD

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Identify key people who are best suited to set the stage for discussion (Council experts and/or other invited experts)

TASK 2: Discussion meeting

Information Initiative I - 2: Aquifer Storage and Recovery

A. Timeframe

2022

B. Outcome(s)

- Discussion meeting to better understand how aquifer storage projects might be increasing and how monitoring might need to change as a result

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Identify key people who are best suited to set the stage for discussion (Council experts and/or other invited experts) – SWFWMD personnel have agreed to help lead this discussion
- TASK 2: Discussion meeting

Information Initiative I - 3: Climate change

A. Timeframe

Mid-2022

B. Outcome(s)

- Output: shared web-based, editable document for Council members to post data sources, literature, best practices, lessons learned

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Create a web-based table where Council members can add resources, notes, lessons-learned
- TASK 2: Circulate the climate-change information resources table and invite input
- TASK 3: Review the table with the Council to see what information was provided and discuss the usefulness of the information

Information Initiative I - 4: Water quality standards and data collection responsibility/purview

A. Timeframe

2022

B. Outcome(s)

- Output: shared web-based resource for workgroup members to document 1) agency purview/responsibility in terms of types of data collected on water quality, particularly “emerging contaminants”, and 2) Rules/laws on water quality standards or monitoring requirements. The goal is to ensure readily accessible responses to interested-party

questions about who is monitoring what types of data and what the rules are for water quality monitoring.

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Create a web-based table where members can list the types of water quality information they are collecting and those that other data providers are collecting (to ensure we get information on “emerging contaminants” that others peripheral to the Water Council are monitoring)
- TASK 2: Create a web-based table where members can report on rulemaking or standard changes that might be relevant to water quality data providers or data users.
- TASK 3: Circulate the water quality data responsibility/ and rulemaking tables and invite input
- TASK 4: Review the tables late 2022 with the Council to see what information was provided and discuss the usefulness of the information aggregator

Information Initiative I - 5: HABs

A. Timeframe

Early 2022 start date

B. Outcome(s)

- Output: shared web-based resource for Council members to share and update data sources related to Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring or prediction or impact studies

C. Tasks

- TASK 1: Create a web-based table where Council members can add resources, notes, lessons-learned
- TASK 2: Circulate the HAB information table and invite input
- TASK 3: Review the table late 2022 with the Council to see what information was provided and discuss the usefulness of the information aggregator

Summary

This work plan for 2022 outlines the proposed efforts of the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council. In addition to the workgroup support the Council provides as-needed (for the Water-CAT and Continuous Monitoring work groups), there are several Information Access/Consolidation Initiatives in which web-based,

editable information sources will be used to allow Council members to update and see information about 1) climate change data and water quality implications, 2) water quality monitoring responsibility, 3) and HABs. The intent of these 3 information consolidation resources is to allow readily editable, accessible ways for Council members and interested parties to identify the data sources and lessons learned across those 3 topics. Additionally, 2 discussion/information-sharing meetings will be planned on 1) saltwater intrusion, and 2) artificial recharge/storage. These meetings are intended to improve the knowledge base among Council members on those 2 topics that emerged as topics of increasing importance in the water quality community.

For more information and to stay up to date with the Water Council, visit the website:

<https://floridadep.gov/dear/watershed-monitoring-section/content/fwrmc>