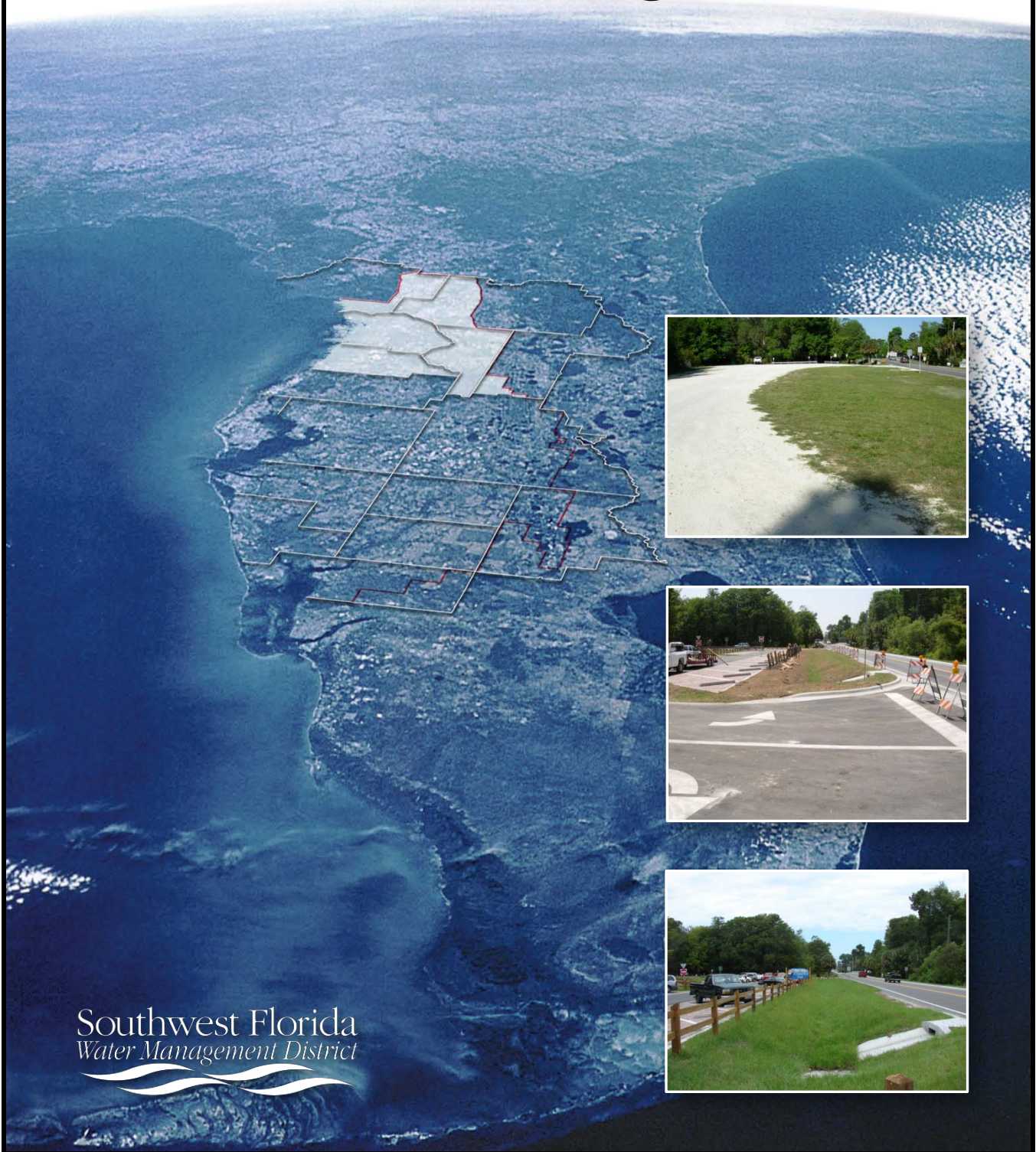


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Fiscal Year 2026

Cooperative Funding Initiative Applications

Northern Region



Southwest Florida
Water Management District

Project Name	Project Number	District Funding Requested
Northwest Hernando Septic to Sewer Feasibility Study	Q419	\$75,000
Northwest Ocala Watershed Management Plan Update	Q428	\$183,959
Cotton Plant 3 Watershed Management Plan Update	Q427	\$163,500
Overall Total		\$422,459

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Project Name: Northwest Hernando Septic to Sewer Feasibility Study

Project Number: Q419

Cooperator: Hernando County Utilities
Department

Contact Person: Ron Patel

Department: Hernando County Utilities
Department

Address: 15365 Cortez Blvd

Phone #: 3525406792

City State Zip: BROOKSVILLE, FL 34613

Ext:

Email: rpatel@co.hernando.fl.us

Project Type:

Water Quality

Strategic Initiatives:

Water Quality Monitoring

Project Description/Benefit/Cost

Description:

Hernando County Utilities Department is seeking a study for converting septic tanks to a centralized conventional gravity sewer system in the northwestern area of county. The proposed study will identify phasing options to convert septic tanks to centralized gravity sewer utilizing a cost to benefit ratio basis. The benefit will consider the reduction in amount of nutrients discharged from the septic tanks to Weeki Wachee and Chassahowitzka springs. The specific area for this study is approximately 13,500 acres and generally described as east of Commercial Way, south of Kelso Street, west of the Suncoast Parkway, and north of Hexam Road; with an emphasis on the properties north of Centralia Rd.

The study will also investigate the need for including centralized water in this study area for septic to sewer conversions since this area is mostly outside of the HCUD's current water service area. The benefit would consider the reduction in amount of nutrients discharged from the septic tanks to the water sheds. The feasibility study will determine any net environmental benefits for Septic to Sewer in this region.

This application is for seeking a study for converting septic tanks to a centralized conventional gravity sewer system, in the northwestern area of Hernando County, and will assist to apply for future funding through the FDEP & SWFWMD funding program for finishing the design and construction in subsequent springs funding cycles. The study will also investigate the need for including centralized water in this study area for septic to sewer conversions since this area is mostly outside of the HCUD's current water service area.

Consultant will estimate the nutrient loading from septic tanks in one (1), five (5), and ten (10) year travel times within each water shed. Estimates will be based on published EPA documents for average nitrogen loading per OSTDS and hydrogeologic conditions within the Weeki Wachee and Chassahowitzka water sheds.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Benefit:

This project will connect several residence in the northwest quadrant of county to the central wastewater collection system. The treated wastewater will result in additional availability of reclaimed water for potential reuse or aquifer recharge, and will reduce nutrient loading to the local spring sheds. The project will increase County's sanitary sewer conveyance capacity, prevent water contamination, & assist in preserving healthy environment & quality of life. The amount of nitrogen discharged to the groundwater within the BMAP area will be reduced.

Upon completion of design and construction, this project will connect several residence in the northwest quadrant of county to the central wastewater collection system. The treated wastewater will result in additional availability of reclaimed water for potential reuse or aquifer recharge, and will reduce nutrient loading to the local spring sheds. The project will increase County's sanitary sewer conveyance capacity, prevent water contamination, & assist in preserving healthy environment & quality of life. The amount of nitrogen discharged to the groundwater within the BMAP area will be reduced.

Cost:

Hernando County Utilities Department will contribute 50% of the cost (\$ 75,000.00) for the Northwest Hernando Septic to Sewer Feasibility Study and will seek 50% of cost (\$ 75, 000) contribution from the District.

Hernando County Ordinance: Chapter 28 Utilities

The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved an ordinance requiring mandatory sewer connection when it is available. The BOCC has also established a municipal services benefit unit (MSBU) to assess fees in the neighborhood for the local funding contribution.

Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.

Section 28-238 of the Hernando County Code of Ordinances

Hernando County has a local ordinance in placed that requires proper abandonment of septic system and connection to an available sewer system as defined by Section 381.0065(21) Florida Statue.

Hernando County Utilities department has recently revised the County's fertilizer ordinance imposing a summertime restriction for applying fertilizers containing Nitrogen.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2025	FY2026	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	75,000	0	75,000
District Share	0	0	75,000	0	75,000
Total	0	0	150,000	0	150,000

Matching Fund Reduction

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Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

Timelines

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Start Project 10/30/2026

Start Project 10/30/2026

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Project Name: Northwest Ocala Watershed Management Plan Update

Project Number: Q428

Cooperator: Marion County

Contact Person: Kevin Vickers

Department: Marion County

Address: 412 SE 25th Avenue

Phone #: 3526718695

City State Zip: Ocala, FL 34471

Ext:

Email: kevin.vickers@marionfl.org

Project Type:

Water Quality Flood Protection

Strategic Initiatives:

Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement Floodplain Management

Project Description/Benefit/Cost

Description:

Marion County is seeking funding through the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to update the Northwest Ocala Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The original WMP was completed for SWFWMD and Marion County in 2011. It covers an area of approximately eighteen square miles. The purpose of this project is to perform maintenance of the watershed information and update the existing WMP. This project will utilize new LiDAR to the current District schema and also provide an updated assessment of flood risks by reclassifying the modeled floodplains based on current FEMA depth criteria. The update will entail an engineered analysis of the watershed, including stormwater modeling and modeling of nutrient loads. The need for an update to the existing WMPs has been established in the County's Comprehensive Plan. The update is an integral step in developing an actionable plan to mitigate the risks associated with flooding of roads and property during severe storm events, including tropical cyclones. The update will identify areas at high risk for flooding, and provide the necessary data for use in the design of flood mitigation projects. The update will also evaluate nutrient loadings to groundwater and provide pertinent information to identify and program Water Quality projects in the future. The update will identify changes to the location, extents, and depths of flooding within the watersheds which have resulted from the development in the watersheds since 2011. The plan will provide benefit to approximately eighteen square miles in the northwest portion of Marion County. This project upholds the District's Flood Protection Goal by identifying projects that will minimize flood damage to protect people, property, infrastructure, and investment. It also benefits the District's goal of Water Quality by identifying projects that implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve the quality of water reaching the aquifer through projects such as Bold and Gold Stormwater Retrofits.

Benefit:

The primary benefit of this project is to update the assessment of flood risks, based on current FEMA depth criteria, and pollutant loadings within the watershed. This will be valuable to the community as a whole by providing the County with a roadmap to mitigate flooding and improve water quality within the Northwest Ocala watershed. By identifying areas of flooding and mitigating those risks, the County will increase the

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FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

safety and security of its residents and property owners during storm events. Also, modeling of the nutrient loadings will help the County identify hotspots for water quality projects in order to improve the quality of the water entering the groundwater through projects such as Bold and Gold Stormwater Retrofits. In addition, the update will allow the WMP data to be provided to engineers and other interested parties in an ICPR4 format that interfaces directly with ArcGIS for the design and construction of new development within the watersheds.

Cost:

Marion County is requesting fifty percent cost-share funding for the Northwest Ocala Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Update project. The cost of the project is estimated at \$367,918 based on historic costs. Marion County will identify matching funds in the FY 2026 Budget. The County is requesting fifty percent of the WMP Update costs through the SWFWMD CFI program which is \$183,959, with the County contributing the other fifty percent share to the project.

Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.

The Marion County Stormwater Section is funded by a yearly stormwater assessment. The program is responsible for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance, watershed management, flood protection studies as well as, management and maintenance of the stormwater system associated with the transportation network. This management and maintenance program also includes an annual street sweeping program. The Marion County Land Development Code (MCLDC) requires stormwater design and permitting on all development activities that exceed 9,000 square feet of impervious surface and includes compensating storage requirements for placement of fill in a floodplain. Marion County maintains a Community Rating System Class 7. In 2008 and 2009, Marion County adopted springs protection, fertilizer, and irrigation ordinances, as well as new MCLDC language for springshed protection. The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (Board) established a staff position to promote proactive steps that each citizen can take to reduce consumption of the County's water supply. Through community outreach efforts and water conservation workshops, Marion County citizens are learning about proper use of low-flow devices, Florida-friendly landscaping and compliance with the County's irrigation schedule. The Board also approved the 2024-2025 Stormwater Public Education Plan (SEP) and, with it, goals to increase local awareness of stormwater pollution and promote a reduction in contributing behaviors. The SEP outlines a multi-media approach that consists of a public service announcement (PSA) campaign encompassing radio advertisements coupled with an on-line survey assessing the radio PSA; billboards encouraging proper fertilizer use; creation and implementation of a fertilizer education program in partnership with area businesses; and implementation of other initiatives necessary to meet the NPDES permit requirements for stormwater education and outreach.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2025	FY2026	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	183,959	0	183,959
District Share	0	0	183,959	0	183,959
Total	0	0	367,918	0	367,918

Matching Fund Reduction

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Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Timelines

Project Development 10/01/2026

Watershed Evaluation 10/02/2028

Floodplain Analysis 10/01/2030

Level of Service 4/01/2031

Surface Water Resource Assessment 10/01/2031

BMP Alternatives Analysis 4/01/2032

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Project Name: Cotton Plant 3 Watershed Management Plan Update

Project Number: Q427

Cooperator: Marion County

Contact Person: Kevin Vickers

Department: Marion County

Address: 412 SE 25th Avenue

Phone #: 3526718695

City State Zip: Ocala, FL 34471

Ext:

Email: kevin.vickers@marionfl.org

Project Type:

Flood Protection Water Quality

Strategic Initiatives:

Floodplain Management Water Quality Maintenance and Improvement

Project Description/Benefit/Cost

Description:

Marion County is seeking funding through the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to update the Cotton Plant 3 Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The original WMP was completed for SWFWMD and Marion County in 2011. It covers an area of approximately sixteen square miles. The purpose of this project is to perform maintenance of the watershed information and update the existing WMP. This project will utilize new LiDAR to the current District schema and also provide an updated assessment of flood risks by reclassifying the modeled floodplains based on current FEMA depth criteria. The update will entail an engineered analysis of the watershed, including stormwater modeling and modeling of nutrient loads. The need for an update to the existing WMPs has been established in the County's Comprehensive Plan. The update is an integral step in developing an actionable plan to mitigate the risks associated with flooding of roads and property during severe storm events, including tropical cyclones. The update will identify areas at high risk for flooding, and provide the necessary data for use in the design of flood mitigation projects. The update will also evaluate nutrient loadings to groundwater and provide pertinent information to identify and program Water Quality projects in the future. The update will identify changes to the location, extents, and depths of flooding within the watersheds which have resulted from the development in the watersheds since 2011. The plan will provide benefit to approximately sixteen square miles in the southwest portion of Marion County. This project upholds the District's Flood Protection Goal by identifying projects that will minimize flood damage to protect people, property, infrastructure, and investment. It also benefits the District's goal of Water Quality by identifying projects that implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve the quality of water reaching the aquifer through projects such as Bold and Gold Stormwater Retrofits.

Benefit:

The primary benefit of this project is to update the assessment of flood risks, based on current FEMA depth criteria, and pollutant loadings within the watershed. This will be valuable to the community as a whole by providing the County with a roadmap to mitigate flooding and improve water quality within the Cotton Plant 3 watershed. By identifying areas of flooding and mitigating those risks, the County will increase the safety and

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

security of its residents and property owners during storm events. Also, modeling of the nutrient loadings will help the County identify hotspots for water quality projects in order to improve the quality of the water entering the groundwater through projects such as Bold and Gold Stormwater Retrofits. In addition, the update will allow the WMP data to be provided to engineers and other interested parties in an ICPR4 format that interfaces directly with ArcGIS for the design and construction of new development within the watersheds.

Cost:

Marion County is requesting fifty percent cost-share funding for the Northwest Ocala Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Update project. The cost of the project is estimated at \$327,000 based on historic costs. Marion County will identify matching funds in the FY 2026 Budget. The County is requesting fifty percent of the WMP Update costs through the SWFWMD CFI program which is \$163,500, with the County contributing the other fifty percent share to the project.

Describe your complementary efforts in developing, implementing and enforcing water conservation, water quality and flood protection ordinances.

The Marion County Stormwater Section is funded by a yearly stormwater assessment. The program is responsible for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance, watershed management, flood protection studies as well as, management and maintenance of the stormwater system associated with the transportation network. This management and maintenance program also includes an annual street sweeping program. The Marion County Land Development Code (MCLDC) requires stormwater design and permitting on all development activities that exceed 9,000 square feet of impervious surface and includes compensating storage requirements for placement of fill in a floodplain. Marion County maintains a Community Rating System Class 7. In 2008 and 2009, Marion County adopted springs protection, fertilizer, and irrigation ordinances, as well as new MCLDC language for springshed protection. The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (Board) established a staff position to promote proactive steps that each citizen can take to reduce consumption of the County's water supply. Through community outreach efforts and water conservation workshops, Marion County citizens are learning about proper use of low-flow devices, Florida-friendly landscaping and compliance with the County's irrigation schedule. The Board also approved the 2024-2025 Stormwater Public Education Plan (SEP) and, with it, goals to increase local awareness of stormwater pollution and promote a reduction in contributing behaviors. The SEP outlines a multi-media approach that consists of a public service announcement (PSA) campaign encompassing radio advertisements coupled with an on-line survey assessing the radio PSA; billboards encouraging proper fertilizer use; creation and implementation of a fertilizer education program in partnership with area businesses; and implementation of other initiatives necessary to meet the NPDES permit requirements for stormwater education and outreach.

Funding Source	Prior Funding	FY2025	FY2026	Future Funding	Total Funding
Applicant Share	0	0	163,500	0	163,500
District Share	0	0	163,500	0	163,500
Total	0	0	327,000	0	327,000

Matching Fund Reduction

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Check here if requesting a reduction in matching funds requirement pursuant to s.288.06561, F.S.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

FY 2026 Cooperative Funding Initiative Application Form

Timelines

Project Development 10/01/2026

Watershed Evaluation 10/02/2028

Floodplain Analysis 10/01/2030

Level of Service 4/01/2031

Surface Water Resource Assessment 10/01/2031

BMP Alternatives Analysis 4/01/2032

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 who 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 the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4747; or email 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