



UTILITIES, NATURAL RESOURCES & PUBLIC WORKS

**Friday, October 7, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT**

**If you experience technical difficulties joining the meeting, please call FLC staff for assistance:
Mike Taylor at 321-689-2663 or
Zac Velazquez at 954-226-0203**

FLC Staff Contact: Rebecca O'Hara



Agenda



Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works Legislative Policy Committee
Friday, October 7, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Introduction & Opening Remarks Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, Sarasota
- II. FLC Policy Committee Process for 2022-2023Rebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
- III. Policy PresentationsRebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
 - A. One Water Update **Mike Herr, City Manager**
Gary Hubbard, Utility Services Director
City of Winter Haven
 - B. Water Resources Planning Update.....**Frank Bernardino, Anfield Consulting**
 - C. Water & Wastewater Operator Licensure.....**Rebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
 - D. Update on Clean Waterways Act Septic Tank Funding**Rebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
- IV. Committee Discussion Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- V. Ranking of Policies Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- VI. Other Business.....Rebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
 - A. Key Legislative Dates
 - B. Home Rule Hero Criteria
 - C. Key Contacts – Click [HERE](#) to sign-up
- VII. Closing Remarks..... Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- VIII. Adjournment**



Committee Roster



2022-2023 Legislative Policy Committee Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works

Staffed by: Rebecca O'Hara, Deputy General Counsel

CHAIR:

The Honorable Jen Ahearn-Koch
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

VICE CHAIR:

The Honorable Daniel Comerford
Mayor/Police Commissioner, Town of
Jupiter Inlet Colony

MEMBERS:

**The Honorable Robert "Bob"
Auwaerter**
Councilmember, Town of Indian River
Shores

The Honorable David Bailey
Councilmember, City of Brooksville

The Honorable Joe Barkley
Commissioner, City of Belleair Bluffs

The Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Winter Haven

The Honorable Darla Bonk
Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

Debra Buff
City Clerk, City of Belle Glade

The Honorable Phyllis Butlien
Vice Mayor, City of DeBary

The Honorable Anthony Caggiano
Vice Mayor, City of Margate

The Honorable Kevin Cannon
Deputy Mayor, City of Winter Springs

Thomas Cloud
Attorney, GrayRobinson, P.A. of
Orlando

The Honorable John Cotugno
Councilmember, City of Vero Beach

Bart Diebold
City Manager, City of Pinellas Park

James Dillon
Director of Public Works, City of
Tavares

The Honorable Roger Edelman
Councilor, City of Seminole

The Honorable Cherry Fitch
Mayor, City of Gulf Breeze

The Honorable Fred Forbes
Councilman, City of Bonita Springs

The Honorable Gregory Freebold
Council President Pro Tem, Town of
Lake Clarke Shores

The Honorable Stuart Glass
Deputy Mayor, Town of Indialantic

Fred Greiner
Utility Chief Operator, City of Palm
Coast

The Honorable Ted Hartselle
Councilman, City of Rockledge

Kate Helms
Stormwater Manager, City of Satellite
Beach

The Honorable Heidi Herzberg
Mayor, City of Deltona

The Honorable Donna Holck
Commissioner, City of Largo

Gary Hubbard

Utility Services Director, City of Winter Haven

The Honorable Richard Johnson

Vice Mayor, City of Sanibel

The Honorable Fred Jones

Vice Mayor, City of Sebastian

The Honorable John Jones

Councilmember, City of Monticello

James Keene

Public Services Administrator, City of Haines City

The Honorable Rachel Keesling

Executive Director, Southwest Florida League of Cities

The Honorable Deborah Kynes

Vice Mayor, City of Dunedin

Shannon Lewis

City Manager, City of Melbourne

The Honorable Jill Luke

Commissioner, City of North Port

The Honorable Michael McComas

Councilman, City of Everglades City

The Honorable Jane Mealy

Commissioner, City of Flagler Beach

Camden Mills

Capital Projects Engineer, City of Sarasota

Francis Moehrle

Deputy City Attorney, City of Port St. Lucie

The Honorable Danielle Moore

Mayor, Town of Palm Beach

The Honorable Michael O'Rourke

Mayor, Town of Lake Park

The Honorable Lois Paritsky

Mayor, Town of Ponce Inlet

The Honorable Susan Persis

Commissioner, City of Ormond Beach

The Honorable Richard Roney

Vice Mayor, Town of Hypoluxo

Peter Roussell

Utility Chief Operator, City of Palm Coast

The Honorable Brian Sackett

Commissioner, City of Longwood

The Honorable Dan Saracki

Mayor, City of Oldsmar

Scott Shannon

Principal, Woodard & Curran/Florida Business Watch

The Honorable Beverly Smith

Mayor, Village of Palm Springs

The Honorable Duane "Mike" Smith

Councilmember, City of Groveland

The Honorable Marty Sullivan

Commissioner, City of Winter Park

The Honorable April Thanos

Councilmember, City of Gulfport

The Honorable Jim Turney

Commissioner, City of Altamonte Springs

The Honorable David Vigliotti

Councilman, City of Satellite Beach

The Honorable Bobby Wagner

Councilmember, City of Destin

The Honorable Beth Wetzel

Commissioner, City of Treasure Island

The Honorable Julie Wilkins

Mayor, City of LaBelle

The Honorable Brian Williams
Commissioner, City of Palmetto

The Honorable Rosemary Wilsen
Commissioner, City of Ocoee



Policy Development Process

2022-2023 FLC Legislative Policy Process

The Florida League of Cities' (FLC) Charter and Bylaws specify that the League shall engage only on legislation that pertains directly to "municipal affairs." "Municipal affairs" means issues that directly pertain to the governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, render municipal services, and raise and expend revenues. Protecting Florida's cities from egregious far-reaching attacks on Home Rule powers will always be the top priority.

Each year, municipal officials from across the state volunteer to serve on the League's legislative policy committees. Appointments are a one-year commitment and involve developing the League's Legislative Action Agenda. The Action Agenda addresses priority issues of statewide interest that are most likely to affect daily municipal governance and local decision-making during the upcoming legislative session.

Policy committee members also help League staff understand the real-world implications of proposed legislation, and they are asked to serve as advocates throughout the year. To get a broad spectrum of ideas and better understand the impact of League policy proposals on rural, suburban and urban cities of all sizes, it is ideal that each of Florida's cities be represented on one or more of the legislative policy committees.

The Florida Legislature convenes the 2023 Legislative Session on March 7. The League's legislative policy committee meetings commence in September 2022 and meet three times.

There are currently five standing *legislative policy committees*:

Finance, Taxation and Personnel Committee: This committee addresses municipal roles in general finance and tax issues, Home Rule revenues, infrastructure funding, insurance, local option revenues, pension issues, personnel and collective bargaining issues, revenue sharing, tax and budget reform, telecommunications and workers' compensation.

Land Use and Economic Development Committee: This committee addresses policies specific to municipal concerns with community redevelopment, economic development, growth management and land use planning issues, annexation, eminent domain, tort liability, property rights and ethics.



Municipal Administration Committee: This committee addresses municipal concerns with code enforcement, elections, emergency management, gaming, homeland security, public meetings, public property management, public records, public safety and procurement, as well as charter counties and special districts.

Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee: This committee addresses municipal concerns relating to transportation and highway safety, as well as aviation, affordable housing (and homelessness), billboards, building codes, charter schools, rights-of-way and veterans affairs.

Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works Committee: This committee addresses policies specific to municipal concerns with coastal management, energy, environmental and wetlands permitting, hazardous and toxic wastes, recycling, solid waste collection and disposal, stormwater, wastewater treatment and reuse, water management and water quality and quantity.

At the last meeting, each of the five policy committees adopts ONE legislative priority that will be submitted to the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee is composed of:

- ▶ Each legislative policy committee chair and the chairs of the other standing committees
- ▶ The President of each local and regional league
- ▶ The Presidents of several other municipal associations
- ▶ Chairs of the municipal trust boards
- ▶ Several at-large members appointed by the FLC President.

The policy priorities, as adopted by the Legislative Committee, are then recommended to the general membership for approval as the League's Legislative Action Agenda.

In addition, a legislative policy committee may, but is not required to, recommend ONE policy position related to other relevant legislative issues. The policy position must satisfy the same criteria above for legislative priorities. The recommended policy position will be considered by the Legislative Committee. If favorably considered by that committee, it will be considered by the general membership. If adopted by the general membership, the policy position may be published and communicated to legislators and others, as appropriate.

Due to Sunshine Law issues, only one elected official per city can be represented on a committee, but a city could have an elected and a non-elected city official on each of the five policy committees. Appointments are made by the League president based upon a city official's support and advocacy of the Legislative Action Agenda and participation at meetings, Legislative Action Days and other legislative-related activities.

2022 Legislative Policy Committee Meeting Dates

- ▶ September 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL.
- ▶ October 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL.
- ▶ December 1, 2022, during the FLC Legislative Conference at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL.

If you are interested in serving or learning more, please contact Mary Edenfield at 850.701.3624 or medenfield@flcities.com.



One Water Presentation

WINTER HAVEN

The Chain of Lakes City



City Manager Mike Herr

Mike Herr began his career as the Winter Haven City Manager in June 2017. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from Indiana State University, and is a member of the International City Management Association and the Florida City & County Management Association.

Mr. Herr's career in public service spans over 40 years in both Indiana and Florida. He has worked in a variety of fields in government including community development, transportation planning, public works, city-county management, and utility services. Mr. Herr also worked in the private sector as President of ECON from September of 2010 to April 2012.

The Polk County region is not new to Mr. Herr as he served as Polk County's Director of Transportation from 1998 to 2002. He was promoted to County Manager where he served from 2003 – 2010. During this time he managed budgets in excess of \$1.2 billion while leading an organization of more than 2,000 employees providing services for nearly 600,000 residents.

Throughout his significant career he has received numerous awards including the Award for Career Excellence from the Florida City County Management Association and the Strategic Leadership and Governance Award from ICMA for Program Excellence with the Polk County Organization and Employee Development. He is a graduate of Leadership Polk Class I.

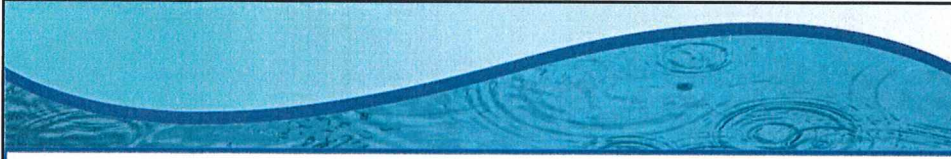
Mike Herr is honored to be part of the City of Winter Haven team working hard to enrich the lifestyle through exceptional service. He is proud to serve the residents of Winter Haven as the community continues to transform into a vibrant, engaging and attractive City for businesses, entrepreneurs, visitors and residents.

Gary Hubbard

Mr. Hubbard is a relatively new resident to Central Florida, joining the City of Winter Haven Utility Services Department in March 2018. Mr. Hubbard brings 40 years of experience dealing with environmental issues to central Florida. Mr. Hubbard is a licensed Professional Engineer, an "A" Water Treatment Operator, and an "A" Wastewater Treatment Operator. During his career, he has served as the owner of a successful consulting engineering firm specializing in municipal utility systems, a co-owner of a utilities operations firm, and co-owner of a firm specializing in the design, build and operations of industrial wastewater treatment systems in Central and South America. He began serving local governments in 2010.




Statewide Water Resources Planning

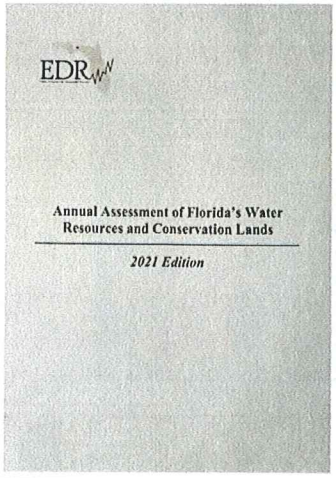
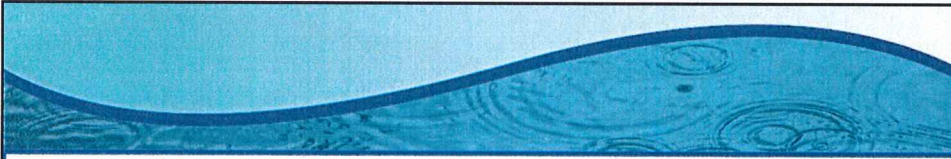


Florida's Water Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities

Florida League of Cities
Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works
Legislative Policy Committee
October 7th, 2022




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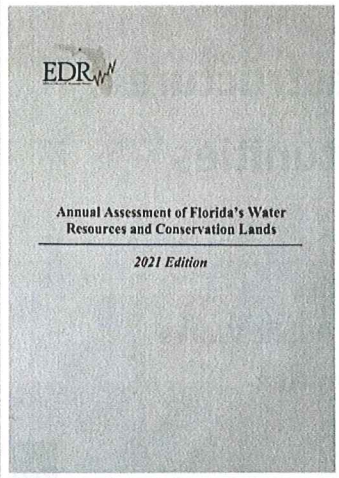


2016: SB 552

403.928 Assessment of water resources and conservation lands.—The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall conduct an annual assessment of Florida's water resources and conservation lands.



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EDR_W

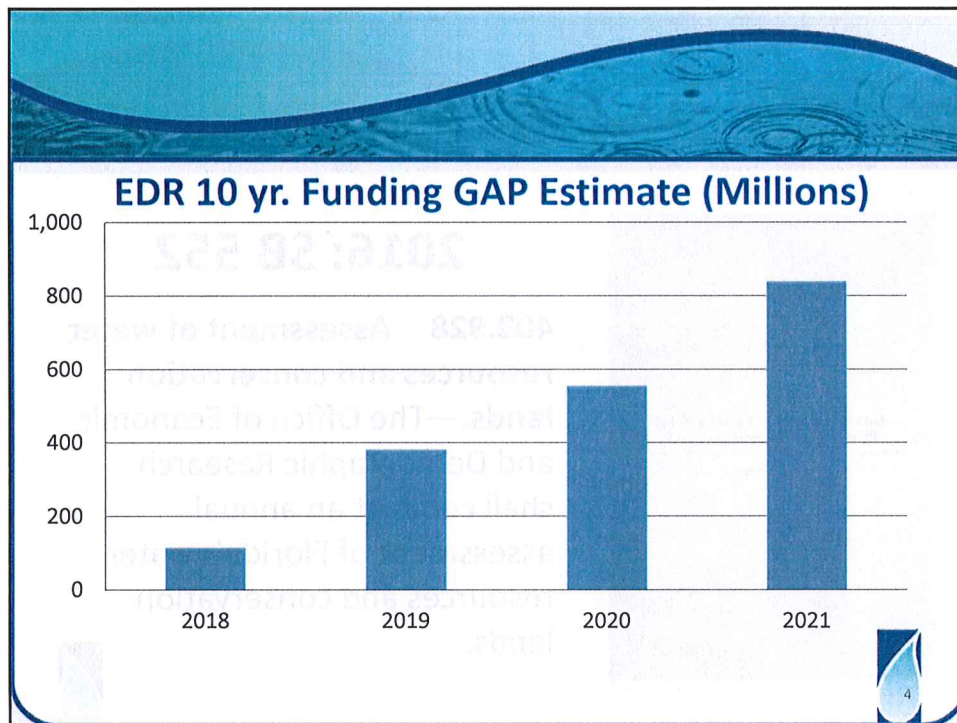
Annual Assessment of Florida's Water Resources and Conservation Lands

2021 Edition

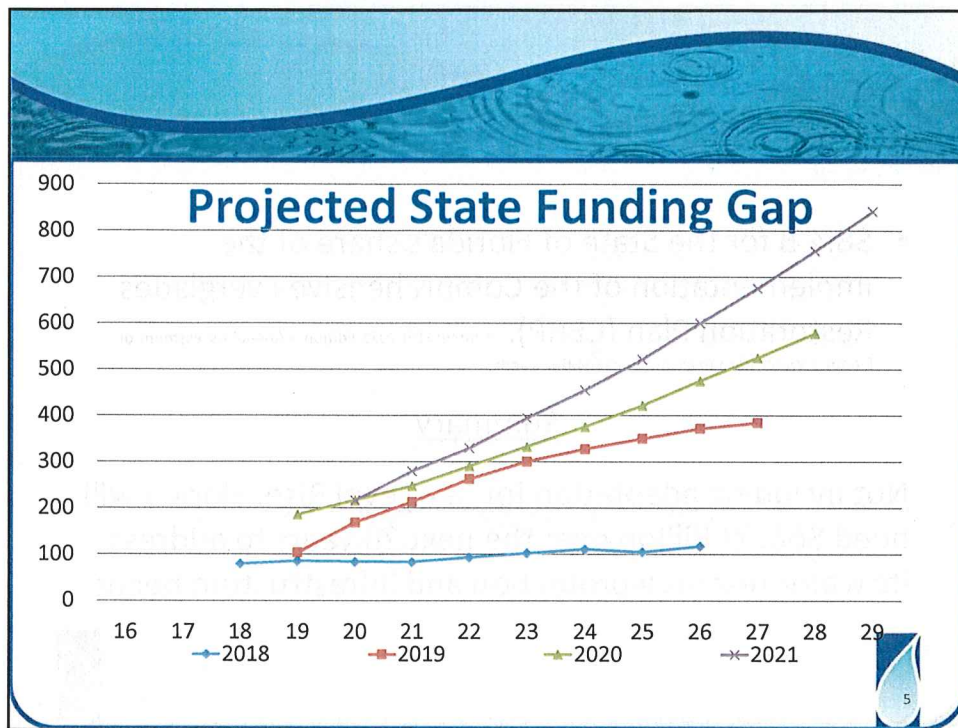
“a gap exists in every future year, growing to \$840.69 million by the end of the ten-year forecast period – and this does not include any specific adjustments for new or expanding initiatives.”



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Water Supply

- \$24.1 Billion for aging water infrastructure replacement (EPA, 2016)
- \$570 to 1.13 Billion to meet future water demands through 2040 (15% increase in demand)
- \$665.1 million to meet currently established minimum flows and levels (MFLs).

Water Quality

- \$40.3 Billion for aging wastewater and stormwater infrastructure 20yr capital-needs estimate.
- \$270.5 million for development of TMDL's.
- \$3.2 Billion for the implementation of BMP's.

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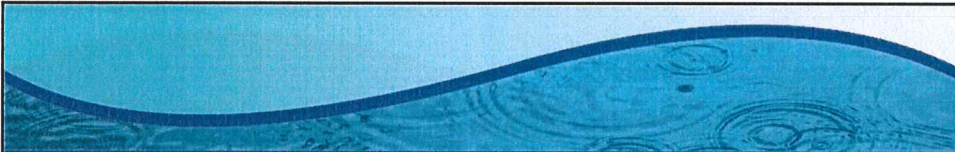
- \$8.4 B for the State of Florida’s share of the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). (Source: EDR 2021 Edition – Annual Assessment of Florida’s Water Resources and Conservation Lands).

Summary

Not including adaptation for Sea Level Rise, Florida will need \$66.09 Billion over the next 20 years to address its water resource protection and infrastructure needs.




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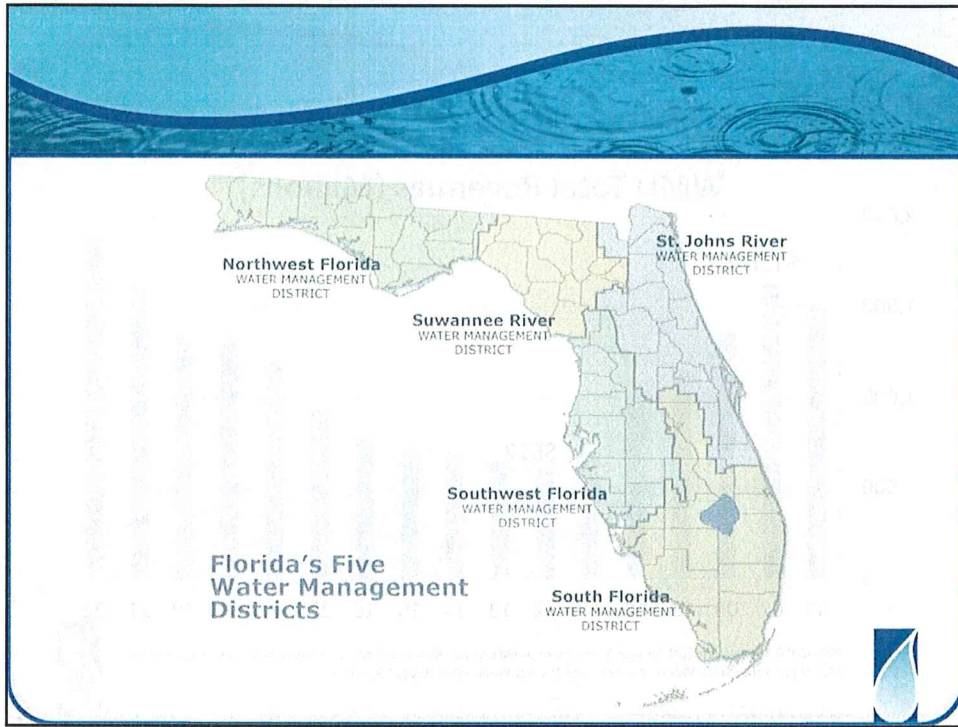


Historic Sources of State Funding Support

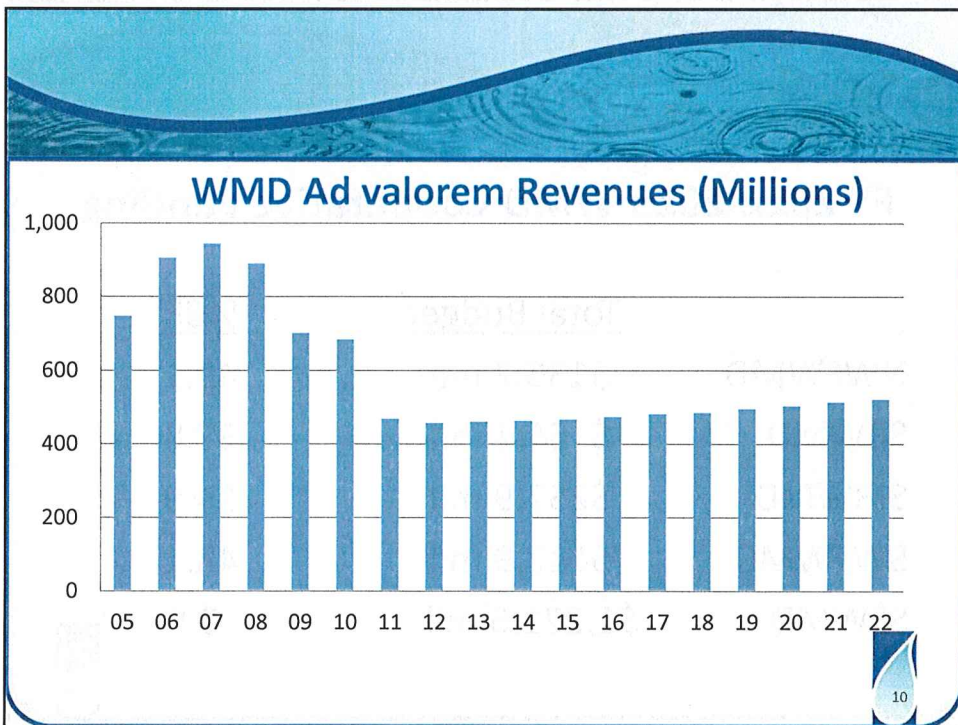
- (1) Water Management District Funding
 - Ad valorem; Grants for Water Supply, Dispersed Water Storage, Conservation and Water Quality.
- (2) Programmatic Funding
 - State Revolving Loans; Everglades; Springs
- (3) Member Water Projects
 - General Revenue



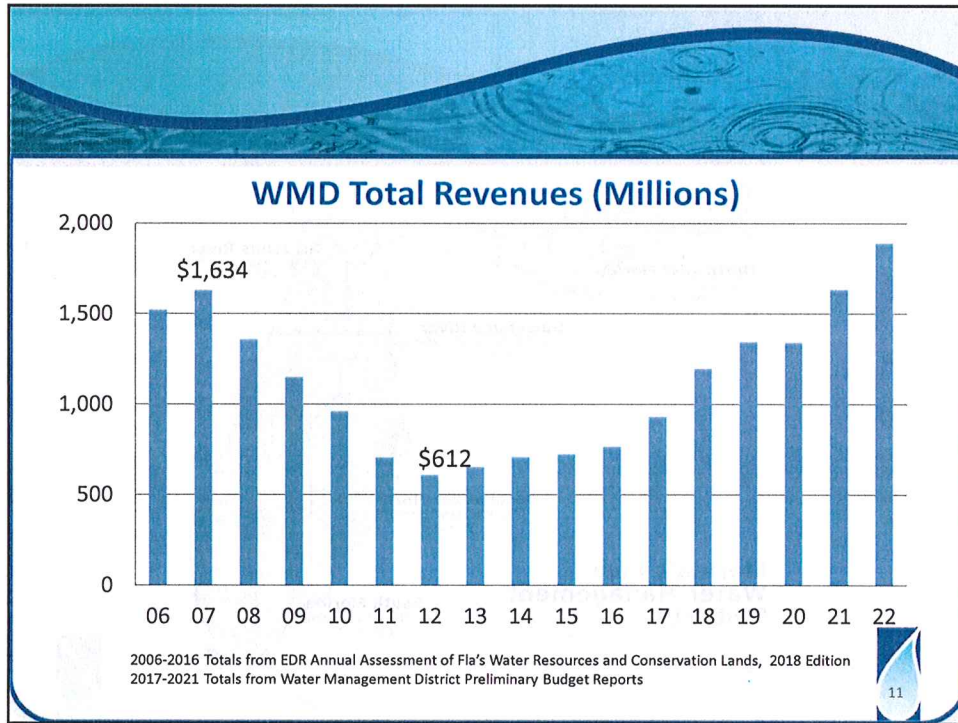
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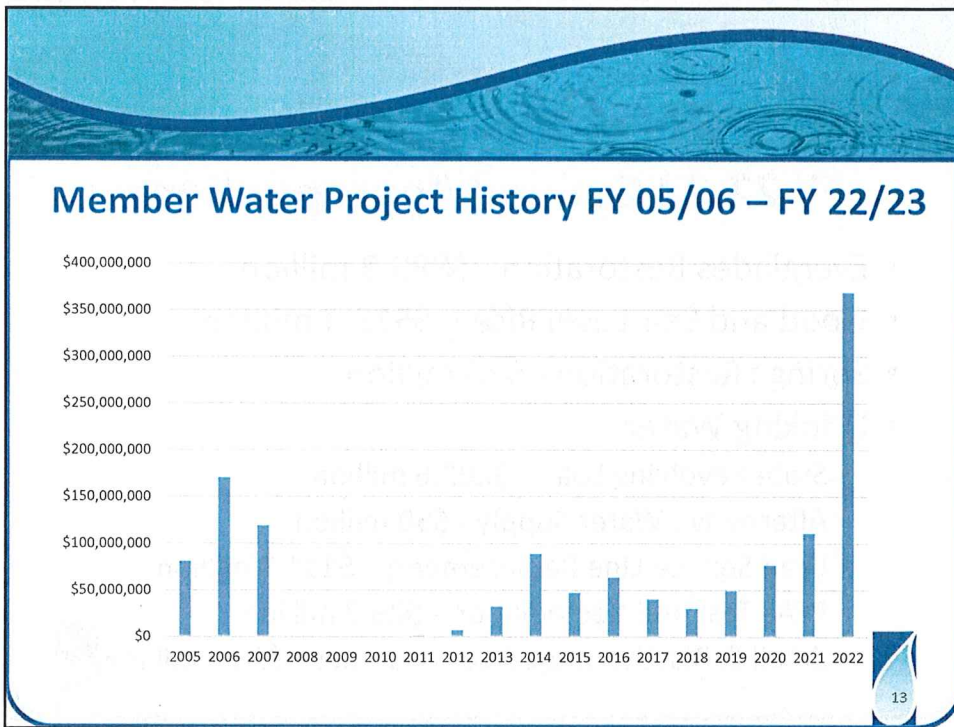


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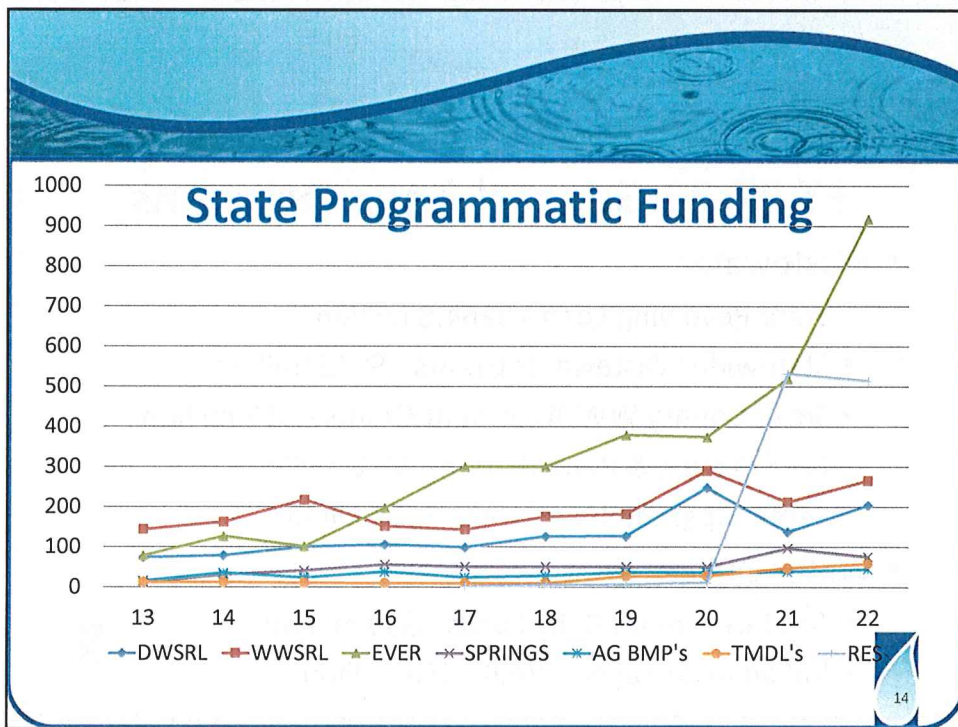
FY 2022-2023 WMD Cooperative Funding

	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>%CF</u>
NFWWMD	\$136.2 mil	49.1
SRWMD	\$ 64.4 mil	37.8
SJRWMD	\$257.9 mil	14.9
SWFWMD	\$212.9 mil	43.1
SFWMD	\$1,221.6 mil	3.9

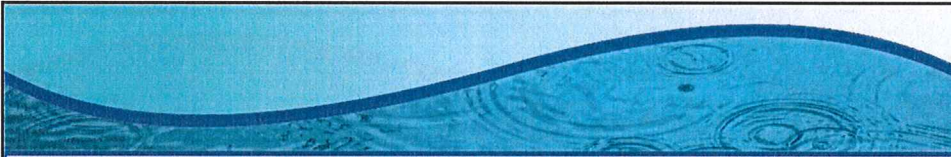
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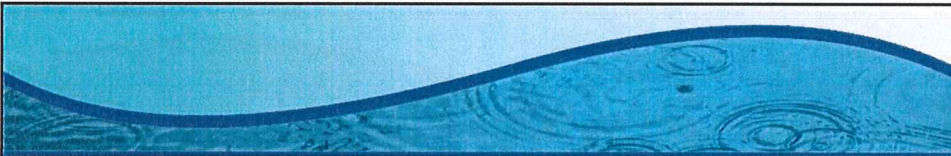


FY 22-23 General Appropriations

- Everglades Restoration - \$885.9 million
- Flood and Sea-Level Rise - \$513.4 million
- Springs Restoration - \$75 million
- Drinking Water
 - State Revolving Loan - \$202.6 million
 - Alternative Water Supply - \$50 million
 - Lead Service Line Replacements - \$111.3 million
 - PFAS Test and Remediation - \$29.7 million
 - Small & Disadvantaged Communities - \$34.7 million




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FY 22-23 General Appropriations

- Wastewater
 - State Revolving Loan - \$264.8 million
 - Statewide Wastewater Grants - \$125 million
 - Small County WW Treatment Grants - \$12 million
 - PFAS Testing & Remediation - \$3.2 million
 - Septic Upgrade Incentives - \$10 million
- Water Quality Improvements
 - Total Maximum Daily Loads - \$50 million
 - Indian River Lagoon WQI - \$38 million



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Opportunities for Funding Assistance

- Water Quality Restoration
- Water Supply Restoration and Development
- Coastal Resilience & Inland Flooding
- Petroleum and Dry-Cleaning Clean-up
- Recreation and Conservation
- Waste Management



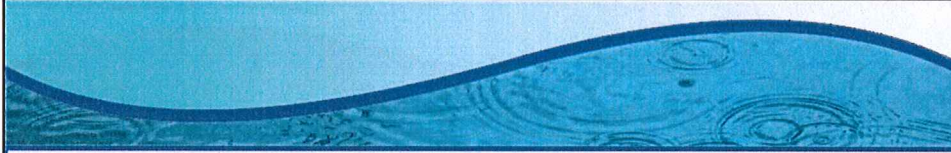
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DEP Water Resources Grants


- **Section 319(h)** - For projects that address nonpoint source pollution. Projects/programs must benefit Florida's priority watersheds; local sponsors must provide at least a 40 percent match.
- **TMDL Water Quality Rest.** - Projects that reduce pollutant loads to impaired waters from urban stormwater discharges. Applicant provides a minimum of 50 percent of the total project cost in matching funds, of which at least 25 percent are provided by the local gov.



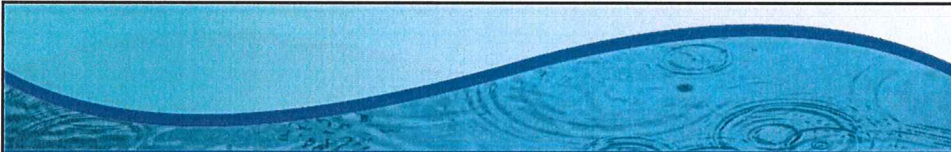
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- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** - Low-interest loans for planning, designing and constructing water pollution control facilities. Small, disadvantaged communities may qualify for grants.
- **Small Community WW Construction Grants** - For small communities and wastewater authorities for planning, designing and building wastewater management facilities. Must be a municipality, county or authority with total population of 10,000 or less and a per capita income less than the state of Florida average PCI. Must accompany a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan.



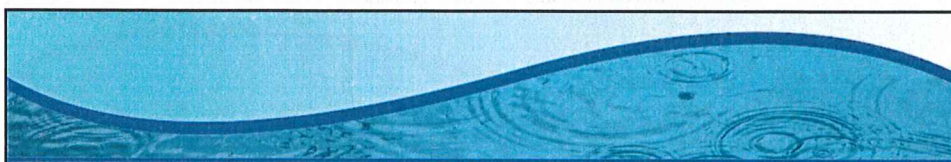
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- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** - Low-interest loans for planning, designing and constructing public water facilities. Small community assistance is available for those with populations less than 10,000.
- **Springs Protection** - Provides matching grants to assist local governmental entities with projects for land acquisition to protect springs and for capital projects that protect the quality and quantity of water that flows from springs. Access is through the water management districts.



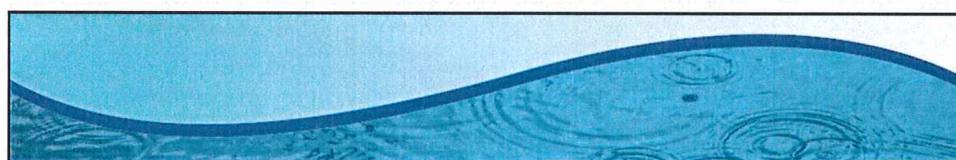
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- **Alternative Water Supply** – Helps communities plan for and implement conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply (AWS) and water resource development projects. Access is through the water management districts.
- **Innovative Technology Grants** – For local governmental projects that evaluate and implement innovative technologies and short-term solutions to combat algal blooms and nutrient enrichment, restore and preserve Florida waterbodies, and implement certain water quality treatment technologies.



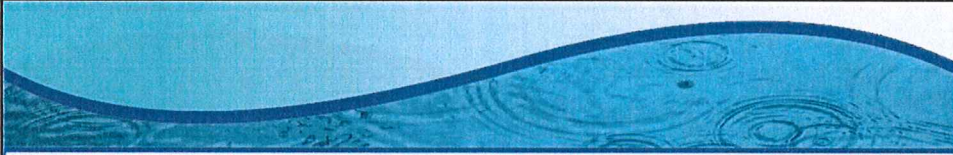
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- **State WQ Assistance Grant (SWAG)** - For the implementation of BMP's designed to reduce pollutant loads to water not meeting water quality standards from urban stormwater requirements.
- **Deepwater Horizon** – Provides funding under three programs:
 - Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration,
 - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and
 - RESTORE ACT




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DEP Grants Portal

[HTTPS://PROTECTINGFLORIDATOGETHER.GOV/STATE-ACTION/GRANTS-SUBMISSIONS](https://protectingfloridatogether.gov/state-action/grants-submissions)




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What Comes Next?

- Honest discussion of values and priorities.
- Are our limitations real or a product of our choices?
- How strong is our foundation?
- Every stakeholder must be prepared to be uncomfortable.
- No sacred cows.



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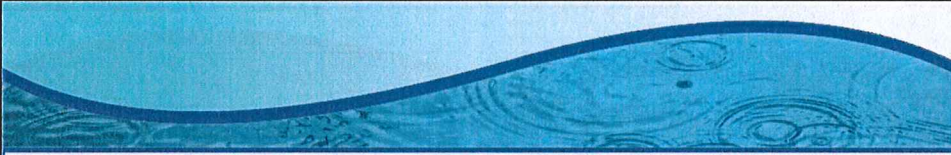
Drinking Water

- Positive – State commitment to alternative supply dev.
- Negative – Regional approach has been difficult to advance.
- Solution – Increased state role in regional water supply project development.

Wastewater Management

- Positive – Commitment and technology advancements.
- Negative – Not yet maximizing the use of the resource.
- Solution – Incentives for increased storage and use of reclaimed water.

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Stormwater Management

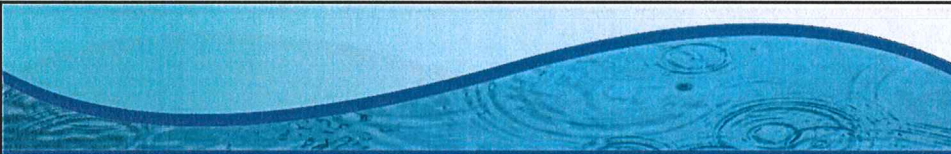
- Positive – State updating 20+ yr. old regulations.
- Negative – Increased burden on all stakeholders.
- Solution – Regional off-site options to both accelerate recovery and reduce regulatory burden.

Ecosystem Restoration

- Positive – Record investment by the State.
- Negative – Delays in implementation of projects.
- Solution – Consideration of PPP alternatives.




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Resilience

- Positive – Recognition that this is both a coastal AND inland issue.
- Negative – Scale of challenge.
- Solution – Development of long-term plan for the identification and implementation (including funding) of resilience projects.



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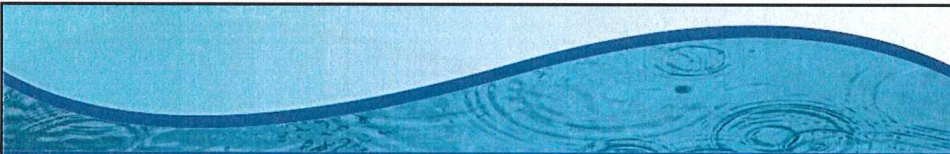


Where do we start?

The state should undertake a comprehensive review of water policy with the goal of developing recommendations relating to both governance and long-term funding.



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Governance Issues

- Delineation of responsibilities between state and local governments.

<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
Water Resource Mgmt.	Water Supply
Ecosystem Restoration	Wastewater Mgmt.
Regional Flood Control	Stormwater Mgmt.
Water Quality Protection	BMAP Implementation

- Role of WMD's.
- Role of private sector.



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Funding Issues

- Development of a plan to address the growing funding gap including:
 - Federal, state, WMD and local revenue sources.
 - Review of limitations on WMD and local revenue sources and conditions under which these may be modified.
 - Identification of new revenue sources required to address state responsibilities.
 - Development of procedures for accessing state funding.
 - DOT Work Plan Model

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Water Work Plan

- Identification of project eligibility so as to not duplicate existing grant programs.
- Water Planning Organizations (WPO) comprised of the county and municipal governments.
- Local driven process. Each WPO would identify the priority projects within each county.
- WMD's would rank and prioritize projects regionally (hopefully with local government input)
- DEP combines WMD's list into final state plan.

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Water & Wastewater Operator Licensure



Update on Clean Waterways Act Septic Tank Funding

SB 712 – The Clean Waterways Act and Septic Systems
The bill passed the legislature in 2020 and became law July 1, 2020.

Septic Systems: The bill transfers the Onsite Sewage Program from the Department of Health (DOH) to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) starting in 2021 and creates a temporary septic technical advisory committee within DEP; requires local governments to create septic remediation plans for certain basin management action plans (BMAPs) and requires DEP to implement a fast track approval process for NSF/ANSI 245 nutrient reducing septic systems and revises provisions relating to septic system setback rules.

DEP Wastewater Grant Program

DWRA's **Wastewater Grant Program** (WWGP) provides grants to governmental entities for wastewater projects that reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan, alternative restoration plan adopted by final order or rural area of opportunity (RAO). The program requires at least a 50% match which may be waived by the department for RAOs.

Projects to construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities to provide advanced wastewater treatment and connecting septic tanks to sewer systems are prioritized. Consideration is given to nutrient reductions, project readiness, cost effectiveness, overall environmental benefit, project location, local matching funds and water savings and water quality improvement.

Please refer to section 403.0673, F.S., for the text of the Wastewater Grant Program statute or see below eligibility requirements.

How to Apply

Project proposals will need to be submitted online Protecting Florida Together Water Protection Grants portal, which is closed each fiscal year after projects are selected for funding. The portal is expected to open again for new project proposals for the subsequent fiscal year after the legislative session concludes. If the project is not selected within the current state fiscal year, the proposal will need to be resubmitted the following year for evaluation.

Portal Announcement

An announcement will be sent when the [Protecting Florida Together Water Protection Grants online portal](#) is open to accepting project submittals for the fiscal year.

- **Sign up to receive email updates on the [Protecting Florida Together Preference Center](#).**

Eligibility Requirements

Financial assistance is available to Florida's governmental entities for projects within a basin management action plan, an alternative restoration plan adopted by final order or a rural area of opportunity under section 288.0656, F.S., which will individually or collectively reduce excess nutrient pollution:

- To retrofit onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) to upgrade such systems to enhanced nutrient-reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.
- To construct, upgrade, or expand facilities to provide advanced waste treatment, as defined in section 403.086(4), F.S.
- To connect OSTDS to central sewer facilities.

Priority will be given to projects that subsidize the connection of OSTDS to wastewater treatment facilities:

- First priority will be given to projects the subsidize the connection of OSTDS to existing infrastructure.
- Second priority will be given to any expansion of a collection or transmission system that promotes efficiency by planning the installation of wastewater transmission facilities to be constructed concurrently with other construction projects occurring within or along a transportation facility right-of-way.
- Third priority will be given to all other connections of OSTDS to wastewater treatment facilities.
- DEP will consider the estimated reduction in nutrient load per project; project readiness; the cost-effectiveness of the project; the overall environmental benefit of a project; the location

of a project; the availability of local matching funds; and projected water savings or quantity improvements associated with a project.

Each grant requires a minimum of a 50% local match of funds. DEP may, at its discretion, waive, in whole or in part, this consideration of the local contribution for proposed projects within an area designated as a rural area of opportunity under section 288.0656, F.S.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING 2019-2020 BUDGET

- Florida Forever: \$33M
- Everglades Restoration: \$285M
- Northern Everglades: \$32M
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed: \$50M
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program: \$125.5M
- * • Wastewater Revolving Loan Program: \$181.7M
- Alternative Water Supply Grants: \$40M
- Water Quality (Blue Green & WQM): \$10.8
- Water Quality Improvement Grants: \$25M
- TMDLs: \$26.2
- Beach Restoration: \$50M
- Springs Restoration: \$100M
- Fla. Resilient Coastal Initiative: \$5.5
- Water Projects: \$49M (81 projects funded; 83 were not)

2020-2021 Environmental Budget Issues

Everglades Restoration – The budget invests more than \$625 million for the state’s water resources. The Legislature provides more than \$350 million for Everglades restoration. This includes \$32.0 million for Restoration Strategies, \$169.9 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, \$47.0 million for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program, \$64.0 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir, and \$50 million for Everglades water quality improvements.

* ***Water Resource Restoration and Protection*** - \$40 million for alternative water supply, \$25 million in matching grants for septic conversions and wastewater and stormwater upgrades, \$25.0 million for projects in the St. Johns/Suwannee/Apalachicola Rivers/Springs Coast watersheds, \$10.0 million for coral reef protection, \$25 million for Total Maximum Daily Loads (nutrient reduction), and \$20.8 million for water quality monitoring, a public information portal, the Blue-Green Algae Task Force and innovative technologies.

Springs Restoration receives \$50.0 million. This funding may be used for land acquisition to protect springsheds and support homeowners and local communities as they work with the state to achieve the newly enacted Clean Waterways Act’s septic and nutrient reduction requirements.

Beach Restoration receives \$50.0 million to fund projects on the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program in priority order. There is also \$10.0 million for the Resilient Coastlines Program to help prepare Florida’s communities and habitats for changes resulting from sea level rise.

Florida Forever - \$100.0 million, including \$67.0 million for land acquisition with a focus on protecting water bodies, \$10 million for the Florida Communities Trust, \$8.7 million for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, \$12.3 million for Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) projects, and \$2.0 million for the working waterfronts program.

Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program – \$155.5 million, including \$125 million for petroleum tank cleanup, a \$15 million increase from last year.

Local Drinking Water and Wastewater Assistance - \$289.8 million for wastewater treatment facility construction, \$247.2 million for drinking water facility construction loans and \$13.0 million for small county wastewater treatment grants. These total a \$229.8 million increase over previous year funding.

Fast Facts on 2021-22 Environmental Funding in the \$101 Billion State

Budget

- Everglades restoration \$360.1 million
- Resilient Florida Grants – \$500 million
- * • Wastewater Grant Program – \$500 million Senate Appropriations
Committee Federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Wildlife Corridor (DEP Land Acquisition) – \$300 million
- Piney Point – \$100 million
- Coastal Mapping Services – \$100 million
- Beach Management Funding Assistance Program – \$50 million
- Petroleum Underground Storage Cleanup Program – \$50 million
- C-51 Reservoir – \$48 million
- Alternative Water Supply – \$40 million
- Springs Restoration – \$25 million
- Small Community Wastewater Grants – \$25 million
- Derelict Vessel Removal Program – \$25 million
- Total Maximum Daily Loads – \$20 million
- Local Water Projects -- \$80.6 million

2022-23 Budget highlights include:

- **More than \$500 million for Everglades Restoration.**

- \$352 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, including the EAA Reservoir and Restoration Strategies.
- \$78 million for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan and dispersed water management (water storage in the basins).
- Additionally, \$100 million of federal funding is included for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project.

- **More than \$557 million for Targeted Water Quality Improvements, which includes:**



- \$125 million for cost-share grant funds for water quality improvements, including septic conversions and upgrades, other wastewater improvements, and rural and urban stormwater system upgrades.
- \$50 million to accelerate projects to meet scientific nutrient reduction goals (called total maximum daily loads), which may include green infrastructure investments or land conservation to protect our water resources.
- \$20 million for wastewater and stormwater projects that address water quality impairments and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.

- **\$75 million for Springs Restoration.**

- **\$50 million for Alternative Water Supply.**

- **Nearly \$31 million to Combat Harmful Algal Blooms and Red Tide.**

- \$20 million for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to aid in the prevention, cleanup and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.
- \$5 million to assist county governments with their response to red tide events.

- **More than \$500 million for Resiliency.**

- This funding will support development of a statewide data set and vulnerability assessment; grants for adaptation projects to address risks of flooding and sea level rise to coastal and inland communities; sea level rise planning efforts; and adaptation projects to strengthen critical infrastructure.

- **\$50 million for Beach Restoration.**

- **More than \$375 million for Prized Properties.**

- \$100 million for Florida Forever.
- \$264 million for infrastructure improvements and resource management at Florida's state parks.



Committee Discussion

DRAFT POLICY PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION 10.07.22

A. Water Resources Planning

Sample policy: SUPPORT legislation creating a statewide coordinated planning and prioritization approach for water resource investments.

B. Comprehensive Watershed Management

Sample policy: SUPPORT legislation that authorizes Comprehensive Watershed Management projects to qualify for funding under the state Water Protection & Sustainability Trust Fund.

C. Water Resources Planning (including Comprehensive Watershed Management)

Sample policy: SUPPORT legislation creating a statewide coordinated planning and prioritization approach for water resource investments, including authorization for Comprehensive Watershed Management projects to qualify for funding under the state Water Protection & Sustainability Trust Fund.

D. Water & Wastewater Operator Licensure

Sample policy: SUPPORT legislation to address severe workforce shortages in municipal water and wastewater facilities by: 1) defining facility operators as critical and essential workers; 2) providing reciprocity with other states for licensure of facility operators; 3) allowing credit towards licensure for military experience and time served performing similar functions; and providing flexibility for facilities to use retired or out of state operators in emergencies.



Key Dates



2022 - 2023 Key Legislative Dates

October

7 FLC Legislative Policy Committee Meetings (Round 2), Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee, FL

November

8 Florida's General Election

30 – December 2 FLC Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, Kissimmee, FL (Legislative Policy Committees meet December 1)

16-19 NLC City Summit, Kansas City, MO

March

7 Regular Legislative Session Convenes

26-28 NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.

April

4-5 FLC Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee, FL

May

5 Last Day of Regular Legislative Session



Home Rule Hero Criteria

Do you want to become a **HOME RULE HERO?**

AS THE ADAGE GOES, "ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL." Successful advocacy starts at home, not in Tallahassee. No one – not even a professional lobbyist – can tell your community's story better than you. Your involvement helps the League's legislative team turn the abstract into concrete. It is essential to help legislators understand how their decisions may impact their communities back home.

The League appreciates the individual advocacy efforts undertaken by municipal officials throughout the state. Each year, there are some League members who make an extraordinary effort; people who stand out for their high level of participation and effectiveness. The Home Rule Hero Award was created to acknowledge and thank them for their efforts. Hundreds of municipal officials have been recognized as "Home Rule Heroes" since the award's inception in 2009, and we thank you!

Home Rule Hero Award recipients are selected by the League's legislative team following each legislative session.

For the award, the most important criteria are timely responses and actions to FLC's Legislative Alerts, and notifying FLC staff of communications with your legislators.

Other exceptional efforts are:

- Attending the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee and Legislative Conference.
- Testifying before a House or Senate committee on an FLC priority issue, when a call to action has been sent out.
- Participating in FLC's Monday Morning "Call-ins" during session and on FLC's pre-and post-legislative session webinars.
- Participating in FLC's Legislator "Key Contact" program.
- Meeting legislators in their districts or in Tallahassee.
- Responding to FLC requests for information and data about how proposed legislation will specifically impact your city (telling your city's "story").
- Speaking at local legislative delegation meetings to discuss FLC municipal issues.
- Setting up opportunities for legislators and their staff to attend a city council meeting or special event; tour a park, project or facility; and attend a local league meeting.
- Serving on a FLC legislative policy committee.
- Participating in a Federal Action Strike Team fly-in to Washington, D.C.
- During an election year, providing opportunities for candidates for legislative offices to learn about your city and its issues, and introducing candidates to key city stakeholders or those in your professional network.

For more information on these activities and ways to step up your advocacy game, please contact Allison Payne at apayne@flcities.com.





Notes

