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# Southwest Florida Water Management District

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TDD only: 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)  
On the Internet at [WaterMatters.org](http://WaterMatters.org)

**Bartow Service Office**  
170 Century Boulevard  
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700  
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6750 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711  
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**Tampa Service Office**  
7601 Highway 301 North  
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759  
(813) 985-7481 or  
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September 12, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:**  Martin H. Kelly, Ph.D., Minimum Flows and Levels Program Director  
Resource Projects Department  
**SUBJECT:** Public Input Meetings for Update to Schedule for Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) invites your participation in the process to update its Priority List and Schedule for the establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs). MFLs are the limits set by the District Governing Board for surface waters and groundwater intended to prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of an area caused by withdrawals.

Public meetings have been scheduled on the following dates:

- Monday, October 3, 2011 at the District's Bartow Office, 170 Century Boulevard
- Monday, October 3, 2011 at the District's Tampa Office, 7601 U.S. Hwy. 301
- Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at the District's Sarasota Office, 6750 Fruitville Road
- Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at the Lecanto Government Services Building, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Room 166

The Lecanto meeting will begin at 5 p.m. at the Government Services Building (Rm 166); all other meetings will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held in the boardroom at each respective office.

The purpose of these meetings is to receive input on the revised Priority Schedule for the establishment of MFLs. The draft 2012 List will be made available on the District's web site as soon as possible following the Governing Board's September 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. We have attached the current year priority list for your review.

Written comments are also welcome and can be submitted to Dr. Martin Kelly, Program Director, Minimum Flows and Levels, via mail or e-mail ([marty.kelly@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:marty.kelly@swfwmd.state.fl.us)) no later than October 14, 2011.

This process represents an important opportunity for local governments, citizens and others to be part of the scheduling of minimum flows and levels for rivers, streams and other flowing waters, lakes and aquifers. Please contact Dr. Martin Kelly, or Barbara Matrone, of the Ecologic Evaluation Section (extension 4233) if you have questions or need additional information.

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**BOARD APPROVED 2011**  
**MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS PRIORITY LIST AND SCHEDULE**

**Minimum Flows and Levels Already Adopted**

- Alafia River (upper freshwater segment)
- Alafia River Estuary (includes Lithia and Buckhorn Springs)
- Anclote River (estuarine and freshwater segments)
- Braden River (freshwater segment)
- Citrus County Lakes – Ft. Cooper, Tsala Apopka – Floral City, Inverness and Hernando Pools
- Dona Bay/Shakett Creek System
- Hernando County Lakes – Hunters, Lindsey, Mountain, Neff, Spring and Weekiwachee Prairie
- Highland County Lakes – Angelo, Anoka, Denton, Jackson, Little Lake Jackson, June-in-Winter, Letta, Lotela, Placid, Tulane and Verona
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Alice, Allen, Barbara, Bird, Brant, Calm, Charles, Church, Crenshaw, Crescent, Crystal, Cypress, Dan, Deer, Dosson, Echo, Ellen, Fairy [Maurine], Garden, Halfmoon, Harvey, Helen, Hobbs, Horse, Jackson, Juanita, Little Moon, Merrywater, Mound, Platt, Pretty, Rainbow, Reinheimer, Round, Saddleback, Sapphire, Stemper, Strawberry, Sunset, Sunshine, Taylor and Virginia
- Hillsborough River (lower segment)
- Hillsborough River – upper segment (including Crystal Springs)
- Levy County Lake – Marion
- Peace River (middle segment)
- Peace River (three upper segments – "low" minimum flows)
- Lower Peace River
- Northern Tampa Bay – 41 Wetland sites
- Northern Tampa Bay – 7 Wells – Floridan Aquifer/Saltwater Intrusion
- Pasco County Lakes – Bell, Big Fish, Bird, Buddy, Camp, Clear, Green, Hancock, Iola, Jessamine, King, King [East], Linda, Middle, Moon, Padgett, Parker aka Ann, Pasadena, Pasco, Pierce and unnamed #22 aka Loyce
- Polk County Lakes – Annie, Bonnie, Clinch, Crooked, Dinner, Eagle, Lee, Mabel, McLeod, Parker, Starr, Venus and Wales
- Myakka River (upper freshwater segment)
- Sulphur Springs (Hillsborough County)
- Sumter County Lakes – Big Gant, Black, Deaton, Miona, Okahumpka and Panasoffkee
- SWUCA – Floridan Aquifer
- Tampa Bypass Canal
- Weeki Wachee River System and Springs (includes Weeki Wachee, Jenkins Creek, Salt, Little Weeki Wachee and Mud River Springs)

## 2010

- Chassahowitzka River System and Springs (includes Chassahowitzka Main, Chassahowitzka #1, Crab Creek, Potter, Ruth and Blind Springs)
- Homosassa River System and Springs (includes Halls River Springs, Southeast Fork Homosassa River Springs, Homosassa Main Springs and Hidden River Springs)
- Lower Myakka River System
- Polk County Lakes – Crystal (S02-T30S-R373 and North Lake Wales (S01-T30S-R20E)
- Upper and Middle Withlacoochee River System (Green Swamp)

## 2011

- Brooker Creek
- Crystal River System and Kings Bay Springs
- Gum Springs Group
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Carroll (S15-T28S-R18E), Hooker (S12-T29S-R203), Raleigh (S27-T27S-R17E), Rogers (S27-T27S-R17E), Starvation (S21-T27S-R18E) and Wimauma (S09-T32S-R20E)
- Little Manatee River
- Lower Withlacoochee River System
- Manatee River System (includes Braden River Estuary)
- Marion County Lakes – Bonable (S31-T15S-R18E), Little Bonable (S30-T15S-R18E) and Tiger (S32-T15S-R18E)
- Pithlachascotee River System
- Polk County Lakes – Lowery (S14-T27S-R26E) and Hancock (S08-T29S-R25E)
- Rainbow River and Springs (includes Bubbling and Waterfall Springs)
- Shell Creek Estuary
- Upper Peace River "Middle" and "High" Minimum Flows

## 2012

- Charlie Creek
- Horse Creek
- North Prong Alafia River
- South Prong Alafia River
- Hillsborough County Lakes – Kell (S01-T27S-R18E), Keene (S07-T27S-R19E) and Hanna (S18-T27S-R19E)
- Polk County Lakes – Amoret (S24-T30S-R27E), Aurora (S13-T30S-R28E), Bonnet (S14-T28S-R23E), Easy (S19-T30S-R28E), Effie (S03-T30S-R27E), Little Aurora (S13-T30-R28E) and Josephine (S13-T30S-R27E)

## 2013

- Prairie Creek
- Shell Creek (freshwater segment)
- Hernando County Lakes – Tooke (S13-T22S-R17E) and Whitehurst (S17-T22-R18)
- Highland County Lakes – Damon (S03-T33-R28), Pioneer (S11-T33-R28), Pythias (S02-T33-R28) and Viola (S14-T33-R38)
- Polk County Lake – Trout (S34-T32-R28)

## 2014

- Cypress Creek
- Bullfrog Creek

## 2015

- Lower Peace River – Re-evaluation
- Polk County Lake – Eva (S32-T27-R27)

Section-Township-Range (S-T-R) information is listed for lakes scheduled for minimum levels development to assist in locating individual water bodies. Similar information is provided for lakes with adopted minimum levels in Table 8-2, Rule 40D-8.624(12) of the Florida Administrative Code.

**All spring, freshwater river segments and estuarine MFLs will be submitted for voluntary scientific peer review.**

**Notes:** Changes being proposed to the MFLs List are attributable to the following:

- (1) **Lake Wimauma** – An agreed upon study to examine the possible effects of drainage and sink hole development on lake levels for this lake is now complete. MFLs report is being prepared, but may not be complete in time for MFLs adoption in 2010, thus this waterbody has been moved into 2011.
- (2) **Lakes Raleigh, Rogers and Starvation** – Delayed pending development of an acceptably calibrated hydrologic model needed to evaluate the effects of structural alterations and changes to the water budgets of the subject lakes.
- (3) **Lake Hancock** – Delayed pending completion of acquisition of lands associated with upper Peace River recovery strategy.
- (4) **Little Manatee River, Manatee River, Gum Springs** – Draft MFLs reports on the Manatee River, Little Manatee River, and Gum Springs are behind schedule, and these water bodies have been moved into 2011.
- (5) **Shell Creek Estuary** – MFL report is complete and has been peer reviewed; however, rule adoption delayed due to need to develop a recovery strategy for this waterbody.
- (6) **Rainbow River** – Delayed primarily due to difficulty in adequately calibrating a hydraulic model for simulating river flow and computing water surface profiles.
- (7) **Addition of Year 2015** – Beginning in 2004, the District added specific waterbodies for a fourth and fifth year. This enables staff to begin data collection earlier in the MFLs process for those waterbodies that require a greater planning and budgeting horizon, and would make unforeseeable hydrologic events less of an obstacle in developing MFLs.