

## **Appendix J**

Compilation of public comments through November 6, 2023

-----Original Message-----

From: edward evangelidi <eevangelidi6@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:24 PM

To: Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Subject: Re: horse and Charlie creek minimum flows

[You don't often get email from [eevangelidi6@gmail.com](mailto:eevangelidi6@gmail.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

thank you very much. i am glad that recreational minimum flows are considered in flow studies. now it somehow needs to be better transmitted to the general recreational public as attempting to negotiate a creek below minimum results in a rough day and i've noticed that florida does not publish such numbers as well as most other states; perhaps because the many spring flows and rainfall keeps more streams available in this state than in other states where elevation change plays a greater need for higher flows for recreation.

thanks again

On 7/13/23, Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)> wrote:

> Hi Mr. Evangelidi,

>

> Thank you for your comments. We do consider recreation in our  
> development of minimum flows, including maintenance of appropriate  
> depths for watercraft passage, protection of habitat to support  
> recreational fishing, and preservation of the natural aesthetic and scenic attributes of the systems.

> Our current low flow threshold for Charlie Creek is 27 cfs at the USGS

> Charlie Creek near Gardner gage. For Horse Creek, it is 15 cfs at the

> USGS Horse Creek at SR72 near Arcadia gage. These values were based

> upon the flows required to maintain 0.6 feet of depth along the creek

> for fish passage, which was our most sensitive low flow metric. For

> more information on how these values were determined, you may view our

> reports and associated appendices here:

>

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.swfwmd.state.fl.us%2Fprojects%2Fmfl%2Fdocuments-and-reports&data=05%7C01%7CKristina.Deak%40swfwmd.state.fl.us%7C2acbb85b2fd648899edb08db83d6bde3%7C7d508ec009f9440283043a93bd40a972%7C0%7C0%7C638248730594628505%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZrDxcZgknmlenmZpAWQ6aKTtElpoBPm2i0JsE1BNqpw%3D&reserved=0>.

>

> Best,

> Kristina Deak, PhD

> Senior Environmental Scientist

> Environmental Flows and Levels

> Southwest Florida Water Management District

> 7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637

> 813.328.3544

>

> From: edward evangelidi <[eevangelidi6@gmail.com](mailto:eevangelidi6@gmail.com)>

> Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:18 PM

> To: Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

> Subject: horse and Charlie creek minimum flows

>

> You don't often get email from [eevangelidi6@gmail.com](mailto:eevangelidi6@gmail.com). Learn why this

> is important<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

> [EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

>

> I noticed the study being initiated to study the minimum flows on

> these two creeks that I occasionally enjoy paddling. I hope that

> minimum flows for the public to enjoy recreation on these and the many

> other scenic creeks will be considered in any study on minimum flows.

> For Charlie creek I have a personal minimum of 20 cfs and while I have

> not developed my minimum for horse creek I would assume it is at a somewhat similar water level.

> Edward evangelidi

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Voice Mail (1 minute and 43 seconds)  
**Date:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 9:08:00 AM

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Spoke with Tom Herbert on 7/14 at approximately 11:45 AM for 15 minutes. He was wondering how we incorporated future mining plans into the development of Minimum Flows. I responded that we used PRIM2 to model groundwater and surface water throughout the area and that it considers the impact of existing and reclaimed mined lands on soils, streamflow, and hydrogeology and referred him to the publicly available PRIM2 appendix on the District website for further details.

He mentioned concerns about the potential for future sinkhole development in the region and that a lot of small tributaries could have their flows affected should sinkholes develop or an incident associated with mining occur.

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**From:** LAMPL HERBERT C <+18504434262>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 10:42 AM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (1 minute and 43 seconds)

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning, Christina. My name is Tom Herbert, I'm a geologist up in Tallahassee and our firm is Lampel Herbert Consultants and we represent Hardy County on all their phosphate, phosphate, phosphate mining review. And I noticed that you have a meeting coming up next week on Horse Creek, Little Charlie Creek minimum flows peer review panel kickoff. We are presently, we have just finished review on the Eastern extension. Which impacts the upper Charlie Little Charlie Creek watershed and we just want to talk to you. I wanted to talk to you a little bit about it and see what the direction of the panel is going to be. And just make sure that we get on the get in the flow of information so we keep track of what's going on. I think it'll be important to our client which is the County Commission. They're going to deliberation on the mining permits for the Eastern extension which goes quite a ways to the east from the present area and it's in involves the watershed. So I think everything is OK in terms of planning, but we just, I just want to talk to you about it a little bit to see what's going to happen in the meeting. Thank you for your time. I'm at 850-443-4262. That's Tom Herbert, professional geologist, Lampel Herbert Consultants, 850-443-4262. Thank you. Have a good weekend.

You received a voice mail from [LAMPL HERBERT C](#).

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Thank you for using Transcription! If you don't see a transcript above, it's because the audio quality was not clear enough to transcribe.

[Set Up Voice Mail](#)



**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Angel Martin](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments--Proposed Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 8:03:00 AM

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Thank you for your thoughtful comments, Angel. We will take them into consideration.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

---

**From:** Angel Martin <amartin217@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 7:09 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>; Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Comments--Proposed Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

As per today's discussion for the subject peer review panel kickoff meeting, below are comments for consideration by the District and peer review panel.

1. Investigation and discussion in the final report are warranted concerning the flow data acquired from the U.S. Geological Survey gaging stations. The possibility of error/uncertainty in the flow record should be considered when compared to model-simulated results.
2. The term flow standard should be better explained as discussed by Kristina Deak. Her explanation to my question was clear. A sentence more clearly defining this term is warranted.
3. Suggest emphasizing the possible results in dissolved oxygen concentration for both creeks at the proposed MFL.
4. Totally agree that there is a section in the report concerning possible future work and/or application of other methodology in the establishment of MFLs. There may be cases where additional flow and water-quality are required for verifying and improving modeling results. As the flow regime possibly changes in the near future due to climate change, changes in land use, and other factors, additional data collection may be warranted.
5. Please describe in the report the effects/significance of groundwater flow in the hydrologic description of both basins.

Please contact me if you need any additional information or clarification Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed minimum flows.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944

**From:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**To:** [Executive Correspondence](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Yonas Ghile](#); [Gabe I. Herrick](#); [Chris Zajac](#)  
**Subject:** Horse & Charlie Creek MFLs Comments-Mari Hollingsworth 2023-07-17  
**Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 11:10:54 AM

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All: Mari Hollinsworth (423-504-2183) called me back this morning (2023-07-17), and we spoke for 32 minutes.

- At her request, I explained what minimum flow and levels are, what they are used for, and the status of minimum flows development for Charlie Creek and Horse Creek.
- Mari also asked about water use permitting but primarily commented on and asked about water quality issues.
- Water quality issues that were identified included: excess nutrient concentrations and their effects on Charlotte Harbor; lack of substantial results from multiple decades of public funded red-tide research by the Mote Marine Laboratory; consideration of water quality information for minimum flow and levels development; occurrence of foam in Horse Creek and its likely relation to pollutants; occurrence of black and greasy sediments in portions of Horse Creek; and importantly, cancer clusters of (childhood?) leukemia in the vicinity of the creek (Horse?) or creeks (Horse and Charlie?).
- Mari also expressed concern with lack of agency staff's apparent lack of knowledge about pollutants in Charlie Creek and Horse Creek and her perceived lack of appropriate exertion of regulatory authority by the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. A lack of coordination among regulatory agencies was also identified as highly problematic.
- Mari also expressed skepticism regarding the accuracy and availability of water quality information from area water supply agencies (e.g., the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority) and regulated organization (e.g., Mosaic).
- During our conversation, I emphasized the nature of the District's ongoing minimum flows work on Charlie and Horse creeks. I highlighted: the extensive "transparency" in our minimum flows and levels development processes; the availability of relevant documents on the District web site; conduct of peer review processes in accordance with Florida's "government-in-the-sunshine" law; District facilitation of public meetings on proposed minimum flows and levels; and the public-nature of District Governing Board meetings where decisions regarding minimum flow and levels establishment are made.
- Near the end of our conversation, I let Mari know that I would share the concerns she raised during our call with my colleagues at the District that are currently working of the Charlie Creek and Horse Creek minimum flows.
- I further noted that she may want to consider providing comments in writing directly to me or other staff, call again to provide oral comments, or similarly provide oral or written comment during publicly noticed meetings (including the peer review webforum) facilitated by the District.

Doug Leeper  
MFLs Program Lead  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street

Brooksville, FL 34604

1-352-269-5863 or 352-796-7211

[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org) or [doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

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**From:** Doug Leeper

**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 9:14 AM

**To:** Executive Correspondence <[Executive@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Executive@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Cc:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Yonas Ghile <[Yonas.Ghile@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Yonas.Ghile@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Gabe I. Herrick <[Gabe.Herrick@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Gabe.Herrick@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Chris Zajac <[Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Chris.Zajac@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Minimum flows Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

Shantal:

- I called Mari's number a few minutes ago and got voicemail.
- Left a message indicating that they may call me to discuss their questions and concerns.

Doug Leeper

MFLs Program Lead

Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street

Brooksville, FL 34604

1-352-269-5863 or 352-796-7211

[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org) or [doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

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**From:** Executive Correspondence <[Executive@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Executive@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2023 8:30 AM

**To:** Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** FW: Minimum flows Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

**Please see email request below received via executive correspondence.**

*Kind Regards,*

**Shantal Santiago**

Southwest Florida Water Management District

**Receptionist**

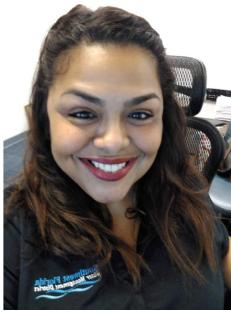
2379 Broad St.

Brooksville, FL 34604

Office: (352) 796-7211

Direct Line (352) -269-6820

[shantal.santiago@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:shantal.santiago@swfwmd.state.fl.us)



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**From:** Noreply WebNotifications <[NRWM@swfwmd.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:NRWM@swfwmd.onmicrosoft.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2023 8:50 AM

**To:** info <[info@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:info@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** Minimum flows Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

**Your Name**

Mari

**Your Email**

[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)

**Subject**

Minimum flows Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

**Message**

May I speak to the person who knows about this and can explain it to me?

My phone # 423-504-2183

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#); [mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)  
**Bcc:** [Chris Zajac](#)  
**Subject:** Horse Creek and Charlie Creek minimum flows inquiries  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2023 10:12:00 AM

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Good morning, Ms. Hollingsworth,

I wanted to confirm that I received your message last week and will be working on compiling answers to your inquiries. I also wanted to make sure you had my proper email address as it looks like there was a minor typo in the previous contact.

Thank you,  
Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

-----Original Message-----

From: Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:22 AM  
To: Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; [kristine.deak@watermatters.org](mailto:kristine.deak@watermatters.org)  
Cc: Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Subject: Minimum flows and levels

[You don't often get email from [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Doug & Kristine , thank you for allowing the public to listen and comment on this topic, minimum flows . I was very troubled how y'all didn't know about Mosaic phosphate mining company and their expansions, " future expansion, we don't know anything, that's fine." This is shocking to me!

What is so troubling is that you make these rules and regulations without knowing how much water the Mosaic phosphate mining company is withdrawing per day or how big their future mining plans will be. The Horse Creek now is showing signs of water degradation, and Mosaic is planning to add more NPDES into Horse Creek.

I have questions, if you could please answer.

- 1). How many NPDES will Mosaic have in Horse Creek for the Ona /Fort Green mine in Hardee County?
- 2). How many NPDES will Mosaic have in Horse Creek in the proposed mine in DeSoto County?
- 3). What are the risk to potable water, while the phosphate industry dumps "hazardous waste &

Slightly Radioactive

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Angel Martin](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Correction--Comment #1  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 8:06:00 AM

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Hi Angel,

Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your participation in these meetings and will consider your suggestions as we continue to improve the draft reports.

Kristina

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**From:** Angel Martin <amartin217@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2023 7:45 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>; Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Correction--Comment #1

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

My first comment I sent earlier was not complete. Below is the complete comment. In the previous email, I did not include "for the proposed MFL" in the second part of the statement. Thank you for your consideration.

1. Suggest presenting water-budget analyses for historical hydrologic conditions and the hydrologic conditions for the proposed MFL including groundwater flow.

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Angel Martin



**From:** [Angel Martin](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Kristina Deak](#)  
**Subject:** Horse Creek and Charlie Creek MFLs--July 24, 2023  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2023 5:46:48 PM

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[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Concerning the subject peer review panel meeting, below is a summary of my comments.

1. Suggest presenting water-budget analyses for historical hydrologic conditions and the hydrologic conditions including groundwater flow..
2. The peer review panel should consider adding to a proposed possible future work section in the report the possibility of additional long-term hydrologic/water-quality monitoring in the watershed including continuous measurement of dissolved oxygen concentrations and systematic measurements of sediment loads.
3. Consider mentioning in the report some of the limitations in the application of the surface and groundwater models in the development of the MFL. A brief summary of the limitations would be adequate.
4. Can the sulfate detected in the watershed be associated with atmospheric deposition?

Please contact me if you need any clarifications or additional information. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject MFL.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Mari R.H.](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#)  
**Bcc:** [Chris Zajac](#); [Yonas Ghile](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Horse Creek and Charlie Creek MFLs  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 8:35:00 AM

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Good morning Ms. Hollingsworth,

Any materials a panelist or District member pulls up for discussion are viewable on screen in real time if you are participating through the Microsoft teams application on a smartphone or computer. If you are dialing in through the call-in number, you will have to pull up documents yourself from the web forum. Yesterday's meeting was a working meeting for the peer review panelists, without a formal presentation. It is up to panelists how they prefer to discuss and display materials with one another during these meetings, but all substantial working documents and requested data are posted to the web forum. The outline they were discussing is available on the web forum under "Draft outline for Horse and Charlie Creek Review" (<https://swfwmd.discussion.community/minimum-flows-for-horse-creek-and-charlie-creek-941695>).

The kickoff meeting presentation, which includes a slide with the background of each peer review panelist is available on the Horse and Charlie minimum flows web forum, under the "Peer Review Panel Kickoff Meeting - July 17, 2023" topic. You can find the ArcGIS Storymap on the bottom of the Horse and Charlie minimum flows page, which includes sampling locations (<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfls/minimum-flows-horse-creek-and-charlie-creek>). You can find all draft reports and associated appendices on the District webpage (<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfl/documents-and-reports>). You may review details of our water quality analysis in these draft reports and in Appendices B and G for both systems.

I hope you find this information helpful. The development of minimum flows is a transparent process and we readily share all relevant information and data with the public.

We will take your remaining comments into consideration as we continue to improve our draft reports.

Thank you for your input.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

-----Original Message-----

From: Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 8:06 AM  
To: Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
Cc: Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: Horse Creek and Charlie Creek MFLs

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Kristina & Doug, I'm sorry for interrupting, but the way this meeting is set up for the public is no good, frustrating.

Maybe it's just me, but I could not see your presentations of locations and maps. I felt in the dark. I looked at SWFWMD webpage to see if there was something written I could follow, I didn't see anything. Could you help me with this? Also I didn't see a list of panel members, their titles and affiliation.

I want to know who's who , and to understand how industry, and state regulators work together.

I feel like the public is left out. You allow us to speak and write comments. But it has been my experience with regulatory agencies to be bias, protective of industry. I hope this is not the case here.

Do both of you know what kind of hazardous chemicals are in Mosaic phosphate mining's- trade secret agreement? I believe it is very important that Mosaic's NPDES be included in this "peer reviewed" study. Including NPDES for future mining.

Is it important for SWFWMD to know what chemicals are used? Mining is going to go on for 35+ more years, if Mosaic rapes DeSoto.

What is the accumulative effect? There is not enough land now between Hardee County and DeSoto County to filtrate more hazardous waste. Natural wetlands are becoming a thing of the past? Plus the phosphate industry is getting closer to Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Authority and Charlotte Harbor. Will our potable water be safe?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Mari

From: Kristina Deak  
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 1:43 PM  
To: Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Cc: Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>;  
Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
Subject: RE: Horse Creek and Charlie Creek MFLs

Hi Ms. Hollingsworth,

We are aware of the location and areal extent of existing Mosaic-owned properties throughout the watershed, including the proposed DeSoto mine, as well as the locations and discharge from existing NPDES sites and the locations of clay settling areas. We are also aware of the integrated water use permits granted to Mosaic from SWFWMD.

Minimum flows are adopted into rule by SWFWMD. These rules must then be considered by the SWFWMD during the water use permitting process. The Environmental Flows and Levels section does not review permit applications or issue permits. The section's work is focused on the evaluation and adoption of minimum flows. Minimum flows are not intended to mitigate any existing water quality impairments. Rather, the principal focus is on the impact of water withdrawals on the ecology and water resources of an area. SWFWMD must ensure that withdrawals do not have an impact on water quality conditions. Any possible impacts of water quality on potable use in the watershed is addressed in SWFWMD's minimum flows reports and appendices. The section staff found no impacts on water quality with the proposed minimum flows for Horse and Charlie Creeks.

Your previous email containing 13 questions (from 7/20) includes broad requests and has been turned over to our public records custodian. Someone from public records will respond to you shortly.

Thank you for your input,

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

-----Original Message-----

From: Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 10:44 AM  
To: Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
Cc: Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>;  
Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Subject: Re: Horse Creek and Charlie Creek MFLs

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Kristina, thank you for this information.  
I appreciate your help.

Kristina, I want to look at these MFLs meetings with common sense, and with a preventative approach. I feel that all this work , & data is not 100% full-proof in safe guarding our potable water.

I don't know if this panel is aware of future mining acreage in the watershed? I'm asking that you reach out to Mosaic for maps and locations of NPDES/Outfalls. I also want this panel to look at the acreage of the Ona/ Fort Green mine, and the proposed DeSoto County mine. It is important to note how close Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Authority, on Kings Highway, DeSoto County, is to Hardee County, and Mosaic proposed site in Pine Level, DeSoto County.

Mosaic is planning to put their CSA's on Tom Mizell, Rd. , Pine Level, DeSoto County. Look at a Mosaic map of this area. Did Mosaic design their CSA's in the Horse Creek watershed?

During Hurricane Ian, this area was under water. If Mosaic would have been in operation during this hurricane their CSA's on Tom Mizell Rd., would have been under water, breached.

My concern is Phosphate mining being too close to the Water Authority and neighborhoods. Would this pose a potential risk to our potable water?

Are you aware of Mosaic's trade secret agreement and its contents?

I feel that we are all sitting in a sand box looking at ( pristine) , historical data , fallowing rules and regulations, then along comes a flood, and washes away the "best engineering plans."

Phosphate mining is risky business, no matter which state or country this industry mines. We all have something in common, contaminated water, dead fish , and cancer.

Kristina, Florida's population is expanding, we need safe drinking water, and enough water to supply the consumer.

Water withdrawal is another concern for me. Is this panel aware of permitted wells given by SWFWMD to Mosaic? How much water is withdrawn per day from these wells?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mari

**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** Clarification  
**Date:** Friday, July 28, 2023 8:32:51 AM

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[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Hurricane Ian made landfall on September 28, 2022. On going water release by Mosaic phosphate mining company started two days after Hurricane Ian , on September 30, 2022.

**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** Horse Creek and Charlie Creek MFL's  
**Date:** Friday, July 28, 2023 7:11:35 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

This incident of on going water release is from Mosaic phosphate mining company the day after Hurricane Ian. How does this water release fit into MFL's ? Would this kind of release from a mining company cause an algae bloom , (red tide) & Irreversible damages to potable water?

Thank you for your assistance. Mari

	<b>FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection</b>	<b>Ron DeSantis</b> Governor
	Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000	<b>Jeanette Nuñez</b> Lt. Governor
		<b>Shawn Hamilton</b> Secretary

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**Pollution Notice**

Pursuant to Section 403.077, F.S., the Department of Environmental Protection has received the following Public Notice of Pollution for a reportable release. All information displayed was submitted by the reporting party.

**Type of Notice:** Initial Report  
**Date of Notice:** 09/30/2022

**Incident Information**  
**Name of Incident:** Four Corners Stormwater Release  
**State Watch Office Case Number:** 20227765  
**Start of Incident:** 09/30/2022 09:50 AM  
**End of Incident:**

**Incident Description**  
Ongoing stormwater release from facility stormwater BMP's was discovered during post storm survey as a result of excessive rainfall and regional scale flooding during and after Hurricane Ian. Site access remains limited due to ongoing flooding in the area.

**Incident Location**  
**Facility/Installation Name:** Four Corners Mine  
**Address Line 1:** 11200 FL 37  
**Address Line 2:**  
**Directions:**  
**City:** Bradley  
**State:** FL  
**Zip Code:** 33835  
**Coordinates (in decimal degrees):**

Coordinates (in decimal degrees):  
Lat: 27.6460810131042, Long: -82.08995250130276

[Click to view Incident Location](#)

**Impacted Counties:** Hardee, Manatee

**Updated Impact:**

**Incident Reported By**

**Name:** Santino Provenzano

**Title:** Director, Environmental - North America Operations

**Phone:** (813) 781-1185

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [santino.provenzano@mosaicco.com](mailto:santino.provenzano@mosaicco.com)

**Relationship:** Operator of the Facility/Installation

**On-Site Contact**

**Name:** Jackie Barron

**Phone:** (941) 356-0045

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [jackie.barron@mosaicco.com](mailto:jackie.barron@mosaicco.com)

To view a list of all received Public Notices of Pollution or to modify your e-mail subscription settings, please click the link below:

[Public Notice of Pollution](#)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Angel Martin](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Horse and Charlie Creek MFLs Peer Review Meeting #2--Reply  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 11:16:00 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

No, I don't mind. Please do so.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944

---

**From:** Kristina Deak [mailto:[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 01, 2023 8:54 AM  
**To:** Angel Martin <[amartin217@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:amartin217@tampabay.rr.com)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Horse and Charlie Creek MFLs Peer Review Meeting #2

Hi Angel,

Thanks for providing your comments in writing. It's very helpful to make sure we are capturing your inquiries adequately. Do you mind if I post this list of questions and your previous questions to the web forum, so they are available for panelist consideration as well?

Have a great day,

Kristina

---

**From:** Angel Martin <[amartin217@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:amartin217@tampabay.rr.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Horse and Charlie Creek MFLs Peer Review Meeting #2

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Below are my comments/suggestions concerning the subject meeting.

1. Concerning the hydrogeology, it is stated that the Upper Floridan aquifer is non-artesian. If water levels fall above the top of the aquifer in this area then the aquifer is confined (artesian) but not flowing—flowing artesian. Please specify which is the case and whether groundwater flow is upward/downward in the area.
2. Concerning the hydrogeology, it is stated that water-table elevations are between 77.6 ft and 97.7 ft. What are the units for these values—NAVD 88 or are these depths below land surface? Please specify.
3. Concerning the hydrogeology, it is stated that 85-90% of the pumpage is from the Upper Floridan aquifer. Is the other 10-15% of the pumpage from the Surficial aquifer or the Lower

Floridan aquifer?

4. Some checking is required on why the specific-conductance trend reversed in the watershed. Could this be related to a change of methodology in the measurement of specific conductance or perhaps the data were collected from a different location? Perhaps further checking with the USGS on this issue is warranted.
5. Some additional explanation/discussion is needed concerning the relatively low correlation coefficient (R-squared) of 0.52 between PRIM results and the USGS data.
6. The panelists indicated that the MFL analyses was “most restrictive”. Does this imply that the analyses were the most conservative? Please specify.
7. Concerning the PRIM, will this model be updated in the next 3-5 years to reflect the proposed mining in the Charlie Creek watershed or is the mining considered to not be significant as related to the proposed MFLs?

Please contact me if you need any additional information or clarification concerning these comments/suggestions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this process.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944

## Introduction of Peer Review Panelists

<b>Harry Downing, MS, PE</b> Panel Chairperson Applied Sciences Consulting, Inc.	<b>Adam Munson, PhD, PE, MBA</b> Panelist AMFL, Inc.	<b>John Kiefer, PhD, PE, <u>SrPWS</u></b> Panelist Black & Veatch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ &gt; 40 years experience, including 35 years at SWFWMD as lead technical modeler and statistical analyst</li> <li>❖ Experienced with surface and groundwater models</li> <li>❖ Has developed custom models in Excel and SAS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ &gt; 25 years of experience, including 9 years with the SWFWMD MFL program</li> <li>❖ Unique engineering, statistics, and ecological expertise</li> <li>❖ Statistical modeling to investigate MFL, rainfall, groundwater, and surface water scenarios and relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 35 years of Florida water body and watershed restoration, enhancement, and assessment experience</li> <li>❖ Direct experience with MFLs</li> <li>❖ Has designed award-winning sediment management and ecosystem restoration projects</li> </ul>

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#)  
**Bcc:** [Chris Zajac](#); [Yonas Ghile](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Panel Members/ Charlie Creek & Horse Creek , MFL's  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 8:50:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Slide 2.jpg](#)

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Hi Mari,

That information is located on slide 2 of the peer review panel kickoff meeting presentation, posted in the web forum. I've attached a screenshot of that slide. The names of the panelist are also provided on all meeting agendas and meeting minutes and they are introduced at the start of each meeting.

Our panel chairperson is Mr. Harry Downing, currently with Applied Sciences. He is supported by panelist Dr. Adam Munson and Dr. John Kiefer.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

-----Original Message-----

From: Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 6:53 AM  
To: Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
Cc: Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>; Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
Subject: Panel Members/ Charlie Creek & Horse Creek , MFL's

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Kristina, I've been trying to find the names of your panel members, but haven't had any luck. Kristina, when you are able , can you please send me an email of the names/bio of your panel members. Thank you,  
Mari

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Mari R.H.](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#)  
**Bcc:** [Chris Zajac](#); [Yonas Ghile](#); [Adrienne E. Vining](#); [Gabe I. Herrick](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Horse Creek and Charlie Creek minimum flows inquiries  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 1:39:00 PM

---

Hi Ms. Hollingsworth,

Thank you for your contributions during the peer review process. I've shared your concerns with my technical team and your emails will be included in the public comment compilation submitted to the Governing Board with our proposed minimum flows for these systems. Should you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this peer review or the proposed minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek you may post to the web forum (through October 9) or email me.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

---

**From:** Mari R.H. <hollingsworthmr@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:36 AM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>; Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Molly Bowen <mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com>; Brooks Armstrong <pinelilywild@yahoo.com>; Nancy Armstrong <nrbarms@hotmail.com>; Mari <hollingsworthmr@icloud.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Horse Creek and Charlie Creek minimum flows inquiries

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Doug & Kristina,

I'm letting you know I won't be participating in this meeting. I feel like the outsider, you make me feel like I have no right to clean water. Also I find it very suspicious that water test results always come back within in normal limits. This frequently happens with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection , results . Coincidence?

I have helped DEP many times with environmental issues, and realized they are controlled by lobbyists, industry, special interest groups, and I'm getting the same feeling with this group.

No room for the public's outcry on water degradation. We've gone from pristine data to historical data. You got a big fat phosphate mining company in the watershed, and nobody is stepping outside to see the damages. We're all hung up on written data. "PROPAGANDA"

Water quality is not getting better on Horse Creek and Peace River. Matter of fact, it's getting worse! I remember what the Horse Creek looked like in 1974. I'm sure John Keifer and Adam couldn't tell you what it looked like. Horse Creek in 1974 , had clear tea colored water, with sugar white sand. Not anymore, the creek water is full of green mucous looking slime. The banks are black/greasy, with

rainbow colors when the sun hits it, including the color silver.

Peace River recently turned pea green , from Crews Park in Hardee County to Veterans Park in DeSoto County. Department of Health issued an advisory -not to get in the water due to blue-green algae. Peace River now has that tannin cloudy colored water, but when you get into swim and touch the bottom all the silt floats to the top like cake batter. In my opinion, using my common sense, water quality is not going to improve with a phosphate company in the watershed.

These meetings are biased, plus we are suppose to trust the Horse Creek Stewardship program, an entity of the Mosaic phosphate mining company. John Keifer also did a presentation in DeSoto County on behalf of Mosaic.

I feel that SWFWMD is too interwoven with lobbyists and industry, and we the public are watching it happen, and suffering the consequences.

We are seeing sudsy green/grey water coming out of Mosaic's NPDES, with the smell of kerosene. We've reported it , but sadly we go unheard. Water quality is always within normal limits with DEP. Public safety is secondary.

Kristina and Doug , is it your modus operandi to protect lobbyists & industry at all cost ?

My gut tells me yes.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Date:** July 24, 2023 at 10:12:38 AM EDT  
**To:** [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)  
**Cc:** Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>, [mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Horse Creek and Charlie Creek minimum flows inquiries

Good morning, Ms. Hollingsworth,

I wanted to confirm that I received your message last week and will be working on compiling answers to your inquiries. I also wanted to make sure you had my proper email address as it looks like there was a minor typo in the previous contact.

Thank you,  
Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

-----Original Message-----

From: Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:22 AM

To: Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; [kristine.deak@watermatters.org](mailto:kristine.deak@watermatters.org)

Cc: Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Mari

<[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

Subject: Minimum flows and levels

[You don't often get email from [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Doug & Kristine , thank you for allowing the public to listen and comment on this topic, minimum flows . I was very troubled how y'all didn't know about Mosaic phosphate mining company and their expansions, " future expansion, we don't know anything, that's fine." This is shocking to me!

What is so troubling is that you make these rules and regulations without knowing how much water the Mosaic phosphate mining company is withdrawing per day or how big their future mining plans will be. The Horse Creek now is showing signs of water degradation, and Mosaic is planning to add more NPDES into Horse Creek.

I have questions, if you could please answer.

- 1). How many NPDES will Mosaic have in Horse Creek for the Ona /Fort Green mine in Hardee County?
- 2). How many NPDES will Mosaic have in Horse Creek in the proposed mine in DeSoto County?
- 3). What are the risk to potable water, while the phosphate industry dumps "hazardous waste & Slightly Radioactive

13). Why is the public being scolded for using water to shower by SWFWMD, and how many gallons per day have you issued Mosaic through their permits?

I'm worried that you are just rubber stamping these permits for Mosaic and not knowing how many more acres will be mined, and what are the consequences to our potable water?

I look forward to your answers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth



**From:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**To:** [Angel Martin](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Yonas Ghile](#); [Gabe I. Herrick](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments--Horse and Charlie Creeks MFLs--Meeting #3  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023 8:30:00 AM

---

Angel:

- As always, thanks for participating in the Charlie-Horse (I like to say that) peer review and for submitting your comments in writing.
- With your permission, we will include your comments on the webforum – just let me know.

Doug Leeper  
MFLs Program Lead  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604  
1-352-269-5863 or 352-796-7211  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org) or [doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

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**From:** Angel Martin <[amartin217@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:amartin217@tampabay.rr.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 5:36 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** Comments--Horse and Charlie Creeks MFLs--Meeting #3

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Below are my comments/suggestions concerning the materials discussed during the subject meeting.

1. Further explanation is needed for choosing the extent of the creek reaches in the development of the MFLs. For example, only the lower reach of Charlie Creek is considered in the analyses (for example, in HEC-RAS simulation) and, therefore, the MFL should only be designated for the Lower Charlie Creek.
2. Further description of the term adaptive management is needed. Not clear as to what this term signifies when applied to MFL development.
3. Specify in the report where additional data (primarily streamflow) may be collected for future analysis.
4. Advise that some brief discussion be added indicating that sophisticated analysis will probably be required in future water-use permit applications in and near Horse and Charlie Creeks and, in general, the Peace River Basin concerning the possible effects on the prescribed MFLs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject materials. Please contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information or clarifications.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944



**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:46:34 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning, this is what Peace River looked like May4th 2023. Checkout Mosaic in Hardee County strip mine. Notice the water in mining operations. Where does all this nutrient rich water go during a flood event? Peace River , Horse Creek? Then this water flows to Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Authority for the consumer to drink! Is phosphate mining 100% safe for our potable water?























Small text at the bottom left corner of the second image.



From: [Mosaic](#)  
To: [Mosaic](#)  
Subject: [Mosaic](#)  
Date: [Mosaic](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Doug and Kristina, this is Mosaic's proposed mine in DeSoto County.

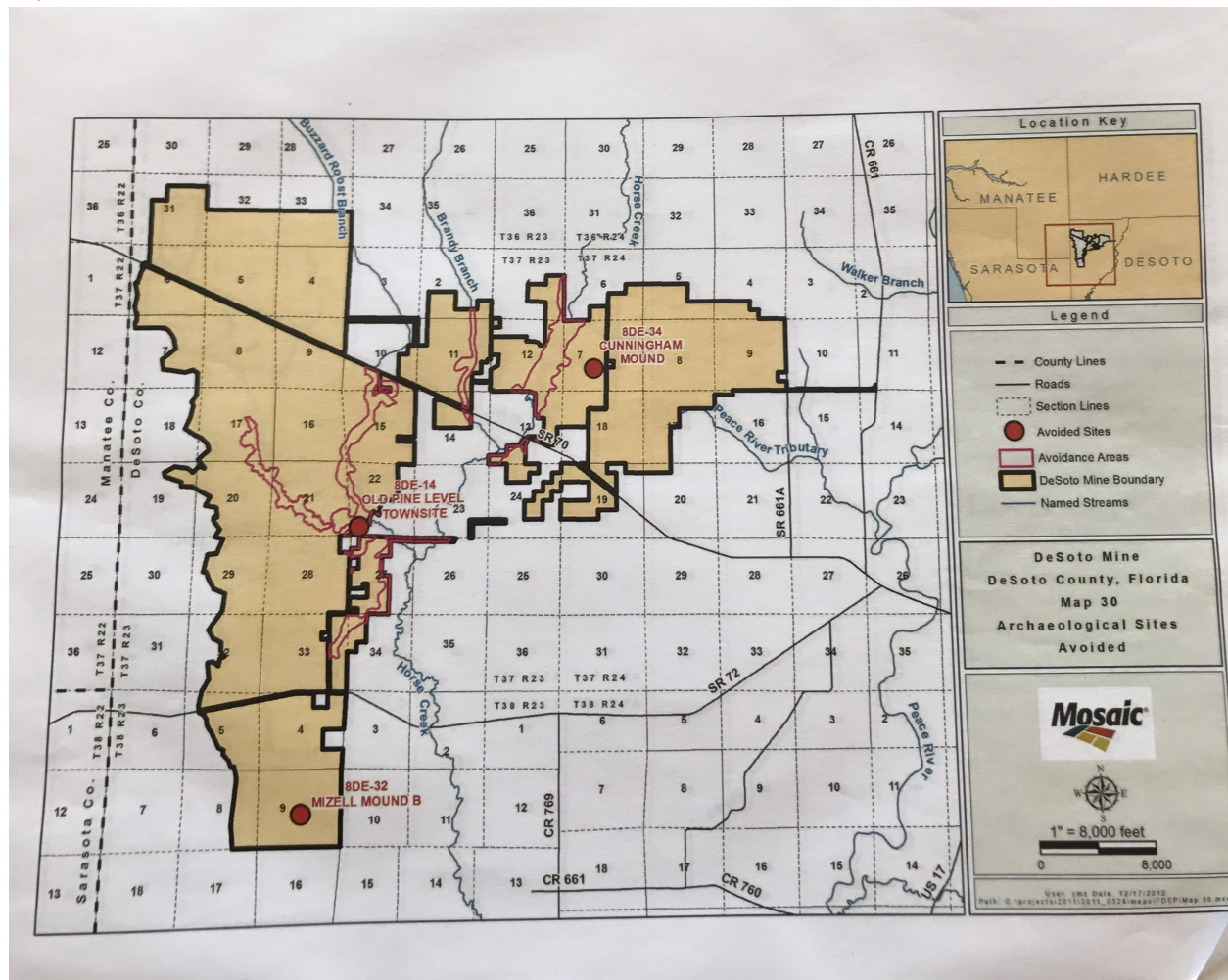
Peace River Mainstem Regional Water Authority on Kings Highway, DeSoto County is just down stream from this proposed mine.

How safe is it for possible water use?

Will not take burden the new water?

Very important question to answer - did Mosaic engineer design their Clay Settling Pond to be placed in the Horse Creek Watershed? Would you please investigate Mosaic CSA's location, and map out how close it will be to the Water Authority on Kings Highway, DeSoto County? Thank you.

Shirley,  
Matt Hollingsworth



Scanned from my iPhone

**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 10:08:11 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Doug and Kristina, I want you to take a look at Mosaic phosphate mining company paid advertorial in the Sun Newspaper, dated February 4, 2023.

Mosaic claims their mining operations are “nearly 100 miles away.”

“that Charlotte Harbor is somehow at risk because of phosphate mining operations nearly 100 miles away , is contradicted by fact , logic, science and common sense.”

Mosaic operations is 52 miles from Charlotte Harbor, and 40 miles from Peace River Manasota Regional Water Authority on Kings Highway, DeSoto County. Notice, Mosaic didn't mention the distance to the Water Authority.

Doug and Kristina do you trust Mosaic, special interest groups & the phosphate mining industry 100%?

SWFWMD & DEP have disregarded public concerns and complaints. This has been going on for decades. Water quality in Florida is not getting better! Your historical data is like propaganda science. Everything looks great on paper until you step outside!

I clearly do not trust Mosaic, and I do not trust the Peace River Stewardship Program.

Mosaic can't even get the mileage correctly, and we are suppose to trust the mining company.

What else are they doing that is questionable?

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth

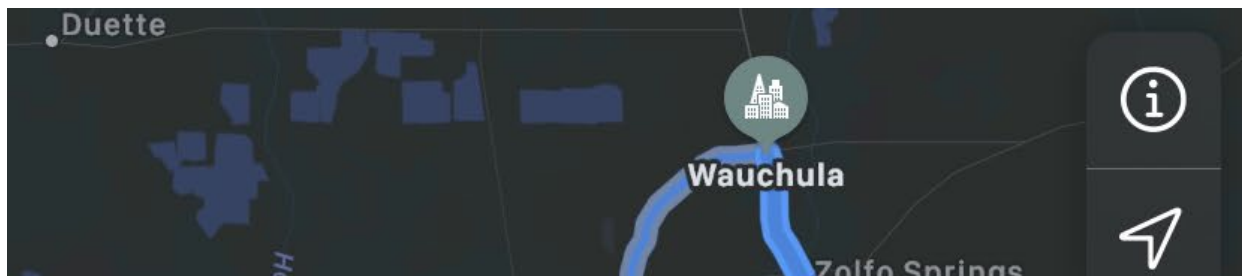
PAID ADVERTORIAL

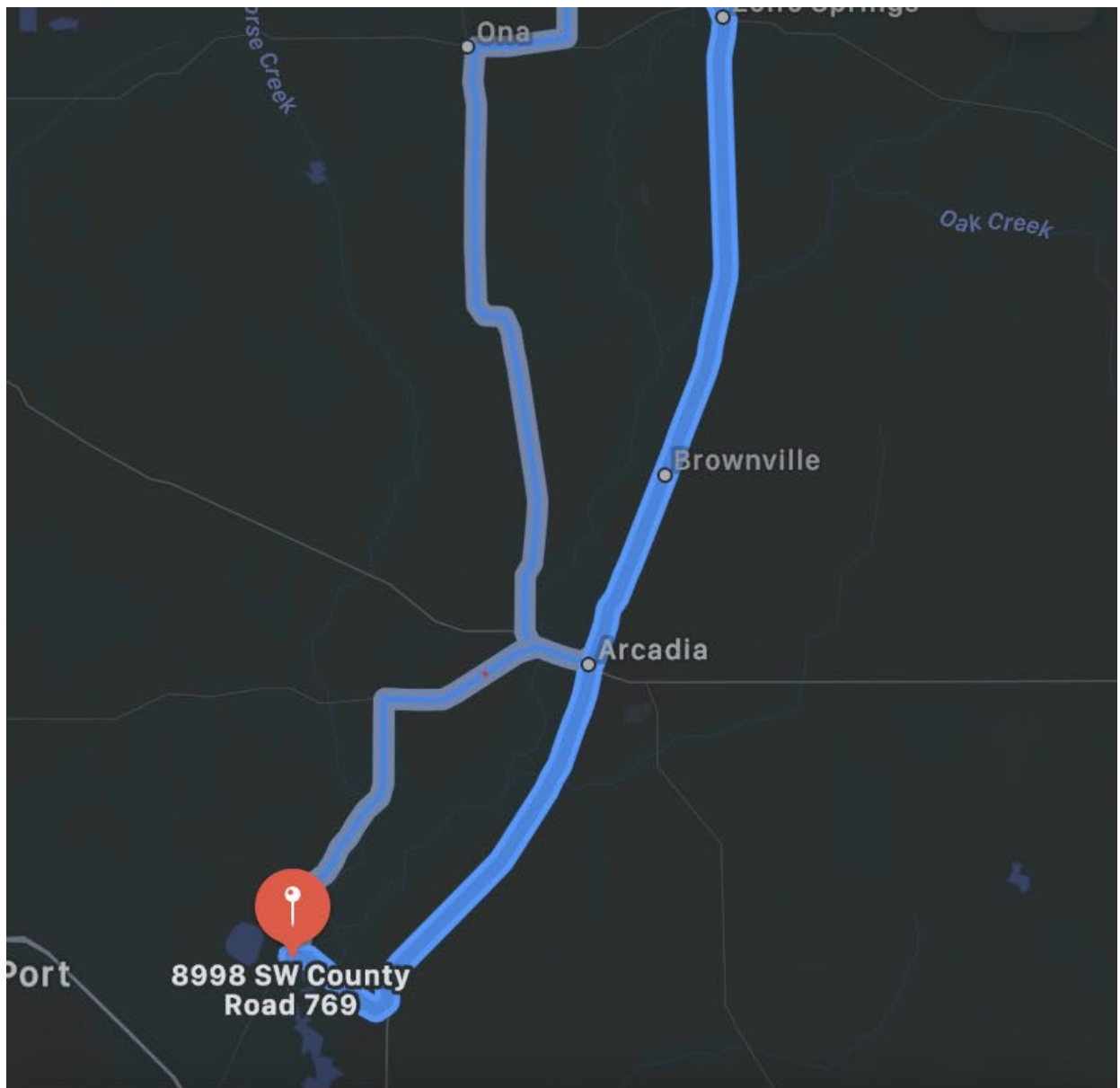
PAID ADVERTORIAL



**FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

Last week, politicians in Charlotte County passed a reckless resolution promoting political theater, instead of scientific fact. Their claim, that Charlotte Harbor is somehow at risk because of phosphate operations nearly 100 miles away, is contradicted by fact, logic, science and common sense. In reality, Charlotte Harbor's most serious environmental threats are much closer.





To 8998 SW County Road 769



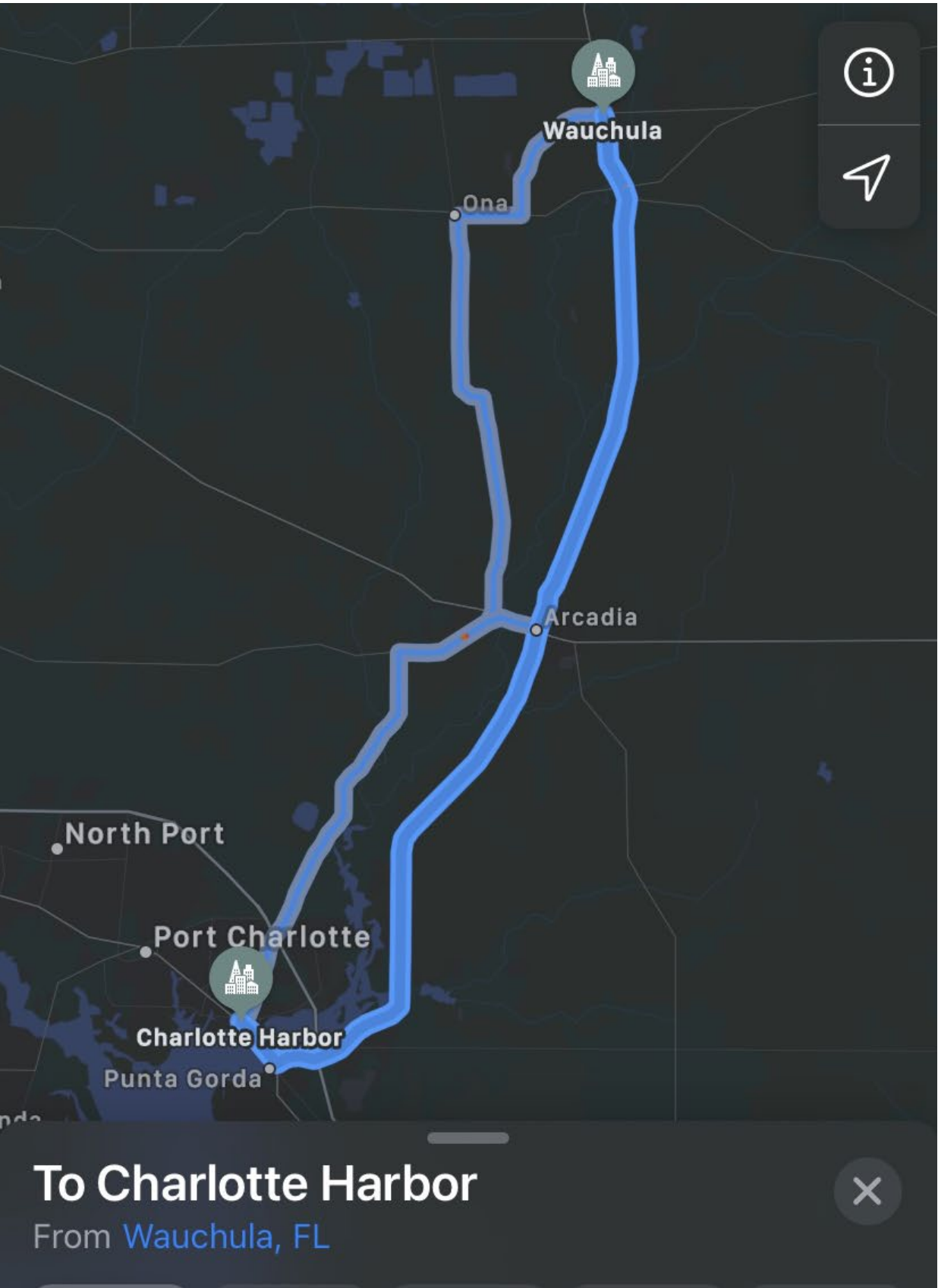
From [Wauchula, FL](#)

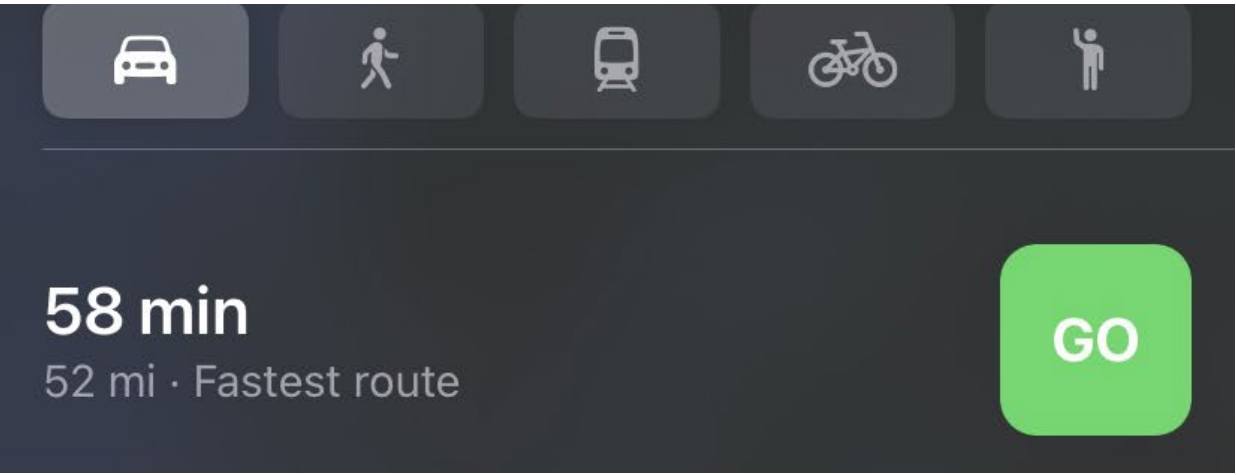


43 min

40 mi · Fastest route

GO





Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Kristina Deak](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 10:26:26 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Doug & Kristina, this location is the Pine Level Methodist Church.

Mosaics proposed mine in Pine Level, DeSoto County, is 15 miles away from Peace River Manasota Regional Water Authority on Kings Highway, and even closer as the crow flies.

Since Mosaic did not get the mileage correctly, are we going to trust the industry their lobbyists and special interest groups 100%.

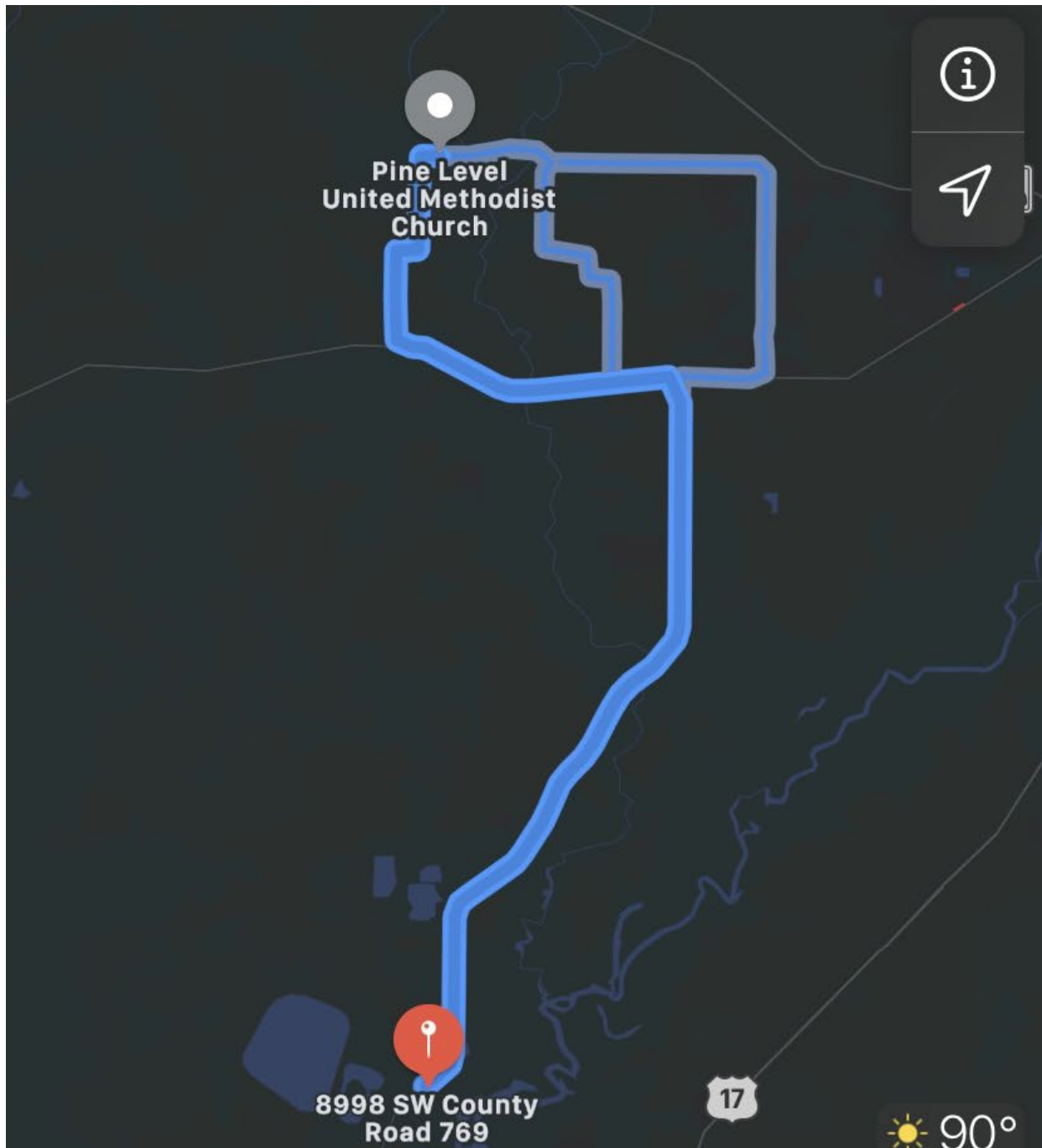
How many patrons receive water from the water authority on Kings Highway?

How many counties does Peace River/ Manasota Regional Water Authority provide for potable water?

Is our potable water 100% guaranteed safe from Mosaic phosphate mining company?

Sincerely,


Mari Hollingsworth





AQI 45


To 8998 SW County Road 769


From [Pine Level United Methodist Church](#)












18 min

15 mi · Fastest route

GO

PAID ADVERTORIAL

PAID ADVERTORIAL



FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Last week, politicians in Charlotte County passed a reckless resolution promoting political theater, instead of scientific fact. Their claim, that Charlotte Harbor is somehow at risk because of phosphate operations nearly 100 miles away, is contradicted by fact, logic, science and common sense. In reality, Charlotte Harbor's most serious environmental threats are much closer.



**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Kristina Deak](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 12:28:54 PM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Doug & Kristina, please read this over again.

I want you to understand who is being honest here.

Mosaic lied about the distance from their operations to Charlotte Harbor! How can this mining industry lie and say their operations are "nearly 100 miles away"

This is "contradicted by fact, logic, science and common sense."

I'm using Mosaics own words.

What else has the phosphate mining company been dishonest about?

I am very disappointed in how our regulatory agencies are operating. I feel like DEP

& SWFWMD is tied by a nose to lobbyists, and public safety is being neglected.

There is a lack of communication with DEP, SWFWMD, DOH, when it comes to pollution related illnesses.

I have reported illnesses related to biosolids and phosphate mining to DEP. This agency then referred me to Department of Health. I

call DOH and then this agency refers me back to DEP. This behavior is gross negligence, in protecting public safety.

What is FRUSTRATING, is that the word Prevention is not seriously considered. I feel hopeless in seeing positive changes, due to the fact that water quality will not improve with a phosphate mining company in the watershed.

We are fooling ourselves in thinking that there is no risk in phosphate mining to potable water and public health

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth

PAID ADVERTORIAL

PAID ADVERTORIAL



**FEBRUARY 4, 2023**

.....

Last week, politicians in Charlotte County passed a reckless resolution promoting political theater, instead of scientific fact. Their claim, that Charlotte Harbor is somehow at risk because of phosphate operations nearly 100 miles away, is contradicted by fact, logic, science and common sense. In reality, Charlotte Harbor's most serious environmental threats are much closer.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**To:** [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)  
**Cc:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Ross Morton](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Randy Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Charlie & Horse Creek Minimum Flows  
**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2023 5:47:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [MHollingsworth Communications Jul-Aug 2023.pdf](#)

---

Ms. Hollingsworth:

- Thank you for your concerns and they are noted.
- As pertains to District related issues associated with minimum flows development for Charlie Creek and Horse Creek, we do not have anything further to add to our previous responses. The attached file compiles our previous communications.
- If you need additional assistance, please contact our ombudsman, Ross Morton at [Ross.Morton@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Ross.Morton@swfwmd.state.fl.us) or 941-444-6174.

Doug Leeper  
MFLs Program Lead  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604  
1-352-269-5863 or 352-796-7211  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org) or [doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Kristina Deak](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Monday, August 21, 2023 8:09:53 AM

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[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Kristina and Doug , this is a copy of Charlotte County's adopted resolution letter in support for DeSoto County to deny Mosaic phosphate mining company once again.

Charlotte County BOCC voted unanimously to pass this resolution.

You can get a signed copy with the resolution # from Charlotte County.

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 2023-

---

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING DESOTO COUNTY'S  
DENIAL OF MOSAIC'S REZONING REQUEST AND REQUEST FOR  
JOINER AND RE-EVALUATION OF MINING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Strategic Plan identified its One Charlotte, One Water management initiative to solidify its environmental stewardship to protect Charlotte Harbor, a designated Outstanding Florida Water, and waters that feed into it; and

WHEREAS, there are pending requests to commit vast areas of Southwest Florida for the strip mining of phosphate; and

WHEREAS, phosphate mining can be destructive of the immediate environment; and

WHEREAS, the conservation and protection of the natural resources and scenic beauty of Charlotte County is vitally important to the health, welfare and safety of its citizens and is further essential in the maintenance of the highly desirable tourist and retirement economic sectors that have arisen due to the County's unique climatic and quality of life advantages; and

WHEREAS, the air and water resources of the various counties of Southwest Florida are interdependent and indivisible and the adverse effects of phosphate mining will create a common and substantial burden upon all the counties within the region and will therefore affect the public health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Charlotte County; and

WHEREAS, the possible release of radioactive elements which have toxic effects even in minute amounts into the air and water of Southwest Florida through phosphate mining may have serious public health consequences now and for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, much of currently available information regarding phosphate mining has been prepared by phosphate corporations or consultants dependent upon the phosphate industry; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2022, Charlotte County took a proactive approach to amend the County's comprehensive plan in order to ensure that excavation activities would not pollute our air and water or damage wildlife habitat within the County and prohibited activities related to mining and processing of phosphate ore; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, DeSoto County denied a request by Mosaic, the nation's largest producer of fertilizer, to rezone/mine 18,000 acres but following an appeal and arbitration, Mosaic reportedly intends to re-apply in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida:

1. Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners believes it is in the best interest of the county, its residents and all of Southwest Florida for DeSoto to continue to deny Mosaic's rezoning request; and
2. The regulatory agencies and rule makers such as Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and our local legislative delegation are hereby requested to review and re-evaluate all phosphate mining

permit requirements to ensure testing for all appropriate parameters and adequate safeguards are in place to protect our waters, our most precious resource; and

3. The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners requests our neighboring counties to join us in supporting DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners' decision to deny Mosaic's rezoning request.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

5. The County Administrator is directed to send an executed copy of this Resolution to the County Legislative Delegation, neighboring counties, and our partners in the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Authority.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 24th day of January, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
William G. Truex, Chairman

ATTEST:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit  
Court and Ex-officio Clerk of the  
Board of County Commissioners

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By:   
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney  
LR22-0791 / CA v3



**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek  
**Date:** Monday, August 21, 2023 8:21:20 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

The end of April and beginning of May , the Health Department issued an advisory warning the public of Blue-Green algae in Peace River. This advisory was noted during a drought.

Notice the color of Peace River in the first photograph. It has that normal tea color.

Notice the photograph of Peace River in the second photo. This was taken May 4th, 2023 during a Blue Green Algae outbreak.

What caused the Peace River to turn pea green.

What was the source? Phosphate mining?







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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 8, 2023**

## **HEALTH OFFICIALS ISSUE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM ALERT FOR PEACE RIVER- BROWNVILLE PARK**



**Arcadia, FL** The Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County has issued a Health Alert for the presence of harmful blue-green algal toxins in the Peace River Brownville Park. This is in response to a water sample taken on May 1, 2023. The public should exercise caution in and around the Peace River Brownville Park.

Residents and visitors are advised to take the following precautions:

- Do not drink, swim, wade, use personal watercraft, water ski or boat in waters where there is a visible bloom.
- Wash your skin and clothing with soap and water if you have contact with algae or discolored or smelly water.
- Keep pets away from the area. Waters where there are algae blooms are not safe for animals. Pets and livestock should have a different source of water when algae blooms are present.
- Do not cook or clean dishes with water contaminated by algae blooms. Boiling the water will not eliminate the toxins.
- Eating fillets from healthy fish caught in freshwater lakes experiencing blooms is safe. Rinse fish fillets with tap or bottled water, throw out the guts and cook fish well.
- Do not eat shellfish in waters with algae blooms.

### **What is blue-green algae?**

Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria that is common in Florida's freshwater environments. A bloom occurs when rapid growth of algae leads to an accumulation of individual cells that discolor water and often produce floating mats that emit unpleasant odors.

Some environmental factors that contribute to blue-green algae blooms are sunny days, warm water temperatures, still water conditions and excess nutrients. Blooms can appear year-round but are more frequent in summer and fall. Many types of blue-green algae can produce toxins.

### **Is it harmful?**

Blue-green algae blooms can impact human health and ecosystems, including fish and other aquatic animals.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 28, 2023**

## **HEALTH OFFICIALS ISSUE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM CAUTION FOR PEACE RIVER-CREWS PARK BOAT RAMP**



**Contact:**

Kevin King, Environmental Director  
Kevin.King@FLHealth.gov  
863-773-4161

### **Wauchula, FL**

The Florida Department of Health in Hardee County is cautioning the public of the presence of a blue-green algae bloom in the Peace River at Crews Park Boat Ramp. Blooms have the potential to produce toxins, and what triggers them to do so remains poorly understood. Since bloom conditions can change at any time, it is important to exercise caution as if the bloom were toxic, even if toxin presence has not yet been confirmed. This is in response to a water sample taken on April 27, 2023. The public should exercise caution in and around the Peace River-Crews Park Boat Ramp.

Residents and visitors are advised to take the following precautions:

- Do not drink, swim, wade, use personal watercraft, water ski or boat in waters where there is a visible bloom.
- Wash your skin and clothing with soap and water if you have contact with algae or discolored or smelly water.
- Keep pets away from the area. Waters where there are algae blooms are not safe for animals. Pets and livestock should have a different source of water when algae blooms are present.
- Do not cook or clean dishes with water contaminated by algae blooms. Boiling the water will not eliminate the toxins.
- Eating fillets from healthy fish caught in freshwater lakes experiencing blooms is safe. Rinse fish fillets with tap or bottled water, throw out the guts and cook fish well.
- Do not eat shellfish in waters with algae blooms.

### **What is blue-green algae?**

Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria that is common in Florida's freshwater environments. A bloom occurs when rapid growth of algae leads to an accumulation of individual cells that discolor water and often produce floating mats that emit unpleasant odors.

**From:** Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2023 8:56 AM

**To:** [kristine.deak@watermatters.org](mailto:kristine.deak@watermatters.org); Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Cc:** Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>;

Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>; Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek And Charlie Creek

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

The City of North Port also adopted a resolution letter in support for DeSoto County to deny Mosaic phosphate mining in DeSoto County. It was also voted unanimously.

DeSoto County neighboring county's are also concerned about water contamination/ water degradation.



## City of North Port

### RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING DESOTO COUNTY'S DENIAL OF MOSAIC'S REZONING REQUEST AND REQUEST FOR JOINDER AND RE-EVALUATION OF MINING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the air and water resources of the counties of Southwest Florida are interdependent and indivisible, and activities that negatively impact these resources could create a common and substantial burden upon all the counties within the region in addition to the public health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the City of North Port; and

**WHEREAS**, the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority ("PRMRWSA") provides drinking water to over 900,000 people across Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties, and maintains its intake downstream of those phosphate mining and processing activities that discharge into the waters of the Peace River basin; and

**WHEREAS**, phosphate design criteria and acceptable limits of constituents in water discharged by phosphate mining operations are established in state statutes and permitted by Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP"), while water withdrawal limits are set by the Southwest Florida Water Management District ("SWFWMD") through their Water Use Permit process; and

**WHEREAS**, Mosaic, the nation's largest producer of fertilizer, has acquired a portion of the necessary permits from FDEP and SWFWMD to conduct phosphate mining activities on over 16,000 acres in the Horse Creek basin of DeSoto County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 DeSoto County denied a request by Mosaic to rezone and conduct phosphate mining activities in DeSoto County, but following an appeal and arbitration Mosaic reportedly intends to re-apply in 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, phosphate mining has been destructive to the immediate environment and has historically resulted in environmental damage to surface waters through the release of phosphate waste and other noxious pollutants; and

**WHEREAS**, the possible release of radioactive elements that have toxic effects even in minute amounts into the air and water of Southwest Florida through phosphate mining may have serious public health consequences now and for generations to come; and





**WHEREAS**, much of the currently available information regarding phosphate mining has been prepared by phosphate corporations or consultants dependent upon the phosphate industry; and

**WHEREAS**, current regulations concerning operations at phosphate mines and processing facilities cannot prevent the potential for unpermitted releases from these facilities, as evidenced by:

- A 2016 pollution event wherein a sinkhole opened underneath a phosphogypsum stack, draining approximately 215 million gallons of acid process water into the Florida aquifer;
- A 2022 event wherein a liner tear and void was found underneath a phosphogypsum stack, that without further action could have resulted in the development of a sinkhole and discharge of process water;
- The 2022 historic rain event associated with Hurricane Ian, that resulted in multiple breaches of the stormwater management system at a phosphate mine near Fort Meade; and

**WHEREAS**, the water quality of Charlotte Harbor and Charlotte County's water supply at the Peace River facility are potentially at risk due to a possible pollution release from any new mining facility allowed in DeSoto County; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 24, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida adopted a resolution supporting DeSoto County's denial of Mosaic's rezoning request and request for joinder and re-evaluation of mining permit requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission for the City of North Port, Florida desires to join Charlotte County in support of DeSoto County's denial of the Mosaic rezoning request and request for joinder and re-evaluation of mining permit requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the City of North Port, its residents, and all members of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority that DeSoto County maintains its current position relative to Mosaic's rezoning request.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:**

#### **SECTION 1 – INCORPORATION OF RECITALS**

- 1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this resolution by reference.

#### **SECTION 2 – RESOLUTION**

- 2.01 The City Commission requests that the other members and customers of the PRMRWSA join them in supporting DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners' current position.
- 2.02 The City Commission requests that regulatory agencies and rule-makers, such as Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, provide an overview of mining regulations and requirements to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners at a publicly noticed meeting, describing how the current regulations assure adequate protection to receiving waters and the surrounding environment.



- 2.03 The City Commission requests all applicable rule-makers and regulatory parties review and re-evaluate all phosphate mining permit requirements to ensure testing for all appropriate parameters and adequate safeguards are in place to protect our waters, our most precious resource.

**SECTION 3 – DIRECTION TO CITY CLERK**

- 3.01 The City Clerk is directed to send an executed copy of this Resolution to the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Authority.

**SECTION 4 – CONFLICTS**

- 4.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this resolution and any other resolution, in whole or in part, the provisions of this resolution will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

**SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY**

- 5.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this resolution is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the resolution.

**SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE**

- 6.01 This resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public session on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
BARBARA LANGDON  
MAYOR

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
HEATHER FAUST, MMC  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
AMBER L. SLAYTON, B.C.S.  
CITY ATTORNEY



# North Port joins DeSoto

Commissioner:  
DeSoto County  
deserves our  
support on Mosaic

By **FRANK DIFIORE**  
STAFF WRITER

**NORTH PORT** — The City Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to show their support for DeSoto County's position on a proposed Mosaic mining expansion.

The company had previously

applied to DeSoto County in 2018 to expand their phosphate mining, which the DeSoto County Commission at the time rejected.

Mosaic issued a memo to DeSoto County last June, indicating that the company was planning to re-apply for the expansion in 2025.

The North Port City Commission's resolution re-affirms their support for DeSoto County's original decision, citing the risk to waterways that the city relies on for drinking and bathing water.

City Commissioner Debbie



**MCDOWELL**

McDowell offered a brief amendment to the original stipulation, indicating that City Clerk Heather Faust should forward a copy to the

Peace River Manasota Regional Water Authority and all localities that were a part of the Authority to make sure their message is received by as many offices as possible.

"We really need to get the word out and give DeSoto

## MOSAIC

FROM PAGE 1B

“slightly radioactive” phosphogypsum waste.

Towards the end of the meeting, Vice Mayor Alice White expressed her thanks to Ritchie and his allies for keeping public attention on phosphate mining.

Mosaic, which mines phosphate for its fertilizer products, recently defended the stability of its mining operations in DeSoto County in the wake of Hurricane Ian.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection corroborated the company’s claims that damaged drainage ditches at their mining sites caused no lasting damage to local waterways.

However, environmental groups said that they may not be as lucky if another hurricane came through.

*Email: [frank.difiore@yoursun.com](mailto:frank.difiore@yoursun.com)*



# in mine rejection

County the support they need and deserve," McDowell said.

The City Commission vote comes on the heels of a similar resolution being passed by the Charlotte County Commission in January, with North Port's resolution saying it wished to "join" Charlotte County's sentiment.

al Tim Ritchie, the founder of March Against Mosaic, thanked commissioners during public comment for their stance on opposing Mosaic's expansions.

s Ritchie also displayed a photo of the 1971 phosphate spill, which saw Peace River's

water turn bone-white. He cited studies claiming that up to 90% of fish in Peace River at the time were killed as a result of the spill.

During his public comment time, Ritchie urged the Commission to prioritize protecting clean water for local residents.

"It's what sustains the world," he said.

Ritchie further alleged that Mosaic's proposed expansion would put 627 acres of local wetlands at risk from

SEE MOSAIC. 3B

**From:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**To:** [Ross Morton](#)  
**Cc:** [Kristina Deak](#); [Yonas Ghile](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Randy Smith](#)  
**Subject:** MHollingsworth Call Today\_2023-08-21  
**Date:** Monday, August 21, 2023 10:18:24 AM

---

Ross:

- Mr. Hollingsworth called me today and we spoke from 9:10 to 9:31 am.
- She mentioned that you had recently spoken with her and offered to meet with her to discuss her concerns.
- She also asked if I would participate in the meeting/site visit.
  - I was non-committal regarding my participation in any meeting/site visit and indicated that you are the best person at the District to address the roles of the District and other organization (e.g., FDEP, FDOH; utilities) as they pertain to the issues she has identified.
- In addition to discussion of a potential meeting or site visit, Ms. Hollingsworth also discussed:
  - the emails she sent to me and Kristina Deak this morning;
  - the history of biosolids dispersal on lands in the Peace watershed and its potential association with individual and community-level illnesses;
  - a documentary, *Phosphate*, created by Erik Brown
  - a settlement concerning biosolids dispersal that included a gag order; and
  - information from the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority that indicates water-supply withdrawals cease when the pH of river water is high,
- During our conversation, I reiterated that the District is current working to develop minimum flows for Charlie Creek and Horse Creek, and noted the purpose of the minimum flows is to identify limits to withdrawals that will prevent significant harm to the water resources or ecology of the area.

Doug Leeper  
MFLs Program Lead  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
2379 Broad Street  
Brooksville, FL 34604  
1-352-269-5863 or 352-796-7211  
[doug.leeper@watermatters.org](mailto:doug.leeper@watermatters.org) or [doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:doug.leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

**From:** Ross Morton

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 29, 2023 8:27 AM

**To:** 'hollingsworthmr@icloud.com' <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Cc:** 'mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com' <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>;

'pinelilywild@yahoo.com' <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; 'nrbarms@hotmail.com'

<[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** Emails to Kristina Deak and Doug Leeper.

Your emails have been provided to me for handling. The District staff you are sending these emails do not oversee the programs you are asking questions on. Here is a link to the appropriate agency you can direct your inquiries to: <https://floridadep.gov/water/mining-mitigation>

On health related water quality issues: <https://floridadep.gov/water/onsite-sewage/documents/departement-healthdepartment-environmental-protection-interagency>

Feel free to give me a call.

Ross T. Morton

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Ombudsman

(800)423-1476

[ross.morton@watermatters.org](mailto:ross.morton@watermatters.org)

More about the ombudsman: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/about-the-district/staff/ombudsman>

**From:** Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 6:00 AM

**To:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper

<[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>

**Cc:** Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong

<[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>; Mari

<[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek And Charlie Creek

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

This lab test was completed April 4th , 2019. The test was taken from the water at Memorial Elementary School, in DeSoto County. I reported it, and sent this copy to the City of Arcadia and DeSoto County School board. Until this day August 28th, 2023, I have not received a response either from the City of Arcadia and DeSoto School board. Note the high level of radon. No one is taking responsibility to check it out and young children are being exposed. We need help to protect the children.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth





## Water Analysis Report

### Sample ID

(CEC/CEA Signature)

#### Client Information

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

#### Sample Address

Memorial Elementary School  
851 E Hickory Street  
Arcadia FL 34266

#### Lab Information

Lab #4071  
Received: Mar 26, 2019  
Completed: Apr 4, 2019  
Printed: Apr 4, 2019  
Tests: W44

#### Contact

Soil, Plant, and Water Laboratory  
2400 College Station Road  
Athens, GA 30602  
ph: 706-542-5350  
e-mail: [soiltest@uga.edu](mailto:soiltest@uga.edu)

Sample:

Type: **Water fountain**

Date Sampled

03/19/2019

Time Sampled

03:00 pm

Date Analyzed

03/26/2019

Time Analyzed

09:05 am

### Results

**Radon (<sup>222</sup>Rn): 545.45 pCi / L (20.20 Bq / L)**

(Units of radon radioactivity: pCi / L = picocuries per liter; Bq / L = Bequerels per liter)

### Interpretation

The radioactivity from radon in this water may pose an elevated health risk due to ingestion.

Interpretation Guide for Radon in Water (see <http://aesl.ces.uga.edu/publications/watercirc/Radon.pdf>)

- < 100 pCi / L: The radioactivity from radon in this water is similar to normal background level and poses no health risk from radon due to ingestion.
- 100- 300 pCi/L: The radioactivity from radon in this water is 'slightly elevated' but poses no significant health risk from radon due to ingestion.
- 301 - 4,000 pCi/L: The radioactivity from radon in this water may pose an elevated health risk due to ingestion.
- > 4,000 pCi/L: The radioactivity from radon in this water poses significant health risk due to ingestion *and* may additionally result in a significant increase in indoor air radon concentrations.

### Treatment Options

For Radon Concentration Lower than 100 pCi/L or 100-300 pCi/L: *No treatment necessary.*

For Radon Concentration 300-4000 pCi/L: A **point of entry** (or whole house) '**Aeration**' or '**Granular Activated Carbon**' treatment system for removal of radon from water may be considered.

For Radon Concentration Higher than 4000 pCi/L: A **point of entry** (or whole house) '**Aeration**' or '**Granular Activated Carbon**' treatment system for removal of radon from water *is recommended.*

The UGA Cooperative Extension recommends testing for radon in home air. Home air testing kits are available through your local County Extension Office (<http://extension.uga.edu/about/county/>). If your indoor air radon level is 4.0 pCi / L or higher, installation of a radon mitigation device is recommended.

**NOTE:** This test does not imply that this water is safe from bacteria or other chemicals that may be present. If you have concerns in these areas, contact your County Extension Agent.

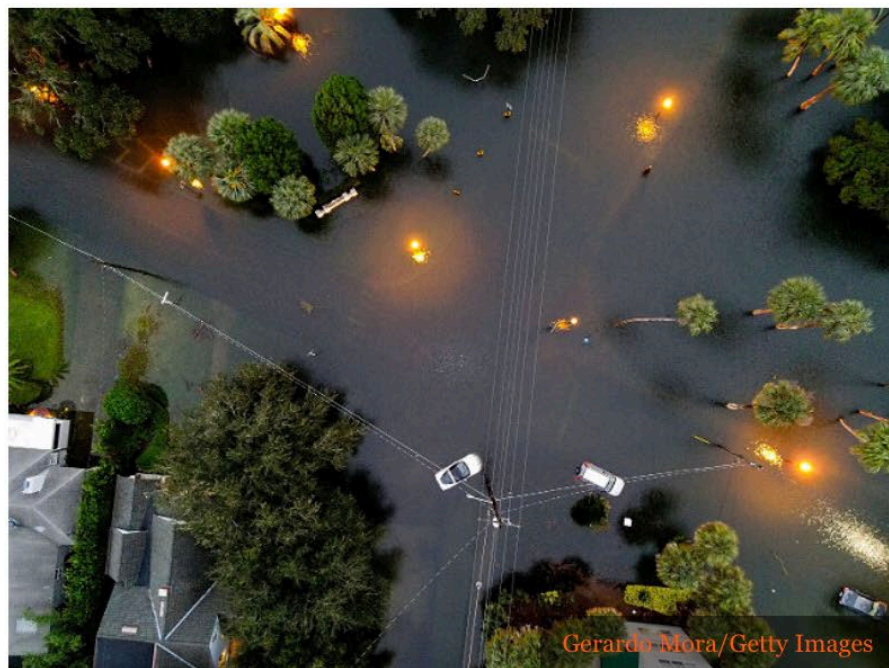
**From:** Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 1:16 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>; Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good afternoon Kristina, and Doug,  
These flood pictures are from DeSoto County after Hurricane Ian. Governor Ron DeSantis stated it was a "500 year flood event." I'm curious, shouldn't there be more setbacks put in place for a phosphate mining company in the watershed?  
I wonder if FEMA will update their flood maps.  
Kristina and Doug , does your agency collaborate with FEMA?  
If so, should additional setbacks be put in place to remind us of Hurricane Ian -500 year flood event?  
Thank you for your assistance.  
Sincerely,  
Mari Hollingsworth



# GOV. RON DESANTIS: HURRICANE IAN IS A '500- YEAR FLOOD EVENT'



Gerardo Mora/Getty Images

by [JORDAN DIXON-HAMILTON](#) · 29 Sep 2022 · 1,276



 LISTEN TO STORY

2:23

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) on Thursday said the state was hit with a “500-year flood event” one day after Hurricane Ian made landfall in southwest Florida.



CR 661A



# Horse Creek @ Kings Highway



# HWY 70 E @Peace River





HWY 17 N  
towards Hardee



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Ross Morton

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 1:45 PM

**To:** 'hollingsworthmr@icloud.com' <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Subject:** Emails - September, 2023 10:220 AM & September 11, 2023 6:24 AM

I enjoyed talking with you yesterday. I have been forwarded these emails to provide a response if appropriate. As indicated by your emails the agency of jurisdiction is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

Don't forget to provide me the addresses and the contact information of the individuals you would like me to meet with in DeSoto. You can share with them my website, which explains my role as the SWFWMD Ombudsman.

Ross T. Morton

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Ombudsman

(800)423-1476

[ross.morton@watermatters.org](mailto:ross.morton@watermatters.org)

More about the ombudsman: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/about-the-district/staff/ombudsman>

**From:** Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 10:22 AM

**To:** [heather.nedley@mosaicco.com](mailto:heather.nedley@mosaicco.com)

**Cc:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper

<[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Molly Bowen

<[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>;

Mari <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>

**Subject:** Turbid Stormwater release in Little Charlie Creek

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Heather, I'm interested in finding out how much water left the reclamation site into the preservation area of Little Charlie Creek?

I would also like to know if this turbid water was measured/tested for hazardous chemicals? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Shawn Hamilton**  
Secretary

### Pollution Notice

Pursuant to Section 403.077, F.S., the Department of Environmental Protection has received the following Public Notice of Pollution for a reportable release. All information displayed was submitted by the reporting party.

**Type of Notice:** Initial Report

**Date of Notice:** 08/31/2023

#### Incident Information

**Name of Incident:** SFM Mine ? Hardee County ? Stormwater Release

**State Watch Office Case Number:** 20237200

**Start of Incident:** 08/30/2023 10:30 AM

**End of Incident:** 08/31/2023 08:30 AM

#### Incident Description

Hurricane Idalia caused turbid stormwater to leave a reclamation site into the preservation area of Little Charlie Creek. Upon discovery, immediate actions were taken to deploy supplemental sediment control measures.

#### Incident Location

**Facility/Installation Name:** South Fort Meade Mine

**Address Line 1:** 5880 Manley Road

**Address Line 2:**

**Directions:**

**City:** Fort Meade

**State:** FL

**Zip Code:** 33841

**Coordinates (in decimal degrees):**

Lat: 27.592603873878826, Long: -81.77140317241668

[Click to view Incident Location](#)

**Impacted Counties:** Hardee

**Updated Impact:**

#### Incident Reported By

**Name:** Bethany Niec

**Title:** Sr Environmental Manager

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [bethany.niec@mosaicco.com](mailto:bethany.niec@mosaicco.com)

**Relationship:** Owner of the Facility/Installation

#### On-Site Contact

**Name:** Heather Nedley

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [heather.nedley@mosaicco.com](mailto:heather.nedley@mosaicco.com)



**From:** Mari R.H. <[hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 6:24 AM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>; Doug Leeper <[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Cc:** Molly Bowen <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>; Brooks Armstrong <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; Nancy Armstrong <[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** MFL's Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning, here is another incident by Mosaic which happens frequently during Hurricanes, and heavy down pours. "Turbid stormwater to leave a reclamation site," is this water being measured/tested for hazardous chemicals?

Since we have no control of inclement weather. Is it wise to have a phosphate mine in the watershed?

Mosaic in Hardee County is causing water quality issues in DeSoto County. How do you protect our potable water, and is your way of doing it and data 100% safe, and accurate each time?

Mosaic's proposed mine in Pine Level is less than 10 miles as the crow flies from Peace River/ Manasota Regional Water Authority.

Kristina and Doug, does this concern you? Do you have a plan B after the water is contaminated? Please answer my questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth



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Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
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**Ron DeSantis**  
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[Click to view Incident Location](#)

**Impacted Counties:** Hardee

**Updated Impact:**

#### Incident Reported By

**Name:** Bethany Niec

**Title:** Sr Environmental Manager

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [bethany.niec@mosaicco.com](mailto:bethany.niec@mosaicco.com)

**Relationship:** Owner of the Facility/Installation

#### On-Site Contact

**Name:** Heather Nedley

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [heather.nedley@mosaicco.com](mailto:heather.nedley@mosaicco.com)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Ross Morton](#); [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Kerry Bowers](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting in DeSoto County  
**Date:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:51:12 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Ross, Kerry Bowers will reach out to you for date and time, and what works best for y'all. Ross, one of the main problems I'm having with regulatory agencies is that there is a lack of communication between each other. Example; presupposing DEP finds out that this turbid water does have hazardous chemicals above state limits. Will DEP notify SWFWMD?

Also the Department of Health seems to be kept in the dark. If this water is contaminated I believe DOH should know as well. DeSoto County now and has been a cancer cluster. Many of my friends ,family, and animals diagnosed with cancer. Some are already dead.

Our water should be treated as a National Security. But how can we protect our water when the very agency's we rely on are not communicating with each other.

This is a major problem, and has been going on for decades.

I call the health department to ask about what kind of chemicals are being discharged by the mining company because my family member is sick , and the health department in Hardee County tells me to call DEP and Mosaic.

Then I call DEP to tell them about too many people downstream from Mosaic operations in Hardee County have cancer in DeSoto, then DEP tells me to call DOH. It's a total run around!

No government agency is protecting public safety/health at this time.

Lack of communication is gross negligence in my opinion. We need to address this problem to ensure the public's potable water is safe to drink.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth



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Environmental Protection**

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3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
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**Ron DeSantis**  
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Lt. Governor

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Secretary

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[Click to view Incident Location](#)

**Impacted Counties:** Hardee

**Updated Impact:**

**Incident Reported By**

**Name:** Bethany Niec

**Title:** Sr Environmental Manager

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [bethany.niec@mosaicco.com](mailto:bethany.niec@mosaicco.com)

**Relationship:** Owner of the Facility/Installation

**On-Site Contact**

**Name:** Heather Nedley

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [heather.nedley@mosaicco.com](mailto:heather.nedley@mosaicco.com)

**From:** Ross Morton

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 9:31 AM

**To:** [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)

**Cc:** 'mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com' <[mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com)>;

'pinelilywild@yahoo.com' <[pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com)>; 'nrbarms@hotmail.com'

<[nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com)>

**Subject:** Inquiries

Thanks for the information. I will be reaching out to Ms. Bowen today.

Your emails to Kristina Deak and Doug Leeper were forwarded to me to provide you a response.

The State and local agencies do a tremendous amount of coordination. However, back in the mid 1990's and updates around 2011 the State regulatory process was streamlined in manner that eliminated some State jurisdictional overlap. The regulation of mining as it pertains to the State regulatory process is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Here is a link to their website: <https://floridadep.gov/water/mining-mitigation/content/phosphate>.

The County also plays a role in the regulation of mining through ordinances (i.e., zoning, traffic, etc.) and other mechanisms. In some instances, there is some Federal considerations and/or jurisdictions.

If you are concerned about whether the "Mine" is causing a sink hole you can submit FDEP a complaint and they will investigate it accordingly. If you feel FDEP is not being responsive or misinforming the public, they have an ombudsman and inspector general you can contact.

It is not the role of the SWFWMD staff to investigate and/or comment on regulatory programs under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

I would be happy to meet with you and/or others to discuss the factors associated with sinkhole formation, the roles the various State agencies have in resource regulation, etc. In addition, I would be happy to address any issues you may have with programs administered by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Feel free to give me a call to discuss further or if you have any questions.

Ross T. Morton

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Ombudsman

(800)423-1476

[ross.morton@watermatters.org](mailto:ross.morton@watermatters.org)

More about the ombudsman: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/about-the-district/staff/ombudsman>

**From:** Mari R.H. [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 3:28 PM

**To:** Kristina Deak [Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us); Doug Leeper



[Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

**Cc:** Molly Bowen [mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com); Brooks Armstrong [pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com); Nancy Armstrong [nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com); Mari [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)

**Subject:** New sinkhole in Lakeland opens, second this year

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abcactionnews.com%2Fnews%2Fregion-polk%2Fsinkhole-in-lakeland-reopens-for-second-time-this-year&data=05%7C01%7CDoug.Leeper%40swfwmd.state.fl.us%7Ce460d25462e7427042e708dbb48fa6ee%7C7d508ec009f9440283043a93bd40a972%7C0%7C0%7C638302301323135338%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aqzb3pBzRYJ0B6Kc25sqIjN1YnTLtXkbT41%2FhChpqf8%3D&reserved=0>

Would phosphate mining cause a sinkhole?

Mosaic in Hardee County has a sinkhole remediation program in their contract with the county.

**From:** Mari R.H. [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:49 AM

**To:** Ross Morton [Ross.Morton@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Ross.Morton@swfwmd.state.fl.us); Kristina Deak [Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us); Doug Leeper [Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

**Cc:** Molly Bowen [mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com](mailto:mollybowenontheweb@gmail.com); Kerry Bowers [kabbutton@gmail.com](mailto:kabbutton@gmail.com); Brooks Armstrong [pinelilywild@yahoo.com](mailto:pinelilywild@yahoo.com); Nancy Armstrong [nrbarms@hotmail.com](mailto:nrbarms@hotmail.com); Mari [hollingsworthmr@icloud.com](mailto:hollingsworthmr@icloud.com)

**Subject:** Meeting in DeSoto County

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Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth



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**Coordinates (in decimal degrees):**

Lat: 27.592603873878826, Long: -81.77140317241668

[Click to view Incident Location](#)

**Impacted Counties:** Hardee

**Updated Impact:**

#### Incident Reported By

**Name:** Bethany Niec

**Title:** Sr Environmental Manager

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [bethany.niec@mosaicco.com](mailto:bethany.niec@mosaicco.com)

**Relationship:** Owner of the Facility/Installation

#### On-Site Contact

**Name:** Heather Nedley

**Phone:** (863) 773-4064

**Ext:**

**E-mail Address:** [heather.nedley@mosaicco.com](mailto:heather.nedley@mosaicco.com)

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Angel Martin](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Horse and Charlie Creeks MFL Review Panel Meeting--September 25, 2023  
**Date:** Monday, September 25, 2023 3:32:00 PM

---

Thank you, Angel!

Kristina

---

**From:** Angel Martin <amartin217@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2023 3:31 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>; Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Horse and Charlie Creeks MFL Review Panel Meeting--September 25, 2023

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

The following are my comments/suggestions concerning the subject peer review panel meeting.

1. Check spelling throughout the report. For example, development is misspelled on p. 128 and other places.
2. Define what is meant by long-term gaging station. Traditionally, the USGS defines long term as a gaging station with at least 30 years of continuous record. This term may not be what the water management districts consider as long term.
3. Add a sentence or two clearly defining that the analyses presented for both Horse and Charlie Creeks are based on data collected for a specific reach of the main stems of both creeks.
4. Add two or three sentences clearly specifying the specifics of the conceptual models and how they compare with the actual field system. This will be helpful to possibly determine additional future data collection and monitoring.

Please contact me if you need any additional information or clarification. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the MFL process.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944

**From:** [Mari R.H.](#)  
**To:** [Ross Morton](#); [Kristina Deak](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly Bowen](#); [Kerry Bowers](#); [Brooks Armstrong](#); [Nancy Armstrong](#); [Mari](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting with Kerry and Molly 9/27/2023  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 6:52:12 AM

---

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Good morning Ross, thank you for meeting with Kerry and Molly. Both lady's are living in Pine Level, and Molly has also lived in Hidden Acres.

They are very well aware of runoff and drainage problems.

I'm hoping y'all will be able to ride in the same vehicle so they can point out and show you how risky phosphate mining would be in this area for private homeowners, their wells, and the close proximity this proposed mining location is to Peace River/ Manasota Regional Water Authority.

The magnitude of this mine will cause water degradation/contamination and a risk to public safety.

Thank you for your interest in protecting public safety and the environment. I look forward to your report.

Sincerely,

Mari Hollingsworth

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** ["David & Robbyn Gore"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Cause of stream flow changes ????  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 9:13:00 AM

---

Hi Mr. Gore,

Thank you for your email. Staff will consider its content and its implications for our recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek. Your email will be included with other stakeholder input in an appendix to each of the minimum flow reports. All stakeholder input is made available for consideration by the District Governing Board.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

---

**From:** David & Robbyn Gore <dgorergore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2023 2:39 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Cause of stream flow changes ????

You don't often get email from [dgorergore@gmail.com](mailto:dgorergore@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

For 40 yrs I have watched WMD's priority policy of flood protection by a systematic filling, channeling, ditching, sloping, and below ground piping of more and more of Fla's land area and stream basins. Also 35 yrs of WMD promoting restraining WSP withdrawals and promoting ideas of actions based on fake false ideas of water flow and storage action of Fla hydrology, and more recently false ideas of water sources written in WMD WSP's .

All the above are never discussed or mentioned by WMD at WSP public meets and are all the opposite of protecting Fla's water resources.

I have been to many WMD meetings for over 35yrs and have been thoroughly researching hydrology science and progress of Fla's Water shortage problems.

David Gore;

Speaking up for Fla's natural systems and flows



**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Angel Martin](#); [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Recommended Minimum Flow ((MFLs)--Horse and Charlie Creeks Workshop--October 25 2023  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:42:00 PM

---

Hi Angel,

Thank you for providing a summary of your comments and for your participation in tonight's workshop!

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

---

**From:** Angel Martin <amartin217@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:32 PM  
**To:** Doug Leeper <Doug.Leeper@swfwmd.state.fl.us>; Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Recommended Minimum Flow ((MFLs)--Horse and Charlie Creeks Workshop--October 25 2023

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Below are two comments concerning the subject workshop.

1. Martin commented on the collection of streamflow data at the USGS gaging stations on Horse and Charlie Creeks. Martin emphasized that the flow ratings (stage-discharge relations) may change with time because of varying flow and other hydrologic conditions as well as changes in equipment used to measure the stage and discharge. Leeper explained that the District is aware of these issues and they are considered where appropriate.
2. Martin questioned the vegetative transect shown on the HEC-RAS slide and that Deak mentioned that there were well over 100 combined transects taken for completed for both creeks. Deak explained that vegetation was surveyed but these vegetative transects were not directly applied in determining the MFLs.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning these comments or need any additional information. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these MFLs.

---

Angel Martin  
813-767-6944



# RECOMMENDED MINIMUM FLOWS FOR HORSE CREEK AND CHARLIE CREEK VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023  
5:30 PM



## TEAMS MEETING

1-786-749-6127

CONFERENCE ID: 534 782 5#

🌀 *All meetings are open to the public.* 🌀

1. Welcome and Introductions: Doug Leeper, MFLs Program Lead
2. Recommended Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek: Kristina Deak, Senior Environmental Scientist
3. Public Comment Period: Facilitated by Doug Leeper, MFLs Program Lead

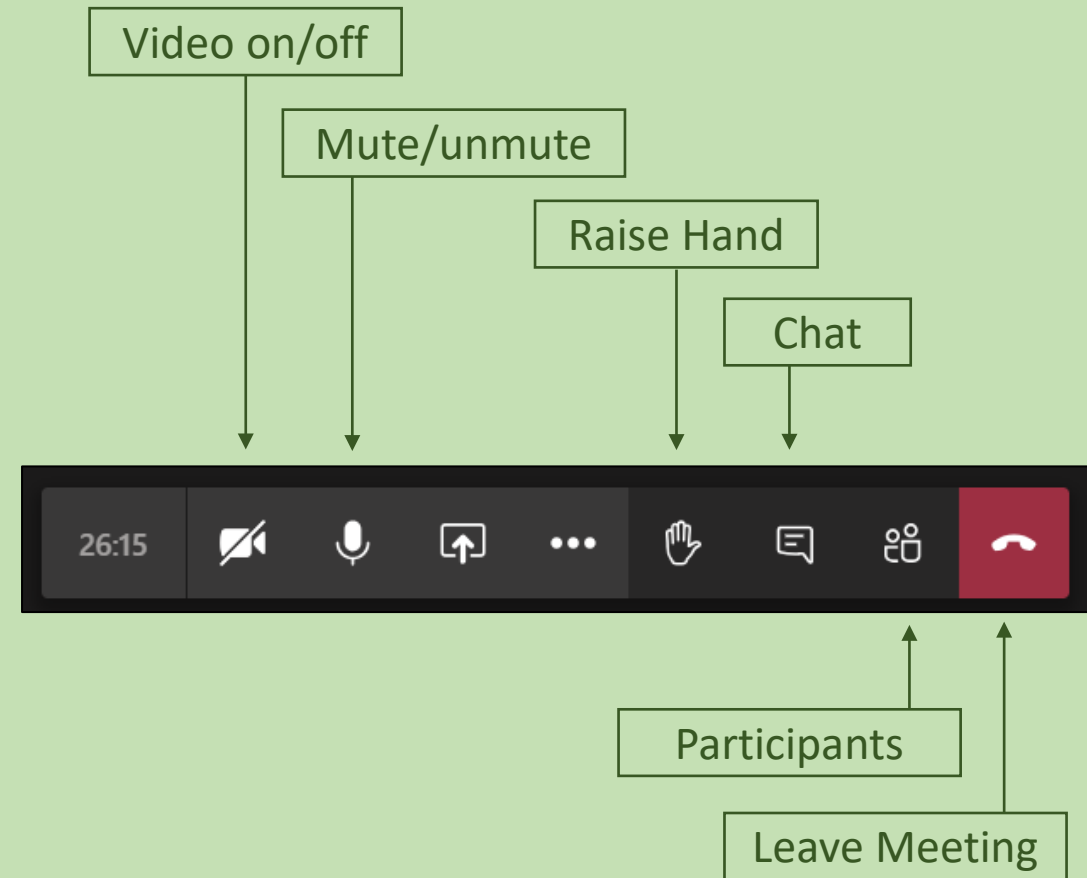


# Teams Meeting Information

## Please:

- Turn video off
- Keep your line muted, unless speaking
- Save comments/questions for public comment period
- Use 'hand raise' function to be recognized for commenting
- Limit your comments/questions to 3 minutes
- State your name and any organization affiliation when speaking
- Put your cell phone on vibrate
- Mute your computer microphone *and* speaker if using phone for audio

## Teams Key:



# District Overview

## Mission:

“...to protect water resources, minimize flood risks, and ensure the public’s water needs are met”

## Areas of Responsibility



Water Supply



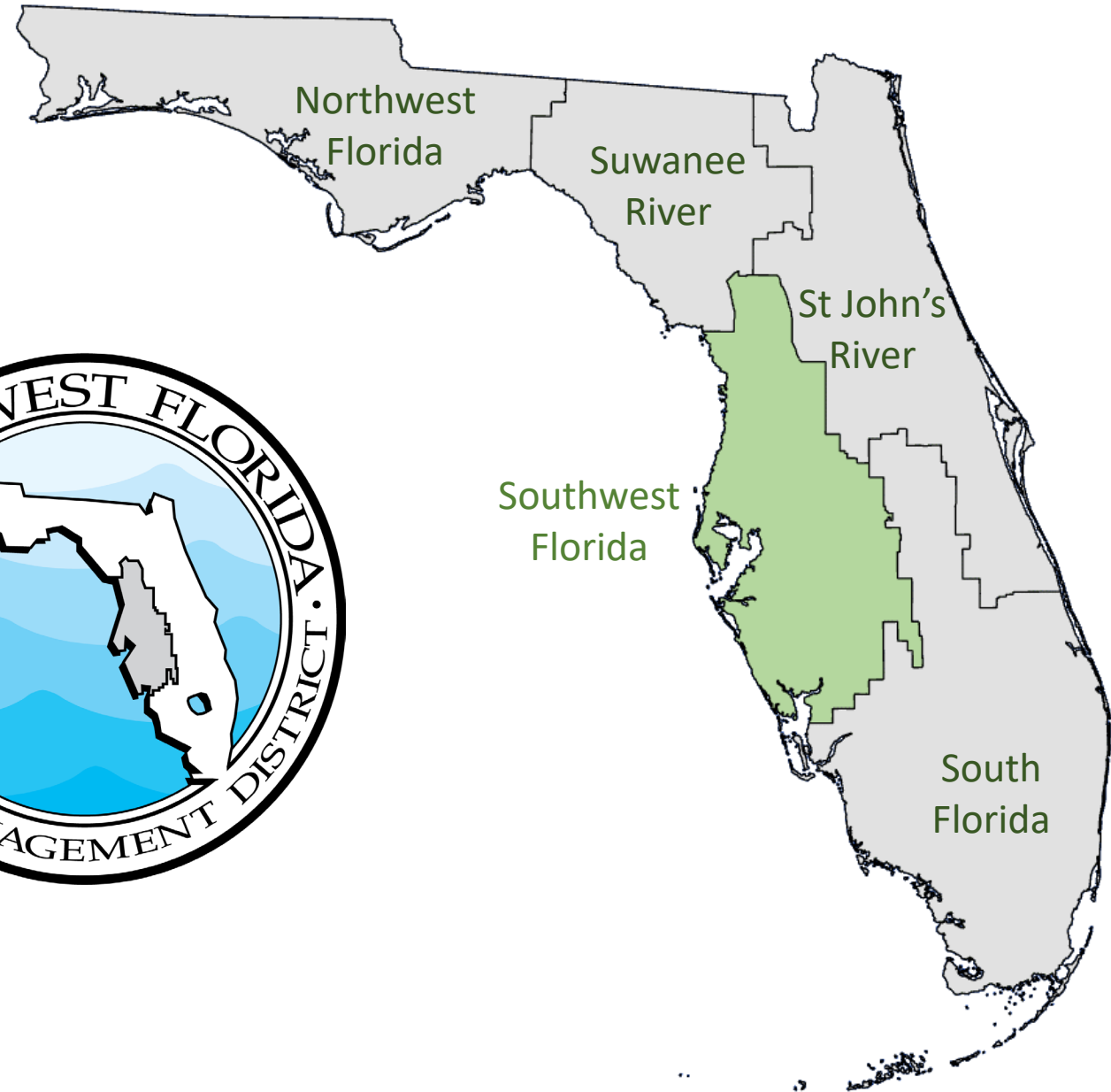
Water Quality



Natural Systems



Flood Protection





# Recommended Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

## Virtual Public Workshop

---

Kristina Deak, Yonas Ghile,  
Gabe Herrick, and Doug Leeper

Natural Systems & Restoration Bureau  
October 25, 2023

Southwest Florida  
*Water Management District*



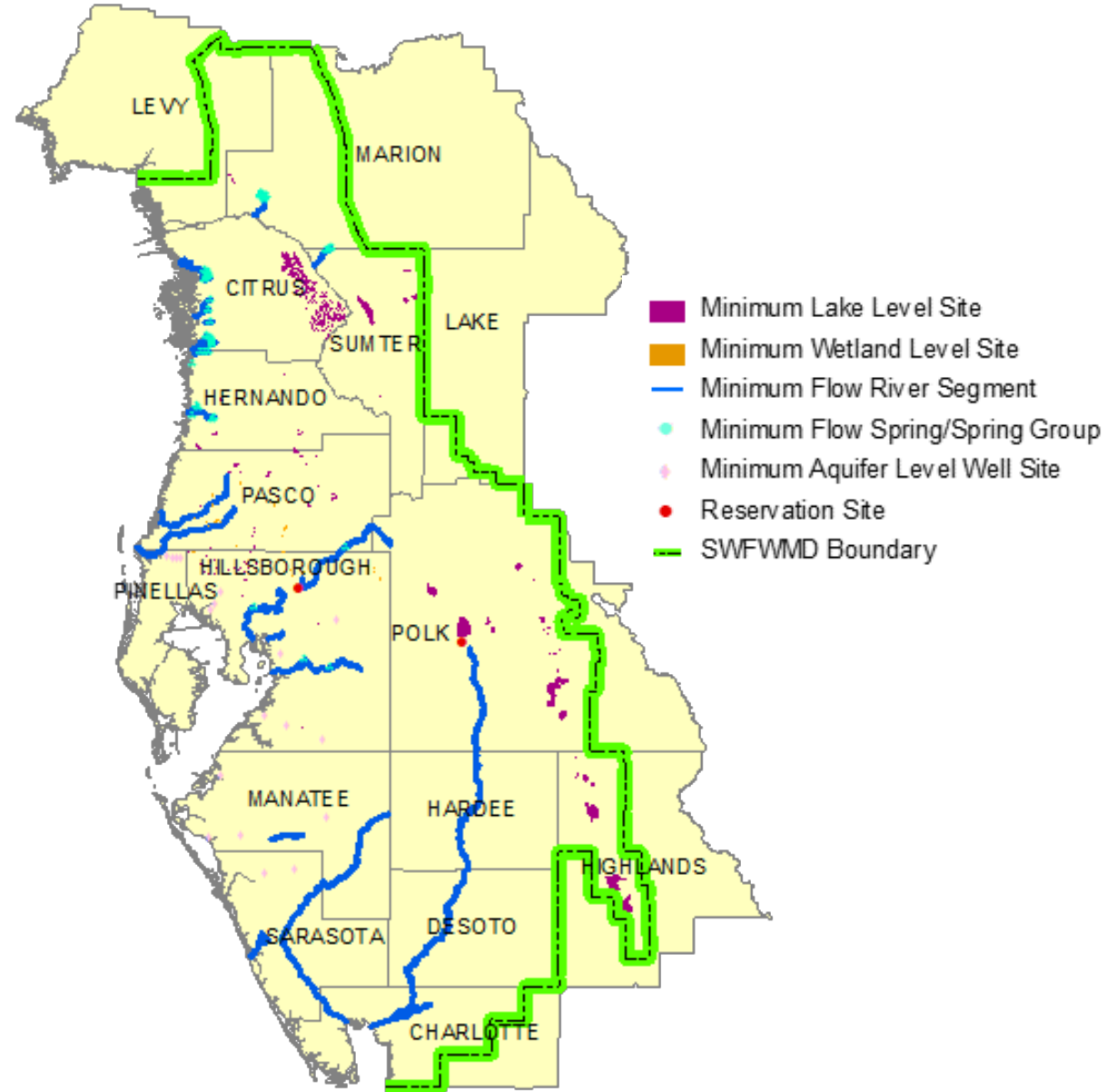


# Minimum Flows

Minimum flows are established to prevent **significant harm** to the water resources or ecology of an area that may result from water withdrawals.

The District typically uses a **15%** change in resource or habitat and specific **flow thresholds** to identify significant harm.

Minimum flow rules are used in the District's permitting and planning programs.





# Environmental Resource Values



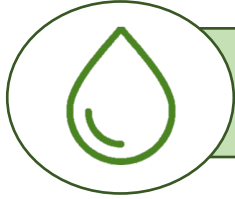
Recreation in and on the water



Fish and wildlife habitats



Aesthetic and scenic attributes



Freshwater storage and supply



Filtration and absorption of  
nutrients or other pollutants



Navigation



Estuarine resources



Water quality

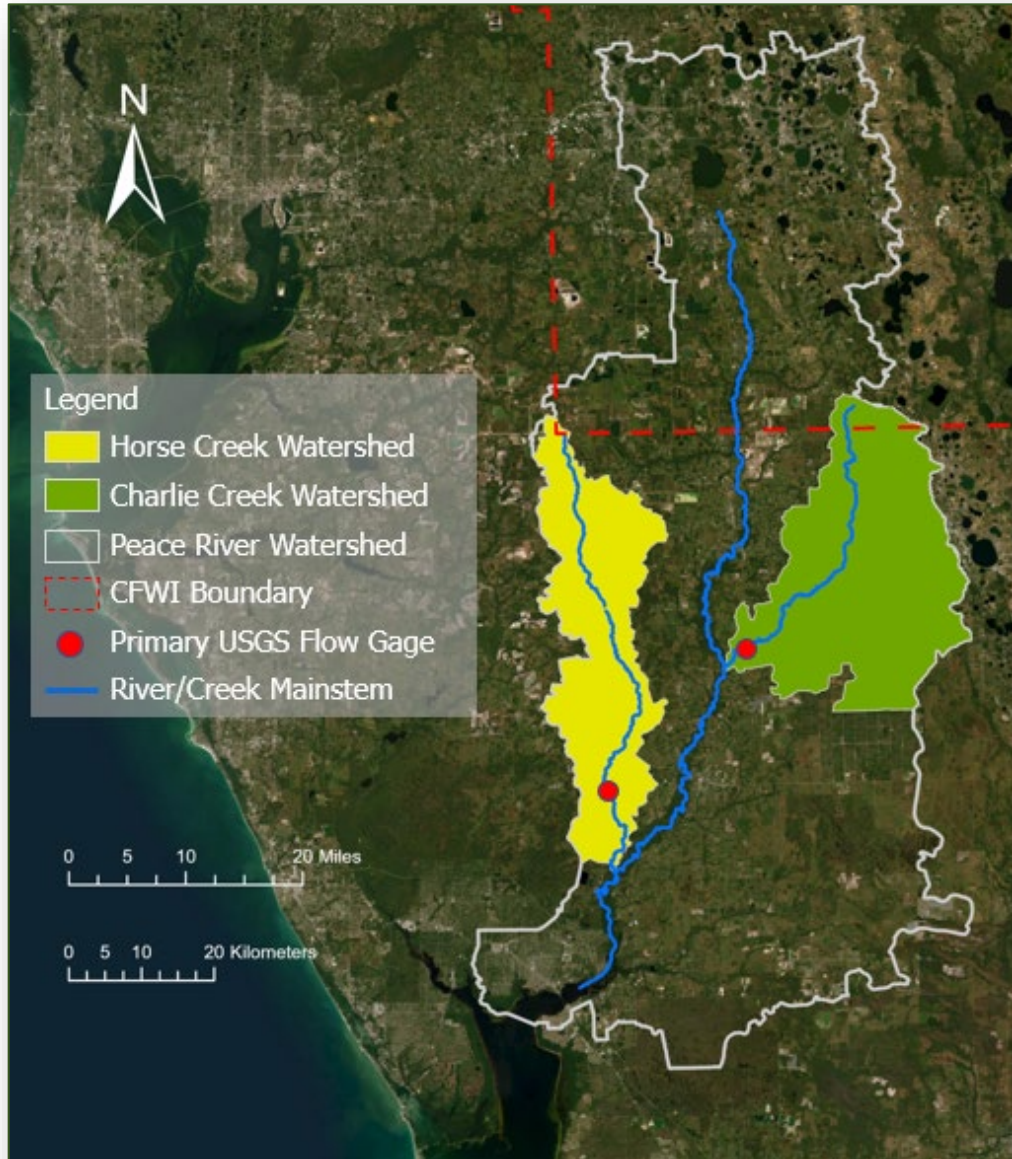


Sediment loads



Transfer of detrital material

# Orientation



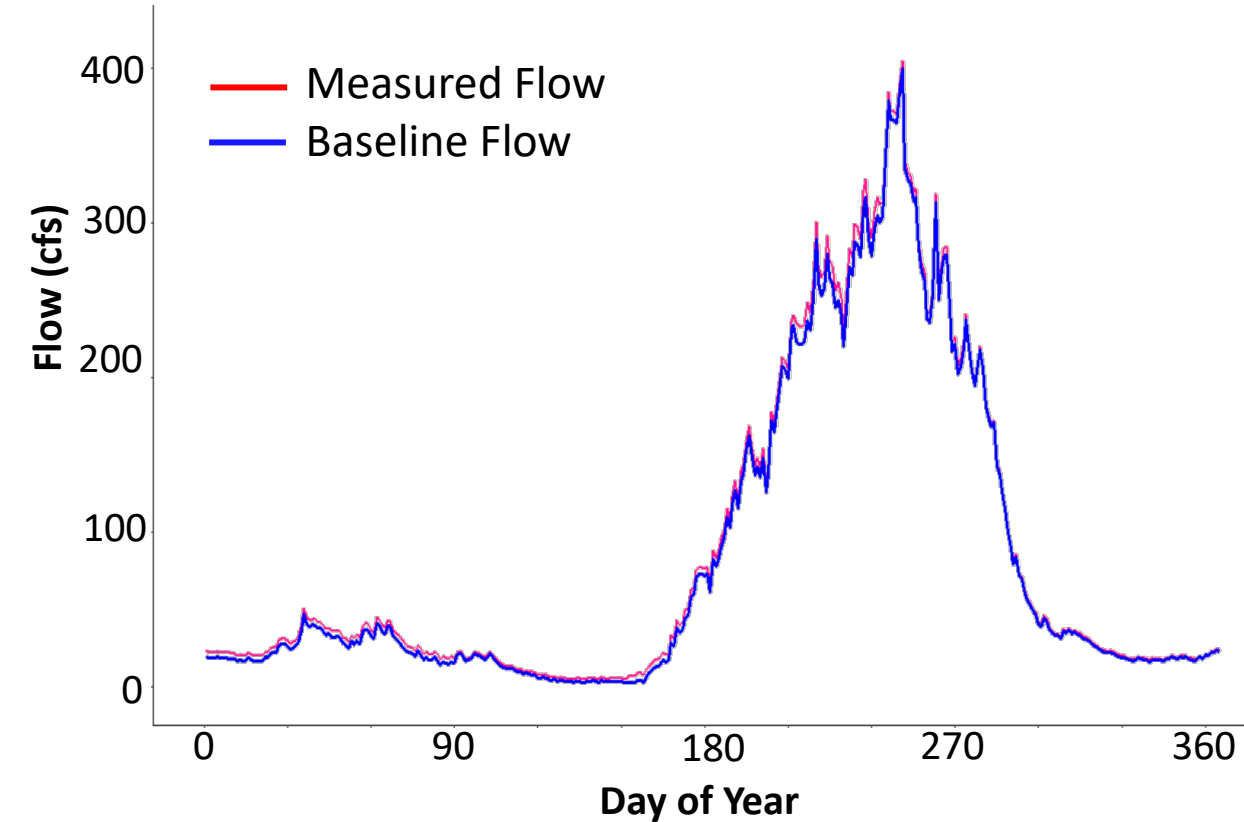
Variable	Horse Creek	Charlie Creek
Length	54 miles	42 miles
Mean Annual Flow	185 cubic feet per second (cfs)	262 cfs
Dominant Land Use (2020)	Natural lands (42%) Agriculture (41%) Mining (12%)	Agriculture (56%) Natural lands (37%)

# Baseline Flow

**Baseline flows** are those expected to occur in the absence of withdrawal impacts.

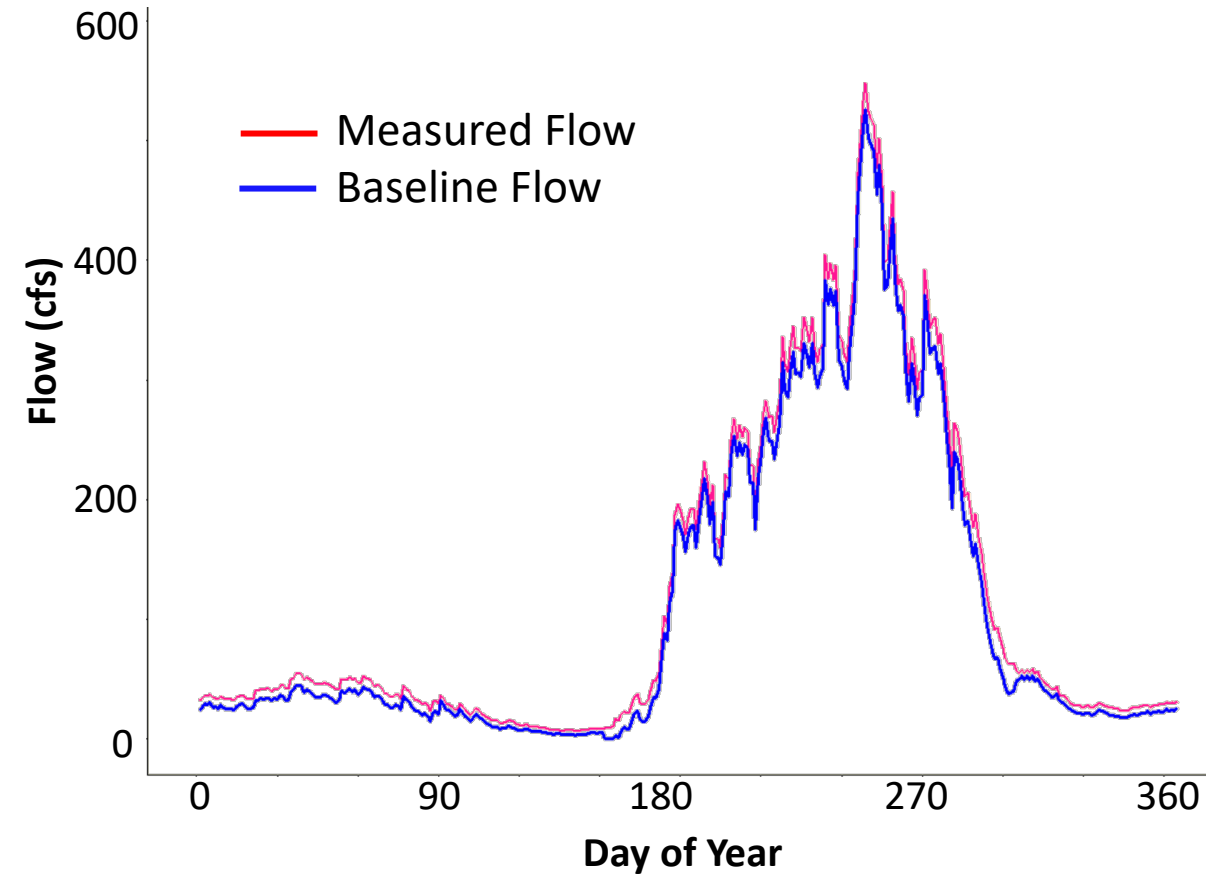
## Horse Creek

USGS Horse Creek at SR72 near Arcadia, FL gage



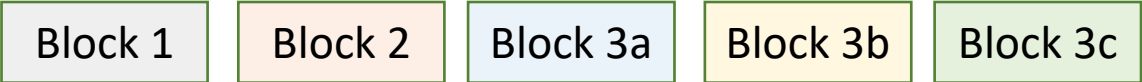
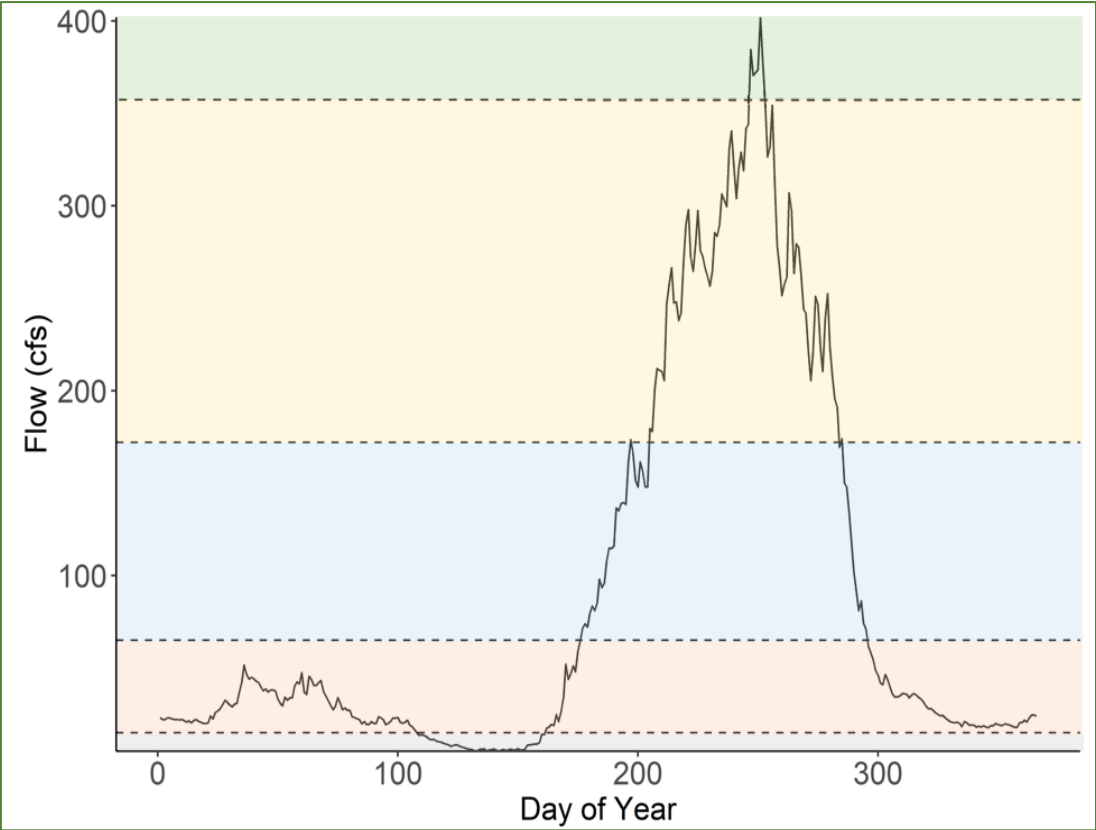
## Charlie Creek

USGS Charlie Creek near Gardner, FL gage



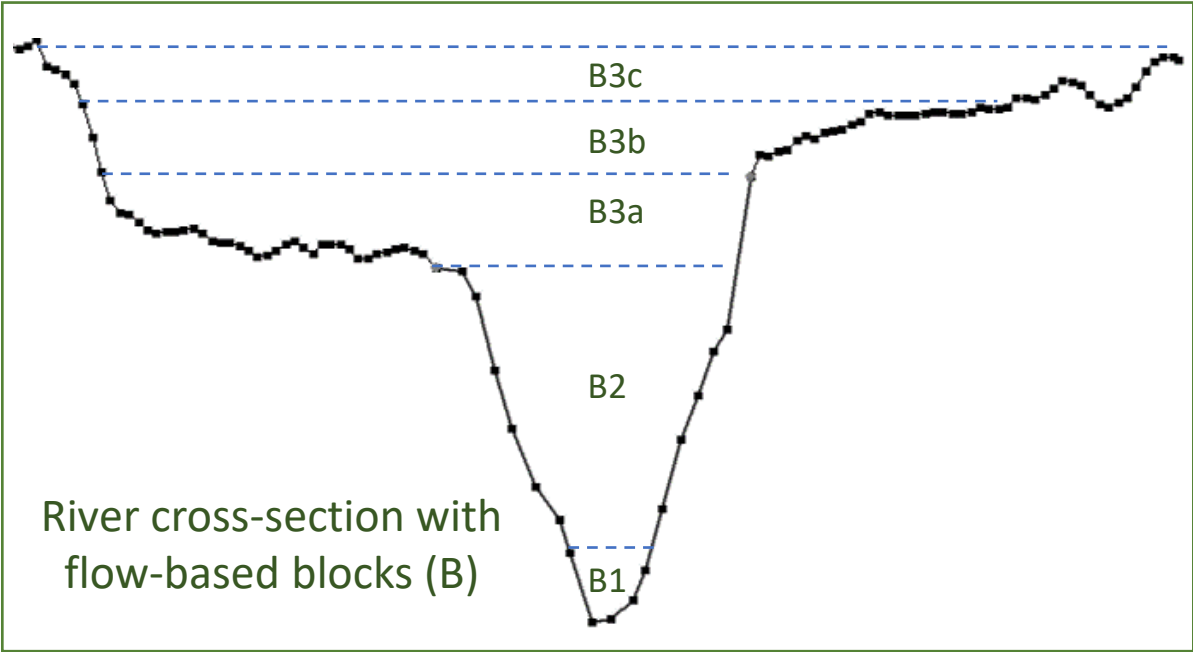
# Flow-Based Blocks

Flow-based blocks allow minimum flows to match river conditions experienced by biological communities.



Lowest flows —————> Highest flows

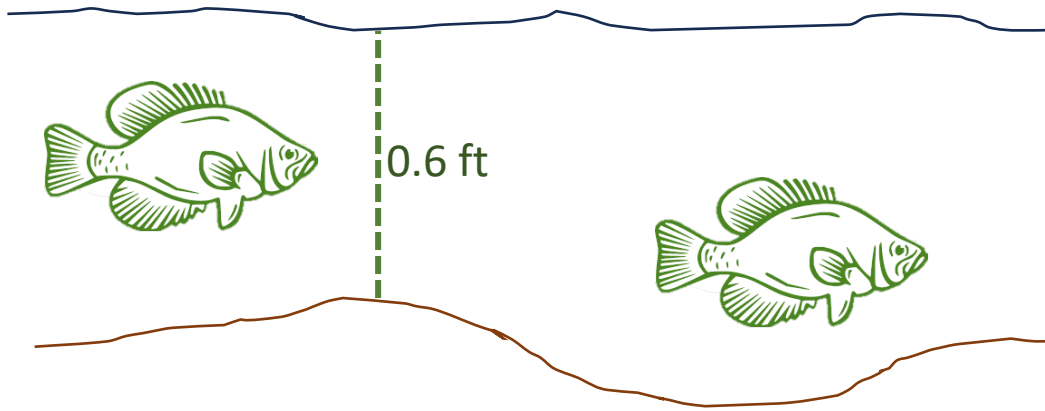
The breakpoints between blocks are determined quantitatively, using hydrological modeling.



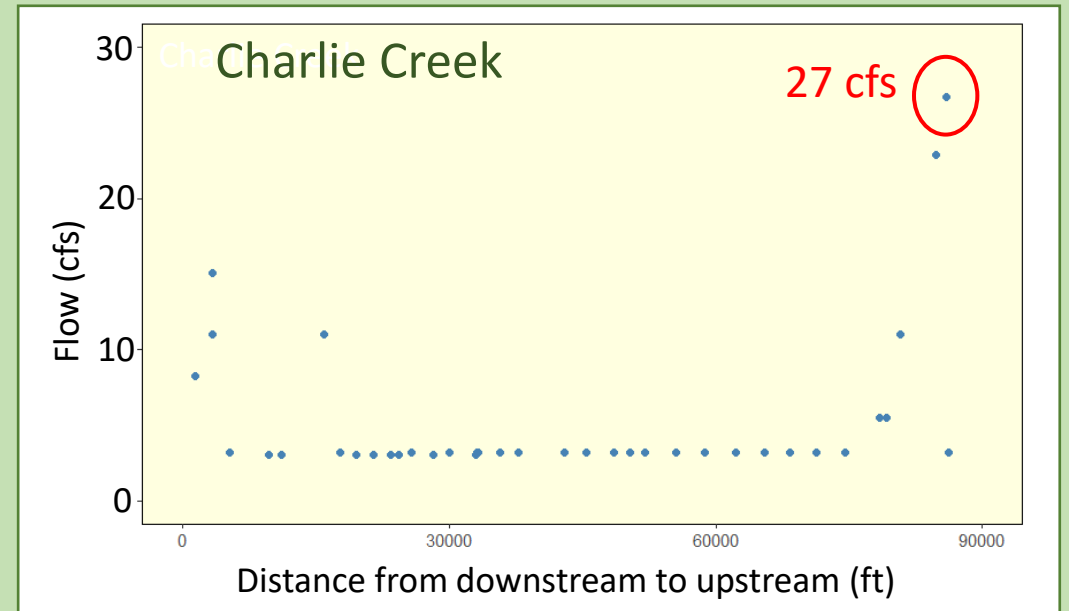
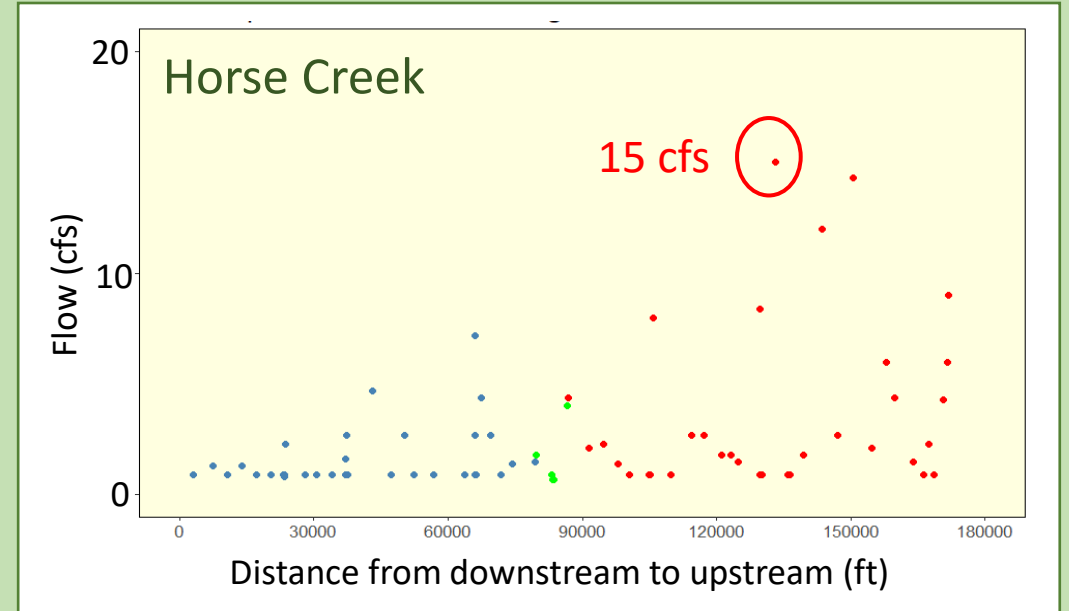
Block	Physical Characteristics
B1	Flows allow for fish passage
B2	Flows remain in channel
B3a	Flows top bank and inundate lower floodplain
B2b	Flows inundate middle elevation floodplain
B3c	Flows inundate upper floodplain

# Low Flow Threshold for Block 1

The low flow threshold was determined as flows required to ensure continuous **fish passage** in each creek.



**100%** of flow must be maintained in Block 1.



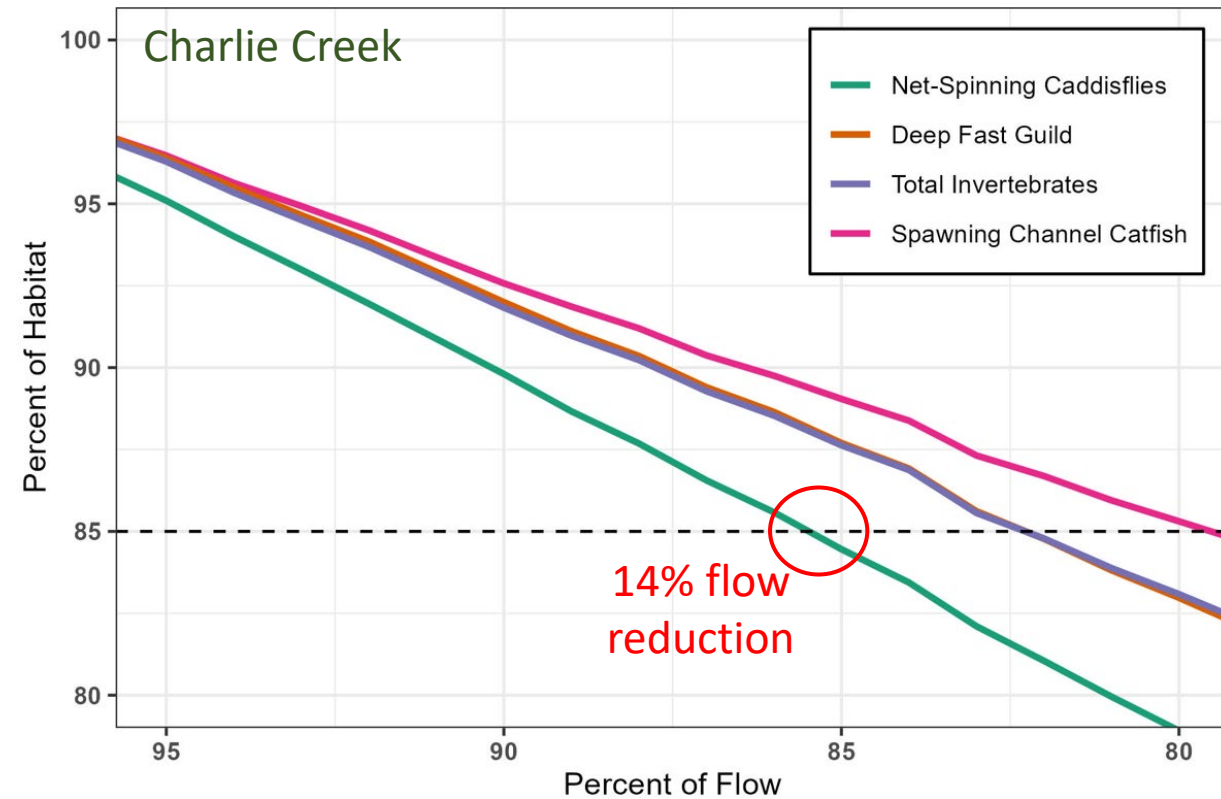
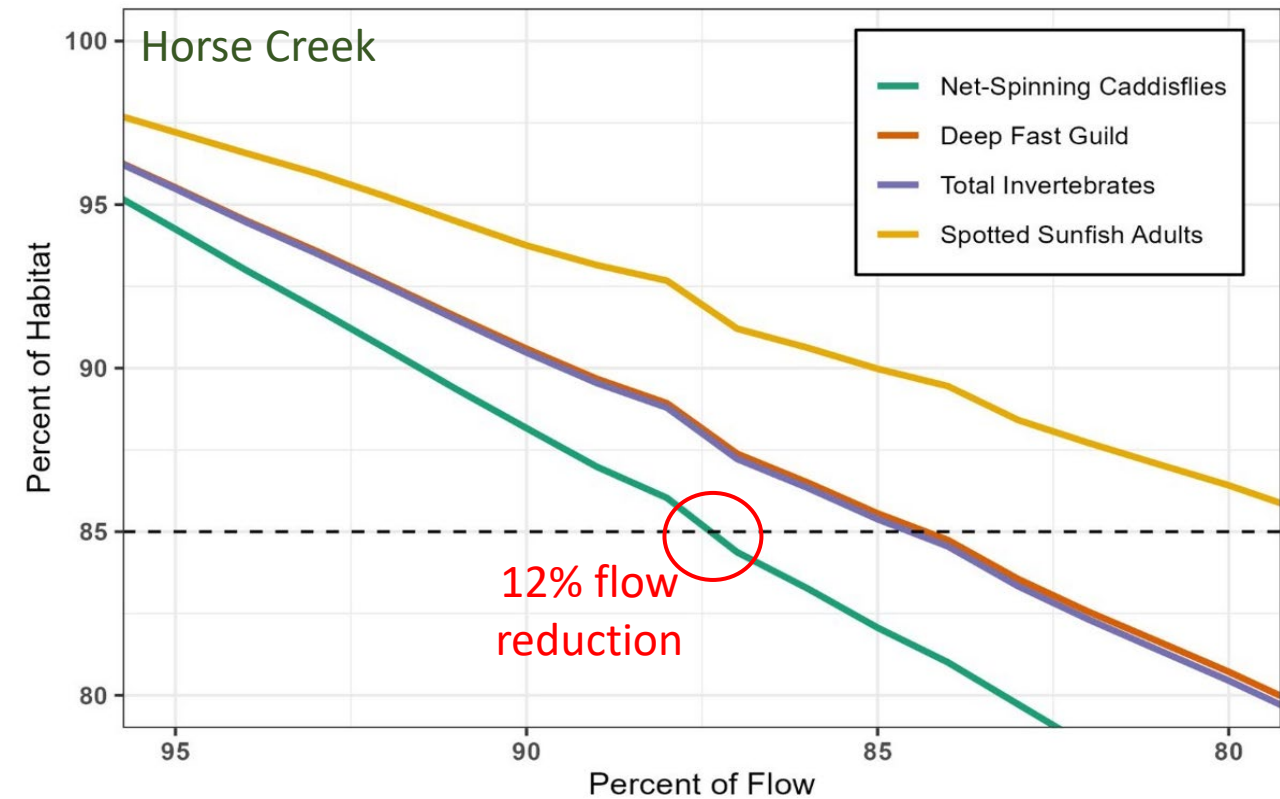
# Minimum Flows for Block 2

## Instream Habitat Modeling

Biological Model + Hydrological Model → Availability of Suitable Habitat for Fish and Insects

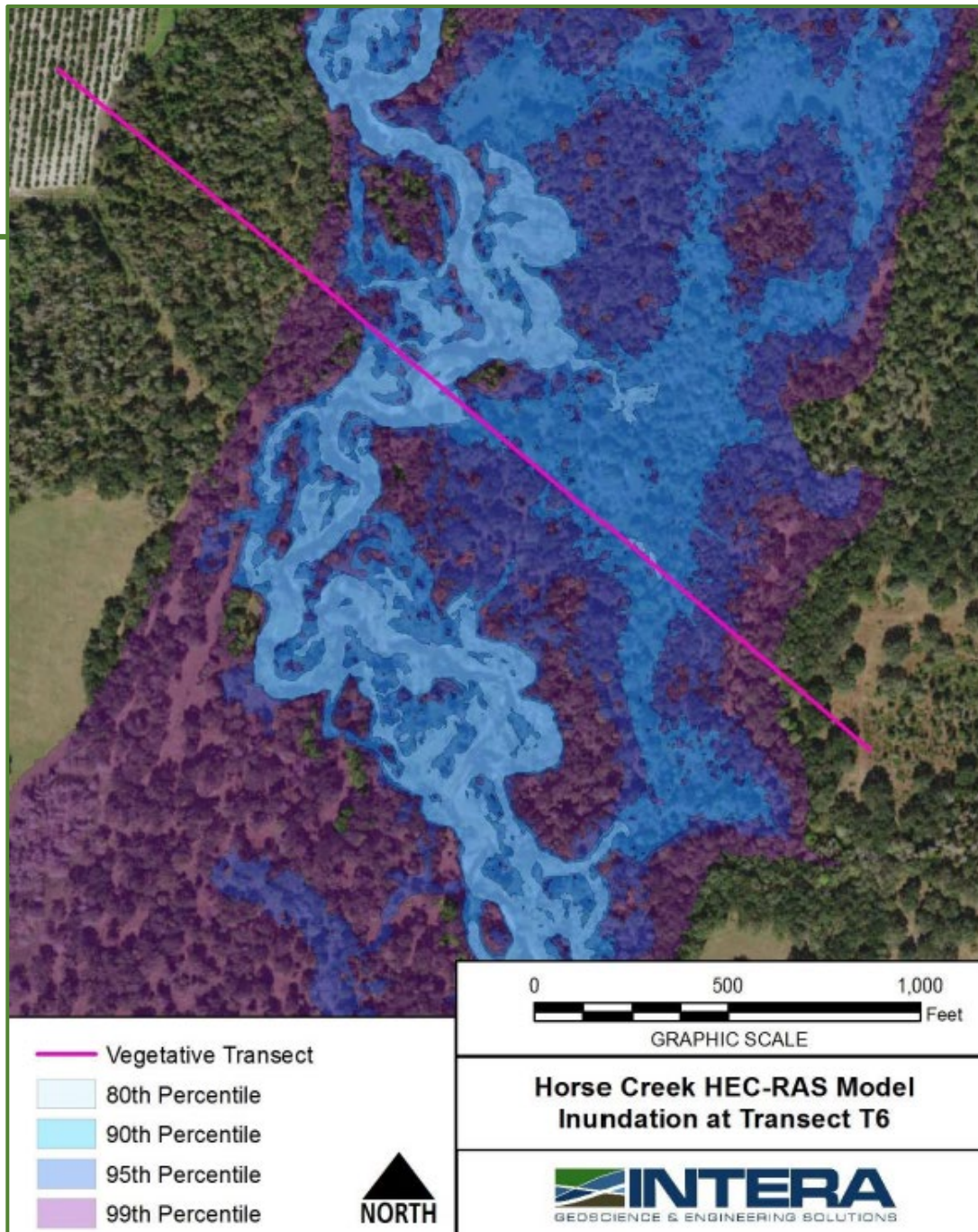


### Change in availability of suitable habitat with reduced flow:





# Minimum Flows for Blocks 3a, 3b & 3c



- ◊ The area of floodplain inundation varies with flow
- ◊ Used hydrological modeling to determine which percent-of-flow reduction would cause a 15% decrease in the amount of inundated floodplain within each sub-block
- ◊ This enables protection of floodplain features that occur at different elevations

## Recommended Minimum Flows

Horse Creek			
Block	If Flow is:	Then Minimum Flow is:	And Maximum Allowable Reduction is:
1	$\leq 15$ cfs	15 cfs	0 cfs
2	$> 15$ cfs and $\leq 78$ cfs	15 cfs or 88%	12%
3a	$> 78$ cfs and $\leq 172$ cfs	69 cfs or 86%	14%
3b	$> 172$ cfs and $\leq 644$ cfs	88%	12%
3c	$> 644$ cfs	92%	8%

Charlie Creek			
Block	If Flow Is:	Then Minimum Flow is:	And Maximum Allowable Reduction is:
1	$\leq 27$ cfs	27 cfs	0 cfs
2	$> 27$ cfs and $\leq 120$ cfs	27 cfs or 86%	14%
3a	$> 120$ cfs and $\leq 316$ cfs	88%	12%
3b	$> 316$ cfs and $\leq 945$ cfs	91%	9%
3c	$> 945$ cfs	93%	7%

# Minimum Flows Status Assessment

**Recommended minimum flows are currently being met in both systems and are expected to be met over the next 20 years.**

## Three Prong Prevention Strategy

**Monitoring network**

**Water use permitting**

**Regional water supply planning**

**Minimum flows  
status assessments  
completed:**

- ❖ **Annually by the District**
- ❖ **Every 5 years as part of regional water supply planning process**
- ❖ **On an as-needed basis in association with permitting and project-related activities**

**Existing legal users are not expected to be impacted by the recommended minimum flow for either system**

# Peer Review

## Conclusions of the Peer Review Panel

- ✓ Applicable and pertinent data
- ✓ Appropriate numerical and statistical modeling
  - ✓ Thorough analyses
  - ✓ Reasonable conclusions
- ✓ Support of 15% significant harm threshold
- ✓ Support of flow-based blocks and low flow threshold
  - ✓ Support of recommended minimum flows

All recommendations of the peer review panel were addressed.

# Schedule

Activity	Dates	Complete? (Y/N)
Project initiation and data analysis	2007-2023	Y
Stakeholder Outreach	February – December 2023	Y
Presentation of draft minimum flows report to Governing Board	June 27, 2023	Y
Peer Review	June 27 – October 9, 2023	Y
Presentation to Charlotte and Heartland National Estuary Program Technical Advisory Committee	August 10, 2023	Y
Presentation to Environmental Advisory Committee	October 10, 2023	Y
Public Workshop	October 25, 2023	Y
Presentation to Public Supply Advisory Committee	November 7, 2023	N
Presentation of final minimum flows report to Governing Board	December 12, 2023	N
Rulemaking	Early 2024	N



## Public Comment Options

**Speak Now:** Click “Raise hand” icon; 3-minute time limit

**Email:** kristina.deak@watermatters.org

**Call:** 1-813-328-3544

**Comment on Horse Creek and Charlie Creek Minimum Flows Webpage:**

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/mfls/minimum-flows-horse-creek-and-charlie-creek>

*Please submit any comments by November 3*

Thank you for your participation in  
today's workshop!





**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Manasota88@comcast.net](mailto:Manasota88@comcast.net)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#)  
**Bcc:** [Chris Zajac](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MF&L October 25th meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:38:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Horse and Charlie Public Workshop Final Clean.pdf](#)

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Hi Glenn,

Again, my sincere apologies for the technical difficulties. We did not see any requests for admission during the meeting and had several other members of the public join successfully.

I have attached the presentation for your review. We are happy to set up a meeting to walk through the slides with you if you would like.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

---

**From:** Manasota88@comcast.net <manasota88@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:09 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Re: MF&L October 25th meeting

You don't often get email from [manasota88@comcast.net](mailto:manasota88@comcast.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.**

No one is letting me in, please email me the presentation and any other meeting materials.

Glenn Compton - Chairman  
ManaSota-88, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1728  
Nokomis, Florida 34274  
(941) 966-6256

On Oct 25, 2023, at 5:53 PM, Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)> wrote:

My apologies for the mix up.

This link should work: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

We will be giving the presentation again in a few minutes for those who missed it.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

---

**From:** ManaSota-88 <[manasota88@comcast.net](mailto:manasota88@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:50 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <[Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us](mailto:Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** MF&L October 25th meeting

You don't often get email from [manasota88@comcast.net](mailto:manasota88@comcast.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Can you please send the proper link so I can join the meeting?

Glenn Compton - Chairman  
ManaSota-88, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1728  
Nokomis, Florida 34274  
(941) 966-6256  
<http://www.manasota88.org>

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [Olsen, Eric](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Chris Zajac](#); [Adrienne E. Vining](#); [Mike R. Bray](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PowerPoint from Horse Creek & Charlie Creek Minimum Flows Public Workshop  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 7:54:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Horse and Charlie Public Workshop Final Clean.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

---

Hi Mr. Olsen,

I have attached the presentation from the public workshop. Please let me know if you need any other information.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

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**From:** Olsen, Eric <EOlsen@gunster.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:56 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** PowerPoint from Horse Creek & Charlie Creek Minimum Flows Public Workshop

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Kristina,

Would you please send me a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from the Oct. 25 public workshop on the proposed minimum flows for Horse Creek & Charlie Creek. Thanks.



Eric T. Olsen | Shareholder  
215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 601  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
P 850-521-1739 M 850-566-7616  
[gunster.com](http://gunster.com) | [eolsen@gunster.com](mailto:eolsen@gunster.com)  
Florida Bar Certified in  
State and Federal Government and  
Administrative Practice



**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [ManaSota-88](#)  
**Cc:** [Doug Leeper](#); [Chris Zajac](#)  
**Bcc:** [Yonas Ghile](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Recommended Minimum Flows and Levels for Horse and Charlie Creeks  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 1, 2023 9:11:00 AM

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Hi Mr. Compton,

Thank you for your email. Staff will consider its content and its implications for our recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek. Your email will be included with other stakeholder input in an appendix to each of the minimum flow reports. All stakeholder input is made available for consideration by the District Governing Board.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

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**From:** ManaSota-88 <manasota88@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 7:04 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Recommended Minimum Flows and Levels for Horse and Charlie Creeks

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

ManaSota-88, Inc. is opposed to the recommended 15% significant harm threshold for the minimum flows and levels (MFL) of Horse Creek and Charlie Creek. The significant harm threshold should be set as close to 0% as possible.

ManaSota-88, Inc. is a public interest conservation and environmental protection organization which is duly incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Florida. The corporate purposes of ManaSota-88 include the protection and preservation of water quality and wildlife habitat in Florida.

Existing legal users are not expected to be impacted by the MFL for either system, therefore adopting a low significant harm threshold would be protective of the water resources for both creeks since minimum flows and levels will only apply to new permit withdrawals.

MFL's are limits to protect flowing water bodies from significant harm caused by ground and surface water withdrawals. If the MFL is not met, then the District can implement a recovery and prevention strategy, therefore there is no need to adopt a 15% significant harm threshold.

If SWFWMD adopts a low minimum flows and levels, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to increase the MFL after they are adopted. If the environmental resource values are further impacted, not only from currently permitted water withdrawals, but additional permitted withdrawals, SWFWMD would not be able to adequately protect the fish and wildlife habitats, water quality, or estuarine resources of Charlie and Horse Creeks.

The District is considering minimum flows that will ultimately result in irreversible and needless damage to the water resources. By the time it is realized a mistake has been made, it will be too late to do anything about it.

SWFWMD's recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek is deficient in many areas. The recommended MFL's fail to consider the environmental cost and adverse impacts associated with the continued over permitting of the District's consumptive use water permits. The recommended MFL's do nothing to improve the water quality of these waterways. Both Horse Creek and Charlie Creek have been listed as impaired waters by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

There is little consideration being given in adopting a MFL for a healthy water body versus an impaired water body, nor does it appear SWFWMD has considered the future changes in land uses within the Horse Creek and Charlie Creek watersheds associated with agricultural operations, increased residential and commercial development, and the significant increase in phosphate mining operations. It is highly likely both creeks will become further impaired as these land use changes occur.

By adopting MFL's that do not effectively implement the regulatory powers given SWFWMD, protection of water resources cannot possibly occur. It is regrettable that SWFWMD is considering minimum flows that will ultimately result in irreversible and needless damage to the water resources.

The resource protections for the creeks is based on the 10% criteria for determining surface water availability. The recommended MFL's assume



the creeks do not need 10% of its water flow at high periods to remain healthy, although it has not been established that a reduction in water flow is not going to harm a body of water.

As with the history of ground water permitting, faulty criteria are being used in making assumptions on the availability of surface water without harm to the resource.

The 10% rule and the 85% minimum flow level criteria does not protect the needs of natural systems. SWFWMD assumes the creeks are static and not dynamic systems. Creek's flood, meander and change their locations. Land use, development patterns and property rights force the waterbed to maintain its present location, discounting the natural processes of river flooding and meandering, as a result, the upper 10% of the water flow may be critical in maintaining the long-term health of a rivers' ecology.

The recommended minimum flows wrongly assumes there will be no damage to the water resource if the 15% significant harm threshold is implemented.

SWFWMD fails to consider the environmental cost and impact of agriculture, including pesticide and herbicide runoff into the watersheds. There is no consideration of the increased cost associated with environmental protection due to decreased water quality and quantity.

Reasonable conclusions cannot possibly support the adoption of the 15% significant harm threshold.

Glenn Compton - Chairman  
ManaSota-88, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1728  
Nokomis, Florida 34274  
(941) 966-6256  
<http://www.manasota88.org>

**From:** [Kristina Deak](#)  
**To:** [M Hampton](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Respectful Recommendation  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:15:00 AM

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Ms. Hampton,

Thank you for your email. Staff will consider its content and its implications for our recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek. Your email will be included with other stakeholder input in an appendix to each of the minimum flow reports. All stakeholder input is made available for consideration by the District Governing Board.

Kristina Deak, PhD  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Environmental Flows and Levels  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
7601 US 301, Tampa, FL 33637  
813.328.3544

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**From:** M Hampton <resourcewisdom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 2:20 PM  
**To:** Kristina Deak <Kristina.Deak@swfwmd.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** M Hampton <resourcewisdom@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Respectful Recommendation

You don't often get email from [resourcewisdom@gmail.com](mailto:resourcewisdom@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use caution before opening.

Dear Ms. Kristina Deak,

I am opposed to the recommended 15% significant harm threshold for the minimum flows and levels (MFL) of Horse Creek and Charlie Creek. I recommend the significant harm threshold should be set as close to 0% as possible.

SWFWMS's recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek is deficient in many areas. Both Horse Creek and Charlie Creek have been listed as impaired waters by the FDEP. Reasonable conclusions cannot possibly support the adoption of the 15% significant harm threshold.

Thank you for taking my comments and recommendations into consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Hampton  
Resident of Manatee County, FL



An Equal  
Opportunity  
Employer

# Southwest Florida Water Management District

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

WaterMatters.org

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation or would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact Teresa Jepma, Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4706; or email [ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org](mailto:ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org). If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, please follow the grievance procedure located at [WaterMatters.org/ADA](http://WaterMatters.org/ADA).

## RECOMMENDED MINIMUM FLOWS FOR HORSE CREEK AND CHARLIE CREEK VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

5:30 PM

### TEAMS MEETING

JOIN ON YOUR COMPUTER, MOBILE APP, OR ROOM DEVICE: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

OR CALL IN (AUDIO ONLY): 1-786-749-6127

CONFERENCE ID: 952 707 19#

*☞ All meetings are open to the public. ☞*

1. Welcome and Introductions, Doug Leeper, MFLs Program Lead, SWFWMD<sup>1</sup>
2. Recommended Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek, Kristina Deak, Senior Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD
3. Public Comment Period, Facilitated by Doug Leeper, MFLs Program Lead, SWFWMD

*For questions regarding the meeting or the recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek, please contact Kristina Deak by email at [Kristina.Deak@watermatters.org](mailto:Kristina.Deak@watermatters.org), by telephone at 1-813-328-3544, or by mail at the address listed at the top of this agenda.*

*If you have comments, please hold them until the public comment period. Doug Leeper will call on you at the appropriate time during the last portion of the meeting. Comments will typically be limited to three minutes per speaker. In appropriate circumstances, the Moderator may grant exceptions to the three-minute limit.*

**Bartow Office**  
170 Century Boulevard  
Bartow, FL 33830-7700  
863-534-1448 or 1-800-492-7862

**Sarasota Office**  
78 Sarasota Center Boulevard  
Sarasota, FL 34240-9711  
941-377-3722 or 1-800-320-3503

**Tampa Office**  
7601 US Highway 301 North  
Tampa, FL 33637-6759  
813-985-7481 or 1-800-836-0797

MEETING NOTICE

## MEETING MINUTES

### Southwest Florida Water Management District Public Workshop Recommended Minimum Flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek

October 25, 2023

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) organized and facilitated a public workshop to discuss how the recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek were developed and provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed minimum flows. The meeting was facilitated as a teleconference, using the Microsoft Teams videoconferencing application.

The meeting was held from 5:30 PM to approximately 6:20 PM on October 25, 2023.

The meeting was advertised in the Florida Administrative Register and on the District's website. Notifications concerning the event were distributed to local governments, other agencies, and stakeholder groups or representatives.

Meeting participants that chose to identify themselves are listed below. There was one additional caller on the line that did not identify themselves.

#### District Staff:

Kristina Deak	Yonas Ghile	Doug Leeper	Gabe Herrick
Adrienne Vinning	Lei Yang	Randy Smith	Chris Zajac
Tom Hyle	Cindy Rodriguez	Ryan Pearson	

#### Others:

Angel Martin	Paria Heeter	Fatou Calixte	Eric Olsen
Jacki Champion	Morgan Tyrone	Tabitha Biehl	Monica Renton

Doug Leeper, MFL Program Lead, began the meeting by welcoming participants, describing how to operate the Teams meeting software, and by providing an overview of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Next, Kristina Deak, Senior Environmental Scientist, provided a presentation on the development of the recommended minimum flows for Horse Creek and Charlie Creek. She described what minimum flows are, provided an overview of the systems, explained how the baseline flow record was developed, highlighted the utility of flow-based blocks and how they were developed, and described how the low flow thresholds and minimum flows within each block were calculated. She provided an overview of the peer review process for the systems and the next steps in the process of adopting the proposed minimum flows.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Leeper facilitated a public comment period. Angel Martin commented about streamflow data collection at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) stations in each creek and that stage-discharge relationships at the gaging stations may change over time. Mr. Leeper explained that the District was aware of these issues and they were considered in the development of minimum flows.

Several members of the public joined the meeting late, due to an incorrect link being accidentally posted at one or more of the information distribution outlets for this meeting. Beginning at approximately 6:00 PM, District staff repeated the presentation of recommended minimum flows in its entirety.

A second public comment period was facilitated by Mr. Leeper at the conclusion of the presentation. Mr. Martin had an additional question regarding a figure legend provided on one of the slides in the presentation and staff provided clarification.

The meeting concluded at approximately 6:20 PM.