

*Photo Courtesy of Brevard County Natural Resources and the City of Cocoa Beach*

# **Advancing Restoration in the IRL**

*(INDIAN RIVER LAGOON)*

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NRLI Class X, April 2011

# Brevard County and the Indian River Lagoon

- Brevard County Population: 536,357
- Encompasses approx. 1200 sq. miles
- Highest URBAN density is in coastal areas
- One of six coastal counties in the IRL



Photo courtesy of SJRWMD

# The Indian River Lagoon

- 156 miles long
- Over 4000 species of plant and wildlife
- Supports approximately \$465 M in recreational revenues (boating, fishing, etc.)
- Creates employment for 19,000 Brevard residents
- **72 miles are within Brevard County**



*Photo Courtesy of Brevard County Natural Resource Management*

## Some helpful acronyms:

BMAP- Basin Management Action Plan

FDEP- Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection

IRL- Indian River Lagoon

NRMO- Natural Resources Management Office

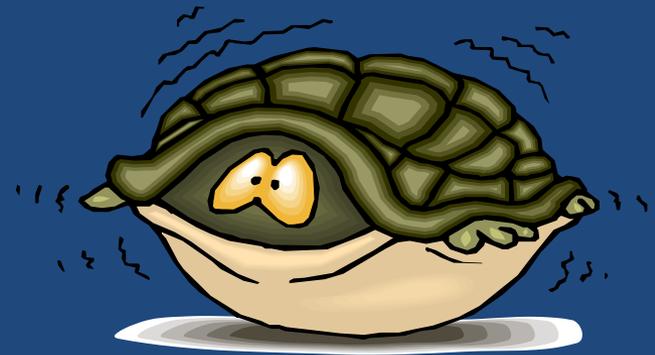
SJRWMD- St. John's River Water Management District

**TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load of pollutants that “a water body can absorb and still maintain its designated uses (ex: drinking, fishing, etc)”\***

My Practicum schedule: *One day per week*

*One last acronym...*

**OMG**- what I said when I realized what the practicum entails and what I would be doing for Brevard NRMCO!



# *The Statewide Challenge –*

“Under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Florida Watershed Restoration Act, TMDL’s must be developed for all waters not meeting their designated uses and, consequently, are defined as *‘impaired waters’*.” (FDEP)



# *The Challenge continued...*

**DEP Program continued:**

**Phase 1: Preliminary Evaluation of water quality**

**Phase 2: Strategic Monitoring and Assessment to verify water quality  
impairments**

**Phase 3: Development and Adoption of TMDLs for waters verified as  
impaired**

**Phase 4: Development of Basin Management Action Plan (B-MAP) to  
achieve the TMDL**

**Phase 5: Implementation of the BMAP and monitoring of results**

# *The Challenge continued...*



*Courtesy of Brevard County Natural Resources*

## **Brevard's Implementation:**

### **October 2010:**

- **Public Meeting held**
- **Establishment of 12 Working Groups comprised of municipalities and agencies.**

### **November 2010:**

- **Enter the interns (including me)**

# *The Natural Resource Conflict:*

- The model used to determine the TMDL used old input data



*Courtesy of [www.spacecoast.net](http://www.spacecoast.net)*

# *The Working Groups*

- Air Deposition
- Capital Improvement
- Estimating Nutrient Loads
- Fertilizer Ordinance
- FL Yards and Neighborhoods
- Low Impact Development
- Mapping Stormwater Assets
- Muck Removal/Algae Harvesting
- Public Outreach
- Streetsweeping
- TMDL (Originally Refining the TMDL and TMDL Risk Assessment Groups)



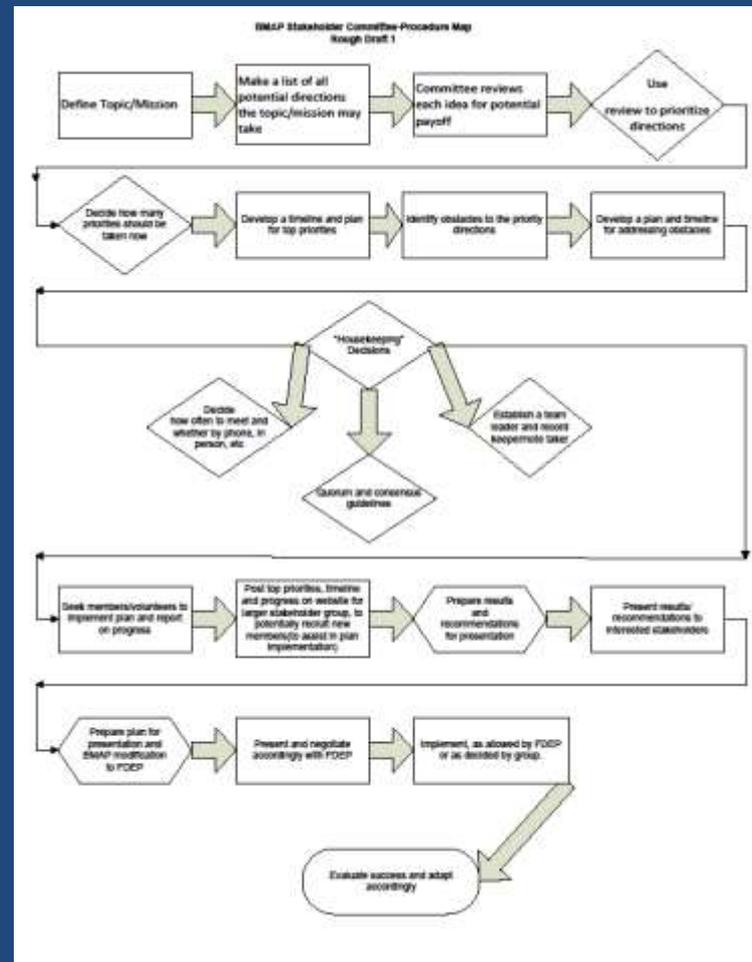
# *NRLI Practicum*

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop a flow chart for working group procedure
- Establish a Forum website for everyone to access (updates on news, meetings, etc.)
- Schedule, organize and facilitate working group meetings
- Update group lists and maintain constant communication with all working group members



# The Flow Chart



# *The Forum*

[Advancing Restoration in the IRL](#)

## *My journey*

- Facilitation is a life-long learning process



## *The success story:*

- **Through the work groups the community has come together to identify the weakest issues**
- **Framing consensus on what the key issues are, and sharing with FDEP led to ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

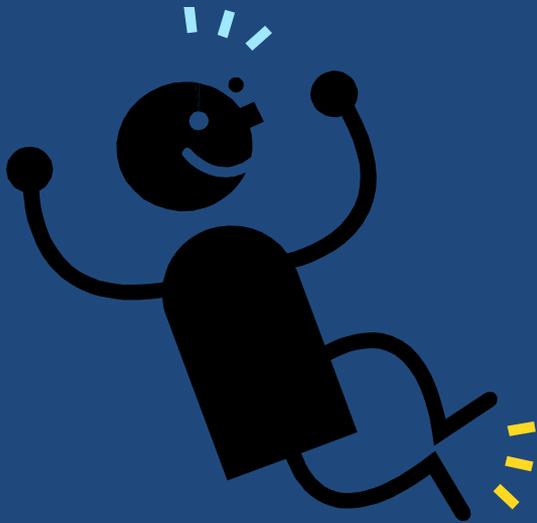
# *Very Special Thanks to:*

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*And also to:*

Teresa Watkins, for getting me here

The Project Team, for your wonderful guidance

My fellow fellows, for sharing all your personal and professional experience with the newbie!

*Questions?*



## *Helpful web links:*

Brevard County Natural Resources Watershed Program:

<http://www.brevstorm.org/>

Advancing Restoration in the IRL Forum:

<http://irl-advancingrestoration.lefora.com/>

FL Dept. Of Environmental Protection:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/>

St. Johns River Water Management District:

<http://sjr.state.fl.us/>



*Courtesy of Brevard Natural Resources*