

December 5, 2019 FSA 2019 Winter Conference

#### **Osceola County**

Lake Tohopekaliga Water Restoration Project









### Neocity, Lake Toho Water Restoration, and the Everglades

























#### Lake Tohopekaliga

- Second Largest Lake in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes.
- Headwaters to Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades.
- Approximately 22,000 acres.
- Receives water from approximately 473 square miles.
- Known for bass fishing, bird watching, and ecotourism.



#### Lake Tohopekaliga

- First channelized by Hamilton Disston.
- Further channelization and connectivity occurred with the Central and Southern Florida Flood Project.
- Water levels are managed by South Florida Water Management District under ACOE permit to control flooding in wet season and maintain water in dry season.
- The channelization of the watershed resulted in degradation of surface waters and increased downstream flow.



### Lake Toho and Section (303)d

- FDEP listed as Impaired based on Trophic State Index in 2010.
- Local stakeholders disagreed due to the lack of knowledge of the interactions between ambient water quality, hydrilla, and current management activities.
- FDEP agreed to more research, revised the cause of impairment, and moved the lake from Category 5 to Category 4e.
- The local stakeholders entered into the Lake Tohopekaliga Nutrient Reduction Plan (NRP) to facilitate the change in status.
- Local stakeholders agreed to monitor nutrient levels entering Lake Toho and reduce nutrient flows through enacting a suite of Best Management Practices.



### Lake Toho and Section (303)d

- Lake Toho is located in the Upper Kissimmee sub-watershed in the Lake Okeechobee watershed
- FDEP adopted the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan (LOBMAP) in 2014.
- Based on calendar years 2001-12, the Upper Kissimmee sub-watershed contributes 35% of all water and 17% of the phosphorus load to Lake Okeechobee.
- BMPs from the NRP were incorporated into LOBMAP including the Lake Tohopekaliga Restoration Project.
- Stakeholders in the NRP choose to maintain the NRP within the LOBMAP in 2017.



#### **Multiple Studies & Visions**

- Preliminary Feasibility Analysis
- Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI)







#### Multiple Studies & Visions Central Florida Water Initiative

- Geography
  - Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Polk, and Southern Lake Counties

1,100 MGD Estimated Total Water Needed (2035)

250 MGD

Potential Needed

Fresh Traditional Groundwater Available

800 MGD

**Current Average Water Use** 

- Approximately 5,300 square miles
- Population
  - 2.7 million in 2010
  - Projected 4.1 million in 2035
- Water Use
  - 800 MGD in 2010
  - Projected 1,100 MGD in 2035
- Drivers
  - Continued Growth
  - Finite Water Supplies





#### Multiple Studies & Visions CDM Smith Preliminary Feasibility Analysis

- Completed in 2012.
- Determined the feasibility of a water resource plan to provide reuse augmentation and treatment of surface waters.
- Goal to extend groundwater supply for potable purposes.



#### How Do We Get There?

- Stormwater Harvesting
  - Collecting and storing stormwater for eventual reuse.
  - Reduces downstream flow.
  - Reduces nutrient levels.
- Reduction of Withdrawals
  - Finding alternative water supply and conserving water.



#### Lake Toho Water Restoration Project



- Regional Stormwater Facility with a water surface of approximately 150 acres.
- Water Quality Treatment for approximately 1,000 acres.
- 50 foot wide berms to accommodate trails.
- Scheduled to be completed mid 2020.
- One of the largest active municipal stormwater treatment project in the State.



#### **Conceptual Design**



#### **Onsite and Offsite Basins**





#### **FEMA Exhibit**





#### **Alternative Water Supply Project**



- Alternative to Lake Tohopekaliga surface water and ground water withdrawals.
- Up to 400 Million Gallons of alternative water supply.
- Captures nutrients and reduces discharge to Lake Tohopekaliga.
- Up to 8.2 Million Gallons per Day of reuse for irrigation to offset potable water use.
- Removal of 25,500 pounds of Total Nitrogen, and 2,700 pounds of Total Phosphorus.

#### **Next Steps?**



- Diversion Wall
- Funding, permitting and design challenges





December 5, 2019 FSA 2019 Winter Conference

#### Thank you!

#### Linette Matheny, P.E. Linette.Matheny@osceola.org

#### Susan Gosselin Susan.Gosselin@osceola.org

