



2011 Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update – Public Comments and Final Plan

**Water Resources Advisory Commission
Meeting – 2/3/11**

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Recent Milestones

- Released draft Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan (LOPP) update for public comments on Nov. 9, 2010
- Currently incorporating public comments into the Final LOPP update

Draft Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan

UPDATE



November 2010



LOPP Update Highlights

- Agricultural Best Management Practices – 1.153 million acres
- Regional Stormwater Treatment Area construction
- More than 30 other phosphorus reduction projects
- Alternative technologies
- Regulatory program revisions
- In-lake phosphorus management – muck removal
- Dispersed water management – 89,307 acre-feet added
- Wetlands Reserve Program Fisheating Creek Special Project
- Exotic vegetation management/treatment
- Research and water quality monitoring



Outreach Activities

Meetings held:

- Northern Everglades Interagency
- WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee
- WRAC
- SFWMD Governing Board
- Individual Stakeholders



Comments Received on Draft LOPP Update

- Audubon
- Everglades Foundation
- Sierra Club
- Ecosystem Watch
- Save Our Creeks, Inc.
- Florida Farm Bureau



Comment Categories

- Source Control
- Treatment/Storage
- Other



Public Comments – Source Control

- Need for more aggressive source controls and regulatory programs
- Level of BMP implementation and adequate funding
- Revision of BMPs to meet water quality goals – phosphorus application rates versus agronomic rates
- Determination of BMP effectiveness



Public Comments – Source Control (Cont.)

- **Development of alternative crops that require less water and fertilizers**
- **Implementation of edge of farm treatment/dairy Best Available Technologies**
- **Application of biosolids in Okeechobee Basin/tracking of Class AA materials**
- **Concerns over reclaimed water use on urban and agricultural lands**



Public Comments – Treatment/Storage

- Application of chemical treatment for regional projects
- Promote further research and development of alternative treatment technologies





Public Comments – Treatment/Storage (Cont.)

- **Emphasize dispersed water management (DWM) projects/private-public partnerships to achieve storage goals in Northern Everglades**
- **Water quality monitoring to document performance and compliance of DWM projects**
- **Construction of treatment features on private lands/partnerships with private investors**



Public Comments – Treatment/Storage (Cont.)

- Importance of local/sub-regional scale projects
- Shift funding from regional STAs/reservoirs to funding the implementation of DWM projects
 - While others propose including development of regional facilities in near-term
- Lack of certainty in implementation of regional projects



Public Comments – Others

- **Concerns about accumulation of legacy phosphorus/in-lake sediments**
- **Prioritization of Kissimmee watershed for projects**
- **Need to identify additional projects to address 62 mt phosphorus reduction shortfall**



Public Comments – Others (Cont.)

- **Specific timeline and budget for entire plan implementation**
- **Concerns over Nicodemus Slough project**
- **Backpumping concerns**



Next Steps



- Final LOPP update – Governing Board meeting (February)
- Final LOPP update to the legislature in March 2011

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Questions

