



Alafia River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Annual Meeting

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection — Southwest District Office
13051 N. Telecom Parkway, Suite 101
Temple Terrace, FL 33637**

*November 14, 2024
10:00 AM*

Agenda

- Alafia River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Background.
- Statute Overview.
- 2025 BMAP Update—Additional BMAP Provisions.
- Next Steps

Please note the FTP site for documents pertaining to the Alafia BMAP:
[https://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Tampa Bay Tributaries/Alafia BMAP/Public Meetings/2024NOV](https://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Tampa_Bay_Tributaries/Alafia_BMAP/Public_Meetings/2024NOV)
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For more information on the Alafia River BMAP, contact: Anita Stine, 850-245-8545,
Anita.Stine@FloridaDEP.gov



ALAFIA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATES

Anita Stine, Environmental Consultant
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration/
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Temple Terrace | Nov. 14, 2024



AGENDA

- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Overview.
- Statute Overview.
- BMAP Update 2025.
- BMAP — Next Steps.





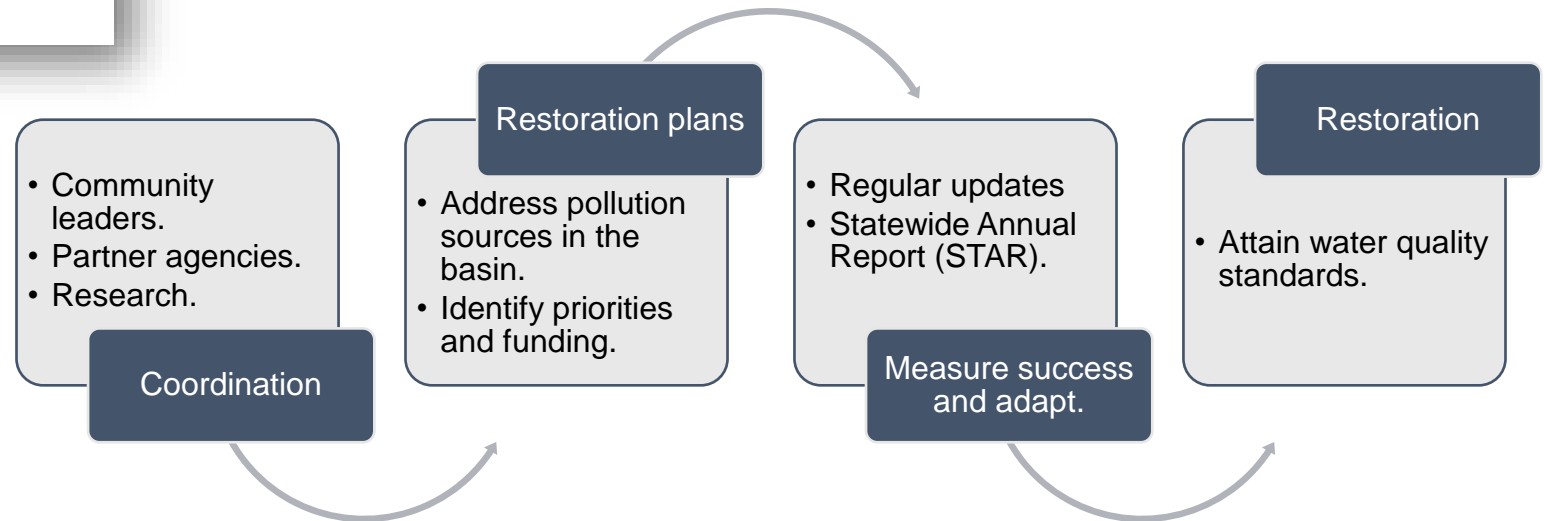
BMAPs



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.

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

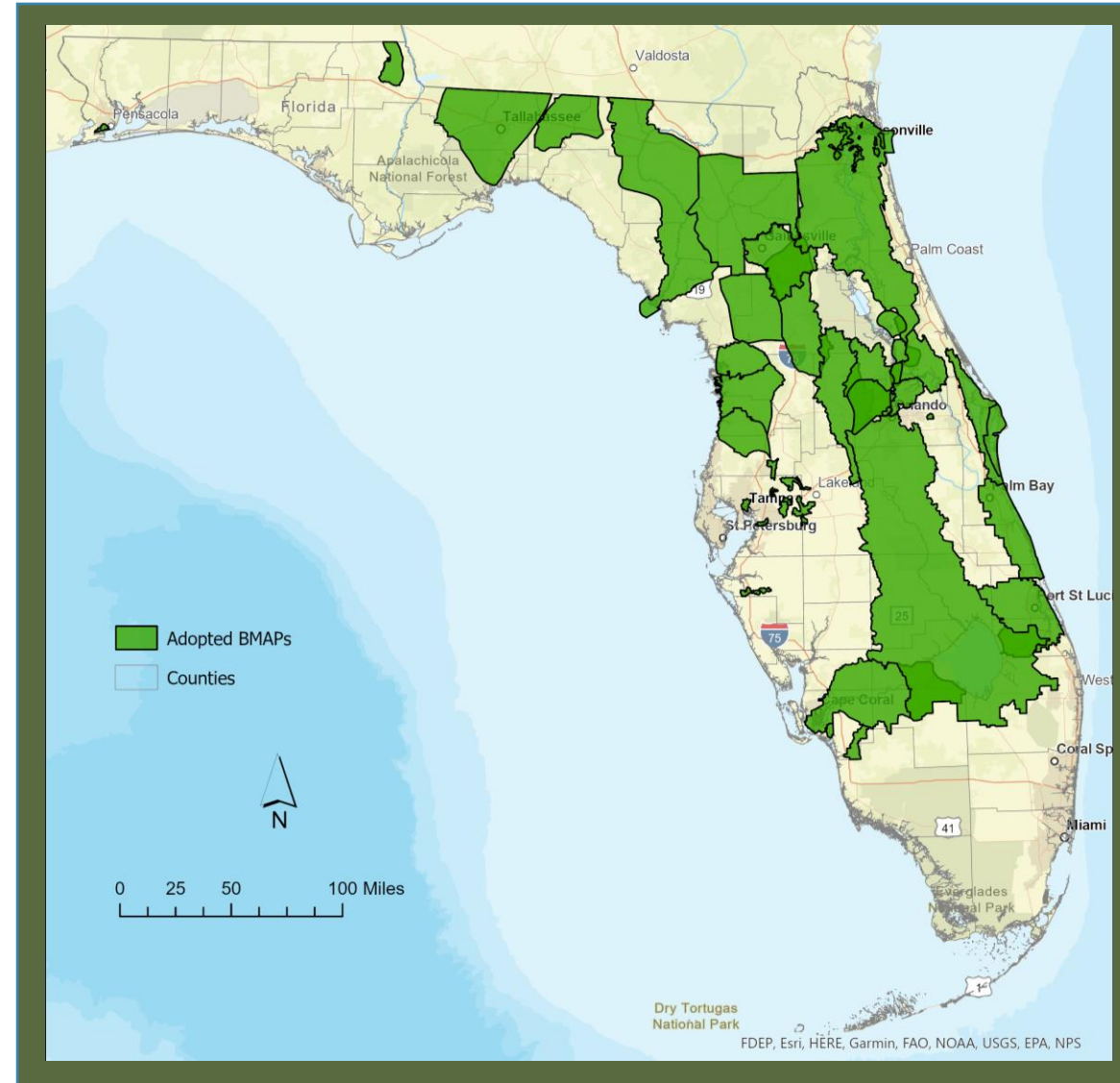




BMAPs ACROSS THE STATE

33 BMAPs:

- 14 Springs.
- 19 Surface Water:
 - Three Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP).
 - Three Indian River Lagoon.
 - Seven Other nutrient.
 - Six Bacteria.





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.

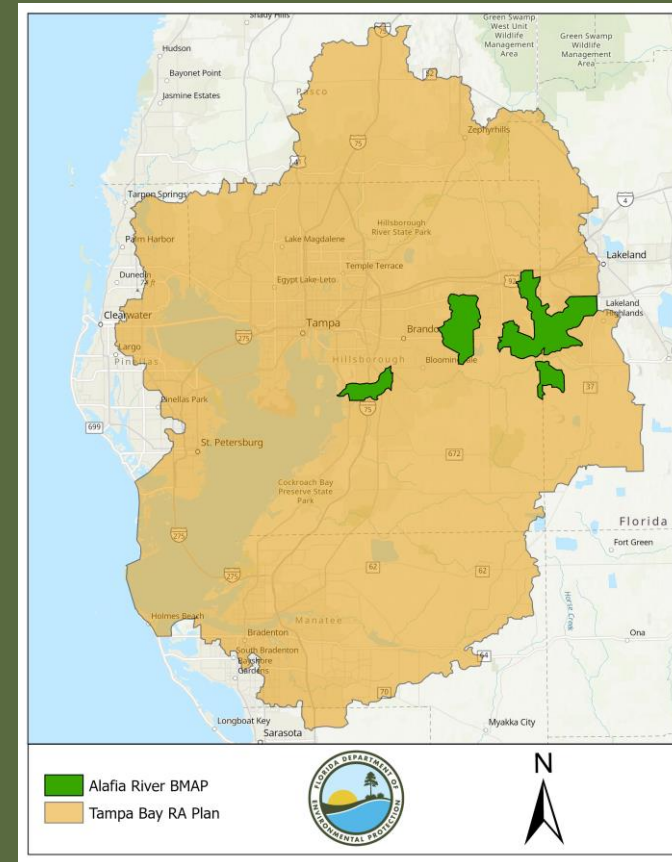
Process to assess progress toward achieving the TMDL:

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



TAMPA BAY REASONABLE ASSURANCE PLAN

- Stakeholder involvement with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) and Tampa Bay Nitrogen Management Consortium (NMC) was a key component in developing the Alafia River BMAP.
- The BMAP process engages local stakeholders and promotes coordination and collaboration to address the total nitrogen (TN) reductions needed to achieve the TMDL, as well as identifying bacteria sources for the fecal coliform TMDLs.





STAKEHOLDERS

Responsible Stakeholders:

- Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County.
- Hillsborough County Public Works.
- Tampa Bay Water.
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- City of Lakeland.
- Plant City.
- Polk County.
- Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- Florida Department of Transportation.
- Florida Department of Health.
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

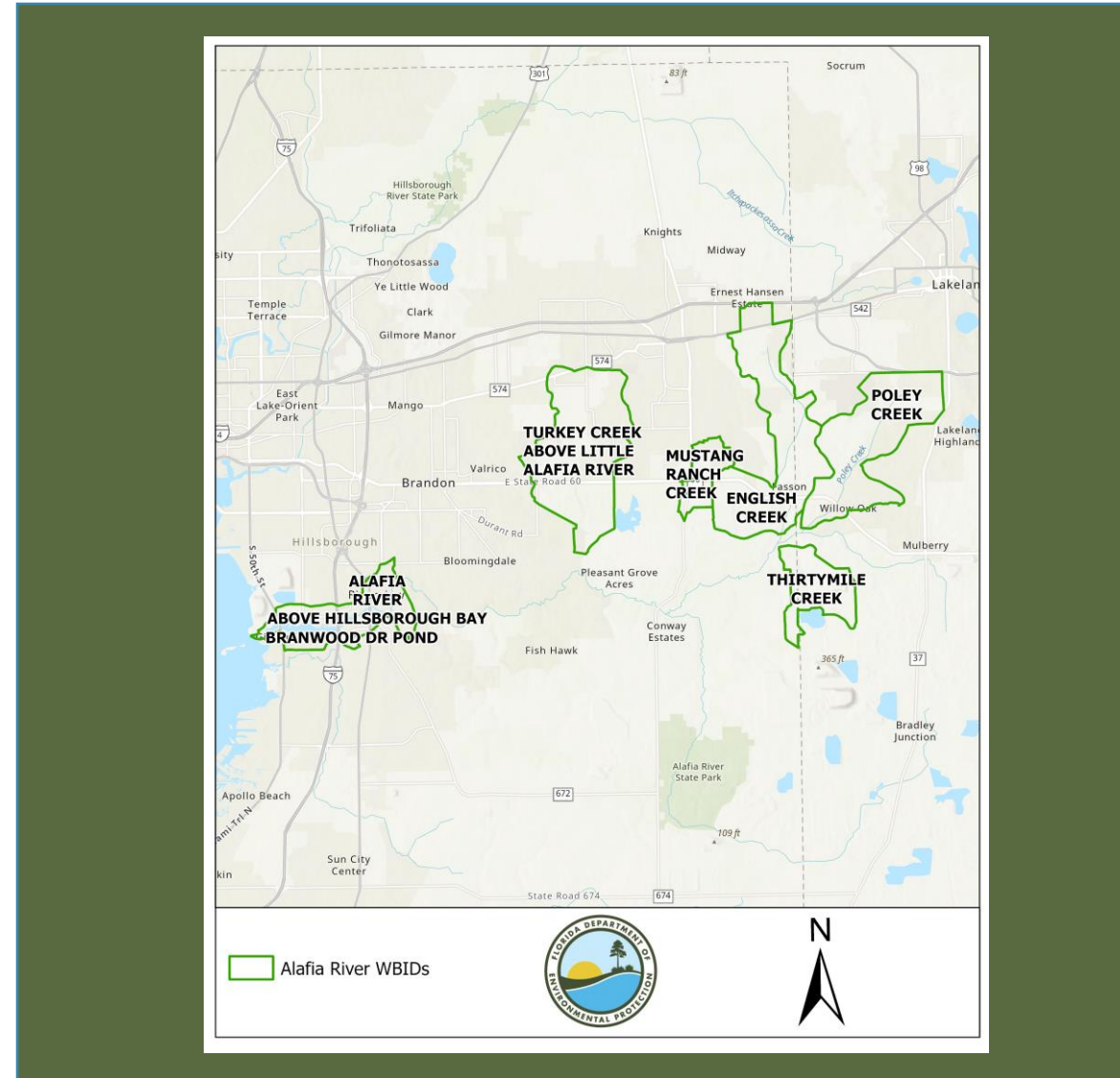


ALAFIA RIVER BMAP

TMDLs in Alafia River Basin at the time of BMAP adoption, April 2014.

Acronym Key: Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Waterbody ID (WBID), Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Total Nitrogen (TN).

WBID	Waterbody Name	Parameter
1578B	Turkey Creek	FIB
1592C	Mustang Ranch Creek	FIB, DO, TN
1552	English Creek	FIB
1639	Thirtymile Creek	DO, TN
1583	Poley Creek	FIB
1621G	Alafia River Tidal Reach above Hillsborough Bay	DO, TN





BILLS AND LEGISLATION

- Florida Watershed Restoration Act, section 403.067, Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- 2020 Senate Bill (SB) 712, Clean Waterways Act.
- 2023 House Bill (HB) 1379.
- 2024 HB 1557.





LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

2020 CLEAN WATERWAYS ACT

- Promotes resilient wastewater infrastructure and utilities and looks at future growth.
- Requires local governments within a BMAP to develop wastewater treatment plans and/or onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (OSTDS) remediation plans to be incorporated into BMAP updates.



Source: South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)



LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HB (1379)

- Requires BMAPs to be assessed and updated every five years as needed to include implementation milestones and other requirements.
- Requires a list of projects and strategies that will achieve the five-year implementation milestones to meet TMDLs.
- Requires agricultural cooperative regional water quality improvement elements.
- Requires facilities discharging to a waterbody impaired for nutrients or subject to a BMAP or reasonable assurance plan (RAP) area to upgrade to advanced waste treatment (AWT) within 10 years.
- Requires applicants for new septic systems serving lots of one acre or less within BMAPs and RAPs to connect to central sewer if available, or if unavailable, to install an enhanced nutrient-reducing system or other wastewater system that achieves a nitrogen reduction of 65%.
- Requires local governments to include BMAP projects in their comprehensive plans so these projects can be prioritized to achieve restoration benefits.
- Expands grant opportunities to accelerate project implementation.



LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

HB 1557 (2024)

- Requires advanced treatment of reclaimed water within BMAPs.
- Requires facilities (including private) to provide information to local entities developing domestic wastewater treatment plans and OSTDS remediation plans within BMAP or other restoration areas.



Photo Credit: SJRWMD



PROJECTS

HB 1379 requires responsible entities to report on projects that meet the required five-year milestones.

- Where entity allocations and milestones do not already exist, they will be added in a future BMAP update after completion of model updates. Interim management strategies will be included in the 2025 update for these BMAPs.
- It is critical for each BMAP that entities plan for and report projects and project updates to the state through the STAR process.
- All projects should be included in the STAR report, even if a funding source has not been identified.
- Reporting projects in the STAR allows the state to evaluate funding needs and prioritize projects to promote maximum environmental benefit and to meet milestones.



INTERIM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

EXAMPLES

Stormwater treatment via traditional and green stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs): Nutrient credit applies only to the portion above and beyond permit requirements.

Community Education and Outreach: Nutrient credit is given for implementing the Florida Yards and Neighborhood program; local codes and ordinances for fertilizer, landscaping, irrigation, and pet waste management; and public service announcements, informational pamphlets, stormwater website, and inspection program and call-in number for illicit discharges.

Sports Turf: Owners/operators must follow the upcoming Sports Turfgrass BMP manual to ensure fertilizers are managed responsibly.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities: Facilities must provide a plan with a list of projects to meet the Clean Waterways Act requirements which includes upgrading to AWT standards based on facility size and discharge method, including reuse distribution.

OSTDS: provide and implement a remediation plan to hook up existing OSTDS where sewer is made available or upgrade to enhanced nutrient-reducing (ENR) systems. New development with lots of one acre or less may not install conventional OSTDS and must be tied into sanitary sewer or install ENR.

Golf Courses: Golf courses will be required to provide a nutrient management plan (NMP) and implement BMPs.



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 reports on project updates through Dec. 31, 2023.

The Statewide Annual Report 2023

The state of Florida is prioritizing the protection and restoration of our waterways by implementing sound, science-based solutions to current and future environmental challenges. Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is working with local, state and federal partners on short- and long-term strategies to protect water quality and quantity, including investment in long-term restoration projects. DEP has prepared the 2023 Statewide Annual Report (STAR) to detail the status of many of these strategies in an interactive application format, which is best viewed on a desktop computer screen using Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. This application does not scale well on mobile devices and is optimized for viewing on larger format screens.

As required by section 403.0675, Florida Statutes, and to report on additional restoration efforts, this report updates the status of protection and restoration actions through total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), basin



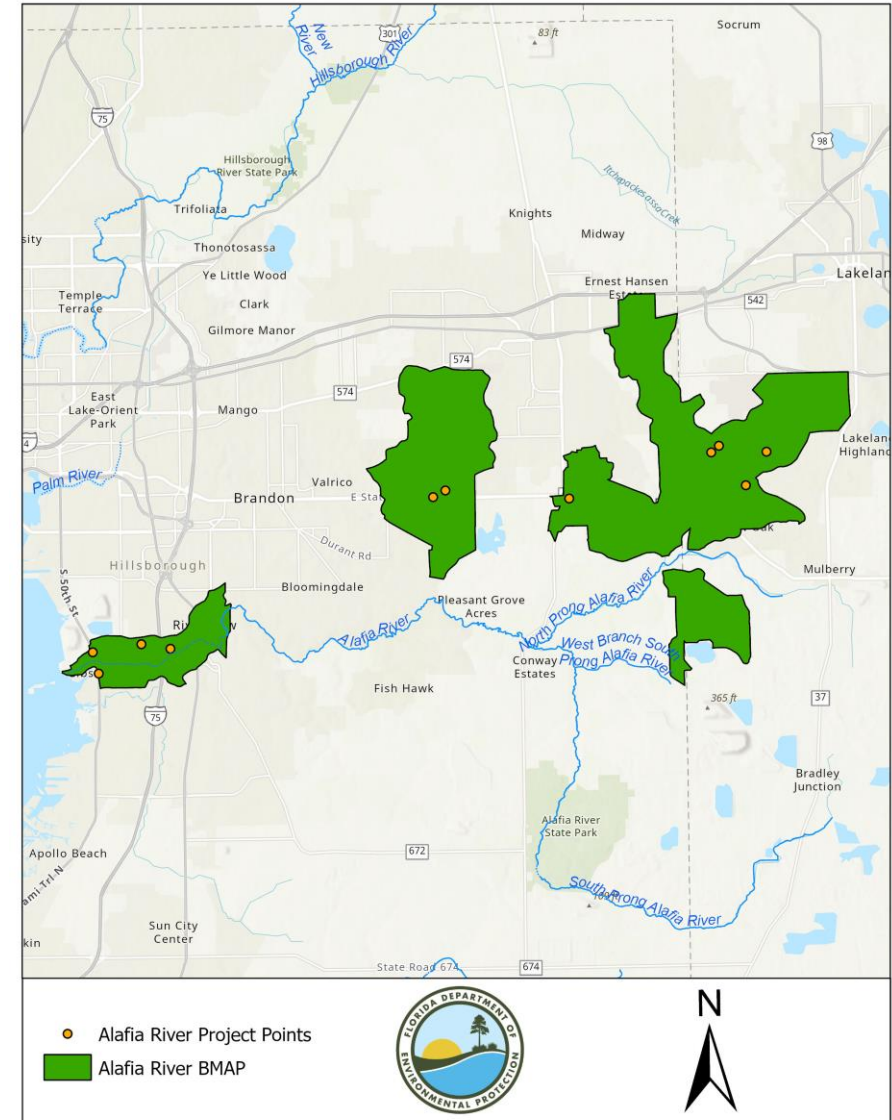
Total Maximum Daily Loads	Basin Management Action Plans	Alternative Restoration Plans	Minimum Flows and Water Levels	Recovery and Prevention Strategies	Contacts and Project Data
					

[STAR 2023 Intro \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)



PROJECTS SUMMARY

- Planned — Zero.
- Underway — One.
- Ongoing — 22.
- Completed — 15.
- Canceled — Two because their completion precedes the TMDL period of record.



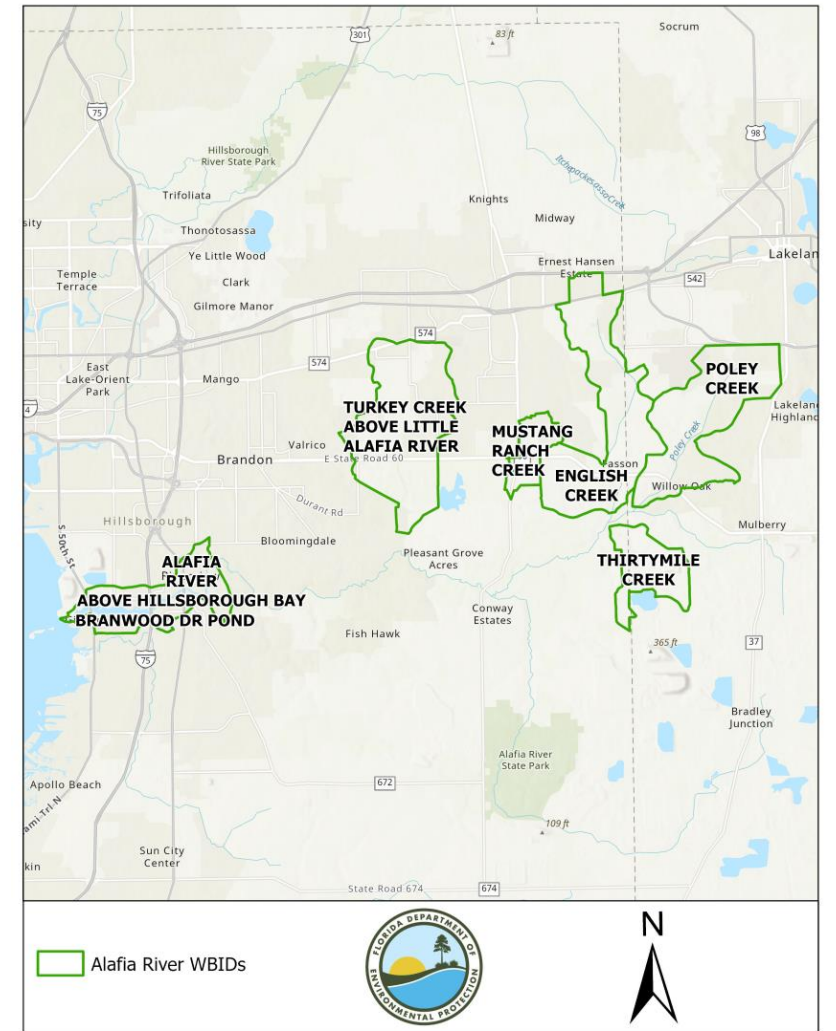


DATA EVALUATION

FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA

WBID	Waterbody Name	Exceedances January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2023 <i>E. coli</i>
1552	English Creek	39%
1592C	Mustang Ranch Creek	50%
1583	Poley Creek	87%
1578B	Turkey Creek	59%

Percent of data exceeding 10% threshold for Alafia BMAP bacteria TMDL waterbodies for the last 7.5-year data period.





NEXT STEPS

A future BMAP update after July 1, 2025, may be necessary.

- Empirical review of data for consideration of
 - Expanding the BMAP basin.
 - Modeling the basin.
 - Developing entity specific allocations.



MILESTONES/ALLOCATIONS

ALLOCATION EXAMPLES

Wekiwa Spring and Rock Springs

Entity	Milestone 2028 Assigned Reductions lbs-N/yr (30%)	Milestone 2033 Assigned Reductions lbs-N/yr (+50%=80%)	Milestone 2038 Assigned Reductions lbs-N/yr (+20%=100%)
City of Altamonte Springs	4,641	12,376	15,470
City of Apopka	16,842	44,913	56,141
City of Maitland	669	1,783	2,229
City of Montverde	1	3	4
City of Ocoee	22,240	59,308	74,135
City of Orlando	1,737	4,632	5,790
City of Winter Garden	4,412	11,766	14,708
Lake County	671	1,789	2,236
Orange County	155,672	415,126	518,907
Seminole County	21,998	58,662	73,327
Town of Eatonville	254	678	848
Town of Oakland	2,447	6,526	8,158
Town of Windermere	1,091	2,909	3,636
Mt. Dora WWTF	7	17	22
Private WWTF*	1,565	4,175	5,218
Private Golf Courses*	6,009	16,025	20,031
Agriculture (BMPs)	2,455	6,547	8,184
Ag-Cooperative Regional Elements and Cost Share	10,769	28,717	35,896
Regional Projects	11,885	31,695	39,618

Caloosahatchee River and Estuary

Entity	TN Starting Load (lbs/yr)	TN Required Reductions (lbs/yr)	TN Allocation (lbs/yr)	TP Starting Load (lbs/yr)	TP Required Reductions (lbs/yr)	TP Allocation (lbs/yr)
Agriculture	2,128,687	884,700	1,243,987	472,423	284,285	188,138
City of Fort Pierce	48,617	16,205	32,412	8,071	5,266	2,805
City of Port St. Lucie	397,343	138,187	259,156	67,422	44,277	23,145
City of Stuart	36,893	6,003	30,890	6,142	2,700	3,442
Copper Creek CDD	2,591	1,500	1,091	431	306	125
Creekside CDD	1,695	475	1,220	293	175	118
FDOT District 4	44,404	15,907	28,497	8,047	4,801	3,246
FDOT District 1	1,013	594	419	283	218	65
Martin County	388,638	75,231	313,407	66,501	31,786	34,715
Okeechobee County	13,635	7,950	5,685	2,629	1,966	663
Portofino Isles CDD	2,186	1,271	915	371	285	86
River Place CDD	1,166	389	777	195	127	68
Southern Grove CDD	2,107	1,226	881	424	310	114
St. Lucie County	180,521	67,679	112,842	32,612	21,398	11,214
St. Lucie West Service District	40,406	13,469	26,937	6,967	4,545	2,422
Tesoro CDD	7,756	2,585	5,171	1,271	829	442
Town of Sewall's Point	1,919	417	1,502	319	174	145
Tradition CDD	14,621	8,396	6,225	2,562	1,815	747
Turnpike	13,839	4,163	9,676	2,281	1,402	879
Veranda CDD	3,037	1,012	2,025	407	266	141
Verano CDD	1,778	1,030	748	366	260	106
Villa Vizcaya CDD	357	119	238	60	39	21
Village of Indiantown	16,560	3,600	12,960	2,780	751	2,029
Total	3,349,769	1,252,108	2,097,661	682,857	407,981	274,876

Imperial River (Everglades West Coast)

Entity	2027 TN Milestone (lbs/yr)	2032 TN Final Milestone (lbs/yr)
DACS	13,968	27,968
DOT D1	47	94
Corkscrew Farms CDD	555	1,110
City of Bonita Springs	5,407	10,814
Lee County	1,749	3,498
Total	21,726	43,484

Hendry Creek (Everglades West Coast)

Entity	2027 TN Milestone (lbs/yr)	2032 TN Final Milestone (lbs/yr)
DACS	183	366
DOT D1	68	135
Catalina at Winkler Preserve CDD	79	157
Laguna Lakes CDD	157	314
Lee County	7,591	15,182
Total	8,078	16,154



BMAP UPDATE COMPONENTS

ADOPT BY JULY 1, 2025

- Future growth.
- Establish five-year milestones for project implementation and list of identified projects to meet five-year milestones.
- Incorporate requirements from 2020 Clean Waterways Act, 2023 HB 1379 and 2024 HB 1557 requirements.
- Incorporate regional projects.
- Water quality data evaluation:
 - Evaluation of the monitoring networks.
 - Water quality trend analyses.
- Evaluate further OSTDS provisions.
- Evaluate the need for AWT or other more stringent effluent limits for wastewater facilities.
- Evaluate data and consider need for model updates.





BMAP UPDATES TIMELINE

May-
Aug.
2024

Individual meetings
with BMAP
stakeholders.

Aug. 1,
2024

Final wastewater
and OSTDS
plans due from
stakeholders.

Nov.
2024

Public meeting on
BMAP updates.

One-on-one
follow-up
discussions to
further gather
interim
management
strategies.

Nov-
Dec.
2024

Draft, review and
Final Draft BMAP
document.

Dec.
2024
- Jan.
2025

Statutory deadline
for updated
nutrient BMAPs.

July 1,
2025



RESOURCES

BMAP WEBSITE AND STORYMAPS

Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs)

[Home](#) » [Divisions](#) » [Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration](#) » [Water Quality Restoration Program](#) » Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs)

Water Quality Restoration Program Quick Links

[Basin Management Action Plans \(BMAPs\)](#)

[Statewide Annual Report](#)

[Water Quality Grant Opportunities 2024-25](#)

[BMAP Public Meetings](#)

[Impaired Waters, TMDLs and Basin Management Action Plans Interactive Map](#)

[Tools and Guidance for Calculating Total Nitrogen \(TN\) and Total Phosphorus \(TP\) Reductions](#)

[Florida Water Quality Credit Trading](#)

What is a Basin Management Action Plan?

A BMAP is a framework for water quality restoration that contains a comprehensive set of solutions to achieve the pollutant reductions established by a TMDL. Examples include permit limits on regulated facilities, urban and agricultural wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, regional projects and conservation programs designed and established by a TMDL. A BMAP is developed with local stakeholders and relies on local input for implementation. BMAPs are adopted by Secretarial Order and are legally enforceable. BMAPs allow for incremental load reductions through the implementation of projects and management practices, monitoring and conducting studies to better understand the water quality and hydrologic dynamics, project implementation and water quality analyses. DEP continues to work with local and regional stakeholders on projects necessary to meet reduction milestones to achieve the TMDLs and inform funding priorities.

What's New: Upcoming Meetings and BMAP Updates

July 1, 2025 BMAP Update Progress

As required by the Clean Waterways Act, DEP must prepare updates to its nutrient BMAPs by July 1, 2025. The [Update Progress](#) dashboard provides a visual representation of progress towards the completion of related sub-tasks leading up to the July 1, 2025 updates. Please visit the [BMAP Public Meeting](#) page for upcoming meetings and subscribe to meeting notices.

Nutrient BMAPs



Nutrient 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 reductions established by a total maximum daily load

Springs BMAPs



Springs BMAPs identify the sources of nutrient pollution, list the specific projects and programs necessary to reduce nutrient pollution, and establish priority focus areas where statutory prohibitions on certain activities apply (such as installation of new conventional septic systems).

Fecal Bacteria Impaired BMAPs



Bacteria basin management action plans (BMAPs) include management strategies or projects, to be implemented by local stakeholders, that aim to eliminate and prevent the release of waste, containing pathogens, to natural waterbodies.

[Basin Management Action Plans \(BMAPs\) | Florida Department of Environmental Protection](#)



THANK YOU

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Water Quality Restoration Program
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**Alafia River Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Annual Meeting
November 14, 2024**

10:00 am – 10:55 am

*Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Southwest District Office
13051 N. Telecom Parkway, Suite 101
Temple Terrace, FL 33637*

Attendees

Vanessa Bauzo, FDACS	Molly Klinepeter, Lakeland Water Utilities
Cameron Becker, Alafia River State Park	Tania McMillan, City of Lakeland
William Betties, City of Plant City	Myke Morris, Hillsborough Soil and Water
Shayla Bradford, Polk Board of County Commissioners	Nick Muzia, Sea and Shoreline
Maya Burke, Tampa Bay Estuary Program	Keith Nadaskay, Mosaic
Scott Deitche, Geosyntec	Courtney Nott, Alafia River State Park
David Glicksberg, Hillsborough County	Ashley Pike, Polk County Utilities
Tina Gordon, Wildwood Consulting	Nicole Pollio, RES
Troy Green, Hillsborough County	Ray Pribble, ESA
Roxanne Groover, Florida Onsite Wastewater Association	Brian Seufert, Citizen
Jeff Hilton, City of Tampa Utilities	Mohamed Soumare, Hillsborough County
Gretchen Hoke, Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District	Dakota Stetlek, Alafia River State Park
Moira Homann, DEP	Anita Stine, DEP
David Karlen, EPCHC	John Allen Stock, City of Plant City
	Joe Walsh, Hillsborough Soil and Water
	Michelle Williamson, G&F Farms

Welcome and Introductions

Anita Stine, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Basin Coordinator for the Alafia BMAP, welcomed the group and facilitated introductions.

She gave a brief overview of the agenda which included BMAP overview, discuss statute changes, and a plan for updating the BMAP in 2025.

BMAP Overview

BMAPs are one method of restoring water quality, developed with stakeholder input, adopted by Secretarial Order, enforceable and implemented in phases, reported on annually, and updated regularly. There are 33 BMAPs covering a large portion of the state. They address nutrients and/or fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in surface waters and springs.

In addition to the key components already mentioned, BMAPs lay out a timeline to achieve load reductions needed to meet total maximum daily load (TMDL) targets through projects and

management strategies that will remediate existing loads and address expected future growth impacts. BMAPs are adapted over time based on water quality analyses and model updates.

Many of the same components probably sound familiar to those attendees familiar with the Tampa Bay Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP). A map was shown of the Tampa Bay RAP as well as the watersheds with TMDLs that comprise the Alafia BMAP.

Stakeholder involvement with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and Nutrient Management Consortium (NMC) were and continue to be key in achieving nutrient reductions, not only for the bay, but also the BMAP waters.

The estuary program has paved the way in the Tampa Bay area successfully working with stakeholders in achieving nutrient reductions. Recent legislation has strengthened BMAPs by requiring specific nutrient sources to be addressed with set timelines and measurable targets.

The stakeholders with responsibilities within the BMAP watersheds are a combination of local governments, state government agencies, and the estuary program. City and county governments perform most of the heavy lifting in managing point and non-point sources.

If you represent an agency, local government, or not for profit organization that you feel should be listed in the BMAP update as a stakeholder, please email Anita Stine at Anita.Stine@FloridaDEP.gov or let us know during this meeting.

A map and table of the watersheds and tributaries, waterbody identification areas (WBIDs), and parameters of impairment in the original Alafia BMAP were shared.

A stakeholder asked if the slides will be available later and Anita responded that they will be posted for download. An email will go out through GovDelivery when materials are posted.

Bills and Legislation

The foundation for developing TMDLs and provisions of BMAPs and authority to adopt are found in 403.067, Florida Statutes, which is the Florida Watershed Restoration Act. Since 2020, Florida legislators have passed proposals resulting in updates to the Florida Watershed Restoration Act which strengthen BMAP protections. The new legislation includes the following bills: In 2020, Senate Bill (SB) 712 (Clean Waterways Act); in 2023 House Bill (HB) 1379; and in 2024 HB 1557. Components of this legislation need to be incorporated into the BMAPs, which means DEP is updating all the BMAPs.

SB 712

SB 712 recognizes the regulation of septic systems as a source of nutrients and transferred oversight of the regulatory program from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) to DEP. This also requires local governments within a BMAP to develop wastewater and/or onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (OSTDS) remediation plans to be incorporated into BMAP updates.

HB 1379

HB 1379 requires BMAPs to include implementation milestones and be updated every five years if needed. It also requires a list of projects and strategies to achieve 5-year milestones and agricultural cooperative regional water quality improvement elements. Additionally, wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) discharging to a BMAP or RAP area are required to upgrade to advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) within 10 years. To address future growth loading, the legislation requires applicants for new septic systems serving lots of one acre or less within BMAPs and RAPs connect to central sewer if available, or if unavailable, to install an enhanced nutrient-reducing system (ENRs) or other wastewater system that achieves a total nitrogen (TN) reduction of 65%. The legislation also requires local governments to include BMAP projects in their comprehensive plans so these projects can be prioritized to achieve restoration benefits and expands grant opportunities to accelerate project implementation.

HB 1557

HB 1557 requires advanced treatment of reclaimed water within BMAPs. It also requires facilities (including private WWTFs) to provide information to local entities developing WWTF and OSTDS remediation plans within BMAP or other restoration areas.

Projects

HB 1379 also requires responsible entities to report on projects that achieve the required 5-year milestones. Where entity allocations and milestones do not already exist, they may be added in future BMAP updates if deemed necessary. Interim management strategies will be included in the 2025 update for BMAPs without entity allocations. It is critical for each BMAP that entities plan for and report projects and project updates to the state through the Statewide Annual Report (STAR) process. All projects should be included in the STAR report, even if a funding source has not been identified. Reporting projects in the STAR allows the state to evaluate funding needs and prioritize projects to promote maximum environmental benefit and to meet milestones. DEP will continue to assess whether this BMAP will need to have allocations.

The Alafia BMAP will use interim management strategies for the 2025 update and DEP will be reaching out to stakeholders to review existing projects and look at potential interim management strategies to include in the project list. Examples of interim management strategies include the following:

- Stormwater projects achieving reductions above permit requirements.
- Review of wastewater facilities in comparison to HB 1379 requirements, including upgrades to AWT based on size and discharge, including reuse.
- OSTDS new development of 1 acre or less will have to either hook up to sanitary sewer or install ENRs. Remediation of existing OSTDS is also on the list of strategies. This should also include remediation of existing OSTDS.

- Community education such as implementation of Florida Yards and Neighborhoods as well as local codes and ordinances for fertilizer, landscaping, irrigation and pet waste management. Also, inspection programs and a dedicated call in number for the public to report illicit discharges and similar issues.
- A sports turfgrass best management practice (BMP) manual will soon be available.
- Golf courses will be required to provide nutrient management plans and implement BMPs.

STAR

The commitments by stakeholders to implement interim management strategies and load reducing projects must be captured in an annual report to the legislature and the Governor. The STAR summarizes accomplishments in the BMAPs statewide and reports on restoration projects and management strategies. It is published July 1 of each year. STAR 2023 reports on project updates through Dec. 31, 2023.

Current status of projects listed in the STAR for the BMAP

For the Alafia BMAP, there are currently 0 planned, 1 underway, 22 ongoing, and 15 completed projects. There are also two canceled projects because their completion precedes the TMDL period of record.

FIB Exceedances

The Alafia BMAP also tracks the fecal indicator bacteria by the percent exceedance of the ten percent threshold value over a 7.5-year period. This means that to meet the criteria no more than 10% of the samples taken can exceed the maximum levels of the FIB indicator. All of the waterbodies remain well above the 10% frequency and are still impaired.

Alafia Next Steps

The Alafia River tidal segment above Hillsborough Bay is still impaired for nutrients, so DEP is conducting an empirical review of the data which will inform department decisions about expanding the BMAP basin, modeling it and developing entity specific allocations. If DEP takes this route, another BMAP update will follow shortly after the July 2025 update.

BMAP Update Components

The July 2025 BMAP update process is expected to tie in all the BMAP-specific requirements of the new and updated legislation. Components of the legislation included establishing 5-year milestones, incorporating the projects outlined in the Clean Waterways Act remediation plans to address WWTF and OSTDS loading, a list of OSTDS restrictions outlined in HB 1379 to help reduce impacts of future growth, and evaluating the need for further restrictions. There are also requirements to evaluate the need for AWT for wastewater facilities, incorporate regional projects, evaluate water quality monitoring networks, trend analyses, and consider the need for a model.

BMAP Updates Timeline

In summer 2024, DEP reached out to stakeholders about the SB 712 remediation plans that were then due August 1, 2024. Following this meeting, DEP will be reaching out again to discuss project lists and interim management strategies to be rolled into the draft and final documents in early 2025 which will allow for adoption of the updated BMAP by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2025.

Anita showed the subscribe QR code and informed the audience how to sign up for email notifications via the DEP GovDelivery system. Anita showed links to the GovDelivery sign up and asked interested stakeholders to ensure that they are registered to receive emails. She added that a follow up email would be sent using this system when the meeting materials for this meeting are posted. She also encouraged participants to visit the DEP BMAP webpage to access the original BMAP documents, story maps, links to the legislative updates, interactive mapping tools, and the STAR.

Questions and Answers

David Glicksberg asked if the expansion of the boundary will encompass the whole watershed. Anita stated that DEP is evaluating the empirical data now and see if it makes sense to go forward with allocations and, if so, it will likely include the full Alafia watershed. David asked if package plants are included as OSTDS or WWTF. Moira responded that they would be considered WWTF and DEP is looking at these to determine what is realistic to achieve.

Someone asked if the FIB WBIDs have bacteria pollution and control plans (BPCPs). Anita responded that the tools are the same, but the BMAP supersedes the BPCPs so they would not have one.

Nick Muzia asked what the AWT standard is. Moira responded it is 3 mg/L for TN and 1 mg/L for total phosphorus (TP).

Someone asked how hard it is to get funding opportunities for the expansion of WWTF capacity. Moira told them there are QR codes at the sign in table that will link to the grant division. She added that the grant portal is only open at certain times. She added that it is important to submit any projects for which DEP funding will be applied to the BMAP project portal. This includes conceptual projects because when funding requests are submitted, projects listed in the STAR are prioritized.

Someone asked what happens to the AWT requirement in conjunction with SB 64 which requires surface water discharges to be phased out by 2032. He added that exemptions have been given to WWTFs to allow them to keep surface water discharges. Moira said BMAP staff have not had those specific discussions with the permitting staff yet, but the expectation will be for them to be at AWT.

Jeff Hilton said that the legislation doesn't capture package plants. Moira said that HB 1557 and HB 1379 capture all domestic WWTFs in BMAPs. Jeff said many WWTFs have been submitting exemptions for their surface water discharges and, to his knowledge, permitting has not rejected any of them. He added that there are package plants and OSTDS within the area, including 150,000 septic systems within the utilities service area and that phasing all of those out is not a 10-year project. He asked if DEP would accept a feasibility study done in the last 10-years that identifies projects that are a priority. He added that previously they could not get sewer to development fast enough and the city gave existing riverfront parcels and new development within the area priority rankings for sewer extensions. Anita said that they would like to get these into the portal and get them prioritized for funding. She added that in the project portal there is a field to ask if a project is fully funded or not and that projects that are listed as "no" can be helpful for sorting. Anita also indicated that the feasibility study would be good to have. Jeff added that the other issue is once they get the funding, they have issues getting it completed within the timeline due to supply delays.

Someone asked if funding is mostly on state and local resources. He asked if there is any coordination with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to identify prioritize how money is spent from their funding in the area. He said they perform nutrient management BMPs for agriculture and other projects on agricultural lands, but they don't do the monitoring or reporting once they are funded. Moira said we work very closely with the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (FDACS) and water management districts to identify projects and producers for enrollment in BMPs or cost share funding.

A stakeholder asked about the update to the 62-6 chapter and whether that included anything related to OSTDS. Roxanne Groover, Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA), said they are working together on getting updates for ENRs in that and other rules. The stakeholder also asked about expected reductions and options for ENRs. Roxanne added that there are some newer technologies out there and, in Florida, all OSTDS are required to discharge to soils which allow for more attenuation of nutrients after effluent leaves the pipe. She added that some systems get 65% reductions in the pipe, but some of the newer ones may get higher. FOWA is working on methodology to review and update those.

Someone asked how well informed the health department is. Roxanne said the biggest thing right now is the transition from the county health departments to DEP. They are informed and FOWA provides education and training to them as well. They are aware, but they may not know all of the details. Many private providers are doing the inspections and then sending the finalized reports to the county. That is causing some staffing issues as county staff are recruited to private providers.

A participant asked how residents are being educated. Roxanne said some counties, such as Orange, Marion, and Hernando, have great education programs. Some work with DEP grants

department and FOWA when they get the grant money to get them contractor info, education materials, or staffing so that they can provide homeowners with contractors and work on educating homeowners, which can include resources from FOWA. Roxanne said local entities needing assistance can reach out to FOWA. Moira said there were counties several years ago to receive DEP funding to incentivize homeowners to upgrade to ENRs in springs BMAPs. Since then, other counties across the state that are not in springs can put those in as projects with how many systems they envision converting and can use some of those funding sources to assist with education programs. Volusia and Wakulla counties have done a good job on that as well. That funding can also be used to hire contractors or staff to assist with things like websites or outreach, so there are funding opportunities available.

Someone asked if grant funding is available to private landowners in BMAPs that have housing for employees. Moira said the funding request would have to come from the county or city, not directly from a private entity to DEP.

Someone asked if DEP would be reaching out for projects. Anita said they have been reaching out to entities and will be asking them to fill in the gaps. If the empirical analysis shows a need for a model and allocations, DEP will be reaching out again. She added that the next outreach will include a request for nutrient related projects to be included in the BMAP update.

A citizen asked if storm flooding has impact on these things. Dave Karlen said that Hillsborough County monitors the water quality on the river and in the bay to see the impacts of events such as storms.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Action Items

DEP-Post the meeting materials online following the meeting.