

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Joint Public Workshop on the 2021 Priority Lists and Schedules for the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Planning Area

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

September 2, 2021

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 (SFWMD), with an emphasis on the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) area, was held on from 10:00 A.M. to ~11:00 A.M. on September 2, 2021. The meeting was held at the SFWMD St. Cloud Field Station, and virtually via Zoom.

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.

The meeting was advertised in or on the Florida Administrative Register, local newspapers, water management district web sites, and the CFWI web site. 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.

Don Medellin, a Principal Scientist with the SFWMD, Clay Coarsey, Chief of the Bureau of Water Supply Planning for 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 73 (5 in-person and 68 virtual) meeting participants.

A brief slide presentation highlighting the proposed priority lists and schedules of the three Districts with jurisdiction in the CFWI area was made by Mr. Medellin, Mr. Coarsey, 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 7nd (SWFWMD), September 30th (SFWMD) and October 1st (SJRWMD); and providing input directly to the water management district Governing Boards during their meetings on October 14th (SFWMD), October 12th (SJRWMD) and October 19th (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, a scan of the sign-in sheet used at the St. Cloud Field Station, and a printed version of the slides shown during the meeting, are also provided below.

Workshop Participant Questions and Comments

Rob Dennis asked if the SJRWMD planned to identify water bodies on its priority list and schedule where potential cross-district-boundary impacts may affect flows or water levels.

Mr. Coarsey indicated that prioritized water bodies where potential cross-district-boundary impacts may occur will be identified on the SJRWMD priority list and schedule.

Angel Martin asked if any additional information concerning the reevaluation of the Saltwater Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level established by the SWFWMD could be provided.

Mr. Leeper provided information concerning the established saltwater intrusion minimum aquifer level, the intent for its establishment and a brief history regarding achievement of the minimum level. He and Ron Basso, a Chief Hydrogeologist with the SWFWMD described the types of data and the updated solute transport modeling that will support the reevaluation.

Angel Martin asked if the recently established water reservations for the Kissimmee River system included constraints on Upper Floridan aquifer water levels in addition to constraints associated with the surficial aquifer system.

Mr. Medellin noted that reservation rule is applicable to surface water withdrawals and surficial aquifer withdrawals in the vicinity of the reservation water bodies. He added that although withdrawals affecting the reservation water bodies are primarily associated with surface water withdrawals, surficial aquifer withdrawal impacts were preemptively included in the reservation rule for the protection of fish and wildlife. Mr. Medellin further noted that regional, withdrawal-related impacts on the Upper Floridan aquifer and Lower Floridan aquifer are not specifically addressed in the reservation rules but have been assessed as part of the groundwater availability determinations, other planning efforts associated with the CFWI process, and recently adopted CFWI rule (62-41, Florida Administrative Code).

David Geddes commented that he understood the St. Johns River basin was substantially ditched and drained in the 20th century and provided numerous references to the U.S. Constitution and other legal documents to advance his opinion that many historical and current water management and planning activities in Florida are sinister and arguably criminal.

Mr. Medellin thanked Mr. Geddes for his input.

Workshop Agenda

Joint Public Workshop on the 2021 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 2, 2021
10:00 am

South Florida Water Management District St. Cloud Field Station
3800 Old Canoe Creek Road
St. Cloud, FL 34769
Large Conference Room

This public workshop will be held in-person and virtually via Zoom. We encourage everyone participating in-person to follow the most recent CDC guidelines which recommend wearing masks indoors and practicing social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated.

If you plan to participate remotely using Zoom, please pre-register at the following link: https://sfwmd-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gKmUYmZBSMeOZRyobT14iA.

Once registered, you will receive an email with the Zoom webinar information.

Agenda

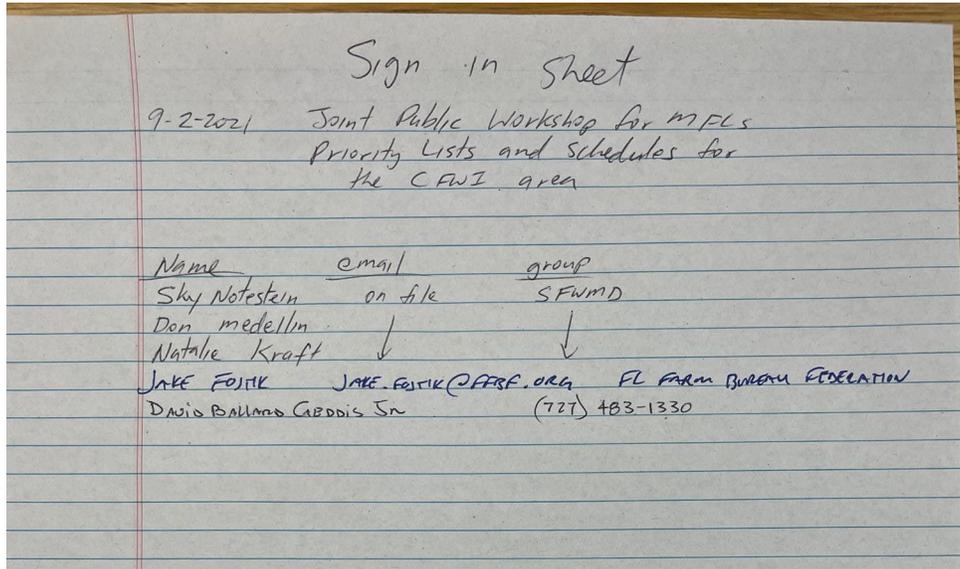
1. Introductions..... Don Medellin, SFWMD
2. SJRWMD MFLs Priority List..... Andrew Sutherland, SJRWMD
3. SWFWMD MFLs Priority List..... Doug Leeper, SWFWMD
4. SFWMD MFLs Priority List..... Don Medellin, SFWMD
5. Stakeholder comments
6. Adjourn

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

- Don Medellin (SFWMD), dmedelli@sfwmd.gov, (561) 682-6340
- Andrew Sutherland (SJRWMD), andrew.sutherland@sjrwmd.com, (386) 329-4201
- Doug Leeper (SWFWMD), doug.leeper@watermatters.org, 1-800-423-1476, ext. 4272

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)682-6805. 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).

Sign-in Sheet



Workshop Slide Presentation

Joint Public Workshop for Minimum Flows and Levels Priority Lists and Schedules for the CFWI Area



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

September 2, 2021
 St. Cloud, Florida

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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.....Don Medellin, SFWMD
2. SJRWMD MFLs Priority List.....Andrew Sutherland, SJRWMD
3. SWFWMD MFLs Priority List.....Doug Leeper, SWFWMD
4. SFWMD MFLs Priority List.....Don Medellin, SFWMD
5. Stakeholder comments
6. Adjourn

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Statutory Directive for 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 373.042(1), Florida Statutes

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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 373.223(4), Florida Statutes

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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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2021 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 DEP for review by Nov. 15th
- Districts are seeking stakeholder input
- *Written comments may be submitted to/by:*

SJRWMD	Oct. 1, 2021	Andrew Sutherland - asutherl@sjrwmd.com
SWFWMD	Sept. 7, 2021	Doug Leeper - doug.leeper@watermatters.org
SFWMD	Sept. 30, 2021	Don Medellin - dmedelli@sfwmd.gov

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Central Florida Water Initiative

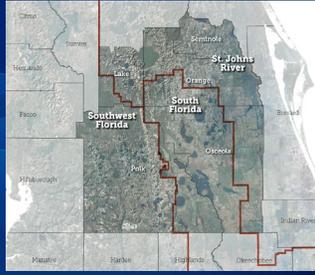
- Collaborative process among FDEP, SJRWMD, SWFWMD, FDACS, regional public water supply utilities, and other stakeholders
- CFWI Planning Area includes Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and southern Lake counties
- Evolved from previous Central Florida Coordination Area efforts



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Central Florida Water Initiative

- Chapter 62-41, Florida Administrative Code was adopted on June 21, 2021
- New rules govern the consumptive uses of water within the CFWI area
- Rule 62-41.304(1), FAC requires a meeting prior to this workshop between the 3 District's and Florida Department of Environmental Protection



SJRWMD

Draft 2021 MFLs Priority List and Schedule

Posted on the SJRWMD web site at
<https://www.sjrwmd.com/minimumflowsandlevels/>

Changes from 2020 List to 2021 List

- Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva:** NPR adopted 2021
- Sylvan Lake, Lake Apshawa and Wekiwa systems:** from 2021 to 2022
- Lakes Griffin, Harris, Johns and Prevatt:** from 2022 to 2023
- East Crystal Lake:** from 2023 to 2024
- Lake Apopka:** removed from list

SJRWMD Draft 2021 MFLs Priority List and Schedule

Priority Year	New or Re-Evaluation	Water Body Name	Waterbody Type	County
2022	New	Red Bug*	Lake	Seminole
	Re-evaluation	Sylvan*	Lake	Seminole
	Re-evaluation	Apshawa South*	Lake	Lake
	New	Little Wekiwa River and associated springs*	River / Springs	Seminole/Orange
	Re-evaluation	Wekiwa River at SR 46 Bridge*	River	Seminole/Lake
	Re-evaluation	Wekiwa Springs*	Springs	Seminole/Orange
2023	Re-evaluation	Rock Springs*	Springs	Orange
	New	Johns*	Lake	Orange/Lake
	Re-evaluation	Prevatt*	Lake	Orange
	New	Griffin	Lake	Lake
2024	New	Burrell Basin Lakes (Beauclair, Dora, Eustis, Harris)	Lake	Lake
	Re-evaluation	East Crystal*	Lake	Seminole
		Weir	Lake	Marion

* water bodies in the CFWI

SWFWMD

Draft 2021 Priority List and Schedule

Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Website:
<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfls>

SWFWMD Priority List and Schedule

Current: 2020

Proposed: 2021



<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/documents-and-reports>

SWFWMD Current Priority List Status

Scheduled 2020 MFLs

- Cross Bar Q-25 (Stop #7) wetland reevaluation: completed
- Peace River (lower segment) reevaluation: completed
- Lakes Cypress, Halfmoon, Jackson & Strawberry reevaluations: expect completion in 2021
- Lakes Garden & Linda reevaluations to be re-prioritized, as necessary

Scheduled 2021 MFLs

- Shell Creek (lower segment): anticipate rulemaking initiation in 2021 and completion in 2022

Scheduled 2022 and 2023 MFLs

- 3 lake (North Wales, Tulane & Verona) reevaluations, Southern Water Use Caution Area Saltwater Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level reevaluation, Little Manatee River (upper & lower segments), Braden River (lower segment), Manatee River (lower segment), Charlie Creek, Horse Creek: anticipate completion on-schedule

SWFWMD Current Priority List Status (continued)

Unscheduled 2021 MFLs

- Pasco Lake reevaluation (repeal): completed
- Cypress Bridge A wetland second reevaluation (repeal): completed
- Lakes Allen, Harvey & Virginia second reevaluations: completed
- 25 lake reevaluations: expect completion in 2021
 - Hernando County: Hunters, Lindsey, Mountain, Neff
 - Hillsborough County: Barbara, Bird (second reevaluation), Brant (second reevaluation), Crystal, Dossan (second reevaluation), Ellen, Fairy, Hanna, Helen, Hobbs (second reevaluation), Juanita (second reevaluation), Merrywater (second reevaluation), Saddleback (second reevaluation), Sapphire (second reevaluation), Sunset (second reevaluation), Sunshine (second reevaluation), Taylor, Wimauma
 - Pasco County: Clear, Hancock
 - Polk County: Parker

SWFWMD Proposed 2021 Priority List

2021 MFLs

- Shell Creek (lower segment)
- 29 lake reevaluations
 - Hernando County: Hunters (second), Lindsey, Mountain (second), Neff (second)
 - Hillsborough County: Barbara, Bird (second reevaluation), Brant (second reevaluation), Crystal, Cypress, Dossou (second reevaluation), Ellen, Fairy, Halfmoon, Hanna, Helen, Hobbs (second reevaluation), Jackson, Juanita (second reevaluation), Merrywater (second reevaluation), Saddleback (second reevaluation), Sapphire (second reevaluation), Strawberrn, Sunset (second reevaluation), Sunshine (second reevaluation), Taylor, Wimauma
 - Pasco County: Clear, Hancock
 - Polk County: Parker

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SWFWMD Proposed 2021 Priority List (continued)

2022 MFLs

- 3 SWUCA lake reevaluations
 - Highlands County: [Verona](#), [Tulane](#)
 - Polk County: [North Wales](#)
- Little Manatee River (lower segment)
- Little Manatee River (upper segment)

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SWFWMD Proposed 2021 Priority List (continued)

2023 MFLs

- SWUCA Saltwater Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level reevaluation
- Braden River (lower segment)
- [Charlie Creek](#)
- Horse Creek
- Manatee River (lower segment)
- 3 SWUCA lake reevaluations
 - Polk County: [Aurora](#), [Easy](#), [Eva](#)

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SWFWMD Proposed 2021 Priority List (continued)

2024 MFLs

- 5 SWUCA lake reevaluations
 - Highlands County: [Jackson](#) (second), [Little Jackson](#) (second)
 - Polk County: [Eagle](#) (second), [McLeod](#) (second), [Wailles](#) (second)
- [Withlacoochee River](#) (lower segment)
- [Withlacoochee River](#) (upper segment; [Holder to Wysong](#))
- [Withlacoochee River](#) (upper segment; [Wysong to Croom](#))
- [Withlacoochee River](#) (upper segment; [Upstream from Croom](#))

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SWFWMD Draft 2021 Priority List and Schedule

MFL Website: www.sfwmdd.gov/our-work/mfl

Reservations Website: www.sfwmdd.gov/our-work/water-reservations

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SWFWMD Approved Priority List and Schedule Posted in Two Locations on the SWFWMD Website

<https://www.sfwmdd.gov/our-work/mfl>
https://apps.sfwmdd.gov/Sfwmdd/Sfwr/2021_Sfwr_mfl/v2/Sfwr_toc_v2.pdf

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SWFWMD Draft 2021 Priority List and Schedule

- There are no waterbodies proposed for the 2021 Priority List within Central Florida Water Initiative Area

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SWFWMD - 2020 Priority List Accomplishments

- Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes water reservation was adopted
 - Effective date of rules March 21, 2021 (40E-10 FAC and AH)
- Regionally significant area covering 172,500 acres
 - Mostly within the CFWI 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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SFWMD 2020 Priority List Accomplishments

Kissimmee River Restoration Project

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Kissimmee River Restoration Project

August 18, 2011 February 21, 2020

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

February 8 2018 Riverwoods pasture, Phase II restoration area Feb 8, 2018

Kissimmee River and Chain of Lakes - Fish and Wildlife

- **Fish Community**
 - Approximately 50+ species
- **Water Birds**
 - 68 species of wetland dependent birds
 - 14 species of wading birds including Federally threatened wood stork
 - 16 species of ducks
- **Amphibians and Reptiles**
 - 24 species
- **Mammals**
 - 4 species wetland dependent

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Water Reservation Lines and Historical Stages

Presenter: Don Medellin 29

Reservation Rule Language

Presenter: Don Medellin 30

Kissimmee Water Reservation

Surface Water

- Upper Chain of Lakes
 - All surface water up to specific water reservation stages
- Kissimmee River and Headwaters Revitalization Lakes
 - All surface water
- Contributing Waterbodies (contribute surface water to reservation waterbodies)
 - Quantities required for the protection of fish and wildlife

Groundwater (Surficial Aquifer System)

- Reservation Waterbodies and Contributing Waterbodies
 - Quantities required for the protection of fish and wildlife

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Permit Criteria and Constraints

Permit Criteria:

- Applicant must demonstrate that annual average discharges at S-65 structure will not be reduced more than 5% individual or cumulatively
 - Upper Kissimmee-Operations Screening Model (UK-OPS Model - Version 3.12P)

Constraints – After Permit Issuance:

- Constraint within downstream receiving reservation waterbody
 - Prior to withdrawal in a tributary must check downstream reservation waterbody
- Downstream Lake Okechobee Constraint
 - Prior to any withdrawals upstream of Lake Okechobee must do downstream check to verify discharges into estuaries

❖ Water availability is ephemeral and a 1 in 10 level of certainty does not apply to these permits

Presenter: Don Medellin 32

Kissimmee Reservations - Staff to Contact

MFLs and Water Reservations Staff:

- Don Medellin – dmedelli@sfwmd.gov
- Toni Edwards – tedwards@sfwmd.gov
- Sky Notestein – snotestein@sfwmd.gov
- Natalie Kraft – nkraft@sfwmd.gov

Regulatory Staff:

- Nicholas Vitani – nvitani@sfwmd.gov
- Simon Sunderland – ssunder@sfwmd.gov

Presenter: Don Medellin 33

Stakeholder Comment

Written comments may be submitted to/by:

SJRWMD	Oct. 1, 2021	Andrew Sutherland - asutherl@sjrwmd.com
SFWWMD	Sept. 7, 2021	Doug Leeper - doug.leeper@watermatters.org
SFWMD	Sept. 30, 2021	Don Medellin - dmedelli@sfwmd.gov

Governing Board meetings open to the public:

SJRWMD	Oct. 12, 2021	Palatka
SFWWMD	Oct. 19, 2021	Brooksville
SFWMD	Oct. 14, 2021	West Palm Beach

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General Public Comment

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