

## Community Issue Performance Evaluation

1. State Agency:

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

2. State Program (or Type of Program):

**Water Resources/Water Science & Laboratory Services**

3. Project Title:

Transfer to Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS) - Florida LAKEWATCH Program

4. Recipient name and address:

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), University of Florida Board of Trustees, CFO-Contracts&Grants,  
PO Box 113001, Gainesville, Florida 32611

Location county/counties: Statewide

5. Is the recipient a governmental entity, a private non-profit entity, or a private for-profit entity:

Public State University

6. <u>FUNDING:</u> FY 2012-13 Recurring General Revenue	FY 2012-13 Recurring Trust Funds	FY 2012-13 Recurring TOTAL FUNDS	GAA Specific Appropriation Number (ch. 2012-118, L.O.F.)
\$	\$275,000	\$275,000	1660

7. FY 2012-13 GAA proviso specifically associated with the project (if any): No proviso; special category transfer.

8. Project Purpose/Description: The Department uses Lakewatch data to identify potentially impaired (polluted) lakes, which are then prioritized for additional monitoring to verify impairment and the need for restoration projects and activities. Lakewatch serves as a screening program, in effect, allowing the Department to cost-effectively target its monitoring where water quality problems are most significant. Without the Lakewatch data, we would have to spend more money to expand monitoring efforts, reducing money for on-the-ground restoration, or leave many more lakes un-assessed. Lakewatch preserves other Department resources by expanding the number of lakes that can be assessed without additional Department expenditure to collect lake samples. The program also provides public education and training with respect to the water quality of Florida's lakes. It facilitates hands-on citizen volunteer participation through monthly monitoring activities.

9. Number of years this project has received state funding: For over 10 years. Funding was reduced in SFY 08/09 from \$450,000 to \$275,000 due to budget cuts. The program has been in existence since 1986.

10. Does this project align with the core missions of the agency or the program area in which it is funded?  
(Explain): Yes, the Department's mission is to sample, assess, protect, and restore Florida's waters, including lakes. Identifying and reducing redundancies in water quality monitoring efforts is a way to free up resources for on-the-ground restoration. Lakewatch's volunteer participation in sampling lakes and providing reliable water quality data are vital to the restoration and protection efforts of Florida's waters.

11. Does the program meet a demonstrated need in the community that is not otherwise being met?  
(Explain): Florida has more than 7,800 lakes to monitor and assess. The Department uses Lakewatch monitoring data as part of its initial assessment of which lakes might be impaired. Losing the funding would require the Department to incur additional costs to complete the preliminary work of identifying potentially impaired waterbodies. Lakewatch preserves other Department resources by expanding the number of lakes that can be assessed without additional Department expenditures to collect lake samples.

12. What are the intended outcomes/impacts and benefits of the project? Lakewatch data is collected by volunteers and used to help identify which lakes might be impaired through a preliminary assessment. This screening tool allows the Department to target additional data gathering where it will be most effective in assessing water quality problems and initiating restoration activities. The outcomes are more cost-effective monitoring and expedited lake restoration.

13. What performance data does the agency/entity regularly collect and report that demonstrates the value of the program to the State of Florida?

Output data (e.g., number of clients served, students educated, units produced); Enumerate: The program regularly (monthly) reports water quality sampling data.

Outcome data (data on the effectiveness or quality of services, e.g., percentage of clients successfully completing treatment); Enumerate: The sampling data are used as part of the water quality impairment assessment and verification process, which leads to the restoration of polluted lakes.

Unit cost data (e.g., cost per unit produced); Enumerate:

Other (Explain):

14. How is program data collected and has it been independently validated for accuracy and completeness?  
The Department has worked with the Lakewatch program to train volunteers and develop appropriate sampling and chain of command quality control procedures so that data can be used for state water quality protection programs, including those authorized under the federal Clean Water Act. Data are entered into quality-controlled Department data systems.

15. Is there an executed contract between the agency and the recipient? No. The appropriation requires a direct transfer to IFAS.

16. If there is a contract, are the outputs, measures and costs specified in a contract between the agency and the recipient? Not applicable.

17. How do the unit costs compare to those of comparable or alternative projects or services? (EXPLAIN AND SPECIFY): The alternative to volunteer participation is to hire more staff or contract out the work, both of which are more costly than the recurring appropriation for Lakewatch and for which other resources are not available.

18. Based on performance data, is this project meeting the expected outputs and having the intended outcomes? (Explain): Yes, data results have found that samples taken by volunteers, using state-approved protocols, are sufficiently reliable for use in state water quality protection programs.

19. Describe how the information upon which the answer above is based was obtained and validated:  
Canfield Jr., D. E., Brown, C.D., Bachmann, R.W., Hoyer, M.V. 2002. Volunteer Lake Monitoring: Testing the Reliability of Data Collected by the Florida LAKEWATCH Program. *Lake and Reservoir Management*, 18 (1):1-9

20. How much additional funding or matching funding from non-state sources is available for this project and what are the sources? The appropriation does not require matching funds and the Department does not provide any other funds to IFAS for this purpose. However, in 2012 Hillsborough County contracted \$100,000 with Florida LAKEWATCH to increase frequency of lake sampling and add some aquatic plant and fish surveys to selected lakes.

21. List any audits or evaluative reports that have been published for this project (including website links, if available):  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/bioassess/balinks.htm>  
<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/csreesvolmon/RelatedResearch/FLdata.html>

22. Provide any other information that can be used to evaluate the performance of this project:

23. CONTACT INFORMATION for person completing this form:

Name: Jessica Stringer

Title: Program Administrator

Phone number and email address: 850-245-8342 [jessica.stringer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:jessica.stringer@dep.state.fl.us)

Date: December 21, 2012

## Community Issue Performance Evaluation

1. State Agency:

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

2. State Program (or Type of Program):

**Water Resources/Water Science & Laboratory Services**

3. Project Title:

Statewide Numeric Nutrient Criteria Monitoring

4. Recipient name and address: To be determined.

Location county/counties: To be determined. The work to be funded with the appropriation must first be planned and integrated with ongoing nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) criteria monitoring associated with the recent development of numeric nutrient water quality standards and their adoption in rule. A solicitation for the work will be posted upon completion of this work.

5. Is the recipient a governmental entity, a private non-profit entity, or a private for-profit entity:

Undetermined at present, but likely to be a private entity engaged through contract solicitation.

6. <u>FUNDING:</u> FY 2012-13 Recurring General Revenue	FY 2012-13 Recurring Trust Funds	FY 2012-13 Recurring TOTAL FUNDS	GAA Specific Appropriation Number (ch. 2012-118, L.O.F.)
\$1,786,926	\$	\$1,786,926	1660B

7. FY 2012-13 GAA proviso specifically associated with the project (if any): Funds in Specific Appropriation 1660B are provided to implement a numeric nutrient monitoring network able to communicate with the Department of Environmental Protection's existing systems that would provide for improved numeric nutrient criteria determination and nutrient monitoring while within the state's surface and ground waters to improve or assess water quality.

8. Project Purpose/Description: The description is laid out clearly in the proviso language cited in item 7. In order to make effective use of the funds, the Department must carefully plan for integrating ongoing nutrient criteria monitoring, used in the current water quality assessment process, into the more comprehensive monitoring network envisioned by the proviso. In turn, the network must be developed in conjunction with implementation of newly adopted numeric nutrient rules. These rules will require significant monitoring and data collection over time, both for purposes of assessing water quality and for establishing site-specific numeric water quality standards.

9. Number of years this project has received state funding: SFY 2012-2013 is the first year of funding.

10. Does this project align with the core missions of the agency or the program area in which it is funded?  
(Explain): Yes, the project aligns with the Department's mission and legal mandates to establish water quality standards and monitor and assess water quality relative to those standards. In addition, because of the emphasis in the newly adopted numeric nutrient standards on setting site-specific criteria, enhanced nutrient monitoring is essential to provide for practical, cost-effective restoration.

11. Does the program meet a demonstrated need in the community that is not otherwise being met?  
(Explain): The Department is charged by both federal law and the Florida Legislature with establishing water quality standards and monitoring Florida's more than 50,000 miles of rivers and streams, 7,800 lakes, and 4,000 square miles of estuaries. Excessive nutrient levels in many of Florida's rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries is the most significant water quality problem in the state. The abilities to detect nutrient problems, restore water quality, and place appropriate—and not unnecessarily stringent—limits on sources that discharge nutrients are essential community needs.

12. What are the intended outcomes/impacts and benefits of the project? The project will monitor and assess the chemical and biological health of Florida's surface waters, particularly as they are affected by excessive nutrient levels. The scientific assessment conducting using the data will be used to establish appropriate restoration priorities and cost-effective restoration projects and activities. The result will be improved water quality in Florida's rivers, lakes, streams, and estuaries and, in turn, enhanced recreation, better habitat and an improved quality of life and economy.

13. What performance data does the agency/entity regularly collect and report that demonstrates the value of the program to the State of Florida? As the funds have not yet been contracted, data have not been collected as a result of this particular appropriation. However, related monitoring data are collected and routinely reported through a variety of mechanisms, all of which are available on the Department's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm>. These include:  
 Output data (e.g., number of clients served, students educated, units produced); Enumerate: Basic output data includes number of monitoring stations, parameters sampled per station, regularity of sampling, and extensive meta-data characterizing the sampling data.  
 Outcome data (data on the effectiveness or quality of services, e.g., percentage of clients successfully completing treatment); Enumerate: The data gathered through the monitoring program are used to assess the quality of rivers, lakes, streams, and estuaries to determine whether they are "impaired" (not meeting water quality standards) and in need of specific pollution reduction targets (total maximum daily loads) to guide restoration. These are outcomes reflecting direct environmental conditions and circumstances.  
 Unit cost data (e.g., cost per unit produced); Enumerate: Contracts are evaluated in part on unit cost data; the contract for this work will have specific performance requirements, including requirements related to cost-effectiveness.  
 Other (Explain):

14. How is program data collected and has it been independently validated for accuracy and completeness?  
As the funds have not yet been contracted, data have not been collected as a result of this particular appropriation. However, all data will be collected in accordance with existing Department water quality

monitoring protocols, including comprehensive chain-of-custody and other quality assurance procedures, and will be analyzed in the Department's certified laboratory (or other certified labs). All results will be entered into comprehensive water quality data management systems. Monitoring program protocols are available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm> and will be incorporated into the contract.

15. Is there an executed contract between the agency and the recipient? There are no contracts at this time. The funds will be used to contract for professional and support services for data collection and monitoring activities.

16. If there is a contract, are the outputs, measures and costs specified in a contract between the agency and the recipient? Not applicable. However, all of the monitoring protocols and quality assurance procedures will be set forth in the request for proposals and will be part of any final contract.

17. How do the unit costs compare to those of comparable or alternative projects or services? (EXPLAIN AND SPECIFY): Not applicable. However, unit costs are expected to be comparable with other Department monitoring contracts with the private sector.

18. Based on performance data, is this project meeting the expected outputs and having the intended outcomes? (Explain): Not applicable as performance data for these specific funds will not be available until after a contract has been executed and performance begins.

19. Describe how the information upon which the answer above is based was obtained and validated: Not applicable.

20. How much additional funding or matching funding from non-state sources is available for this project and what are the sources? No matching funds are required by the appropriation. However, the Department invests substantial additional funding in water quality monitoring overall, including nutrient criteria monitoring. As noted previously, the appropriation will be used to enhance nutrient criteria monitoring.

21. List any audits or evaluative reports that have been published for this project (including website links, if available): Not applicable as these specific funds have not yet been contracted.

22. Provide any other information that can be used to evaluate the performance of this project: The following link provides comprehensive information on the adoption of numeric nutrient criteria, to which this budget item is related: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/nutrients/index.htm>. In addition, information on the Department's existing monitoring programs, including its monitoring networks, is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm>.

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Date: December 21, 2012

## Community Issue Performance Evaluation

1. State Agency:

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

2. State Program (or Type of Program):

**Water Resources/Water Science & Laboratory Services**

3. Project Title:

Total Maximum Daily Loads Springs Environmental Monitoring

4. Recipient name and address: To be determined.

Location county/counties: To be determined. The work to be funded with the appropriation will be integrated with ongoing springs monitoring and the TMDL basin rotation cycle; the contract request for proposals was posted December 4, 2012.

5. Is the recipient a governmental entity, a private non-profit entity, or a private for-profit entity: The contract request for proposals was posted December 4, 2012; the selected respondent is expected to be a private contractor.

6. <u>FUNDING:</u> FY 2012-13 Recurring General Revenue	FY 2012-13 Recurring Trust Funds	FY 2012-13 Recurring TOTAL FUNDS	GAA Specific Appropriation Number (ch. 2012-118, L.O.F.)
\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	1660A

7. FY 2012-13 GAA proviso specifically associated with the project (if any): Line item 1660A: Of the funds in Specific Appropriation 1660A, \$2,000,000 in recurring and \$2,000,000 in nonrecurring general revenue funds are provided to implement a Statewide Load Monitoring Network installed based on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watershed basin rotation plan that would provide for improved TMDL determination and nutrient monitoring within the State's surface and ground waters to improve water quality. This monitoring network shall include implementation and deployment of nodes of self-contained, high-resolution rainfall, flow, nitrogen and phosphorus sensors. Data collection, communication and access for long-term use of collected data by stakeholders would be available through a central secure web-based application.

8. Project Purpose/Description: The description is laid out clearly in the proviso language cited in item 7. In order to make effective use of the funds, the Department must integrate them with ongoing springs monitoring and the TMDL basin rotation cycle. With 33 first-magnitude springs and more than 700 smaller springs, Florida has the largest concentration of freshwater springs on Earth. The springs are threatened primarily by nutrient pollution, excess nitrogen and phosphorus that deplete oxygen levels,



promote algae growth and destroy habitat. One difficulty in restoring spring water quality is the size of most springsheds—the areas of land that contribute water, and pollutants, to the springs, including land miles away from the spring itself—and the fact that the pollution comes from so many different sources, including longstanding land use practices related to both agricultural production and urban development. These complications make a well-funded, comprehensive monitoring network essential to accurately determining water quality problems and establishing priorities for cost-effective restoration.

9. Number of years this project has received state funding: SFY 2012-2013 is the first year of funding received in this Operating category, although the proviso language associated with appropriation has been modified each year. Springs monitoring has been referenced in the proviso in each of the last two years which was received in Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) categories.

10. Does this project align with the core missions of the agency or the program area in which it is funded? (Explain): Yes, the project aligns with the Department's core mission and legal mandates to establish water quality standards and monitor and assess water quality relative to those standards, including water quality in springs. In addition, because springs are most threatened by nutrient impacts and because of the emphasis in Florida's newly adopted numeric nutrient standards on setting site-specific criteria, enhanced nutrient monitoring is essential to provide for practical, cost-effective restoration.

11. Does the program meet a demonstrated need in the community that is not otherwise being met? (Explain): The Department is charged by both federal law and the Florida Legislature with establishing water quality standards and monitoring Florida's rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and springs. Excessive nutrient levels are the most significant water quality problem affecting Florida's springs. The abilities to detect nutrient problems, restore water quality, and place appropriate—and not unnecessarily stringent—limits on sources that discharge nutrients are essential community needs.

12. What are the intended outcomes/impacts and benefits of the project? The project will monitor and assess the chemical and biological health of Florida's springs, particularly as they are affected by excessive nutrient levels. The scientific assessment conducting using the data will be used to establish appropriate restoration priorities and cost-effective restoration projects and activities. The result will be improved water quality in Florida's springs and, in turn, enhanced recreation, better habitat and an improved quality of life and economy.

13. What performance data does the agency/entity regularly collect and report that demonstrates the value of the program to the State of Florida? As the request for proposals for use of the funds was only posted at the beginning of December 2012, data have not been collected as a result of this particular appropriation. However, related monitoring data are collected and routinely reported through a variety of mechanisms, all of which are available on the Department's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm>. These include:  
X Output data (e.g., number of clients served, students educated, units produced); Enumerate: Basic output data includes number of monitoring stations, parameters sampled per station, regularity of sampling, and extensive meta-data characterizing the sampling data.

Outcome data (data on the effectiveness or quality of services, e.g., percentage of clients successfully completing treatment); Enumerate: The data gathered through the monitoring program are used to assess water quality in springs to determine whether they are "impaired" (not meeting water quality standards) and in need of specific pollution reduction targets (total maximum daily loads) to guide restoration. These are outcomes reflecting direct environmental conditions and circumstances.

Unit cost data (e.g., cost per unit produced); Enumerate: Contracts are evaluated in part on unit cost data; the contract for this work will have specific performance requirements, including requirements related to cost-effectiveness.

Other (Explain):

14. How is program data collected and has it been independently validated for accuracy and completeness?

As the request for proposals for use of the funds was only posted at the beginning of December 2012, data have not been collected as a result of this particular appropriation. However, all data will be collected in accordance with existing Department water quality monitoring protocols, including comprehensive chain-of-custody and other quality assurance procedures, and will be analyzed in the Department's certified laboratory (or other certified labs). All results will be entered into comprehensive water quality data management systems. Monitoring program protocols are available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm> and will be incorporated into the contract.

15. Is there an executed contract between the agency and the recipient? There are no contracts at this time. The request for proposals solicitation was posted December 4, 2012.

16. If there is a contract, are the outputs, measures and costs specified in a contract between the agency and the recipient? Not applicable. However, all of the monitoring protocols and quality assurance procedures are set forth in the request for proposals and will be part of any final contract, as noted above.

17. How do the unit costs compare to those of comparable or alternative projects or services? (EXPLAIN AND SPECIFY): Not applicable. However, unit costs are expected to be comparable with other Department monitoring contracts with the private sector.

18. Based on performance data, is this project meeting the expected outputs and having the intended outcomes? (Explain): Not applicable as performance data for these specific funds will not be available until after a contract has been executed and performance begins. The request for proposals solicitation was posted December 4, 2012.

19. Describe how the information upon which the answer above is based was obtained and validated: Not applicable.

20. How much additional funding or matching funding from non-state sources is available for this project

and what are the sources? No matching funds are required by the appropriation. However, the Department invests substantial additional resources in water quality monitoring overall, including nutrient criteria monitoring in springs. As noted previously, the appropriation will be used to enhance springs monitoring.

21. List any audits or evaluative reports that have been published for this project (including website links, if available): Not applicable as these specific funds have not yet been contracted. The request for proposals solicitation was posted December 4, 2012. For access to review the RFP, please click on this link  
[http://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp\\_vendors/vendor\\_toolkit/mfmp\\_sourcing\\_solicitations](http://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/myfloridamarketplace/mfmp_vendors/vendor_toolkit/mfmp_sourcing_solicitations)

22. Provide any other information that can be used to evaluate the performance of this project: Not applicable for these specific funds as they have not yet been contracted. However, extensive information on the Department's monitoring programs is available at  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/index.htm>.

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Date: December 21, 2012