

Florida Department of Health

Wekiva Onsite Nitrogen Contribution Study

Update for Wekiva River Basin Commission
January 12, 2007



Specific Appropriation 566

- \$250,000 allotted to the Department of Health “to conduct or contract for a study to further identify and quantify the nitrogen loading from onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) within the Wekiva Study Area. The objectives of the study shall be determined by the department’s Research Review and Advisory Committee, which shall also have oversight of the study. The department shall provide a report to the Executive Office of the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than June 30, 2007. The report shall assess whether OWTS are a significant source of nitrogen to the underlying groundwater relative to other sources and shall recommend a range of possible cost-effective OWTS nitrogen reduction strategies if contributions are significant.”



Progress to date

- DOH will not proceed with rule-making until the study has been completed
- Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC) has met five times since May 2006 to develop scope and select providers
- No bids received on initial ITN



Progress to date

- Project split into 4 tasks
 - Field work
 - How much nitrogen does one system contribute per category (WAVA zone, soil type, etc.)
 - How much total nitrogen do septic systems contribute as compared to other sources
 - Provide a range of cost-effective solutions



Task 1: Field Study to identify and quantify nitrogen loading at a few sample OWTS in the Wekiva Study Area

- Ellis & Associates, Inc.
- Contract finalized (January 2, 2007)
- Site selection ongoing. Proposing three sites with detailed sampling at each site
- Field sampling to begin in January 2007
- Presentation to RRAC on February 6, 2007



Task 2: Categorization / Quantification of Nitrogen Loading from Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Types

- Otis Environmental Consultants, LLC
- Draft table and presentation to RRAC on February 6, 2007, revised table with results from field work due April 2007



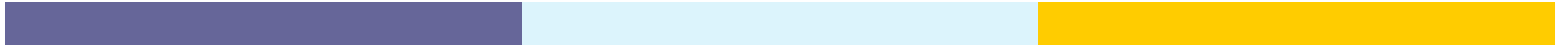
Task 3: Assessment if OWTS are a significant source of nitrogen to the underlying groundwater relative to other sources; in particular enumeration and aggregation of OWTS loading

- Linda Young, University of Florida
- Work in coordination with Task 2 provider and DEP/SJRWMD provider
- GIS coverage's and tables due end January 2007
- Pie charts using DOH and DEP information due March 2007



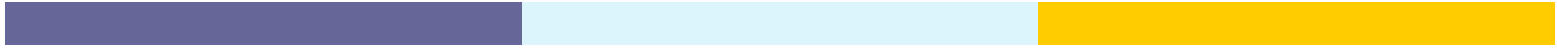
Task 4: Recommend a range of possible cost-effective OWTs nitrogen reduction strategies if significant

- DOH Staff
- Preliminary research in progress
- Final recommendations will depend on results from Tasks 1 - 3 regarding significance of nitrogen contribution



Report Timelines

- Draft Final Reports due April 2007
- Presentation of Final Reports May 2007
- Final Report due June 30, 2007



Research Review and Advisory Committee

- Next scheduled RRAC meeting is February 6, 2007 at Sylvan Lake Park in Sanford. Presentations regarding the progress of Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, and Task 4 will be made.



DIVISION OF
Environmental Health

Questions?

Elke Ursin

Environmental Health Program Consultant

850-245-4070 x 2708

Elke_Ursin@doh.state.fl.us