



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

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3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Blue-Green Algae Task Force Meeting Staff Minutes

September 24, 2019
9:00 a.m.

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

General subject matter considered: The Blue-Green Algae Task Force met to discuss public health noticing with regards to cyanotoxins and stormwater management.

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

1. Chief Science Officer Dr. Tom Frazer facilitated the meeting.
2. Dr. Greg Tolley and Florida Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees gave opening remarks.
3. Public Health
 - a. Dr. Kendra Goff provided overview of the Department of Health (DOH) and its role in human health. Dr. Goff noted it was important to understand exposure pathway and the health effects of cyanotoxins. She further identified challenges at looking at health impacts, including the need for a clinical case definition and tools. Dr. Goff also presented the signage and efforts they use for caution and advisory events. She noted that they were working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a shared website to share information. She additionally noted the appropriation received for health effects (prevention, treatment, health disparities and screening).

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.

- b. Task Force questions and comments included a discussion of the sampling program; identification of where they should look for exposure and exposure pathways; protocols of county health departments; and signage
4. Updates from DOH & DEP
- a. Mr. David Whiting presented various state's recreational water guidance/action levels and EPA's recommendation with its magnitude, duration and frequency thresholds. Mr. Whiting explained DEP's sampling protocols and recommended a precautionary principle, exercising caution based on visual presence over cyanotoxin presence.
 - b. Task force discussion included further questions on Triennial Review process; understanding DEP and DOH response if a criteria is set and violated and how it could be adopted; what leads to blooms; lab detection limits; exposure issues; best practices for toxin testing; benefits and drawbacks of dip-stick testing; designing and posting signs; communication and coordination between DEP and other scientists/agencies
5. Stormwater Management
- a. Ben Melnick presented sources of groundwater contamination from stormwater. He further explained the regulatory framework, including federal, state and water management district roles. He explained the statutory rebuttable presumption and Environmental Resource Permitting program as well as Clean Water Act (MS4, CGP, and MSGP) permitting requirements.
 - b. Task Force questions and comments related to monitoring requirements; TMDL compliance; the presumptions referenced in the presentation and studies on the effectiveness of BMPs in certain areas of Florida; agricultural best management practices and NPDES and Clean Water Act scope; whether data is available for comparing facilities/sources; new development and TMDLs; communication between DEP and the WMDs; BMP library; post- vs pre- construction; quantifying outputs from stormwater into waterbodies; catalogue of stormwater systems throughout the state; criteria for Outstanding Florida Waters; noncompliance and inspections; and plans for future relating to stormwater criteria.
6. Public Comment was taken. Topics included:
- a. A need to look at pre-and-post rate vs. pre-and-post volume; stormwater events and addressing larger events
 - b. A technology proposal
 - c. Recommending water quality criteria for cyanotoxins
 - d. Presumptive standards, sediment and erosion control, and stormwater updates
 - e. Concern of the use of herbicides in waters, especially lakes, as opposed to mechanical removal
 - f. Concern of cyanotoxins and cyanobacteria in the lake and sources, such as agriculture
 - g. Concern over preemption of local fertilizer sales and lack of signage at bloom sites
 - h. Design criteria studies and concern that they do not meet presumption criteria
 - i. Desire to have further review of recommendation document

- j. Concern of signage when isn't accurate or necessary and desire to see standardization and pet information
 - k. Current stormwater criteria do not match TMDL requirements
7. Dr. Frazer provided closing remarks, noting that a draft document will be made available and clarifying that it was not available earlier due to the cancellation of previous meeting due to a hurricane. The draft document will be arranged by topical area and they will go through each. He noted that general recommendations were possible and specific recommendations can come with future meetings with more data and detail.