



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary

## Blue-Green Algae Task Force Meeting Staff Minutes

October 7, 2019  
8:00 AM

University of Florida, Marin Levin Advocacy Center

General subject matter considered: The Blue-Green Algae Task Force met to discuss the Task Force's first consensus document.

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 via Phone
<b>Dr. Valerie Paul</b>	Member	Absent
<b>Dr. James Sullivan</b>	Member	Present

1. Dr. Thomas Frazer started off the meeting by re-iterating the Task Force's dedication to having public input on the consensus document.
2. Chief Science Officer Dr. Tom Frazer facilitated the meeting.
3. Public comments were taken on the draft consensus document. Comments included:
  - a. Reuse/Reclaimed water should be considered as a major source of nutrients.
  - b. Legacy nutrients be included in the document as a major source of nutrients.
  - c. Groundwater should be considered in the document.
  - d. The need to revise stormwater rules.
  - e. Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) effectiveness concerns should be addressed.
  - f. Septic Tank program should be transferred to DEP.
  - g. Wastewater treatment plants should be required to upgrade to Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT).
  - h. The need for funding to implement the recommendations in the consensus document.
  - i. Public records requirements regarding Agricultural BMPs mentioned in the draft consensus document refer to some proprietary documents/trade secrets.

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).

- j. Prevention projects over remediation projects should be encouraged.
  - k. The need to focus on more than just the South Florida watersheds in regard to blue-green algae.
  - l. The need for funding for Florida Forever.
  - m. DEP should adopt water quality standards for cyanobacteria.
  - n. The need to know that wastewater treatment plants can handle the additional loads that would come from converting septic to sewer.
  - o. Nitrogen-reducing septic systems should be considered in addition to conversion from septic to sewer.
  - p. Concerns regarding performance of advanced treatment septic systems should be addressed.
  - q. More specific action recommendations should be included;
  - r. Concerns over Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission's aquatic plant management should be addressed.
  - s. Plants should be removed from waterways instead of being sprayed with herbicides.
  - t. Aging collection systems should be addressed.
  - u. The need for better public noticing of health alerts for blue-green algae.
  - v. The need for more enforcement at DEP and FWC.
  - w. More frequent monitoring in swimming areas for red tide.
  - x. Innovative technologies should be encouraged.
  - y. Oysters would be a mitigation strategy that could be utilized throughout the state.
4. Dr. Frazer re-iterated that this consensus document would not be the last product of the Task Force.
5. Task Force members edited the draft consensus document section by section during the meeting. Chris Petit provided some clarification on the proprietary nature of the BMP records that are used by DEP to determine the percent reduction for BMAP purposes. The consensus document was finalized during the meeting.