

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Joint Public Workshop for Minimum Flows and Levels Priority Lists and Schedules for the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Area

St. Johns River Water Management District Southwest Florida Water Management District South Florida Water Management District

September 1, 2022

A joint-district public workshop addressing the annual update of the minimum flows and levels priority lists and schedules of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMMD), with an emphasis on the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) area, was held from 10:00 A.M. to ~11:00 A.M. on September 1, 2022. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

The meeting was advertised in or on the Florida Administrative Register, local newspapers, water management district websites, and the CFWI website. In addition, numerous interested parties and local government staff and officials were notified of the meeting, and press releases were made available to the regional media. The meeting was recorded and posted to YouTube for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOoXcOD3ojM>.

Natalie Kraft, a Lead Scientist with the SFWMMD, Andrew Sutherland, Lead Scientist for the MFLs program at the SJRWMD, and Doug Leeper, the MFLs Program Lead for the SWFWMD, facilitated the meeting and were joined by additional members of each District's staff. In total, there were 80 meeting attendees.

The meeting was facilitated to provide an opportunity for local governments, private organizations, and individuals to be part of the scheduling of minimum flows and levels and reservations for priority water bodies in each water management district.

A brief slide presentation highlighting the proposed priority lists and schedules of the three Districts with jurisdiction in the CFWI area was made by Ms. Kraft, Dr. Sutherland, and Mr. Leeper. Opportunities available to stakeholders for comment on each District's priority list and schedule were identified and include: providing oral or written comments during the workshop; providing written or oral comment to water management district representatives by September 7th (SWFWMD), September 30th (SFWMMD), and October 1st (SJRWMD); and providing input directly to the water management district Governing Boards during their meetings on October 11th (SJRWMD), October 13th (SFWMMD), and October 18th (SWFWMD), when each respective District staff expects to present an updated priority list and schedule to their Governing Board for approval. Meeting participants were encouraged to provide comments as early as possible, to allow time for consideration of the input.

No specific suggestions concerning the prioritization scheduling of water bodies for the establishment of minimum flows and levels, or water reservations were provided during the meeting. Questions and input from meeting participants are provided below along with responses provided by water management district staff. The meeting agenda and a printed version of the slides used for the meeting are also provided below.

Workshop Participant Questions and Comments

Gabrielle Milch asked about the goals for establishing a minimum level for Red Bug Lake in Seminole County within the SJRWMD, criteria that would be evaluated to prevent significant harm to the lake, and opportunities for review and comment on the planned minimum levels.

Dr. Sutherland noted that ecological and human use values and criteria would be evaluated for development of minimum levels for the lake. He noted that field work, data compilation, and modeling associated with the effort is ongoing. He added that a webpage has been established for the minimum level effort, and next year, a report and information concerning opportunities for public review and comment on the process would be posted to the webpage.

Lisa Rinaman asked about existing resource protection criteria for the St. Johns River, noting the recent, low water levels in the upper portion of the basin. Ms. Rinaman also asked whether minimum levels have been developed to address potential saltwater intrusion in the basin.

Dr. Sutherland noted that minimum flows and levels have been established for several sites on the main stem of the St. Johns River and those regulatory constraints are used for resource protection decisions. He noted that, currently, no minimum levels have been established in the SJRWMD to specifically address saltwater intrusion that could affect the river, adding that the SJRWMD is investigating the need and potential approaches for addressing saltwater intrusion in the future.

Angel Martin asked if any information concerning recent calibration efforts for the East Central Florida Transient Expanded (ECFTX) model is available, and whether information concerning the SWFWMD's development of an updated saltwater intrusion model for the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) is similarly available. Mr. Martin also asked whether the Districts routinely plan for updates of groundwater models and surface water models used for minimum flow and level purposes.

Mr. Leeper noted that a recent model report for the ECFTX (version 2) has been completed by the CFWI Hydrologic Analysis Team and posted to the CFWI website. Mr. Leeper added that development of the updated saltwater intrusion model for the SWUCA is ongoing and slightly behind schedule and that Mr. Martin could contact him to learn more about documentation that may currently be available for that effort. Regarding Mr. Martin's inquiry about modeling updates, Dr. Sutherland noted that the Districts are continually updating groundwater and surface water models used for minimum flows and levels

development and other water management activities, and that specific models used for minimum flow and level efforts are always identified in summary reports associated with the minimum flows and levels.

Meeting Agenda

Joint Public Workshop on the 2022 Priority Lists and Schedules for the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Planning Area

South Florida Water Management District
Southwest Florida Water Management District
St. Johns River Water Management District

Thursday, September 1, 2022
10:00 am

This public workshop will be held virtually via Zoom. Please pre-register at the following link: https://sfwmd-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g2Z7youUSU2yKVIdoBfSMA. Once registered, you will receive an email with the Zoom webinar information.

Agenda

1. Introductions..... Natalie Kraft, SFWMD
2. SJRWMD MFLs Priority List.....Andrew Sutherland, SJRWMD
3. SWFWMD MFLs Priority List.....Doug Leeper, SWFWMD
4. SFWMD MFLs Priority List..... Natalie Kraft, SFWMD
5. Stakeholder Comments
6. Adjourn


For questions, or to submit public comment, please contact:

- Natalie Kraft (SFWMD), nkraft@sfwmd.gov, (561) 882-2198
- Andrew Sutherland (SJRWMD), andrew.sutherland@sjrwmd.com, (386) 329-4201
- Doug Leeper (SWFWMD), doug.leeper@watermatters.org, (352) 289-5863

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: District Clerk, (561)882-6805. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

Workshop Slide Presentation

Joint Public Workshop for Minimum Flows and Levels Priority Lists and Schedules for the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Area



St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
 Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)
 South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

September 1, 2022

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General Public Comment

- If you're participating via Zoom – use the Raise Hand feature
- If you're participating via phone –
 - *9 Raises Hand
 - *6 Mutes/Unmutes

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Agenda

1. Introductions and Background.....Natalie Kraft, SFWMD
2. SJRWMD MFLs Priority List.....Andrew Sutherland, SJRWMD
3. SWFWMD MFLs Priority List.....Doug Leeper, SWFWMD
4. SFWMD MFLs Priority List.....Natalie Kraft, SFWMD
5. Stakeholder Comments
6. Adjourn

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Statutory Directive for Minimum Flows and Minimum Water Levels (MFLs)

Water management districts or DEP must establish MFLs that set the limit or level...

"...at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area."

Subsection 379.04(1), Florida Statute

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Statutory Directive for Reservations

Water management districts may...

"...reserve from use by permit applicants, water in such locations and quantities, and for such seasons of the year, as in its judgment may be required for the protection of fish and wildlife or the public health and safety."

Subsection 379.22(4)(b), Florida Statute

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District Priority Lists and Schedules Meet Statutory and Rule Requirements

- Prioritization is based on the importance of waters to the State or region, and the existence of or potential for significant harm
- Includes waters experiencing or reasonably expected to experience adverse impacts
- MFLs the districts will voluntarily subject to independent scientific peer review are identified
- Proposed reservations are identified
- Listed water bodies that have the potential to be affected by withdrawals in an adjacent water management district are identified, with CFWI impacts noted

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2022 Draft Priority List and Schedule

- Annual priority list and schedule required by statute for each district
- Presented to respective District Governing Boards for approval
- Submitted to FDEP for review by Nov. 15th
- Districts are seeking stakeholder input
- Written comments may be submitted to/by:

SJRWMD	Oct. 1, 2022	Andrew Sutherland - asutherland@sjrwmd.com
SWFWMD	Sept. 7, 2022	Doug Leeper - doug.leeper@watermatters.org
SFWMD	Sept. 30, 2022	Natalie Kraft - nkraft@sfwmd.gov

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Florida's Water Management Districts

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Central Florida Water Initiative

- Collaborative process among FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD, FDACS, regional public water supply utilities, and other stakeholders
- CFWI Planning Area includes Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and southern Lake counties
- Evolves from previous Central Florida Coordination Area efforts

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Central Florida Water Initiative (continued)

- Chapter 62-41, Florida Administrative Code, was adopted on June 21, 2021
- New rules govern the consumptive uses of water within the CPWI area
- Rule 62-41.304(1), F.A.C., requires a meeting prior to this workshop between the 3 districts and Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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SJRWMD Draft 2022 Priority List and Schedule

Posted on the SJRWMD web site at <https://www.sjrwmd.com/what-we-do/our-priorities/>

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Changes from 2021 List to 2022 List

- Recalibration of ECCTX
 - Affected entire schedule; all CPWI systems
- Improvements to Wekiva River Basin MFLs:
 - Improving HEC-RAS model; metric development; wetland inundation mapping; recalibration of GW model; Strategy development
- Sylvan Lake in Prevention:
 - Changes allow for collaborative process for developing Prevention Strategy

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Changes from 2021 List to 2022 List

- Sylvan Lake, Lake Apshawa and Wekiva systems: from 2022 to 2023
- Johns and Prevatt: from 2023 to 2024
- East Crystal Lake and Lake Weir: from 2024 to 2025
- Lakes Griffin, Harris: from 2023 to 2025

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SJRWMD Draft 2022 MFLs Priority List and Schedule

Activity Year	Water Subdivision	Water Body Name	Waterbody Type	County
2022	Yes	East Lake ¹	Lake	Genesee
	Reevaluation	Schoen ¹	Lake	Genesee
	Reevaluation	Apshawa Lakes ¹	Lake	Lake
	Yes	Little Watauga River and associated springs ¹	River / Springs	Sanborn/Cherokee
	Reevaluation	Shades River and 23.66 bridge ¹	River	Sanborn/Lake
	Reevaluation	Shades Springs ¹	Springs	Sanborn/Cherokee
2024	Yes	East Springs ¹	Springs	Cherokee
	Yes	Johns ¹	Lake	Cherokee/Lake
2024	Reevaluation	Prevatt ¹	Lake	Cherokee
	Yes	East Crystal ¹	Lake	Genesee
2025	Yes	Griffin	Lake	Lake
	Yes	Small South Lakes (Sawtooth, Crane, South, South)	Lake	Lake
	Reevaluation	Wab	Lake	Madison

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SWFWMD Draft 2022 Priority List and Schedule

Posted on the Minimum Flows and Levels Documents and Reports web page at <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfls>

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SWFWMD Adopted MFLs & Reservations

203 MFLs

- 12 freshwater river segments
- 30 springs/spring groups
- 12 estuarine river segments
- 9 aquifer sites
- 26 wetlands
- 126 lakes

2 Reservations

- 1 lake/freshwater river
- 1 slinky/estuarine river

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SWFWMD Current 2021 Priority List Status & Accomplishments

- Scheduled 2021 MFLs**
 - 39 lake (Barbara, Bird, Brent, Clear (Pasco), Crystal (Hillsborough), Cypress, Donors, Ellen, Rain, Redman, Hancock (Pasco), Hays, Helen, Hobbs, Hunters, Jackson (Hillsborough), Juana, Lindsey, Merryweather, Mountain (Pasco), Neff, Parker (Polk), Seidlbach, Stephens, Strawberry, Sunset, Sunkline, Taylor, Wilma) reevaluations Completed
 - Shell Creek (lower segment) Completed
 - DW-1 Suwannee (Dover/Plant City Water Use Caution Area Minimums Aquifer Level) reevaluation Completed
- Scheduled 2022 MFLs**
 - 2 Highlands County lake (Tulene & Verona) reevaluations Completed
 - 1 Polk County lake (North Wales) reevaluation Completed
 - Little Manatee River (upper segment) Completed
 - Little Manatee River (lower segment) Completed

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SWFWMD Current 2021 Priority List Status & Accomplishments (continued)

- Scheduled 2023 MFLs**
 - 3 Polk County lake (Aurora, Cary, Eva) reevaluations Completed
 - Charlie Creek Completed
 - Horse Creek Completed
 - Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) Saltwater Intrusion Minimums Aquifer Level (SWMAL) reevaluation Completed
 - Braden River (lower segment) Completed
 - Manatee River (lower segment) Completed
- Scheduled 2024 MFLs**
 - 5 lake (Ingle, McLeod, Jackson (Rightbank), Little Jackson, Walker) reevaluations Completed
 - Withlacoochee River (lower segment) Completed
 - Withlacoochee River (upper segment, Holder to Myron) Completed
 - Withlacoochee River (upper segment, Myron to Grand) Completed
 - Withlacoochee River (upper segment, upstream of Grand) Completed

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SWFWMD Proposed 2022 Priority List

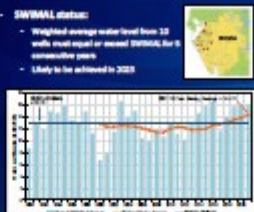
- 2023 MFLs
 - 2 Highlands County lake (Verona, Talma) reevaluations
 - 1 Polk County lake (North Wales) reevaluation
 - Little Manatee River (lower segment)
 - Little Manatee River (upper segment)
- 2024 MFLs
 - 2 Polk County lake (Aurora, Day, Eve) reevaluations
 - Charlie Creek
 - Horse Creek
- SWUCA SWRMAL reevaluation
 - Bradley River (lower segment)
 - Manatee River (lower segment)

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SWFWMD SWUCA Saltwater Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level Rescheduling

SWRMAL status:

- Weighted average water level base 12 wells trended up or stayed flat for 8 consecutive years
- Likely to be achieved in 2021



- Recent 10 yr average groundwater withdrawals in the Most Impacted Area of the SWUCA is 20% lower than the 1996 period used to develop SWRMAL
- *100 mgd SWUCA-wide groundwater withdrawals for record 10 projected (through 2022) below 100 mgd target identified for achieving the SWRMAL
- New saltwater intrusion model under development
- Need to replace a well in the SWRMAL well-network due to planned DSWAP injection well efforts

Re-prioritize for completion after the 2025 SWUCA recovery strategy assessment

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SWFWMD Lower Braden and Lower Manatee River MFLs Rescheduling



Re-prioritize for completion after 2025

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SWFWMD Proposed 2022 Priority List (continued)

- 2024 MFLs
 - 5 SWUCA lake reevaluations
 - Highlands County: Jackson (second), Little Jackson (second)
 - Polk County: Eagle (second), McLeod (second), Wales (second)
 - Withlacoochee River (lower segment)
 - Withlacoochee River (upper segment; Holder to Wylong)
 - Withlacoochee River (upper segment; Wylong to Croom)
 - Withlacoochee River (upper segment; Upstream from Croom)

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SWFWMD Proposed 2022 Priority List (continued)

- 2025 MFLs
 - Peaca River (upper segment; Zolfo Springs to Ft. Meade) reevaluation
 - Peaca River (upper segment; Ft. Meade to Bartow) reevaluation
 - Peaca River (upper segment; upstream of Bartow) reevaluation
- 2025 Reservation
 - Lake Hancock/Lower Saddle Creek reservation reevaluation

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SWFWMD Proposed MFLs & Reservations through 2025



- 22 MFLs (new & reevaluation)
 - 11 lakes
 - 11 river segments (9 freshwater¹⁾ & 2 estuarine)
- 1 Reservation (review)
 - 1 lake/freshwater river

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SFWMD Draft 2022 Priority List and Schedule

MFL Website: www.sfwmd.gov/four-work/mfl Reservations Website: www.sfwmd.gov/four-work/water-reservations

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SFWMD Approved Priority List and Schedule Posted in Two Locations on Website

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SFWMD Draft 2022 Priority List & Schedule

- There are no waterbodies proposed for the 2022 Priority List within the Central Florida Water Initiative Area
- Districtwide Priority List will be presented at the October 13 Governing Board meeting

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Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes Water Reservations

- Water reservation rules effective March 2021
- Regionally significant area covering 172,500 acres
 - Mostly within the CPWI Area
 - Includes Upper Chain of Lakes, Headwater Lakes and the Kissimmee River and floodplain
- Protects the existing public investment of nearly \$800 Million for the Kissimmee River Restoration

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Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes Water Reservations

- Upper Chain of Lakes**
Water reserved up to the "Water Reservations Line"
- Contributing Waterbodies**
Quantities of water required to protect fish & wildlife are reserved
- Headwater Lakes & Kissimmee River**
All water reserved
- Surficial Aquifer System**
Quantities of water required to protect fish & wildlife are reserved

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Stakeholder Comment

Written comments may be submitted to/by:

SJRWMD	Oct. 1, 2022	Andrew Sutherland - asutherf@sjrwmd.com
SWFWMD	Sept. 7, 2022	Doug Leeper - doug.leeper@watermatters.org
SPWMD	Sept. 30, 2022	Natalie Kraft - nkraft@spwmd.gov

Governing Board meetings open to the public:

SJRWMD	Oct. 11, 2022	Palatka
SWFWMD	Oct. 18, 2022	Tampa
SPWMD	Oct. 13, 2022	West Palm Beach

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General Public Comment

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