



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

## Blue-Green Algae Task Force Staff Minutes

September 25, 2019  
9:00 a.m.

Florida Gulf Coast University, Kapnick Center 4940 Bayshore Drive, Naples FL 34112

Attendee Name	Title	Status
<b>Dr. Thomas Frazer</b>	Facilitator	Present
<b>Dr. Evelyn Gaiser</b>	Member	Absent
<b>Dr. Wendy Graham</b>	Member	Present
<b>Dr. Michael Parsons</b>	Member	Present
<b>Dr. Valerie Paul</b>	Member	Present
<b>Dr. James Sullivan</b>	Member	Present

1. Chief Science Officer Dr. Tom Frazer facilitated the meeting.
2. Opening remarks by Dr. Bill Mitch.
3. Dr. Frazer and the Task Force began discussion of the Draft Consensus Document & Recommendations. The goal of the document is to provide information for legislative purposes to identify gaps and research. For each subject, Dr. Frazer read the current draft document to initiate discussion.
4. Preamble: The Task Force discussed language related to legacy nutrients and data limitations as well as, later in the meeting, increased temperature, rainfall, and hydrologic alteration.
5. Basin Management Action Plans: The Task Force discussed funding for BMAP projects and Everglades projects; legacy loads; protection of downstream waterbodies; assessing BMAP waterbodies; acceleration of project implementation; a nitrogen BMAP for Lake Okeechobee; monitoring and sampling; evaluating how BMAPs are doing; strategic approach

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for larger nutrient inputs and/or sensitive areas; integrated modeling and monitoring; and funding processes.

6. Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs): The Task Force discussed the need to supplement BMPs; review of NOI process; legacy loads; assessment and evaluation; accounting/data; accelerating review of BMP manuals; Lake Okeechobee; compliance; benefits of conservation and agricultural lands; and ecosystem services.
7. Septic Tanks: The Task Force discussed Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Health (DOH) permitting responsibilities; edits to draft to make language apply broadly; prioritization of areas; loads from conventional septic tanks; advanced and performance based septic tanks; system failure and inspections; perspective in siting; an economic study; sewerage; downstream effects; and cost-benefits.
8. Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs): The Task Force discussed infiltration and leaks; coastal/saltwater inundation; impact of SSOs and power failures; follow up on earlier report and reference to other recommendations in that report; red tide and other Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) impacts; acuteness of problem; septic-to-sewer conversions; and reclaimed water.
9. Water Quality Monitoring: The Task Force discussed data collection; review of existing data; causes of blooms; monitoring designs; scale of monitoring; adaptive management; science-based evaluations; experimentation of BMPs; blue-green algae studies; scale of evaluations; biological monitoring; and data in support of projects and prioritization.
10. Innovative Technologies: The Task Force discussed facilitation of innovation; the water prize approach; common testing facility; field scale demonstrations; independent testing; metrics; investments; identifying what people need; environmentally safe and scalable efforts; safety/risk-assessment for action vs. no action; and investment in detection, monitoring, and forecasting.
11. Public Health: The Task Force discussed impacts to humans, wildlife and pets; regular and proactive monitoring; priority areas (e.g., high recreation areas); health advisories; DEP triennial review and EPA recommendations; best practices; collection and synthesis of

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data; research gaps; public education and consistent communication plan; and a standardized practice of posting signs.

12. Stormwater: The Task Force discussed the Harper report; assessment of effectiveness as designed; presumptive criterion; design criteria (re: 80%, 95%); and inspections and funding.
13. In addition, the Task Force discussed a reorganization of sections; noting intent to discuss future topics, such as biosolids, reuse, fertilizer and herbicides; and a comment on socio-economic impacts
14. Public Comment was taken. Topics included:
  - a. Recommend working with local governments and industry groups
  - b. Desire to see more specific recommendations and timeframes
  - c. Concern about preemption of local fertilizer ordinances
  - d. Desire to see wildlife and environmental justice considerations in document
  - e. Concern about herbicides and biosolids and discharge of waste and recommendation of public education
  - f. FDACS support for report's recommendations and their research on BMP effectiveness and cost-share efforts
  - g. Desire to see BMAP targeting of projects; updates on land uses; targeted monitoring and flow data; and updated stormwater targets and rules
  - h. Concern about wetland loss and recommendation to improve stormwater and wetland rules
  - i. Technology proposal
  - j. Concern about data collection and recommendation of fish harvesting
  - k. Recommendation to review agricultural BMP enrollment, BMP manual updates with research, funding needs, monitoring and nutrient loading rates, and evaluating aquatic vegetation program
  - l. Appreciation of ecosystem services of agricultural lands and recommendation that loading be looked at in context
  - m. Desire to see more specific recommendations, stressed urgency, economic context, and prevention (such as land acquisition)
  - n. Concern about public comment opportunities and desire to see more specific recommendations and recommendation to address drainage in ERP permitting

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15. Dr. Frazer provided closing remarks, noting they will be having another meeting on the document and that there will be future meetings with more detail.

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