

#### Lakes Harney, Monroe, Middle St. Johns River, & Smith Canal Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Annual Meeting

Via Webinar July 11, 2024 1:00 PM

Webinar Registration Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5350096476515557718

#### Agenda

- Lakes Harney, Monroe, Middle St. Johns River, & Smith Canal Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Overview.
- Annual Progress.
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Update.
- Next Steps BMAP Update.

Please note the FTP site for documents pertaining to the Lakes Harney, Monroe, Middle St. Johns River, and Smith Canal BMAP: <u>https://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/MiddleStJohns/LakeHarneyMonroe</u> For more information on the Lakes Harney, Monroe, Middle St. Johns River, & Smith Canal BMAP, contact: Evelyn Becerra, 850-245-8547, <u>Evelyn.Becerra@FloridaDEP.gov</u>



## WEBINAR HOUSEKEEPING

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# LAKES HARNEY, MONROE, MIDDLE ST. JOHNS RIVER AND SMITH CANAL BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN ANNUAL MEETING

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**Evelyn Becerra** Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration Florida Department of Environmental Protection

GoToWebinar | July 11, 2024



### AGENDA

- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Overview.
- Statewide Annual Report (STAR).
- Annual progress.
- St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Update.
- Next steps- BMAP update:
  - $\circ$  Milestones.
  - Hot Spot analysis.
  - o SJR Model.





### **BMAPS**



# One of DEP's methods for **restoring water quality** in an impaired waterbody.

#### **BMAPs** are:

- · Developed with stakeholder input.
- Adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Secretarial Order.
- Enforceable.
- Implemented through a phased approach.
- Reported on annually.
- Updated regularly.





## **KEY BMAP COMPONENTS**

- Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) being addressed.
- Area addressed by the restoration plan.
- Identify sources.
- Phased implementation approach.
- Milestones.
- Projects and management strategies.
- Future growth impacts.

#### **Projects to meet the TMDL:**

- Implementation timeline.
- Commitment to projects.
- Expected water quality improvement from projects and management strategies.

# Process to assess progress toward achieving the TMDL:

- Monitoring plan.
- Project reporting.
- Periodic follow-up meetings.
- Water quality analyses.



### BACKGROUND LAKES HARNEY, MONROE, MSJ RIVER AND SMITH CANAL (HAMO) BMAP



Stakeholders
City of DeBary
City of DeLand
City of Deltona
City of Lake Helen
City of Lake Mary
City of Orange City
City of Sanford
Seminole County
Volusia County
Turnpike Enterprise
Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), District 5
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)



### **BACKGROUND** LAKES HARNEY, MONROE, MIDDLE ST. JOHNS (MSJ) RIVER AND SMITH CANAL (HAMO) BMAP



#### HAMO TMDLs:

 Adopted 2009 for total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN) for lakes and river segments.

#### HAMO BMAP:

- Adopted April 2012 to implement the TMDL.
- Total required reductions:
  - 17,710 lbs./yr. TP.
  - 87,656 lbs./yr. TN.



## **CLEAN WATERWAYS ACT: TIMELINE**

#### June 12, 2023

Final Order signed by the Secretary.

# $\checkmark$

### July 12, 2023

Deadline for written explanation of potential exemption to be submitted to the department.

#### Feb. 1, 2024

Deadline for submitting draft onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) remediation and/or wastewater treatment plans for the department's review.

### Aug. 1, 2024

Deadline for submitting complete OSTDS remediation and/or wastewater treatment plans to the department.

#### The nutrient BMAPs included in the Final Order require these plans.



# HOUSE BILL (HB) 1379: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



#### **Strengthen BMAPs:**

- Requires a list of identified projects to achieve 5-year milestones.
- Requires a list of agricultural cooperative regional water quality improvement elements.

#### **Improve Comprehensive Planning:**

• Requires BMAP projects to be included in comprehensive plans to prioritize implementation.

#### **Improve Domestic Wastewater:**

• Requires more stringent wastewater treatment standards, if required to meet the TMDL.

#### **Expand Grant Opportunities.**



### 2024 DEP AGENCY BILL: HB 1557

#### Advances the protection of our environmental resources by:

#### Improving Treatment of Reclaimed Water

Ensures that reclaimed water is treated to meet advanced waste treatment (AWT) or a more stringent treatment standard in certain BMAP areas, while still promoting its use to eliminate surface water discharges and meet water supply challenges.

#### Expanding Wastewater Facility Plans

Supports the development of domestic wastewater treatment plans and OSTDS remediation plans within BMAP or other restoration areas by requiring facilities to provide information to the local entities developing these plans.

#### Investing in Innovative Technologies

Creates a program to expeditiously review new and innovative enhanced nutrientreducing OSTDS to reduce the nutrients entering Florida's waterways.



### **STAR** PROJECT REPORTING

### What is the STAR?

- Summarizes accomplishments in the BMAPs statewide.
- Reports on restoration projects and management strategies.
- Published July 1 of each year.
- STAR 2023 is now live.



#### https://floridadep.gov/STAR



### **PROGRESS** HAMO BMAP STATUS OF PROJECTS

#### Projects through Dec. 31, 2023.

Lead Entity	Completed	Ongoing	Planned	Underway	Total
City of DeBary	2	4			6
City of DeLand		1			1
City of Deltona	8	2	3		13
City of Lake Helen	3	1			4
City of Lake Mary		2			2
City of Orange City		2			2
City of Sanford	5	2		1	8
DACS	2	1			3
DOT District 5	46	2			48
Seminole County	6	3	1	2	12
Turnpike Enterprise		2			2
Volusia County	7	4	1	2	14
Grand Total	79	26	5	5	115

As of Dec. 31, 2023, verified projects in the Lakes Harney, Monroe, MSJ and Smith Canal BMAP have reduced **76,635 lbs./yr. of TN** and **18,617 lbs./yr. of TP.** 





#### Lakes Harney, Monroe, MSJ River, and Smith Canal TN Project Reductions



\*Completed and ongoing projects only.\*



### PROGRESS ENTITY PROGRESS- TN



\*Completed and ongoing projects only.\*



### PROGRESS HAMO BMAP-TP





### **PROGRESS** ENTITY PROGRESS-TP



\*Completed and ongoing projects only.\*





#### **Other Entities with Reductions:**



\*Completed and ongoing projects only.\*

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### DATA UPLOAD WATERSHED INFORMATION NETWORK (WIN)

- Through both the WIN and Florida STORET (STOrage and RETrieval) data repositories, DEP implements Florida statutory requirements, DEP rule requirements and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding requirements for management of environmental (non-regulatory) data for the state.
- Data from WIN are used by DEP for standards development, Impaired Waters Rule assessments, TMDL development, reasonable assurance plans, alternative restoration plans, BMAP development and assessment and for providing data as required to EPA and to the public.
- WIN data can be retrieved through the WIN Reports and Extracts menu at <a href="https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DearWin/">https://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DearWin/</a>.
- Data providers to WIN and STORET include DEP entities, water management districts (WMDs), cities, counties, other state agencies, universities, private and volunteer organizations.
- If your entity is collecting ambient water quality data, please upload it to WIN.



## WIN COORDINATORS

WIN Coordinator Justin Nelson	DEP District Area or Role Northeast, Northwest, Southeast	Phone 850-245-8510	Email Justin.M.Nelson@FloridaDEP.gov
Casey Marston	South, Southwest	850-245-8049	Casey.Marston@FloridaDEP.gov
Jason Storrs	Central, Statewide	850-245-8467	Jason.Storrs@FloridaDEP.gov

## Lakes Harney and Monroe BMAP Update

#### Shannon Salvatori, SJRWMD



## Water Quality Update

- Monroe and Harney impaired for total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP), and chlorophyll-*a* (Chl-*a*)
  - o Target TN: 1.18 mg/L
  - o Target TP: 0.07 mg/L
  - o Target Chlorophyll-a:
    - Harney: 9.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
    - Monroe: 5.8 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
- Water quality data obtained from St. Johns River Water Management District's Environmental database
- Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) data obtained from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) HAB database



## Water Quality Update

• SJRWMD water quality monitoring stations



Lake Harney



Lake Monroe



St. Johns River Water Management District

### **Total Phosphorus**

#### Harney: Station CLH



![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

St. Johns River Water Management District

### SJRWMD's Long-Term Trend Report

Harney – Station CLH

Monroe – Station LMAC

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

Total Phosphorus, 2008-2022 data

![](_page_24_Picture_5.jpeg)

St. Johns River Water Management District

SJRWMD Status and Trends report (updated annually): <a href="http://www.sjrwmd.com/data/water-quality/#status-trends">www.sjrwmd.com/data/water-quality/#status-trends</a>

### **Total Nitrogen**

#### Harney: Station CLH

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Figure_3.jpeg)

**St. Johns River** 

Water Management District

![](_page_25_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_5.jpeg)

### SJRWMD's Long-Term Trend Report

#### Harney – Station CLH

Monroe – Station LMAC

![](_page_26_Figure_3.jpeg)

Total Nitrogen, 2008-2022 data

![](_page_26_Picture_5.jpeg)

St. Johns River Water Management District

SJRWMD Status and Trends report (updated annually): <a href="http://www.sjrwmd.com/data/water-quality/#status-trends">www.sjrwmd.com/data/water-quality/#status-trends</a>

## Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a)

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Monroe: Station LMAC**

2020

2024

![](_page_27_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### **St. Johns River** Water Management District

### SJRWMD's Long-Term Trend Report

#### Harney – Station CLH

Monroe – Station LMAC

![](_page_28_Figure_3.jpeg)

Chlorophyll-a, 2008-2022 data

![](_page_28_Picture_5.jpeg)

St. Johns River Water Management District

SJRWMD Status and Trends report (updated annually): <a href="http://www.sjrwmd.com/data/water-quality/#status-trends">www.sjrwmd.com/data/water-quality/#status-trends</a>

## Harmful Algal Blooms

- 20 samples taken in total on Monroe in 2023, none on Harney
- No blooms were observed at the times of sampling
- 3 samples with toxin detection
  - $\circ$  Max Cylindrospermopsin = 0.16  $\mu$ g/L
  - $\,\circ\,$  1 Microsystin detection = 0.26  $\mu g/L$
  - No Anatoxin or Nodularin detections
- All reported toxin detections were below EPA's recommended recreational limit
  - $\circ~8~\mu g/L$  for Microcystins
  - $\circ$  15 µg/L for Cylindrospermopsin
- Two samples with dominant *Microcystis aeruginosa*, rest are mixed algae
- DEP Algal Bloom Dashboard: https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom

![](_page_29_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_13.jpeg)

Photo taken by samplers at LMAC on 12/21/2023

# **Questions?**

![](_page_30_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **UPCOMING** 2025 BMAP UPDATE COMPONENTS

- Establish entity milestones.
- Wastewater effluent limits based on size of facility and effluent disposal method utilized.
- OSTDS requirements for new systems on lots one acre or less.
- Inclusion of a hot spot analysis.
- Evaluation of the monitoring network.
- Inclusion of regional projects.
- Addition of future growth estimates.
- Inclusion of the Clean Waterways Act requirements.

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

## **BMAP TIMELINE AND MILESTONES**

![](_page_32_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

# HOT SPOT ANALYSIS DEVELOPMENT

#### Purpose:

- To find more specific areas to focus restoration activities.
- To highlight areas where projects might have stronger results.
- To highlight areas where more investigation is needed.

Analysis is NOT to determine BMAP or TMDL compliance.

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

### HOT SPOT ANALYSIS DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS OF THE HOT SPOT INDEX

# These four statistics calculated for the BMAP overall and used to compare against each station average:

- TN or TP concentration average.
- TN or TP 90th percentile.
- TN or TP Standard Deviation (SD).
- TN or TP Percent Frequency of Samples over Threshold.

### **BMAP** Threshold:

- Lakes Harney, Monroe, MSJ and Smith Canal Basin:
  - TN 1.18 mg/L.
  - TP 0.07 mg/L.

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)

### HOT SPOT ANALYSIS DEVELOPMENT INDEX RANKING APPROACH

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

### HOT SPOT ANALYSIS DEVELOPMENT FINAL OVERALL RANK

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_0.jpeg)

### HOT SPOT ANALYSIS RESULTS DRAFT HAMO BMAP

![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

## AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE ELEMENT (ACE)

- Cooperative Agricultural Regional Water Quality Improvement elements will establish a collaborative framework for identifying, prioritizing, and implementing regional projects that address nutrient loading from agricultural operations in Florida's waterways.
- These elements establish a structured framework efforts among key stakeholders, including:
  - o DEP.
  - DACS.
  - o WMDs.
  - Agricultural producers.
  - o Local communities.

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

- Engaging producers in the decision-making process is key to this element and ensures that projects are practical, feasible and tailored to the needs and realities of agricultural operations.
- Partner agencies work in annual cycles to provide technical support, regulatory guidance and funding opportunities, enhancing the implementation and success of regional water quality improvement initiatives.

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **FUTURE GROWTH**

### **Domestic Wastewater Projections:**

- Use wastewater to estimate future growth projections.
- Start with population growth for each county from Bureau of Economic and Business Research:
  - $\circ$  2040 Medium Growth Projections.
- Proportion growth for each entity based on land area.
- Distinguish the future population expected to be served by sewer versus those with OSTDS based on the most recent Florida Water Management Inventory for each BMAP county.
- Use per person calculations to estimate future loads from wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and OSTDS.

### **Agriculture Projections:**

• Exploring different tools to estimate future changes in agricultural acreage in the BMAPs to estimate changes in agricultural loading.

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### SJR MODEL UPDATE

- Public meeting was held on March 12, 2024.
- Meeting materials are available at this <u>link</u> or the QR code below.

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![](_page_41_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

### SJR MODEL UPDATE PROJECT SCHEDULE

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

**HSPF**: Hydrologic Simulation Program FORTRAN **EFDC**: Environmental Fluid Dynamics Code **WASP**: Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program

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### SJR MODEL UPDATE STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

- Periodic project updates will be sent via email.
- The project email list will be used for sending updates.
- To be added to the project email list, send your contact information:
  - o <u>Admin@WildwoodConsulting.net</u>.

 Or visit the <u>website</u> (QR code below), go to the "Contact" tab and enter your contact information.

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![](_page_44_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **SJR MODEL UPDATE** DATA SHARING: OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

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Source: Plexel

- Provide additional data for the EFDC Model by Aug. 1, 2024.
- To share data, questions or concerns, please contact <u>StJohnsRiverData@ghd.com</u>
- Data must:
  - Meet the requirements of DEP's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
  - When sharing data, please include:
    - o Name.
    - Organization/Company.
    - o Role.

\*We will make every effort to include data which meet these standards. However, due to necessary consistency across districts and/or other concerns, not all provided data may be utilized.\*

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

### SJR MODEL UPDATE DATA INVENTORY

Land Cover	Florida Land Cover Classification System (FLUCCS) 2014		
Meteorological	NCDC, NEXRAD, Rain Gages and other local data from SJRWMD		
Boundaries (Planning Units, Subbasins, etc.)	SJRWMD Geospatial Open Data		
Water Quality Ambient Data	Impaired Waters Rule (IWR) Database, Run 63		
Flow Data	USGS, DEP and SJRWMD		

NCDC: National Climatic Data Center NEXRAD: Next Generation Weather Radar USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

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### **UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

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### RESOURCES **BMAP WEBSITE AND STORYMAP**

#### Basin Management Action Plans (BMAF

Home » Divisions » Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration » Water Quality Restoration Program » Basin Management Action Pl

#### Water Quality **Restoration Program Quick Links**

**Basin Management Action** Plans (BMAPs)

Statewide Annual Report

Water Ouality Grant Opportunities 2023-24

BMAP Public Meetings

Impaired Waters, TMDLs and Basin Management Action Plans Interactive Мар

Tools and Guidance for

![](_page_47_Picture_11.jpeg)

#### What is a Basin Management Action Plan?

A basin management action plan (BMAP) is a framework for water quality restoration reduce pollutant loading through current and future projects and strategies. BMAPs co permit limits on wastewater facilities, urban and agricultural best management practi achieve pollutant reductions established by a total maximum daily load (TMDL). These stakeholders and rely on local input and commitment for development and successfu Department of Environmental Protection Secretarial Order and are legally enforceable

#### Water Quality Protection Grant Portal for Fis

DEP has launched an online grant portal to provide eligible entities the opportunity to programs. Eligible entities include local governments, academic institutions, and non application portal opened July 5, 2023. Closing dates for individual grant programs va the posted date 🚰 each grant program. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposa **Action Plans** (BMAPs)

Surface Water

Nutrient Basin

Management

![](_page_47_Picture_17.jpeg)

Story logo

Collection

A basin management action plan (BMAP) is a framework for water quality restoration, containing local and state commitments to reduce pollutant loading through current and future projects and strategies. BMAPs contain a comprehensive set of solutions, such as permit limits on wastewater facilities, urban and agricultural best management practices, and conservation programs designed to achieve pollutant reduction established by a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

These broad-based plans are developed with local stakeholders and rely on local input and commitment for development and successful implementation. BMAPs are adopted by DEP Secretarial Order and are legally enforceable.

![](_page_47_Picture_20.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_21.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_22.jpeg)

Legislative Requirements

 Lake Harney, Lake Monroe, Middle St. Johns River and...

![](_page_47_Picture_25.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_26.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_27.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_28.jpeg)

Lake Jesup Basin Management Action Plan

5 Orange Creek Basin Management Action Plan 6 Lower St. Johns Main Stem Basin Management Action Plan

![](_page_47_Picture_32.jpeg)

Wekiva River, Rock Springs Run, and Little Wekiva Canal.

8 Upper Ocklawaha Basin

Management Action Plan

![](_page_47_Picture_35.jpeg)

9 Long Branch Basin Management Action Plan

![](_page_48_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **RESOURCES** FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

![](_page_48_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_3.jpeg)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Funding Opportunities

FloridaDEP.gov/Funding

![](_page_48_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

BMAPProgram@FloridaDEP.gov

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# **THANK YOU**

#### **Evelyn Becerra and Lauren Campbell, Ph.D.**

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration Florida Department of Environmental Protection

> Contact Information: Evelyn Becerra 850-425-4587 Evelyn.Becerra@FloridaDEP.gov

Lauren Campbell 850-245-8083 Lauren.Campbell@FloridaDEP.gov

![](_page_51_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Lakes Harney and Monroe Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Annual Meeting Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) July 11, 2024, via GoToWebinar 1:00 pm – 2:03 pm

#### Attendees

Ginger Adair, Volusia County Daniel Allen, Tetra Tech Suzanne Archer, SJRWMD Lisa Bally, ATM Gary Basham, Brevard County Evelyn Becerra, DEP Terri Breeden, Brevard County Stacy Burke, Volusia County Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting Thomas Calhoun, Seminole County Owen Callard, Brevard County Lauren Campbell, DEP Andy Canion, SJRWMD Jim Cannon, SJRWMD Jennifer Cappelleti, FDOT Miguel Conde, Lake Mary Rebekah Cooper, Jacksonville University Brenda Crosby, Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research Susan Davis, SJRWMD Jian Di, SJRWMD Dean Dobberfuhl, SJRWMD Katie Durham, DEP **Bill Eggers**, Evans Properties Robert Falk, Volusia County Eka Febrina, Seminole County Jessica Fetgatter, DEP Randy Fink, SJRWMD Agustin Francisco, FDACS Roxanne Groover, FOWA Samuel Hankinson, DEP Kira Hansen, Kimley-Horn Janet Hearn, ATM Kerri Hogan, Gallery Homes of DeLand

Robin Holland, FDACS Moira Homann, DEP Danielle Ivey, Florida Audubon Wei Jin, SJRWMD Chandler Keenan, DEP Joy Kokjohn, SJRWMD Danielle Koury, Lake Mary Celeste Lyon, RES Erich Marzolf, SJRWMD Lori McCloud, SJRWMD Ellie McComas, Jacksonville University Gabrielle Milch, St. Johns Riverkeeper Matthew Mosquera, City of Orlando Jessica Mostyn, DEP James Moulton, CPH Corp Kim Ornberg, Seminole County Joe Parish, Seminole County Nicolas Pisarello, ATM Ray Pribble, Janicki Environmental Allyson Reinert, DEP Leylah Saavedra, Pegasus Engineering Shannon Salvatori, SJRWMD Mark Sees, Orlando Stacey Simmons, FDACS Jennifer Spain, Volusia County Ken Storey, East Central Florida Regional **Planning Council** Diana Turner, DEP Unknown, The Florida Channel Tim Waln, SJRWMD Anne Wester, SJRWMD Shannon Wetzel, Seminole County Kelly Young, Volusia County

#### Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Q: I noticed that there are fewer entities listed for total phosphorus (TP) reductions than total nitrogen (TN) reductions in the progress bar charts. Does that imply that the entities not listed in the TP bar chart have not submitted any projects for TP reductions?

A: All the responsible entities have submitted projects towards the reduction goals for nitrogen and phosphorus.

Q: How can we get the amount of reductions and the number of projects a municipality is getting credit for, as listed in the presentation?

A: You can download this information from the 2023 Statewide Annual Report (STAR) at this website: <u>https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-restoration/content/statewide-annual-report</u>. The download is in the form of an Excel workbook where you can then filter the projects by lead entity, project type, BMAP, completion date, etc. as you would like.

Q: For reporting on water quality conditions, is using only one site per very large lake in the watershed considered statistically significant with only one site per lake and two sites total? A: To assess the ambient conditions, using the sites described by the St. Johns River Water Management District is fine. Also, there are additional sites in the area that the district uses to measure the loads and flows into and out of this section of the river.

Q: What was the estimated water residency time in Lake Monroe?

A: The estimated residence time for Lake Harney is 15 days and the residence time for Lake Monroe is 23 days.

Q: When would any changes to wastewater standards be implemented? Will the changes be incorporated into wastewater operating permits?

A: Changes to the wastewater standards will be implemented through limits that will be specified in each facility's wastewater permit. The domestic wastewater permits are handled by the DEP district offices. In the Harney Monroe Basin, the timing of the new requirements will be coordinated by the DEP Central District Office to meet the requirements in the revised statutes and to provide a compliance schedule for the affected facilities. House Bill 1379 requires all wastewater facilities discharging to an impaired waterway be upgraded to advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) by 2033, and any facility that is permitted after July 1, 2023 that discharges to impaired waters or within a BMAP or reasonable assurance plan get to AWT within 10 years.

Q: How are the more stringent wastewater requirements different than the numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) requirements?

A: The NNC and the associated total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) are standards for ambient water quality. The wastewater permit requirements apply to domestic wastewater effluent and stipulate the treatment level necessary for a facility to achieve before the effluent can leave the facility as a surface water discharge, reuse disposal, or underground injection. The two criteria

are related--the Florida Legislature has increased the wastewater facility treatment requirements to bolster efforts to restore ambient water quality to state standards.