



Using MS4 Restoration Planning in Lieu of TMDL Prioritization Plans

Julie Espy

Division of Environmental Assessment and
Restoration

December 5, 2018



Cleaner water, faster!

**How can we make progress towards this goal?
One pathway is through our Assessment
Program...**



Assessment Lists: What the Lists Mean

- **Study List –**
 - Waters on Florida's 303(d) list reported to EPA
 - DEP continues to gather information and evaluate to determine if impairment can be verified
 - Active or planned restoration activities that will affect waterbody's water quality
 - Development of TMDL delayed
- **Verified List –**
 - Waters on Florida's 303(d) list reported to EPA with intent to develop TMDL
 - Included in development of TMDL Priority List



Assessment Categories Defined

- **4e - Waters that are impaired, but where there on-going restoration activities = On Study List**
- **5 – Waters are impaired and are in the queue for TMDL development = On Verified List**



Why Promote Stakeholder Restoration Plans?

- **Provides a faster path to restoration**
- **Alignment with our strategic goals and values**
 - **Focus resources on projects that provide benefits to the environment and local communities**
 - **Partner with communities to protect natural resources**
 - **Serve our communities and work to enhance stakeholder experiences**



Benefits of Stakeholder Restoration Plans

- **Allows stakeholders to control their destiny**
 - **Developing a plan prior to state/federal action provides the best way for stakeholders to plan for efficient and effective management**
- **Acknowledges proactive efforts**
 - **Stakeholders can receive credit for pollutant reductions**
 - **Benefits to downstream impaired waters**
- **Enhances public relations**



DEP Activities to Encourage this Approach

- Looking for ways to identify active stakeholders
- Creating a new webpage with more information
- Developing a survey for interested parties
- Working with other agencies and programs to identify ways we can better utilize our resources and integrate our activities

One example = DEP's MS4 Program



Integrating Assessment and MS4 Programs

- **Bacteria Pollution Control Plans (BPCPs)**
- **TMDL Implementation Plans**
 - **May be required under a MS4 permit if TMDLs or impairments exist in the jurisdiction**
- **Plans include water quality restoration activities**
 - **Monitoring**
 - **Source tracking**
 - **Walking the watershed**



Integrating Assessment and MS4 Programs

- **DEP's Watershed Assessment group:**
 - Acquired schedule for permit renewals and list of jurisdictions that have BPCPs or TMDL implementation plans
 - Working with MS4 program to ensure impairments are up to date
 - Contacting affected parties as assessments are being performed in those areas
- Waters with plans are placed on the Study List in assessment category 4e
- Reassessed each cycle and progress towards WQ improvement is evaluated