



Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Caloosahatchee River Citizens
Association / Riverwatch
Center for Biological Diversity
Clean Water Action
Collier County Audubon Society
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
Ding Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Coordinating Council
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Florida Conservation Alliance
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry Glades Audubon Society
Institute for Regional Conservation
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Loxahatchee River Coalition
Martin County Conservation Alliance
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Save It Now, Glades!
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
Snook and Gamefish Foundation
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Tropical Audubon Society
The Urban Environment League of
Greater Miami

Everglades Coalition Resolution Urging the DEP to set forth a clear and deliberate course toward achieving Lake Okeechobee's water quality goals in the Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan

WHEREAS, the Everglades ecosystem, spanning the Kissimmee River Valley to Florida Bay, is a significant national resource and international treasure,

WHEREAS, a critical component of Everglades restoration is improving the quality of, and reducing phosphorus in, water that St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries,

WHEREAS, despite decades of plans to reduce the quantity of phosphorus flowing to Lake Okeechobee, excessive amounts continue to enter the Okeechobee watershed from fertilizer, animal feed, wastewater, stormwater, and other man-made sources,

WHEREAS, excessive phosphorus is linked to algal blooms, increased turbidity, and habitat destruction in Lake Okeechobee and its downstream waters, including the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries,

WHEREAS, under the authority of the Clean Water Act, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) set a water quality goal, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), of 105 metric tons of phosphorus in surface inflows to Lake Okeechobee and the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan set the goal of achieving the TMDL by January 1, 2015,

WHEREAS, it is a few months away from January 2015 and the Lake's TMDL is nowhere close to being met,

WHEREAS, the DEP is developing a Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) to meet the Lake's TMDL,

WHEREAS, the current Draft BMAP lacks an implementation strategy to reach the TMDL, specific deadlines and a set of technically feasible and highly performing projects and enforceable programs that will achieve the TMDL under a certain period of time,

Therefore, be it resolved:

The Everglades Coalition, with 56 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades, requests the DEP update the Draft Lake Okeechobee BMAP to include a bold list of projects and programs as well as accurate and long-term spending recommendations to guide the Legislature and agencies in reducing phosphorus entering Lake Okeechobee from agricultural and urban sources, target hotspots for treatment, and develop a schedule for implementation of treatment projects and set a timeline for achieving the TMDL.

Adopted November 5, 2014

Cara Capp

Cara Capp
National Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Totoiu". The signature is stylized with long, sweeping horizontal strokes.

Jason Totoiu
State Co-Chair