

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

Work Plan – 2023

January 2023

FLORIDA WATER RESOURCES MONITORING COUNCIL

Members

Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Pending

Florida Dept. of Health

David Polk (David.Polk@flhealth.gov)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Siobhan Gorham (Siobhan.Gorham@myfwc.com)

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

Jay Silvanima (James.Silvanima@floridadep.gov)

Northwest Florida Water Management District

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

Suwannee River Water Management District

Susanna Hetrick (susanna.hetrick@srwmd.org)

St. Johns River Water Management District

Christine Mundy (cmundy@sjrwmd.com)

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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

South Florida Water Management District

Linda Crean (lcrean@sfwmd.gov)

FLERA Northwest Region

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

FLERA Suwannee River Region

Greg Owen (gowen@alachuacounty.us)

FLERA St. Johns River Region

Randall Sleister (rsleister@volusia.org)

FLERA Southwest Region

Jeffery Nelson (jeffery.nelson@mymanatee.org)

Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Lisa Spadafina (lsadal@miamidade.gov)

FLERA South Region

Mark Hoyer (mvhoyer@ufl.edu)

Florida Lake Management Society

Sean McGlynn (mcglynnlabs@gmail.com)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Christopher McArthur (mcarthur.christopher@epa.gov)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Christopher Sinigalliano
(christopher.sinigalliano@noaa.gov)

U.S. Geological Survey

Scott McBride (wmcbride@usgs.gov)

Member Alternates

Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Pending

Florida Dept. of Health

Bob Vincent (robert.vincent@doh.com)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Pending

Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

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

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Pending

Suwannee River Water Management District

Stephanie Armstrong (Stephanie.Armstrong@srwmd.org)

St. Johns River Water Management District

Timothy Miller (TMiller@sjrwmd.com)

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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

South Florida Water Management District

Julianne LaRock (jlarock@sfwmd.gov)

FLERA Northwest Region

Pending

FLERA Suwannee River Region

Pending

FLERA St. Johns River Region

Pending

FLERA Southwest Region

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

FLERA South Region

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

Volunteer Monitoring Programs

Pending

Florida Lake Management Society

Pending

Florida COOS Consortium

Pending

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Pending

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Pending

U.S. Geological Survey

David Sumner (dmsumner@usgs.gov)

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 selected training initiatives based on Council interest.

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 2023 lays out the Action Items for the coming year to help achieve the Council mission.

Action Items

Short-term Action Items

Action Item S - 1: Support Updates to DEP’s Minimum QA Standards for Continuous Monitoring

A. Timeframe

Target for completion by end of 2023

B. Outcome(s)

- The outcome: refined DEP Minimum QA Standards for continuous monitoring data that better align with current equipment and practice. This activity builds off the Continuous Water Quality Best Practices document prepared by the Continuous Monitoring Workgroup in 2022.

C. Tasks

TASK 1: DEP to send current version of Minimum QA standards for Water Council review

TASK 2: Collect and address input from the Council to update standards where needed

TASK 3: Deliver final Minimum QA Standards for Continuous Monitoring document

Ongoing Action Items

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

A. Timeframe

Ongoing

B. Outcome(s)

- Workgroups are achieving goals in a timely manner. Current workgroups: 1) Water Catalog Workgroup, 2) Continuous Monitoring Workgroup. These groups presently have no particular tasks assigned, but are on standby for convening as needed.

C. Tasks

TASK 1: To be determined

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: To be determined

Training Initiatives

Training Initiative T - 1: Saltwater Intrusion and Inter-agency Drought and Water Supply Group

A. Timeframe

As needed in 2023

B. Outcome(s)

- Water Council members are informed about the roles of the newly formed inter-agency drought and water supply planning working group. The Water Council then might coordinate a training meeting to highlight the existing saltwater intrusion monitoring status and data access options as it relates to drought and the work of this water supply planning group.

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Identify key people who can inform the Water Council on the inter-agency drought and water supply planning working group

TASK 2: Convene a small group of Water Council members to determine if it would be beneficial to put together a training around drought and saltwater intrusion

TASK 3: To be determined

Training Initiative T - 2: Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring

A. Timeframe

By June of 2023

B. Outcome(s)

- Web-based table of links and metadata on the various HAB monitoring and prediction sites used in Florida

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Council Chair to coordinate with SW RAMP group on their HAB data consolidation efforts

TASK 2: Prepare a web-based, readily updatable table with links to selected HAB data and visualization sources

TASK 3: Announce/deliver this resource to the Water Council in advance of 2023 HAB season

Training Initiative T - 3: Training Seminars – selected topics to be determined

A. Timeframe

2023 as needed

B. Outcome(s)

- Improved data literacy and inter-agency collaboration through selected presentation and/or discussion meetings. This will be a seminar-style training initiative that might involve one or multiple meetings on topics of interest by bringing in subject matter experts to share information with the Water Council. Topics of interest might include climate change, continuous data analysis/access, novel contaminants or monitoring equipment, and other topics as identified by the Council and Council Chair. Council Chair will have the lead responsibility to initiate suggested topics and trainers for Council review and next steps.

C. Tasks

TASK 1: Establish process for identifying training topics using recent literature or industry information or conference proceedings to bring relevant training topics to the Council

TASK 2: Evaluate suggested training opportunity and speaker with Council input

TASK 3: Invite presenters to share their findings and expertise with the group

TASK 4: Deliver training or discussion meetings as needed

Summary

This work plan for 2023 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 Training Initiatives to bring about improved data literacy and cross-agency coordination. There is flexibility in the training topics to allow for as-needed meetings on topics of importance/interest where it would benefit members to have some improved capacity building.

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>