

Apopka Update
for August Governing Board

Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration:

The District and NRCS have agreed to swap easement properties and remove NRCS from Apopka involvement. Instead of easements at Apopka and Fellsmere, NRCS will accept permanent easements at Orange Creek Muck Farm and Ocklawaha Prairie. The soil inversion work was completed in early May resulting in the mechanical remediation of 4,000 acres in the NSRA over 3 years. Staff are developing work orders and completing permitting to continue infrastructure construction this fiscal year. Unfortunately, regulatory issues have delayed issuance of the USACE permits. Flooding was completed on the Phase 2 property. This is important because data from Phase 2 monitoring is needed for the next biological assessment to flood additional acres.

Lake Apopka Marsh Flow-Way Project:

Because of drawdown of the C-cells for maintenance, flow through the system over the past month has been reduced to about 73 cfs. Maintenance of the C-cells is complete and water levels are increasing. Staff expects to begin operation of the C1 cell (7/13/2009) and the C2 cell within the next month. During the past month, the B cells have retained 7.5 kg of TP/day, 39 kg TN/day, and 10.5 metric tons suspended solids/day. This is typical during summer months when water temperatures are high and dissolved oxygen concentrations in water are low relative to other months. In June, lake concentrations of total phosphorus averaged 130 ppb. In early July, the total phosphorus concentration at the center of the lake had dropped to 110 ppb.