

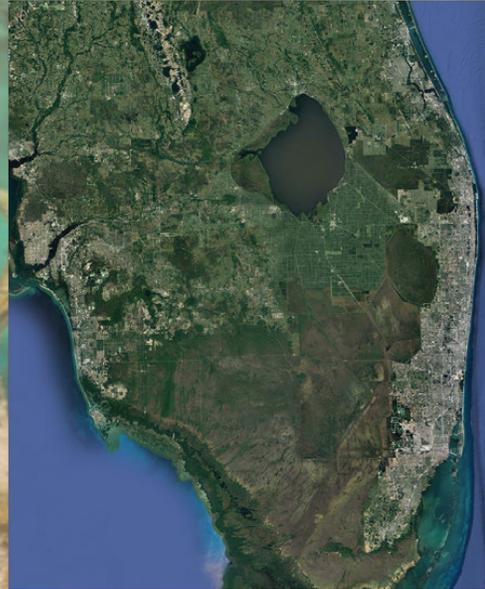
# Blue-Green Algae Task Force & Clean Waterways Act

Florida Stormwater Association  
Annual Meeting- July 2020



**Dr. Tom Frazer**  
Chief Science Officer

# TASK FORCE



- Blue-Green Algae Task Force established under Executive Order 19-12
- Task force members are nationally and internationally recognized scholars
- All meetings are open to the public
- First consensus document released in early October with recommendations
- Clean Waterways Act signed into law in June 2020

# BMAPs



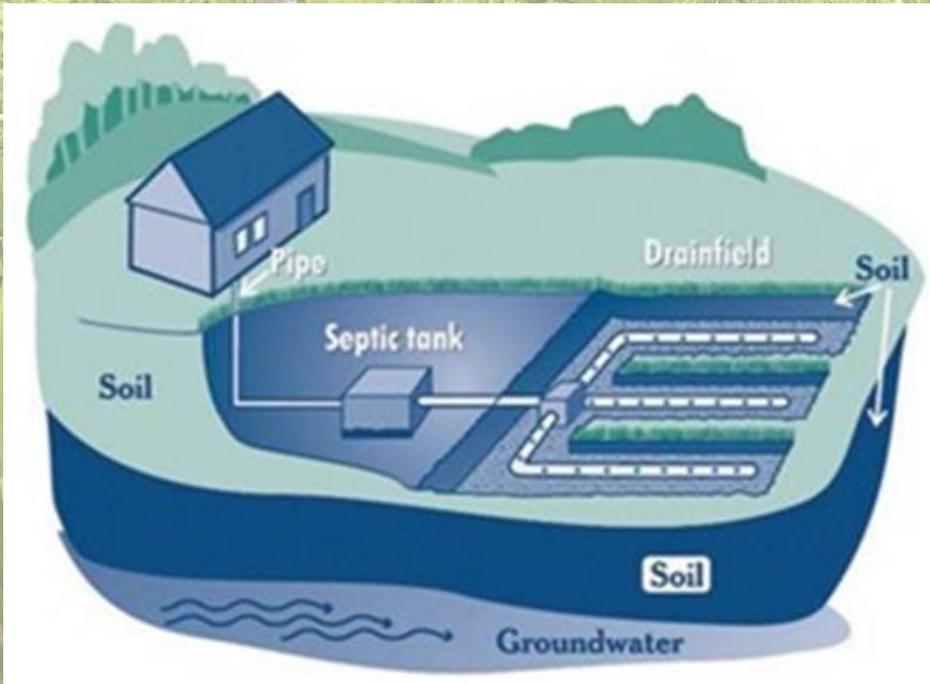
- Basin Management Action Plans are roadmaps for the restoration of impaired waters.
- BMAPs are developed in collaboration with local stakeholders and adopted by Secretarial Order to be enforceable.
- Task force recommended a strategic and targeted approach to project selection and implementation.
- The task force recognized and outlined urgent and continuing needs specific to Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuary BMAP areas.
- Task force recommended priority be given to projects with the potential to expedite the removal of legacy nutrients.
- Additional monitoring will be required also to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration projects within BMAPs.

# BMPs



- The task force acknowledged that agriculture BMPs are not sufficient in many parts of the state to achieve water quality restoration targets.
- The bill requires DACS to complete on-site inspections at sites using BMPs at least once every two years.
- The Clean Waterways Act requires documentation of fertilizer use to ensure compliance with BMPs.
- Additionally, the University of Florida / IFAS, and other universities are requested to annually develop research plans and legislative budget requests to enhance/develop additional BMPs and identify additional nutrient reduction projects.

# Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems



- The task force recommended broader regulatory oversight of septic systems.
- The task force recommended specifically that DEP develop a comprehensive regulatory program to ensure that OSTDS are protective of human health, but also protect the environment against nutrient pollution.
- The Clean Waterways Act requires that septic tanks now be regulated as a source of nutrients and transfers oversight from the Department of Health (DOH) to DEP.

# Sanitary Sewer Overflows



- SSOs continue to be a pervasive problem in Florida.
- The Clean Waterways Act requires contingency plans for power outages to minimize discharges of untreated wastewater.
- The Clean Waterways Act also requires utilities to develop inspection, maintenance, improvement and replacement plans for their systems.

# STORMWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS



- The task force recommended the development and implementation of a stormwater system inspection and monitoring program.
- The Clean Waterways Act required DEP to update stormwater rules and design criteria to improve the performance of stormwater systems statewide.
- With aging stormwater system designs across the state, stormwater has become one of the largest potential non-point sources of pollution.
- This legislation requires the Water Management Districts and DEP to initiate rulemaking using the most current scientific information to update stormwater design criteria and operation regulations.

# INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY



- The task force recommended an investment in a diverse portfolio of technologies to aid in the prevention, clean-up and mitigation of blue-green algal blooms.
- Dedicated funding from the legislature will provide support for the development and implementation of novel technologies.
- To date, eleven projects have been identified for funding and include projects focused on clean-up of algal blooms, improved assessment technologies, as well as projects with a prevention focus.

# PUBLIC HEALTH



- The Task Force recommended that DOH and DEP implement a transparent and consistent communication plan to inform the public about water conditions and related potential health impacts.
- Currently, DEP and DOH are coordinating to effectively strategize innovative solutions to disseminate health advisories on the ground and online.

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# SCIENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING, DATA NEEDS AND MONITORING PROGRAMS



- The task force recommended a renewed investment in a state-wide, comprehensive water quality sampling and monitoring strategy.
- The task force recommended an expanded water quality monitoring program in each of the relevant BMAP areas.
- Through partnership with the state's water management districts, water quality monitoring efforts have already been enhanced within the Lake O, Caloosahatchee, and St. Lucie basins – areas that are extremely susceptible to the effects of harmful algal blooms.

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**THANK  
YOU!**