



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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Blue-Green Algae Task Force Staff Minutes

August 23, 2020
8:30 a.m.
GoTo Webinar

General subject matter considered: The Blue-Green Algae Task Force met to hear updates regarding the purpose, progress and discussions of the Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Dr. Mark Rains	Facilitator	Present
Dr. Evelyn Gaiser	Member	Present
Dr. Wendy Graham	Member	Present
Dr. Michael Parsons	Member	Present
Dr. Valerie Paul	Member	Present
Dr. James Sullivan	Member	Present

1. Dr. Rains provided opening remarks and facilitated the meeting.
2. Tim Rach, Program Administrator of the Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Coordination Program at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, provided an overview of the Stormwater TAC, a summary of the draft recommendations report being reviewed by the Stormwater TAC, and an overview of the next steps in the future stormwater rulemaking effort.
3. Task force members asked questions to clarify some points of the presentation, including:
 - a. Current stormwater rules' presumed reductions look at Total Suspended Solids (TSS), the Stormwater TAC is focusing largely on nitrogen and phosphorus recommendations.
 - b. Originally, the percentages that are assumed for the presumption of compliance were based on several studies, which have since been shown by subsequent reports and studies to have overestimated those percentages of removals.
 - c. Stormwater TAC is proposing a BMP library to address the question of confidence in and validation of new BMPs.

Meeting minutes are not intended to act as a transcript of the meeting. To watch a recording of the meeting or to see the recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force, please visit [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/state-action/blue-green-algae-task-force](https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/blue-green-algae-task-force).

- d. It is possible that the amended rule criteria will require legislative ratification, but that cannot be determined at this time.
 - e. Net improvement kicks in when there is an existing water quality violation and an applicant must show that they are providing some type of improvement. The term is not currently specifically defined. The TAC has been debating this definition and is looking at setting specific criteria to define the term.
4. The first public comment period included the following topics:
- a. Concerns about plastic trash running through the stormwater system into Biscayne Bay.
 - b. State and local governments should consider offering incentives.
 - c. Concerns over fertilizer use.
 - d. Concerns over stormwater systems being directed into waterways instead of wet or dry retention ponds.
 - e. Concerns about organic materials (e.g., leaves, fertilizer) getting into stormwater systems.
 - f. Concerns over definition of predevelopment.
 - g. Concerns over the need for specific design criteria.
 - h. Desire for more inspections and monitoring of stormwater systems.
 - i. Desire for retrofitting systems to be considered in rulemaking.
5. Task force members discussed net improvement. The topics discussed included:
- a. Holding BMPs to their designed presumed reduction.
 - b. Need to improve understanding of what's in the water and what's being contributed to the water.
 - c. Improving existing structures in order to have a bigger impact on the receiving waterbody as a whole – use of hydrologic modeling.
 - d. The Stormwater TAC should discuss addressing existing stormwater infrastructure in addition to new development.
 - e. Improve performance of systems already in place as part of the mitigation.
6. Task force members discussed presumption versus monitoring, topics of which included:
- a. What an operation and maintenance and monitoring plan could consist of.
 - b. Monitoring representative BMPs in representative parts of the state.
 - c. Microplastics were discussed. Though not directly related to ERP permitting, something regulated for TSS would catch a particular size particle that would eventually become a microplastic, but perhaps not the microplastics themselves.
 - d. How it is determined that monitoring needs to occur as opposed to the presumption of compliance being in place.
 - e. Retrofitting for existing systems.
7. Task force members discussed new development versus redevelopment versus existing development. Topics discussed included:
- a. Needing to understand why some systems are underperforming in order to better maintain a system to restore performance.
 - b. The need to be more proactive from an O&M perspective.

- c. Educational programs for HOAs on O&M, fertilizer use, etc.
8. Task force members briefly discussed the topic of reuse and how education on how to properly fertilize, what is in reuse water, etc., is important. Task force members agreed that the Stormwater TAC's recommendations are good ones, including that reuse water used in an impaired waterbody should be treated to AWT standards.
 9. LID and green infrastructure was discussed.
 10. Mitigation banks and regional management systems were discussed. Discussion items included:
 - a. Regional systems as a means to assist in dealing with existing local systems.
 - b. Incentivizing regional stormwater management, but not over incentivize passing the problem onto a regional system.
 11. Task force members commended the Stormwater TAC's efforts in taking on all these discussions. Members discussed how monitoring and inspections are vital and would help pinpoint which types of older systems are problematic and should be addressed more urgently.
 12. The predevelopment definition was discussed. Task force members discussed how monitoring would be key to understanding what the long-standing conditions of any particular site had been.
 13. The second public comment period included the following topics:
 - a. Concerns about reuse as a contributor of nutrients.
 - b. Concerns over mitigation credits.
 - c. Septic tank system management.
 - d. Addressing older stormwater systems.
 14. Dr. Rains provided closing remarks.