

Aaron Stauber
10155 Collins Avenue, Unit 1810
Bal Harbour, FL 33145
(201) 274-4773
astauber@rugbyrealty.com

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Via Email: Stormwater2020@floridadep.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your efforts in identifying and outlining recommendations for strengthening our State's stormwater design, operation and maintenance regulations. As a native of south Florida, I recognize the tremendous importance of what you are attempting to accomplish. I have had the opportunity to watch, via webinar, the TAC sessions during which several themes and areas of concerns have been raised continuously by TAC members. I feel these deserve emphasis and inclusion in the FDEP's final rulemaking.

- 1) While there may be a presumption of performance upon the initial installation of BMPs, there can be no presumption of "continued" performance given the fact that without proper O&M even the best BMPs will fail to perform as intended.
- 2) The updated rules need to include detailed O&M regimens that must be followed to comply with permits. This would ensure that permit holders know exactly what is required and facilitate enforcement by applicable agencies in the event permit holders fail to provide evidence of compliance with the requisite O&M protocol.
 - a. Emphasis should be placed on street sweeping. MS4 permit holders should be required to perform at least weekly street sweeping given the overwhelming benefits derived from doing so (see Dr. Sansalone's presentation on the cost effectiveness of street sweeping).
- 3) BMPs provide for retention and/or detention. While this may be effective in certain regions of the State it will not be effective in areas such as south Florida with shallow groundwater levels and porous karst substrata. In such areas the pollutants simply flow down into the groundwater and pass relatively unimpeded into the surface waters. The FDEP has acknowledged that this occurs with septic tank systems. It is also evident in the impaired surface waters throughout Miami-Dade County. As such, BMPs in these areas must be designed differently to account for this.
- 4) The TAC was rightly impressed by FDOT's discussion of its stormwater asset management system (SAMS). It developed this system over the past 5 years at a cost of \$millions. As noted by FDOT's Fred Nelson, SAMS allows for enhanced stormwater O&M while also reducing costs by 30%. Given the success of SAMS, the updated rules

should require that all MS4 holders implement an asset management program (AMP). The good news is that off-the-shelf stormwater AMPs are already available from third-party providers at a fraction of the cost of the FDOT's system(see this link for an example of one such AMP: <https://novosolutions.com/asset-management-software/stormwater-software/>). By instituting AMPs for all MS4 holders, the FDEP would not only be enhancing O&M practices but also facilitating compliance enforcement by applicable agencies since AMPs provide unprecedented transparency.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Respectfully,

Aaron Stauber
JD, MPS – Marine Conservation