

**2020**

**LAKE MILLS  
LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Annual Meeting

- Agenda

Lake Management Plan

- General Provisions & Scope of Services
- Community-Based Activities & Events
- Current Fiscal Year
  - Planned Treatments & Funding
- Next Fiscal Year
  - Projected Treatments & Funding
- Exhibits
  - Agenda & Notes (Prior Year)
  - Financial Summary
  - Historic Reports/Data
  - Roles & Responsibilities

# LAKE MILLS ANNUAL MEETING

Date // Location	Friday, March 6, 2020 /11:05am – 11:20am/ 200 W. County Home Rd – LMP office
Community Liaisons	Dave Axel; Bill Merckel
Liaisons Present	Dave Axel (via telephone)
Seminole County	[3/5/20] Kathy Moore [3/6/20] Thomas Calhoun, Tony Cintron, Joey Cordell, Gloria Eby

## General Topics & Updates

### Lake Management Program

- Welcome

### MSBU Program & Resource Management Department

- Financial Summary [Refer to Exhibit B]
- County recently provided additional information to the State per their last request. Payment support documentation will be provided to the State by the Clerk of Court. Reimbursement is anticipated shortly after the State receives and reviews the documentation. Updated cost sharing yields the following remittance expectations: Federal 90%, State 5%, MSBU 5%.
- BCC Resolution - MSBU Program Administrative Fee – 7% of Budgeted Assessment Revenue
- County Service Cost (WMDiv) allocation for “enhanced” service level cost
- Status Update: Administrative Code [22.10] and Consolidated Ordinance development

### Lake Management Program

- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
  - FWC Rule change removes permit requirements on lakes smaller than 160 acres
    - Lake Mills is greater than 165 acres
  - Currently drafting County Shoreline Ordinance
    - LMP will update residents
- Lake Status Nutrients/Habitat Scores [Bioassessment Indices - Refer to Exhibit C]
  - Water quality scores have increased
    - Basin study being done in your area. We would like to see Mills be a part of nutrient - hydrologic study to know the source of nutrients
  - LVI/BioBase data on Watershed Atlas website:  
<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/shared/ecology.asp?wbodyid=7613&wbodyatlas=lake>
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
  - Monitor hydrilla and treat as necessary (early detection-rapid response)
    - Will need to rotate product. Treating of entire lake will be upwards of \$225,000.
  - Permit was obtained to treat baby’s tears (limited in scope)
    - Canals are permit exempt so we are treating the canals to keep them navigable
    - Most of treatments have been on the loose floating baby tears
  - Evaluate grass carp fish effects and adjust stocking rate as necessary
    - Continuing to monitor carp effectiveness
- General recommendations for lake-community [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
  - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
  - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners
    - Dave will send info
  - Lakewatch samples
    - Dave will see what he can do

- 2020 Shoreline Planting Event- dates available
  - To be coordinated via Thomas Calhoun
    - Dave will find someone to do it
- Other
  - TGC Fish Barriers
    - Barriers in Mills park in good shape, no vandalism reported, outfall barrier needs replacement (approximately \$10,000)
  - Email Address for routine communications and important announcements
  - Nutrient study, can MSBU funds be spent on it? Dave is interested in what it would cost. Capital assessment versus variable assessment. In MSBU Consolidated Ordinance development can this be included?

# LAKE MILLS

## LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **Scope of Public Aquatic Weed/Plant Control [AWC] Services**

The scope of public aquatic weed control [AWC] services funded by non-ad-valorem assessment includes those services associated with managing aquatic plant communities as deemed beneficial and/or critical to restoring, developing and/or maintaining conditions that enhance the water quality and over-all health of the waterbody; with emphasis on providing public services for public purposes which by definition of public are limited to the waterbody and respective shoreline when/where noxious and/or invasive exotic vegetation could/would threaten or impede the waterbody.

#### **Governing Documents**

- Seminole County Ordinance 06-06
- FWC permit
- Cost Share Arrangement with Leisure Services Department (Informal)

#### **Methods for Aquatic Weed Control as authorized via County Ordinance/Resolution**

- Chemical (herbicides)
- Biological (sterile triploid grass carp fish [TGC])

#### **Targeted Invasive/Exotic Aquatic Vegetation**

- Hydrilla, water hyacinth, torpedo grass, primrose willow, wild taro, cattail, baby's tear, and salvinia.

#### **Frequency of AWC Treatment**

AWC services are performed at the direction of the Seminole County LMP as per the Lake Mills Management Plan reviewed at the annual planning session with the expectation that the Seminole County LMP may alter anticipated treatments as merited per changing/evolving conditions noted during site inspections.

#### **Herbicide Treatments - Service Provider**

- As determined by Seminole County

#### **Funding**

Financial management of the MSBU fund is provided by the Seminole County MSBU Program. Financial plans developed by the MSBU Program include eligible expense funding requests submitted by the Lake Management Program and other cost and revenue components typical to MSBU funds. Financial information inclusive of prior year actual outcome, current year working budget and next year budget proposal data is reported annually. Assessment levy is subject to Board approval and the standard procedures associated with non-ad valorem assessment. The financial plans may be adjusted by the County as merited per changing/evolving essential services as directed by the County and per financial planning considerations. The governing ordinance limits assessment increases to no more than 20% above prior year assessment; the ordinance does not include provisions for an assessment cap.

#### **Lake Liaisons**

Designated property owners (or their designated representatives) provide community representation at annual planning sessions with the County and serve voluntarily as the key point of contact for community inquiries and concerns. The liaisons for Lake Mills are: Dave Axel ([daveaxel@axelrealestate.com](mailto:daveaxel@axelrealestate.com)) and Bill Merckel ([billmerckel@prodigy.net](mailto:billmerckel@prodigy.net)).

## **COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

LMP recommends/encourages homeowners to coordinate a resident-based volunteer event involving native plantings along the shoreline of Lake Mills. The intention of such an event is to plant beneficial native aquatic plants to key areas in need along the bank. Residents should organize planting days creating a beneficial shoreline. It is especially important that as the aquatic invasive plants (such as torpedo grass) are being treated, native aquatic plants should be established within these areas. The presence of the recommended native plant species along the shoreline provides habitat for fish and wildlife, helps impede invasive exotics from re-establishing, and reduces erosion of the shoreline. All of these best management practices are essential to providing the conditions that promote an environmentally stable habitat to be enjoyed by generations to come. The key to success is dependent on strong participation of the Lake Mills community.

Continued recommendations for community initiatives are as follows:

- 1) Shoreline re-vegetation with native emergent plants (by the lakefront community and potentially volunteers),
- 2) Establishing a formal Lake Association holding at least one annual meeting with topics relevant to Lake Mills,
- 3) Continue to increase educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of residential pollution (use phosphorous free and slow-release nitrogen based fertilizers only). Contact Seminole County LMP, 407-665-5542, for more information and assistance,
- 4) Provide content for the Seminole County Water Atlas Lake Management Webpage for Lake Mills (such as newsletters and photos).
- 5) Share what YOU know with your neighbors! Encourage fellow residents to keep a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and to keep grass clippings out of the storm drains that lead to the lake. All of these activities aid in protecting your waterbody!

**Important to Note:** When herbicides are applied along the shoreline to invasive plants (such as torpedo grass), overspray onto adjacent desirable vegetation may occur. In order to avoid damage to desired vegetation, manual (by hand) removal (by property owner) of the undesirable species from among the desirable species along the shoreline is advised. If the invasive plants are removed by this method, spraying the area can be reduced, thereby offering greater protection to the desirable species. The physical removal of dead/decaying aquatic plant material will reduce the volume of decomposing vegetation on the lake bottom (muck layer) and will increase the success of the efforts to limit the re-growth of the invasive plants. The presence of submerged aquatic vegetation (“SAV” such as hydrilla) should be communicated to your lake liaison for their reporting to the County so appropriate treatment of SAV can be provided.

## **COUNTY SERVICES – Lake Management & Supplemental Programs**

Lake Mills is monitored by LMP to assess the aquatic plant growth. LMP provides continued evaluation of the aquatic plant species, such as hydrilla, and provides community updates on the status of treatments and waterbody bioassessment. In addition, LMP offers free aquatic plant material (as available) for sponsored restoration events and local community volunteers coordinated through the county’s Seminole Education and Restoration Volunteer (SERV) Program. While the MSBU assessment includes a nominal charge for administering the MSBU, the amount charged does not cover all the expenses incurred by the County on behalf of the waterfront property owners. Many of the services provided by the LMP are made available to support community riparian stewardship without additional charges being assigned to the MSBU budget.

## **CURRENT FISCAL YEAR– Planned Treatment & Funding**

### **Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations**

Hydrilla growth in Lake Mills has the likelihood to continue, however, the timing and extent of hydrilla re-growth is affected by multiple natural and environmental factors that cannot be controlled or predicted with certainty. While extensive growth of hydrilla is possible at any point in time; it is anticipated that routine spot treatments of hydrilla with herbicides and continuous biological control pressures from the triploid grass carp fish will be sufficient to manage hydrilla re-growth during the current fiscal year. The anticipation of spot treatments for the current fiscal year takes into consideration the historic trend of hydrilla management required at Lake Mills, as well as current conditions observed at the lake. As with any lake with a history of hydrilla infestation, long-term planning to include financial preparation for whole lake treatment is advised.

Primary expectations are as follows:

- 1) Aquatic herbicide maintenance for non-native vegetation, canal maintenance, and hydrilla treatments (as needed)
- 2) Grass carp stockings if deemed necessary, pending permit amendment
- 3) Monitoring of hydrilla, coontail, other submersed aquatic plants, and grass carp fish
- 4) Continued grass carp barrier debris and maintenance services for each location

### **Funding Expectations**

*Refer to current fiscal year data provided in Exhibit B.*

## **NEXT FISCAL YEAR – Projected Treatment & Funding**

### **Primary Aquatic Plant Management Expectations**

The projected treatment plans for the next fiscal year remain consistent with the plans and expectations noted for the current fiscal year. Primary expectations are as follows:

- 1) Continued aquatic herbicide maintenance for non-native vegetation, canal maintenance, and hydrilla treatments (as needed)
- 2) Future grass carp stockings if deemed necessary, pending permit amendment
- 3) Continued monitoring of hydrilla, coontail, other submersed aquatic plants, and grass carp fish
- 4) Continued grass carp barrier debris and maintenance services for each location

### **Funding Expectations**

*Refer to next fiscal year data provided in Exhibit B.*

## **Exhibits**

**A** – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Meeting

**B** – Financial Summary

**C** – Historic Reports/Data

**D** – Roles & Responsibilities

## Exhibit A – Agenda & Notes from Prior Year Meeting

Date/Time/Location	:	March 1, 2019 11:00am – 11:20am 200 W. County Home Rd – LMP office
Community Liaisons	:	Dave Axel, Connie Gatlin and Bill Merckel
Liaisons Present	:	Dave Axel (via teleconference)
Seminole County	:	Thomas Calhoun, Joey Cordell, Gloria Eby, and Joe Saucer

### General Topics & Updates

#### Lake Management Program

- Welcome
- Fertilizer Ordinance- Passed on February 27, 2017 [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer)
  - Restricted Months: no fertilizing June 1<sup>st</sup>- September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Slow Release Nitrogen: at least 50%
  - Know How Much: [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/calculator](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/calculator)
  - Buffer Zone: 15 feet from all waterbodies
- Shoreline Protection Ordinance Status
  - FWC Rule change removes permit requirements on lakes smaller than 160 acres
    - Lake Mills is greater than 165 acres
  - Currently drafting County Shoreline Ordinance
    - LMP will update residents
- Lake Status Nutrients/Habitat Scores [Bioassessment Indices - Refer to Exhibit C]
  - Lake in Healthy category; increased TSI score
  - Post hurricane effects
    - TSI score declining post hurricane
  - LVI/BioBase data on Watershed Atlas website:  
<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/shared/ecology.asp?wbodyid=7613&wbodyatlas=lake>
  - Algae Bloom/increased chlorophyll
    - Cyanobacteria bloom present, FDEP sampled and recorded event
- Treatment Plans - Current & Proposed [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
  - Monitor hydrilla and treat as necessary (early detection-rapid response)
    - Decrease in baby tears
  - Evaluate grass carp fish effects and adjust stocking rate as necessary
    - April 2016 last time we restocked carp
    - Continuing to monitor carp effectiveness
- General recommendations for lake-community [Refer to Lake Management Plan]
  - Increase native aquatic plantings in areas devoid of vegetation
  - Promote “welcome packages” to new lakefront homeowners
  - Lakewatch samples
- 2019 Shoreline Planting Event- dates available
  - To be coordinated via Thomas Calhoun
    - New resident Troy Drinkwater possibly interested in coordinating an event
- Other
  - TGC Fish Barriers
    - Barriers in good shape, no vandalism reported
  - Email Address for routine communications and important announcements

#### MSBU Program

- Financial Status [Refer to Exhibit B]



MSBU FUND: MILLS (LAKE)

	Tax Year	2018	2019	2020
	Assessment	\$ 875	\$ 875	\$ 875
	Fiscal Year	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21
<b>Revenue</b>				
		Actual	Working	Proposed
Beginning Fund Balance	\$	299,897	\$ 367,339	\$ 423,959
Assessment Revenue	\$	64,332	\$ 63,840	\$ 63,840
Other (Interest)	\$	7,676	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Other - Per Ordinance Cost Share	\$	-	\$ 1,055	\$ 4,240
Other - Per Interlocal Agreement	\$	-	\$ -	
Other - FEMA	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 3,870
<b>TOTAL Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>371,905</b>	<b>\$ 436,234</b>	<b>\$ 499,909</b>
<b>Expenditure &amp; Reserves</b>				
		Actual	Working	Proposed
Application Fee Recoupment	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
MSBU Program Administrative Fee [7% Rev FY20-21]	\$	1,610	\$ 1,725	\$ 4,469
Other County Services (Service Entity)	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Advance Repayment	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
Contracted Services	\$	2,956	\$ 10,550	\$ 42,400
<i>AWC Services (via AAM)</i>	\$	1,334	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,000
<i>Chemicals (Non-AAM)</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 25,000
<i>FAS/GEN Testing</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Shipping (Test Samples)</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
<i>TGC Fish</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Fish Barrier Inspection/Minor Repair</i>	\$	1,950	\$ 2,550	\$ 2,400
<i>Fish Barrier Replace/Major Repair</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ 12,000
<i>Other</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Other - County 10% direct invoice</i>	\$	(327)	\$ -	\$ -
Reserve/Contingency1	\$	367,339	\$ 423,959	\$ 453,040
<i>Operating Contingency</i>	\$	175,339	\$ 207,659	\$ 236,740
<i>Reserve: Hydrilla (Whole Lake)</i>	\$	180,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
<i>Reserve: Barrier Replace</i>	\$	12,000	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,300
<i>Reserve: Other</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL Expenditures &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>371,905</b>	<b>\$ 436,234</b>	<b>\$ 499,909</b>
LM Program Enhanced Services Cost		Pending development & confirmation		

<sup>1</sup> Note: These funds are secured (1) for maintaining rate stability as annual cost are known to fluctuate, (2) in preparation of planned or anticipated future expenses, (3) to provide response to emergency and/or urgent needs for which planning was not feasible. These funds are not intended for expenditures that could be planned and included in annual budget planning processes.

## **Reserve/Contingency Funds**

The financial summary [Exhibit B] of the Annual Report was updated in 2019 to include additional information about contingency fund status. The MSBU Program has provided this additional information to improve transparency respective to the reason and intended purpose for these funds.

The primary purpose for establishing operating contingency funding is twofold – (1) To have funding on hand to accommodate unexpected essential aquatic weed control emergencies that cannot be reasonably foreseen, planned or identified in routine budget planning & forecasting and (2) To provide rate stability as costs for ongoing services often vary from year to year. By establishing contingency and reserve funds, such funding may be allocated temporarily from these funds to operating expenditures to avoid periodic spikes in assessment.

Contingency funds are developed by financial management planning decisions and by default when actual expenditures are less than budgeted expenses. Although reserve/contingency funds are not expected to be expended in any given year, these values are included under expenditures because they are “on hold” for future needs and are classified by accounting practices as expenditures.

In the financial summary (Exhibit B) the total dollars in reserve/contingency are identified in the expenditure section on a single line (darker shading). The total dollars in contingency are calculated by subtracting the other expenditures (typically “contracted services” and “administrative fee”) from the total revenue. Contingency funds may be used as deemed essential to meeting emergency needs of the waterbody; however, the overall intention of use is as per the noted sub-categories.

When a negative value is displayed in the sub-category labeled “operating contingency”, it is an indication that the other subcategories reflect targeted sub-category values that have not been fully developed. For the other sub-categories to be fully developed, the “operating contingency” sub-category must be zero or a positive value.

The sub-category labeled “Reserve: Other” is included for improved transparency as use of these funds is on hold for purposes that are subject to Board confirmation and subsequent evaluation of ordinance provisions (potentially ordinance amendment) before these funds can be budgeted and utilized for the proposed purposes.

## Exhibit C - Historic Reports/Data

Additional information for Lake Mills can be found on the Seminole County Water Atlas website at:

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/resourceprogram.aspx?aid=15&wbodyid=7613>  
<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/waterquality.asp?wbodyid=7613&wbodyatlas=lake>

### Lake Mills Water Quality Report: How Does My Lake Rank?     **TSI SCORE: 46 GOOD**

The Trophic State Index (TSI) is a classification system designed to "rate" individual lakes, ponds and reservoirs based on the amount of biological productivity occurring in the water. Using the index, one can gain a quick idea about how productive a lake is by its assigned TSI number. A "Good" quality lake is one that meets all lake use criteria (swimmable, fishable, and supports healthy habitat).

The two graphs below indicates nutrient levels (measured by TSI and/or Total Phosphorous [TP]) for your lake. A TSI score of 60 or above is considered impaired (or polluted) lake. Continued reduction of TP sources (personal pollution, run-off, landscaping practices, shoreline erosion) can help reduce phosphorous in your lake that is abundantly available, potentially creating algae blooms.

### Lake Vegetation Index Bioassessment (LVI): How Does My Lake Rank?     **63 Healthy**

The Lake Vegetation Index is a rapid bioassessment tool created by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to assess the biological condition of aquatic plant communities in Florida lakes. The most recent LVI bioassessment for Lake Mills (sampled on September 11, 2019) scored a **63** which is in the **Healthy** category; prior year was **60**.

Aquatic life use category	LVI Range	Description
Category 1 "exceptional"	78–100	Nearly every macrophyte present is a species native to Florida, invasive taxa typically not found. About 30% of taxa present are identified as sensitive to disturbance and most taxa have C of C values >5.
Category 2 "healthy"	43–77	About 85% of macrophyte taxa are native to Florida; invasive taxa present. Sensitive taxa have declined to about 15% and C of C values average about 5.
Category 3 "impaired"	0–42	About 70% of macrophyte taxa are native to Florida. Invasive taxa may represent up to 1/3 of total taxa. Less than 10% of the taxa are sensitive and C of C values of most taxa are <4.



# Lake Mills

## Trend Report

2019



**NNC**

(Numeric Nutrient Criteria)

*Fail*

GeoMean Color: 39.25

GeoMean Alkalinity:

10.36

**TSI Score: 46**

(Trophic State Index)

*Good*

**LVI Score: 63**

(Lake Vegetation Index)

*Healthy*

**MSBU:**

(Municipal Service Benefit Unit)

*Yes*

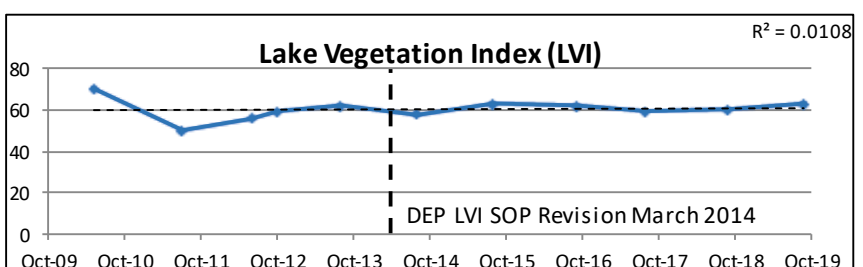
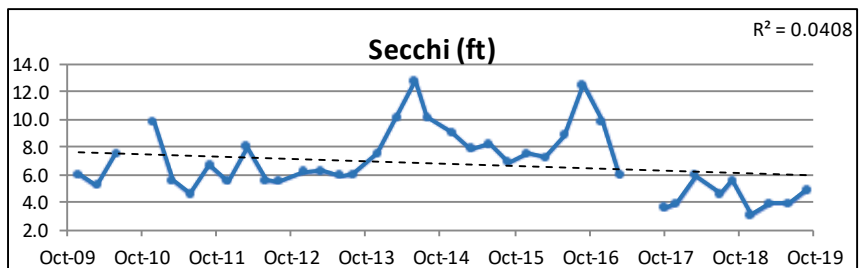
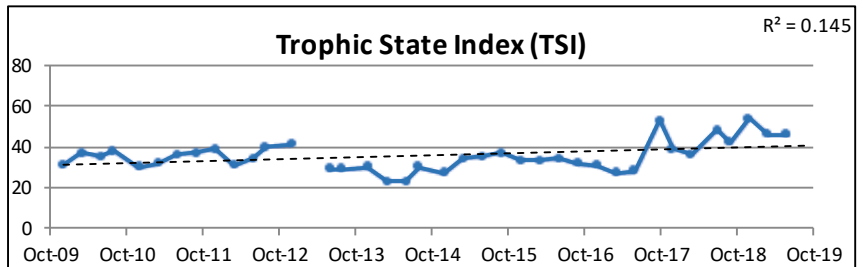
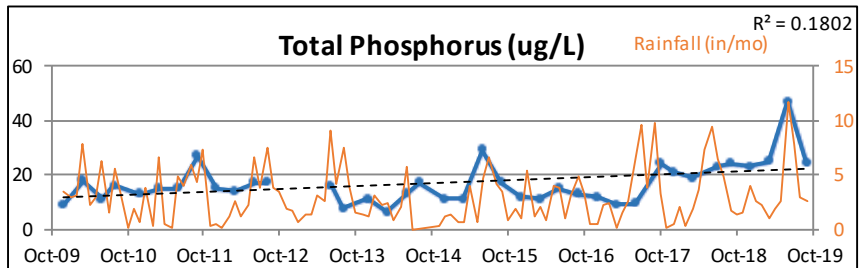
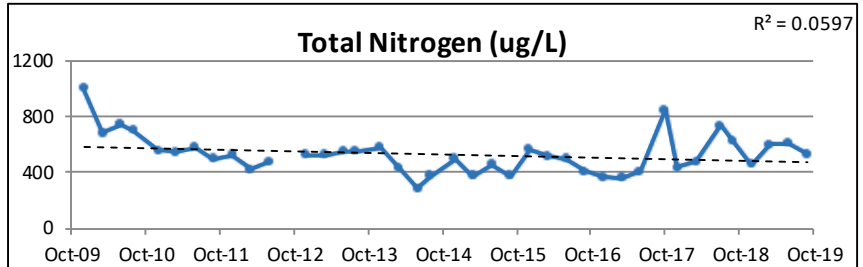
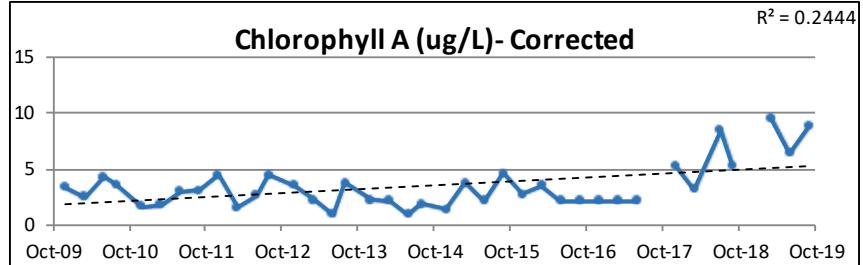
Big Econlockhatchee Watershed

243 acres

Lat 28° 38' 04"

Lon 81° 06' 52"

WBID 3003A



# Exhibit D – Roles & Responsibilities

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITY

### General Outline

#### COUNTY

##### *Seminole County will*

- ✓ Govern the MSBU
- ✓ Provide financial management of MSBU fund and assessment levy
- ✓ Ensure activities conducted with assessment funding align with the scope of services documented in the governing ordinance
- ✓ Ensure the lake is monitored and services are appropriately rendered
- ✓ Maintain decision-making authority relative to public services and will defer to best lake management practices when making such decisions
- ✓ Provide an ongoing lake management plan based on the defined service scope, permitting, conditions at the lake, funding parameters, and best lake management practices. The Lake Management Plan will be developed and maintained by the Lake Management Program with liaison participation
- ✓ Initiate and manage service contracts, monitor results, and communicate updates on a routine basis
- ✓ Conduct annual meetings that offer opportunity for liaison discussion as to prior, current, and future action plans
- ✓ Encourage liaisons and assist with educational outreach efforts to protect the health and water quality of the waterbody

#### LIAISONS

##### *Liaisons will*

- ✓ Encourage communitywide awareness and participation relative to environmental stewardship recommendations and opportunities
- ✓ Provide communitywide communication and assist the County in the distribution of relevant lake information
- ✓ Attend annual lake management and budget planning sessions conducted by the County
- ✓ Serve as representatives of the community on lake issues; representing the respective lake community as a whole
- ✓ Monitor lake conditions and provide feedback to the County as to observations