



Wekiwa and Rock Springs Minimum Flows and Levels Review

Project Update

6-1-07 Wekiwa Commission

Background:



Wekiva Protection Act

- In 1988, the Florida Legislature directed the St. Johns River Water Management District to establish minimum flows and minimum water levels for surface watercourses in the Wekiva River System and minimum water levels for the groundwater in the aquifer underlying the Wekiva Basin, no later than March 1, 1991
- To meet this mandate, the District developed and adopted minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for the system

Section 373.415[3], Florida Statutes [1988]



MFL's established in 1991

- Wekiva River at SR46
- Black Water Creek at SR44
- Eight springs
 1. Messant Spring
 2. Miami Spring
 3. Palm Spring
 4. Rock Spring
 5. Sanlando Spring
 6. Seminole Spring
 7. Starbuck Spring
 8. Wekiwa Spring

Wekiva Parkway and Protection Act



- In 2003, the Act directed the District to update the minimum flow and level standards for Rock Springs and Wekiwa Springs by December 1, 2007

Section 369.318(7), Florida Statutes

- In order to meet this Legislative directive, the District identified 2 primary tasks to be completed

Identified Tasks & Status



- TASK 1 Evaluate the minimum flows and levels (MFLs) established at the S.R. 46 Bridge based on the historical flow and stage data of the Wekiva River (1936-2004) to verify whether the adopted MFLs are being achieved. Additionally, data collected at a recently (1995) established upstream gauging station, the Wekiva River at Old RR Crossing, will also be analyzed to determine the suitability of this location as an alternative MFLs monitoring site.
- STATUS The findings will be presented in a report entitled, *An Evaluation of Minimum Flows and Levels for the Wekiva River at the State Road 46 Bridge, Florida, Using the 1935-2004 USGS Streamflow Data*
 - Scheduled to be completed by August 1, 2007

Tasks & Status – cont'd.

- TASK 2 Assess whether the hydrologic regime defined by the adopted minimum annual mean discharges for Rock and Wekiwa springs protect the water resource and human use values (WRVs) identified in Section 62-40.473, *Florida Administrative Code*
- STATUS Wetland Solutions, Inc. (WSI, Dr. Bob Knight - lead scientist) was contracted to assist the District with this assessment
 - scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2007

Summary

- *An Evaluation of Minimum Flows and Levels for the Wekiva River at the State Road 46 Bridge, Florida, Using the 1935-2004 USGS Streamflow Data -*
Scheduled to be completed by August 1, 2007
- Assessment to determine if the water resources meet protection requirements –
Scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2007
- To the extent that rule making is required to update the minimum flow and level standards for Rock Springs and Wekiwa Springs, the District intends to initiate the rule making process in November 2007



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Reference

Hupaloo, R.B., C.P. Neubauer, L.W. Keenan, D.A. Clapp, and E.F. Lowe. 1994. *Establishment of Minimum Flows and Levels for the Wekiva River System*. Technical publication SJ94-1. St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, FL.