

Water for Nature

Water for People



# Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Suwannee River Water Management District



## SRWMD Strategic Plan



### Chairman Quincey's Message

A commitment to water resource protection and restoration requires moving forward with the implementation of innovative projects, programs and plans that focus on our core mission and invest in our communities.

Noah Valenstein, the District's new Executive Director, is committed to partnering with the counties and municipalities within the District to implement projects that ensure that this region has an adequate water supply to grow its communities and protect that natural resources that define north Florida.

Collaborative efforts with partners have proven to be efficient and beneficial, particularly with respect to protecting the health and restoration of our springs. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Scott and historic funding from the Legislature during the past three years, the District and local cooperators have initiated more than \$34 million in springs restoration projects.

Together these springs projects are estimated to save up to 52 million gallons per day (mgd) of water and reduce nutrient loadings by an estimated 2.1 million pounds annually.

Governor Scott's "Florida First" Budget recommends \$50 million dollars in recurring revenue for 20 years for Florida's springs. This level of sustained funding shows a true long-term commitment to partnering with our communities to protect Florida's springs.

During 2015, the District acquired lands that offer both flood abatement and water resource development opportunities.

Acquisitions included the 2nd magnitude Turtle Spring in Lafayette County and over 1,900 acres of land in Bradford County that will provide natural system protection, flood abatement, aquifer recharge and military buffer lands for Camp Blanding in Bradford County.

Water quality and quantity data collection, synthesis and distribution of information remain high priorities for the District. Monitoring well networks, springs dashboards and data sondes deployment are some of the mechanisms used to collect and share data with the public. These tools also provide significant insight into the health of water bodies in the District.

Natural connections to the Floridan aquifer are being restored through noteworthy projects such as Brooks Sink and the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge project. Collectively, these projects will recharge the aquifer daily with millions of gallons of water.

The success of these and many other endeavors are reflective of partnerships between the District, Department of Environmental Protection, US Geological Survey, local governments, stakeholders and private landowners.

Guided by science and clear vision, the District staff presses onward to protect our water resources for current and future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Quincey Jr.".

**Governing Board**  
**Donald J. Quincey Jr. - Chairman,**  
*Lower Suwannee Basin*  
**Alphonas Alexander - Vice Chairman,**  
*Upper Suwannee River Basin*  
**Virginia H. Johns Secretary/Treasurer,**  
*At Large*  
**Kevin W. Brown,**  
*Santa Fe, Waccasassa Basins*  
**Gary F. Jones,**  
*At Large*  
**Richard Schwab,**  
*Coastal Rivers Basin*  
**Virginia Sanchez,**  
*At Large*  
**Bradley Williams,**  
*Aucilla River Basin*  
**Vacant**  
*At Large*

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## District Overview

- **District Population:** approx. 320,000
- **Counties in District Boundaries:** all or part\* of 15 counties in north-central Florida.
  - Alachua,\* Baker,\* Bradford,\* Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson,\* Lafayette, Levy\*, Madison, Putnam\*, Suwannee, Taylor and Union
- **River Basins:**13
  - Alapaha, Aucilla, Econfina, Fenholloway, Ichetucknee, Santa Fe, Steinhatchee, Suwannee, Waccasassa, Wacissa, and Withlacoochee
  - Over 50% of the Aucilla, Alapaha, Withlacoochee, and Suwannee river basins are located in Georgia
- **Springs:** Over 300 documented springs, 19 first-magnitude springs in the District
- **Square miles:** 7,640 square miles (12% of the State's land area)

### SRWMD Boundary Map



## District Overview

### Mission

The Suwannee River Water Management District protects and manages water resources to support natural systems and the needs of the public.

### Values



#### Governance Structure

A Governing Board of nine members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate, sets policy and direction for the District. Board members serve four-year terms. The Board holds monthly meetings and workshops, usually at the headquarters in Live Oak.

Under the direction of its Governing Board, the District is organized into an Executive Office, and the Divisions of Administration and Operations, Water Supply, Water Resources and Resource Management.

#### Attributes

The region includes the highest concentration of first magnitude freshwater springs in the United States and the highest concentration of freshwater springs in the State. Additionally, some of the State's most scenic and least-developed rivers, streams, lakes, and landscapes are located in the District.

#### Focal Points

The District has projected future water supply challenges in the Alapaha, Upper and Lower Santa Fe and Upper Suwannee River Basins. District science has also determined that the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and

Associated Priority Springs are in recovery. Additionally, in both the northeastern and northwestern portions of the District, there is a regional declining trend in water levels within the Upper Floridan Aquifer water levels.

Water quality problems related to nutrient enrichment are another resource management issue. The District employs voluntary, local, incentive based programs like the Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) and cost-share programs to conserve water and improve nutrient management to reduce loadings. Additionally, the District partners with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to help implement Basin Action Management Plans (BMAPs).

The District faces challenges in managing the water and related resources as the region continues to grow and develop. The District's groundwater resources are influenced by withdrawals inside and outside of the boundaries. Increasing water use efficiency, water storage, aquifer replenishment, disbursed water storage and alternative water supply development are key strategies to ensuring an adequate water supply for the region.

## District Overview

The District's core mission is to implement the programs described in Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), in order to manage water and related natural resources for the present and future residents of the region and the state. The guiding principles of the mission are:

- To provide for the availability of water of sufficient quantity and quality to maintain natural systems and meet the full range of water needs.
- To develop and implement regulatory programs that will ensure conservation and reasonable uses of water and related natural resources.
- To ensure District priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations.
- To encourage nonstructural surface water management techniques to manage flooding risks.

- To use public funds in an efficient and effective manner and operate without debt.

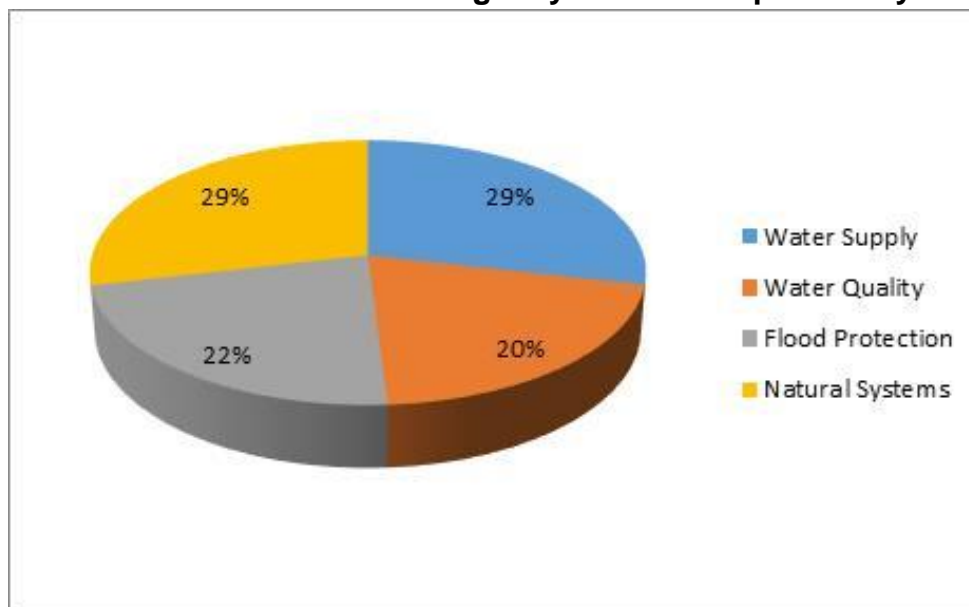
- To provide a land acquisition and management program that provides conservation and protects water resources.

### Budget

To carry out the mission and vision, the financial tools utilized by the District include a combination of local property tax revenues, state appropriations and grants, and federal grants. Due to the District's small tax base, funding from the state legislature is necessary to achieve statutory requirements. State, federal, and other sources of our funding are essential to assisting the District accomplish its mission.

The District has limited financial and staff resources and relies on state and federal assistance to help it implement core mission programs and projects. State, federal, and other sources make up approximately 66 percent of the District's current funding.

**FY 2015-2016 District Budget by Area of Responsibility**



## District Overview

The District Strategic Plan addresses our four areas of responsibility in accordance with Chapter 373, F.S.: water supply, flood protection, water quality and natural systems.

### Strategic Priorities for 2017 – 2021

#### Water Supply

- **Sustainable Water Supply**
  - *Goal: Ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for all reasonable and beneficial uses while protecting springs and natural systems.*
- **Water Conservation**
  - *Goal: Maximize water conservation and use efficiency for all water uses.*

#### Water Quality

- **Heartland Springs Initiative**
  - *Goal: Ensure springs have adequate flow, maintain good water quality, and sustain healthy biological communities.*

#### Natural Systems

- **Minimum Flows and Levels**
  - *Goal: Ensure District priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations.*
- **Water Management Lands**
  - *Goal: Manage land and real estate interests to provide non-structural flood control, to protect surface and ground water quality, and to enhance water resources related to natural systems.*

#### Flood Protection

- **Non-Structural Flood Protection**
  - *Goal: Enhance flood risk information to protect life and property against flood hazards.*

## 2015 Accomplishments

### Water Supply

- Agricultural cost-share programs implemented irrigation efficiency and improvements for 46 irrigation systems, with estimated groundwater savings of over 1.17 mgd.
- Continued collaboration with the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership with the SJRWMD, DEP, and DACS and with the regional Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
- Continued the development of the North Florida Southeast Georgia Regional Groundwater Flow Model.
- Received Stakeholder Advisory Committee consensus recommendations on water demand projection methodologies and values for all non-agricultural water user groups for the regional water supply plan.
- Received Stakeholder Advisory Committee consensus recommendations on methodologies and values for reclaimed water projections for the regional water supply plan.
- Initiated an update to the District's Water Supply Assessment.
- Continued implementation of the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Recharge Project.
- Completed the Brooks Sink Restoration Project, providing up to 0.6 mgd of additional daily recharge to the Upper Floridan Aquifer.
- Continued implementation of the groundwater well monitoring enhancement plan.
- Participated with the State's water management districts, DEP, DACS and DOT in the development of the Senate Bill 536 statewide report on alternative water supplies.
- Implemented the regulatory portion of the Lower Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee River and Associated Priority Springs Recovery Strategy.
- Continued Project Planet and Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (CHAMP).
- Expanded agricultural water use monitoring to over 500 systems, some in partnership with electric cooperatives.
- Initiated Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) programs conserving an estimated 0.23 mgd.
- Initiated RIVER programs that improved reliability of water supply services for 8,938 customers and several businesses.

### Water Quality

- Developed Springs Dashboards for Fanning, Ichetucknee, Madison Blue, and Manatee Springs, that provide real-time data on water quality and flows.
- Implemented Agricultural cost-share partnerships reducing nutrient loadings by 1.4 million pounds annually.
- Completed the engineering, permitting and design phases and started construction on the Ichetucknee River Springshed Water Quality Improvement Project to convert Lake City's spray field to a wetland treatment system that will reduce nutrient loadings by up to 85% to the Ichetucknee River.



## 2015 Accomplishments

- Initiated the construction of a RIVER project to remove 35 septic tanks resulting in 1,095 pounds annually reduced nutrient loading.
- Initiated the construction of a RIVER project to prevent potential discharge of 2.4 mgd of wastewater from entering nearby surface waterbodies during flood conditions.
- Funded RIVER projects to prevent 1.37 tons of suspended solids from entering surface waterbodies by providing stream bank stabilization.
- Funded a RIVER project improving wastewater collection serving 1,935 residents and 350,000 visitors per year.

### Natural Systems

- Acquired Turtle Spring, a 2<sup>nd</sup> magnitude spring.
- Acquired the Double Run Creek tract in Bradford County providing a buffer for Camp Blanding while protecting natural systems and supporting flood abatement and water resource development initiatives.
- Continued the development of MFLs for the Upper Suwannee River, Middle Suwannee River, Econfina River, Aucilla River, Steinhatchee River and Lake Alto.
- Initiated development of MFLs for Lake Hampton and Santa Fe Lake.
- Conducted prescribed burning on 11,908 acres.
- Completed reforestation of 274 acres of slash pine and 745 acres of longleaf pine.
- Treated 338 acres of invasive plants, 52 active exotic invasive plant infestations and monitored 41 active exotic invasive plant infestations.
- Completed selective timber harvests at Buck Bay, Steinhatchee Springs and Steinhatchee Rise.
- Harvested 473 acres of timber on the Little River Tract.
- Completed a tract by tract assessment of District roads to ensure long-term cost-effective sustainable maintenance.
- Obtained a National Wild Turkey Federation and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Grant for an Upland Pine Restoration project.
- Continued the Silviculture Water Yield research project at Little River Tract.
- Received a FWC Grant for exotic invasive species control on Lake Rowell and Withlacoochee Quail Farms Tracts.
- Coordinated the re-route of the Florida National Scenic Trail through the Town of White Springs, Bell Springs Tract and Big Shoals Tract.
- Participated with Florida State Parks, Florida Forest Service, and FWC to update Big Shoals Public Lands Management Plan.
- Issued 470 Special Use Authorizations (SUAs) for public recreation and 20 commercial SUAs.
- Completed the restoration of Hart Springs and Charles Springs that included the removal of sediments and will prevent erosion.

## 2015 Accomplishments

### Flood Protection

- Continued the RiskMAP discovery process for the Santa Fe River, Upper Suwannee River, Coastal Rivers and Withlacoochee River Basins.
- Completed the preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMS) for the Santa Fe River Basin.
- Initiated RiskMAP discovery in Waccasassa and Alapaha River watersheds.
- Provided RIVER funding for flood protection for 225 residents and several public facilities.
- Received grants from Florida Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to conduct a public information campaign on upgrading the District's flood risk communications.
- Continued feasibility analysis of flood mitigation projects in Bradford County.
- Acquired the 14 acre Steffan tract which will be an integral part of the Edwards Bottom Land flood mitigation project in Starke.
- Completed the West Ridge Water Development Area conceptual design for flood protection and water resource development.



Econfina River, October 2015

## Strategic Priority — Water Supply

### Sustainable Water Supply

**Goal: Ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for all reasonable and beneficial uses while protecting springs and natural systems.**

#### Projects

- Eagle Lake/ Upper Suwannee River Springs Enhancement Project
- Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project, Phase II
- Falling Creek Aquifer Recharge Project
- West Ridge Water Resource Development Area
- Double Run Creek Water Resource Development Area
- Brooks Sink II Aquifer Recharge Project
- Cost-Share Projects
- Otter Sink Dispersed Water Supply Project
- Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Associated Springs Recovery Strategy
- Ichetucknee Trace-Cannon Creek Aquifer Recharge Projects
- Alternative Water Supply Projects
- Dispersed Water Storage Projects

#### Progress

- First Cross-boundary MFLs established in the State of Florida

#### Plans

- Florida Forever Work Plan
- 2010 Regional Water Supply Assessment
- Nature Coast Regional Water Authority Feasibility Study

#### Program Funding

- State appropriations
- Federal grants
- Permit fees
- Ad valorem taxes
- Reserves

The delicate balance of sustaining water supplies and demands throughout the District can only be addressed by effective partnerships with state agencies, neighboring water management districts, counties, municipalities, universities, water authorities and public sector entities. Public supply, agriculture, commercial and industry entities and other users both within and outside district boundaries influence this delicate balance.

Water is a precious and limited resource on which is placed a multitude of demands. A critical aspect of the District's core mission is to ensure, plan and protect the supply of water for all reasonable and beneficial uses.

Within the District's toolbox of mechanisms to protect the supply of water is the Water Use Permitting program. It ensures that water resources, natural systems and legal users are protected. Additional District strategies such as alternative water supply projects, aquifer recharge projects, monitoring wells and strategic partnerships are used to further address issues related to water withdrawals and demand.

#### Partnerships

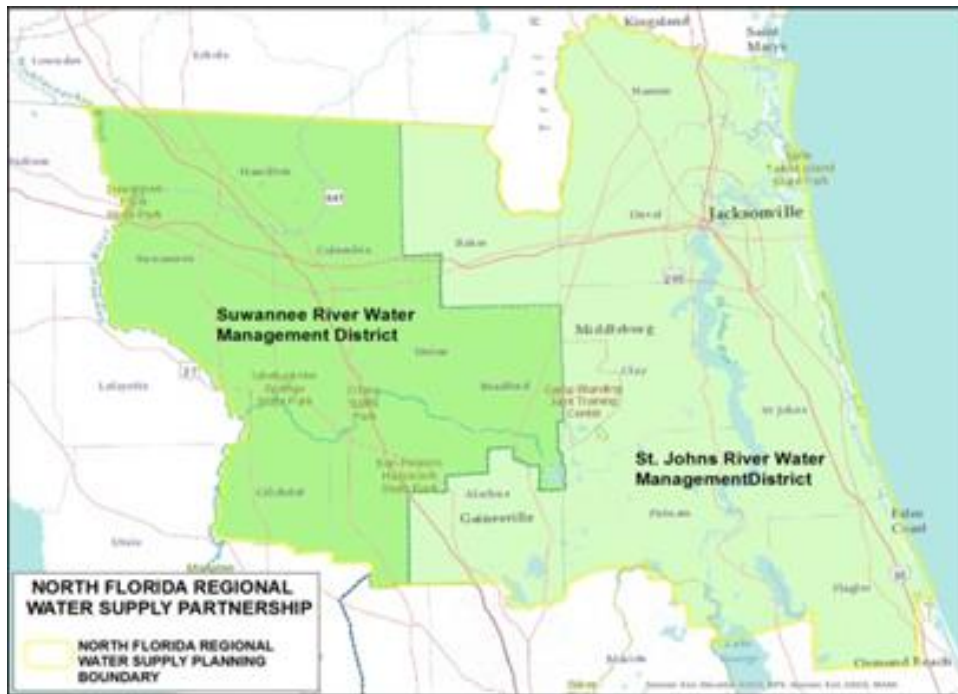
The District is endowed with water resources provided by the Floridan aquifer, 13 major rivers basins, an abundance of lakes and over 300 documented springs. Although there are a variety of interests competing for water, these very competitors make excellent partners. Successful collaborations between these partners have resulted in endeavors that forward the goal of building sustainable water supplies.

## Strategic Priority - Water Supply

Water is an integrated and interconnected resource. The interconnectivity of water bodies and natural systems with the regional aquifer is evident through the cyclic and fluctuating levels of rivers, springs and the groundwater. The development of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) is critical to the work of the District and protection of natural systems. In 2011, a relationship was forged between the District, DEP and St. Johns River Water Management District that has yielded cooperative planning efforts

to maintain sustainable water supplies. The North Florida Regional Supply Partnership actively engages community stakeholders across varied disciplines to efficiently, plan and develop alternative water supply projects. The partnership has yielded the first cross-boundary MFLs in the State for the Lower Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee River and Associated Priority Springs.

Making the most of relationships with agricultural producers who are invested in preserving water and water quality has successfully worked to preserve and restore natural systems.



North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Planning Region

With assistance from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), the District has forged partnerships with agricultural producers to reduce nutrient loading, and save water. Both our natural resources and producers are benefitting from these projects. In addition, to ensure there are adequate data for future decisions, the District has identified measures to track outcomes.

Priorities of the District include projects that implement alternative water supplies to offset groundwater withdrawals, promote water conservation, recharge the Upper Floridan Aquifer and address water supply issues in MFL recover strategies. These priorities are critical components of the District's plan to provide an adequate water supply for all reasonable and beneficial uses.

## Strategic Priority –Water Supply

Conservation and alternative water supplies offset dependency on our traditional water sources and assist making the region more drought resistant. Water resource development projects help to expand available sources.

### Projects

The past several years of springs grants have implemented projects that are estimated to save up to 52 mgd of water. During FY 2015, the District received a DEP springs grant for the Eagle Lake / Upper Suwannee River Springs Enhancement Project. This project is a private-public partnership with PotashCorp that will offset groundwater by up to 20 mgd, benefiting spring flows to Blue Sink Spring, Mattair Springs and Suwannee Springs.

Another significant project nearing completion is the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge project. Made possible through a springs grant and a partnership between the District, the DEP and Dixie County, the project is designed to provide hydrologic restoration activities in Dixie and Lafayette counties. The District began restoration efforts at Mallory Swamp after purchasing 31,000 acres within the swamp. This project will build upon those efforts by implementing hydrologic restoration activities on the property to rehydrate roughly 1,500 acres of ponds, 4,000 acres of wetlands and recharge the aquifer up to an estimated 10 mgd. The project will also enhance surface water storage and recharge the aquifer to benefit spring flows in the Middle Suwannee River region and to augment domestic and agricultural groundwater supplies. Construction is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2016.

### Horizon

The District has begun improvements to its groundwater monitoring program with the implementation of the Monitor Well Network Enhancement Plan. Five of twenty-six locations have been identified for the installation of additional monitoring wells to be used for filling of gaps in the water level and water quality monitoring networks that will be used for long-term groundwater trend analysis and calibration of groundwater models.

Additionally, the District continues to expand its agricultural water use monitoring program. The program is now monitoring roughly 60% of agricultural wells of 8" diameter or greater. The intent of this program is to assist agricultural water users on a voluntary basis as a convenient and unobtrusive alternative to recording, compiling, and transmitting data to the District. This water use data is used only for estimation purposes.

The District is continuing its two cost-share programs that partner with agricultural producers and local governments that invest in conservation and alternative water supplies. These programs have been highly successful in saving water and offsetting groundwater withdrawals.

Over the past several years, Governor Scott and the Legislature have provided historic levels of funding for springs protection and restoration. Furthermore, Governor Scott's "Florida First" Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget recommends \$50 million in recurring revenue for 20 years. This dedicated source of springs funding is important for the District's partners. A dedicated source of funding will enable them to advance plans that will result in construction ready projects that will save water and protect and restore water flows and levels.

## Strategic Priority — Water Supply

### Water Conservation

*Goal: Maximize water conservation for all water uses.*

#### Projects

- RIVER Cost-Share
- Ag Cost-Share
- Mobile Irrigation Lab
- Suwannee River Partnership
- Water CHAMPS<sup>SM</sup>
- Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup>
- Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup>
- WaterSense

#### Plans

- Lower Santa Fe and Ichtecknee Rivers and Priority Springs Recovery Strategies
- 2010 Water Supply Assessment
- Water Use Permitting Handbook

#### Progress

- North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Conservation Springs Grant
- Local Government Year-Round Conservation Measure Ordinances
- Suwannee River Partnership
- The Ichetucknee Partnership
- Ag Cost-Share Projects
- RIVER Cost-Share Projects

#### Program Funding

- State grants
- Federal grants
- Ad valorem taxes

Conserving water is the most cost-effective way to reduce long-term demands for water and stretch our current water supply. Committed participation ranging from residential, commercial and agricultural users is crucial for successful conservation efforts.

#### Achievements

With a steadfast dedication to increasing water conservation efforts, the District and its partners surpassed several milestones.

The District encourages partnerships with communities that assist residents, businesses and municipalities to decrease water consumption and implement water savings programs. The District's champion program for local cooperators, the Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resource (RIVER), continued in 2015. RIVER provides funding assistance to governmental entities for projects that further this aspect of the District's core mission. During FY 2015, the District funded 16 RIVER projects that are estimated to conserve 0.23 mgd of water.

Striking the balance of producing food and conserving water is a continual challenge for farmers and agriculture producers. Conservation tools include measures that result in permanent and cost-effective improvements in water use efficiency. The District's agricultural cost-share program partners with agricultural producers to implement irrigation efficiencies to reduce groundwater pumpage. In FY 2015, the District collaborated with producers and achieved an estimated groundwater savings of over 1.17 mgd.

The Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) has been instrumental in implementing conservation partnerships with the agriculture community in the Suwannee River Basin. During 2015, SRP coordinated with the District and agricultural water users to bring Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) services to area farmers. The MILs performed 188 evaluations throughout the District to determine irrigation system efficiencies.

## Water Conservation

During the past year, the District funded 46 irrigation systems of which 23 are retrofits. These projects include irrigation system retrofits, soil moisture sensors, remote access for irrigation system control, as well as other Best Management Practices (BMPs) that provide cost-effective water savings.

Participants in the District's agricultural cost-share program are required to implement best management practices and voluntarily participate in the District's water use monitoring program.

Conservation measures are encouraged through management incentives and regulatory mechanisms.

Additional options for public suppliers include conservation rate structures, water audits to ensure system efficiencies, and implementation of reclaimed water.

### Outreach

Other ongoing programs include the Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> and EPA's WaterSense programs. The Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> provides water efficiency audits for residential, business and commercial enterprises. The WaterSense program provides simple ways for consumers to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes and services.

The District encourages implementation of urban conservation practices such as Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> and Water

CHAMP<sup>SM</sup> (Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program). It is estimated that over half of residential water use is for lawn and landscape irrigation. Installation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup> results in significant savings to our water sources.

Year-round lawn and landscaping irrigation measures are in effect throughout the District. These measures apply to residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and businesses that are not regulated by a District water use permit. The District has made available for our local governments a model year-round irrigation and water shortage ordinance. To date 28 local governments throughout the District have adopted some form of the model ordinance.

### Horizon

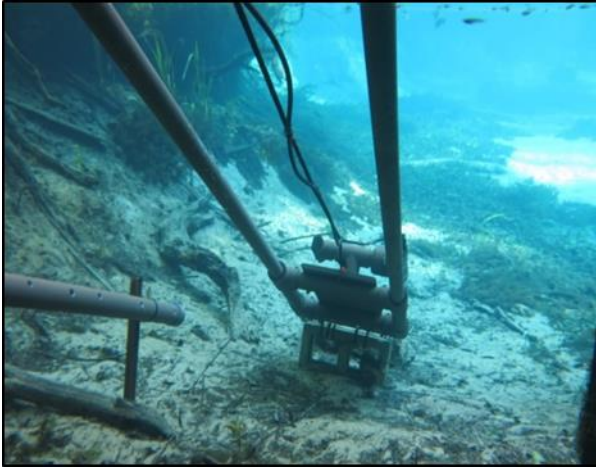
The District continues to emphasize and encourage water conservation projects and practices for all use categories. This includes, but is not limited to, education, outreach, high efficiency retrofits, public supply water conservation rate structures, outdoor and indoor cost-share rebates and replacing landscape with Florida-Friendly Landscaping<sup>TM</sup>.

The North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership received a springs grant that was proposed by the District to implement residential and commercial conservation programs. This initiative will go a long way in reducing demands in priority springsheds.

## Strategic Priority — Water Quality

### Heartland Springs Initiatives

**Goal: Ensure springs have adequate flow, maintain good water quality and sustain healthy biological communities.**



Continuous monitoring equipment in Ichetucknee springhead, February 2015

#### Projects

- Water Quality Improvement Projects
- Reduce Nutrient Loading
- Flow Improvement Projects
- Aquifer Recharge Projects
- Dispersed Water Storage Projects

#### Progress

- Enhance Springflows
- Springshed Delineation
- Increase Flow and Water Quality Real-time Monitoring

#### Plans

- Santa Fe River Basin Management Action
- Nature Coast Regional Water Authority Feasibility Study
- Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs Recovery Strategy
- Florida Forever Work Plan

#### Program Funding

- State Appropriations
- Florida Forever
- State Grants
- Ad Valorem Taxes

Visitors from around the globe are drawn to the District's natural resources. The District has the highest concentration of first magnitude springs in the United States and the highest concentration of springs in Florida.

With over 300 documented springs, of which at least 19 are first magnitude springs that have a minimum output of 65 mgd, springs in this District are vital elements of natural systems, drive local economies and provide recreation to Florida residents and visitors.

The interconnectivity between the Floridan aquifer, springs and rivers is often conspicuous. During low flow periods, the Suwannee River, Santa Fe River and Withlacoochee River essentially become spring runs due to substantial groundwater inputs. During periods of abundant rainfall, rivers often suppress the output of springs until floodwaters are assuaged. Other rivers, such as the Ichetucknee and Wacissa, are primarily springfed year round.

In order to safeguard the health of springs, and the biological communities within them, the District actively monitors, collects and analyzes water quality and quantity data. Over the last calendar year the District has launched several springs dashboards that share real-time water quality data.

This unique environmental setting truly makes the District's springs the heartland of Florida. The Heartland Springs Initiative is a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach involving every aspect of the District's management and regulatory programs. Therefore, preserving the flows, water quality and biological health of our springs will best reflect our ultimate success in



## Heartland Springs Initiatives

protecting the water resources of the region and the State.

### Projects

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Scott and the Legislature, cornerstone springs projects are moving ahead with noteworthy improvements for communities and natural systems. These springs projects provide water quantity and quality benefits, while restoring the region's unique ecosystems. Examples of springs projects initiated during the past three years include:

- Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement Project: The project will reduce the City of Lake City's wastewater nutrient loadings to the Ichetucknee River by an estimated 85%. The City's wastewater sprayfield will be converted into wetlands that will provide additional treatment to reduce nitrogen loading and improve water quality in the Ichetucknee River and springs.
- Fanning Springs Water Quality Improvement Project: The project will reduce nutrient loading to groundwater by an estimated 1,300 pounds annually by extending wastewater treatment lines to residences and business.
- Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project: This project re-establishes natural drainage patterns by constructing and modifying hydraulic structures such as culverts, low-water crossings, and flashboard risers along the southeastern margin of Mallory Swamp; thereby optimizing available surface water for wetland hydration and groundwater recharge, which will enhance springs restoration.
- Eagle Lake / Upper Suwannee River Springs Enhancement Project: The project is estimated to reduce approximately 110,000 pounds of

phosphorous annually and 140,000 pounds of nitrogen annually to the Upper Suwannee River.

- Ichetucknee Trace-Cannon Creek Project: The project is a partnership with DEP, SRWMD and Columbia County that will benefit spring flows and water quality for springs along the Ichetucknee River. This project is estimated to recharge the aquifer from 2.24 to 3.81 mgd to benefit spring flows and improve water quality by removing approximately 10,000 pounds of nutrients annually.
- Improved Nutrient Application Practices in Dairy Operations Project: The project will enable dairy operations to reduce nutrient leaching by an estimated 34,000 pounds annually while saving roughly 320,000 gallons of water per day. This will be accomplished by retrofitting irrigation systems to improve irrigation uniformity and efficiency.
- Advanced Nutrient Management through Center Pivots Project: This project will reduce nutrient loadings in the Suwannee River. The project will implement between 100 and 130 efficient fertilizer application systems that deliver only the necessary amount of fertilizer required. Nutrient reduction estimates provided by DACS state that 2.3 million pounds of nitrogen fertilizer would be saved annually by this project.

### Partnerships

A model for springshed management is establishing and working with partners. Within the District, there are several successful partnership examples. Monitoring is a fundamental element of the District's Heartland Springs Initiative in which partnerships are employed. Hydrologic, water quality and biological monitoring of water resources linked to springs provides the assessment tools available to gauge springs' health and the effectiveness of restoration efforts.

## Heartland Springs Initiatives

The collected data is used to identify long-term trends and identify management challenges.

The District monitors 38 priority springs to assess their condition and plans to increase the monitoring of key biological features. Working with the DEP and U.S. Geological Survey, the District has begun continuous monitoring, including nitrate, at 13 priority springs across the District. This data is available on the District's website.

SRP brings landowners and agencies together to implement BMPs to reduce nutrient inputs and implement water conservation measures. SRP farmer participation is significant and involves 90% of dairy, 100% of poultry and 76% of crop farmers throughout the District. During the past year, an additional 243 BMP Notices of Intent (NOI) were signed with agricultural producers representing 94,877 acres. The SRP program has a total of 966 NOIs encompassing 386,726 acres within the District. BMP enrollment for this year has resulted in approximately 2,372 fewer tons of fertilizer being applied in the basin due to more efficient use of nutrients. Cumulatively, the program is estimated to reduce nitrogen loading throughout the District by 5,622 tons per year.

### **Progress**

The support of springs protection and restoration funding from Governor Scott and the Legislature has resulted in significant water savings and nutrient load reduction for numerous springs throughout the District. During the past three years, the District has received \$22 million in springs grants and has leveraged that into more than \$34 million in springs restoration and protection projects. These projects are estimated to save up to 52 mgd of water and reduce nutrient loads by more than 2.1 million pounds annually.

Additionally, the District's RIVER and agricultural cost-share programs have been instrumental in establishing partnerships which resulted in water quality improvement to numerous springs throughout the District.



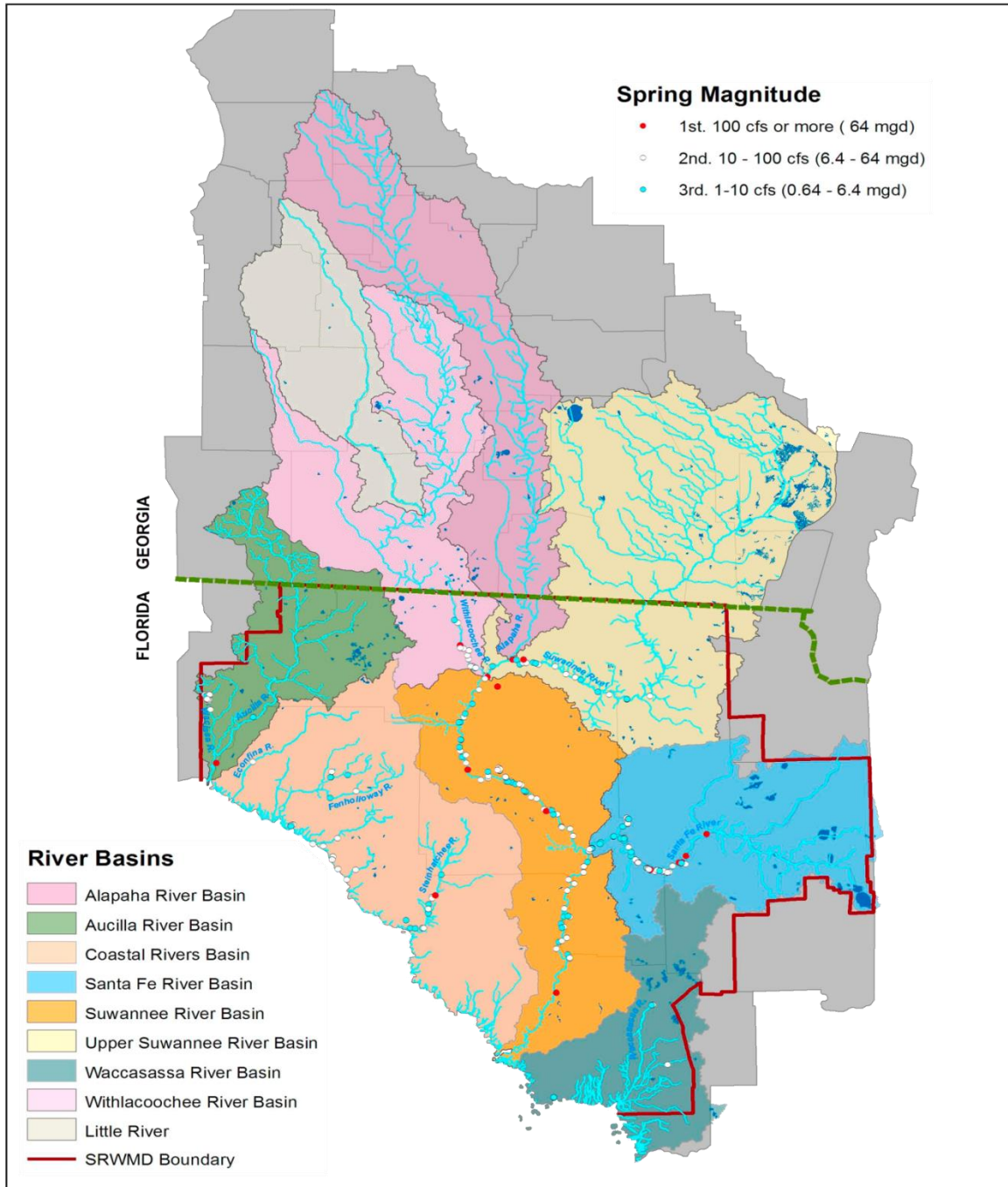
**Fanning Springs, Gilchrist County, October 2015**

The District also continues to protect springs through land acquisitions. During FY 2015, the District acquired Turtle Spring in Lafayette County. Turtle Spring is one of ten second magnitude springs in Lafayette County. The tract is positioned along the west bank of the Suwannee River and includes approximately 3,800 feet of Suwannee River frontage.

### **Horizon**

Continued funding support by Governor Scott and the Legislature will ensure continued progress in protecting the water quantity and quality in priority spring basins. The District, DEP and DACS partnership efforts with agricultural producers will continue to reduce the quantity of water used, as well as the amount of nutrients applied. The District will also continue collaboration with its communities to implement projects to protect and restore priority springsheds.

# General Springs and River Basins Map



## Strategic Priority — Natural Systems

### *Minimum Flows and Levels*

**Goal: Ensure District priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations.**

#### Projects

- Aullica River and Priority Springs
- Wacissa River and Priority Springs
- Middle Suwannee River and Priority Springs
- Upper Suwannee River and Priority Springs
- Steinhatchee River and Priority Springs
- Alapaha River
- Withlacoochee River
- Lake Hampton
- Lake Butler

#### Plans

- Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs Recovery Strategy

#### Progress

- Lower Suwannee River and Priority Springs
- Upper Santa Fe River and Priority Springs
- Lower Santa Fe River and Priority Springs
- Ichetuchnee River and Priority Springs
- Waccasassa River
- Levy Blue Spring
- Madison Blue Spring

#### Program Funding

- State Appropriations
- Ad Valorem Taxes

Minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for priority rivers, springs and lakes are vital metrics for protecting the health of the District's water resources and the availability of water to supply reasonable, beneficial uses. Existing and proposed MFLs for the District's rivers and springs verify that water supplies are limited. Thus, management efforts must be adaptive and focus on protecting existing legal uses, water resources and related natural systems.

The District Governing Board establishes MFLs as necessary to prevent significant harm from water withdrawals to the water resources and ecology of an area.

The District's MFLs program is a science-based process that uses the best available information to determine the recommended MFLs. Information sources include: meteorological, hydrological and ecological data, reflecting a historical range of drought and flood conditions. The science supporting MFLs is voluntarily subjected to an independent peer review process initiated by the District.

The District develops recovery strategies for any water body that currently does not meet its MFLs as well as prevention strategies for any water body that is projected to fall below its MFLs. The prevention and

## Minimum Flows and Levels

recovery strategies, if needed, are adopted concurrently with the MFLs.

Annually, the District publishes a priority list of MFLs for water bodies with an anticipated completion schedule. This list is reviewed and submitted to the DEP for approval. The District has also identified priority water bodies that are potentially affected by withdrawals from adjacent water management districts. This is known as the cross boundary affect. For these water bodies, the District can engage a statutory process, to request that the DEP adopt the MFLs and any associated prevention and recovery strategies, with the District providing technical support during adoption.

### Partnerships

Development and adoption of MFLs and recovery or prevention strategies for water bodies that have cross-boundary affects presents a new paradigm for Florida. DEP's adoption of the MFLs and recovery strategy will mean that existing and future water users in each water management district will need to work together in the consumptive use permitting process to ensure the recovery strategy is effective.

### Progress

To date, the District has adopted and implemented MFLs for the Lower Suwannee River, Upper Santa Fe River, Waccasassa River, Little Fanning Spring, Fanning Spring, Madison Blue Spring, Levy Blue Spring and Manatee Spring.

In June 2013, the District Governing Board requested that DEP adopt MFLs it proposed for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Associated Priority Springs. The decision was based on the technical work conducted for the proposed MFLs by District staff, and the potential for cross-basin impacts originating outside of the District. The District staff also assessed the streamflows observed in the recent historical

record and recent trends in the flow regime, and determined that a recovery strategy was required.

Due to cross-boundary impact, DEP accepted the District's request to adopt the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Associated Priority Springs MFLs and regulatory portions of the recovery strategies to effectively introduce sustainable solutions across water management district boundaries. These MFLs indicate that the amount of water needed to sustain the natural systems from water withdrawals is not currently being met. Therefore, recovery strategies for these water bodies have been established and are being implemented.

The Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Associated Priority Springs MFLs were adopted by DEP. DEP's proposed rule and regulatory recovery strategy were ratified by the Legislature through House Bill 7081 and signed into law by Governor Scott with an effective date of June 10, 2015.

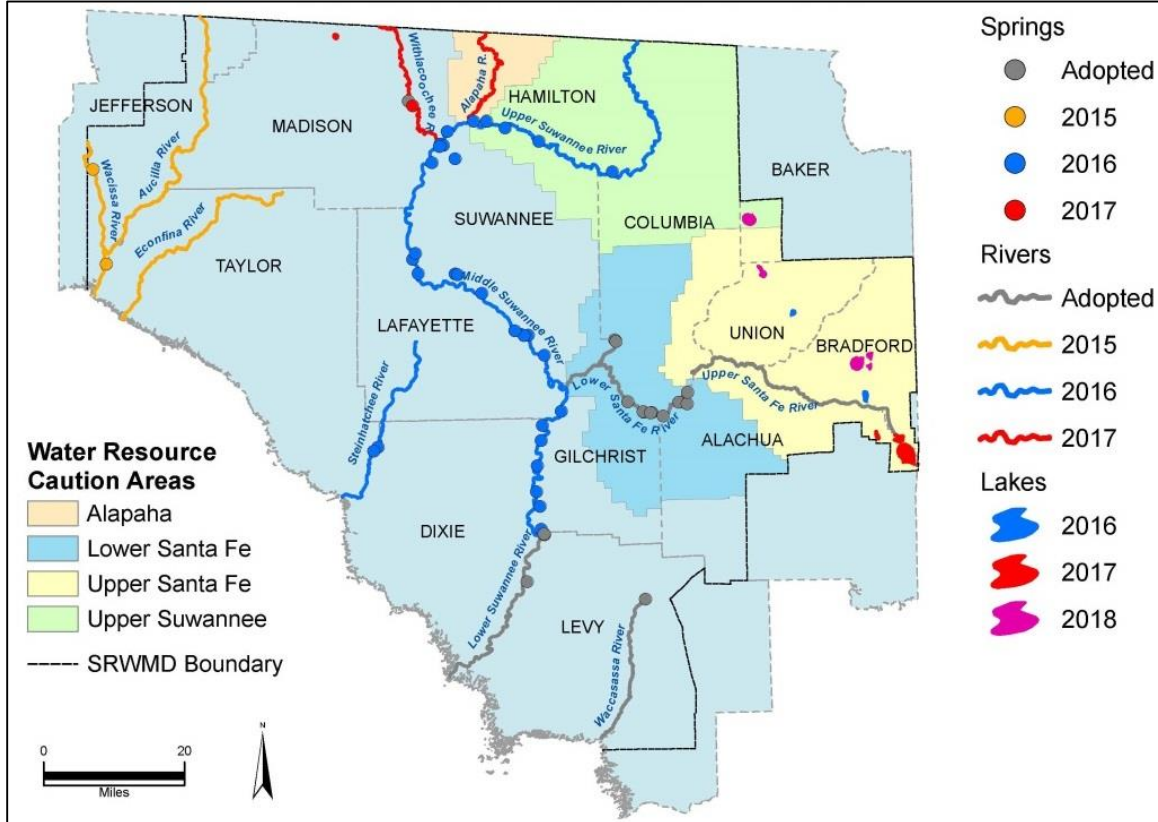
### Horizon

The District has an accelerated schedule to establish minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for its priority water bodies.

Technical work for the development of MFLs for the Withlacoochee River, Alapaha River, Lake Santa Fe, Lake Alto and Cherry Lake will be completed in 2017. Rulemaking for these waterbodies is anticipated by the end of 2017. The Upper Suwannee River, Middle Suwannee River, Steinhatchee River and their associated priority springs, along with Lake Butler and Lake Hampton, are planned for completion prior to the end of 2016. Based on the 2016 MFLs Priority List, the District is proposing to set MFLs on all of its priority water bodies by 2018.

# Minimum Flows and Levels

## MFL Schedule



## Strategic Priority — Natural Systems

### Water Management Lands

**Goal: Manage land interests to protect springs, provide non-structural flood control, protect surface and groundwater quality, and enhance water-resource related natural systems.**



**Middle Suwannee River and Springs Aquifer Recharge project kick-off.**

#### Projects

- West Ridge Water Development Area
- Double Run Tract
- Turtle Springs
- Prescribed Burns
- Invasive Species Control
- Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project
- Hydrologic Restoration

#### Progress

- Partnerships
- Acquisitions

#### Plans

- Florida Forever Work Plan

#### Program Funding

- Florida Forever
- Land Acquisition Trust Fund
- Surplus lands sales
- National Guard Bureau
- Timber sales
- State appropriations
- Reserves

The acquisition and management of land interests incorporates a set of tools to achieve the District's water resource objectives. The majority of District-owned fee and conservation easement lands are located along rivers and streams, headwaters and water recharge areas. Public ownership of these lands and conservation easements provides a host of benefits including:

- Preserving and restoring springs and surrounding areas to protect and improve surface and groundwater quality,
- Preserving floodplain areas to maintain storage capacity, attenuate floodwaters, and mitigate flood risk,
- Preserving natural buffers along water bodies where adjacent uses have a high potential to degrade surface water quality,
- Protecting groundwater quality by maintaining low intensity land uses,
- Providing land for dispersed water storage, restoration, water resource development projects and
- Preserving and/or restoring natural communities to support or enhance populations of native species.

#### Partnerships

Under the Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever programs, the District has acquired over 287,083 acres, of which 160,203 acres are held in fee simple and 126,821 are held as conservation easements. The land acquisition program is strictly voluntary.

## Water Management Lands

Over the past couple of years the District has partnered with the National Guard Bureau to acquire large tracks needed as military buffer areas that also provide flood protection and water resource development opportunities.

In 2015, the District acquired over 2,000 acres in Bradford County that functions as a buffer to Camp Blanding and gives the District significant options to develop water resource development projects. The acquisition also allows for flood abatement projects to help ease significant flooding issues Bradford County faces.

Also, during 2015 the District acquired Turtle Spring in Lafayette County. Turtle Spring is one of ten second magnitude springs in Lafayette County. The purchase will allow the District to provide floodplain protection for the Suwannee River, Turtle Spring, and a portion of Fletcher Spring run. The tract is positioned along the west bank of the Suwannee River and includes approximately 3,800 feet of Suwannee River frontage.

Land acquisition is also an important part of the District's groundwater monitor well network enhancement initiative. Many of the new monitor wells are likely to need permanent access to enable drilling of wells and long-term operation and maintenance of monitoring equipment.

Lands titled to the District are managed under a multiple-use policy that emphasizes water resource protection, maintenance and restoration of the land's natural state and condition, and provisions for public access and recreation within those lands. The District follows policy and protocol established in the District Land Management Plan.

With regard to surplus lands, the District evaluates all holdings and identifies lands that may not be needed for conservation

purposes. Such lands are declared surplus and either sold or exchanged on the private market or conveyed to other units of government. The proceeds of any sales and exchanges are dedicated to the acquisition of lands with higher water resource and conservation value.

In addition to the acquisition and disposal of property, the District also works to improve the water resources value of public and private property in the District. One example of this is the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project. This project will rehydrate natural systems along and adjacent to the southeastern margin of Mallory Swamp.

The project's objectives are to restore wetlands and sandy bottom lakes, increase springs flows and augment water supplies for Lafayette and Dixie Counties. To achieve the objectives the District is reestablishing natural drainage patterns adjacent to Mallory Swamp, and using natural recharge features and an aquifer recharge well at strategic locations. Construction is anticipated to be completed during 2016.

The District reverses past drainage practices to rehydrate wetlands and store water on the landscape. This water can then recharge the aquifer or help maintain stream flow during times of drought. Where past land uses have degraded wetlands, the District implements wetland restoration projects.

The District's activities for upland restoration projects are aimed at restoring natural community heterogeneity to attain a multi-aged and vertically diverse forest with native groundcover.

Since many natural communities in Florida, particularly those dominated by pine, are adapted to fire, the District makes extensive use of prescribed burning. All District



## Water Management Lands

operations follow best management practices minimizing negative impacts.

Increasingly, the District's natural areas are under threat from invasive exotic plants. These plants have the potential to displace native species and disrupt sensitive ecosystems. The District monitors and treats infestations in order to keep the invaders under control.

District lands are a valuable recreational resource for the region. Besides providing public access to the Suwannee and other rivers in the District, these lands offer opportunities for hunting, camping, and trail use. Recreational improvements on District lands are designed to improve the user experience without degrading the water resource benefits for which the land was acquired.

Approximately 97% of District-owned lands are open to the public. There are 242 miles of trails, 30 trailheads, 17 picnic areas and 11 interpretive sites on District property. Additionally, over 105,000 acres or roughly 65% of District lands are open to hunting.

Lands not open to the public are properties such as local government wellfields and sprayfields, and properties purchased for the purpose of water resource projects.

In addition to the acquisition and disposal of property, the District works to improve the water resource value of public and private property in the District.

### Horizon

The District will continue to explore acquisition opportunities that meet the core mission of the District and provide a clear return on investment for any surrounding communities.

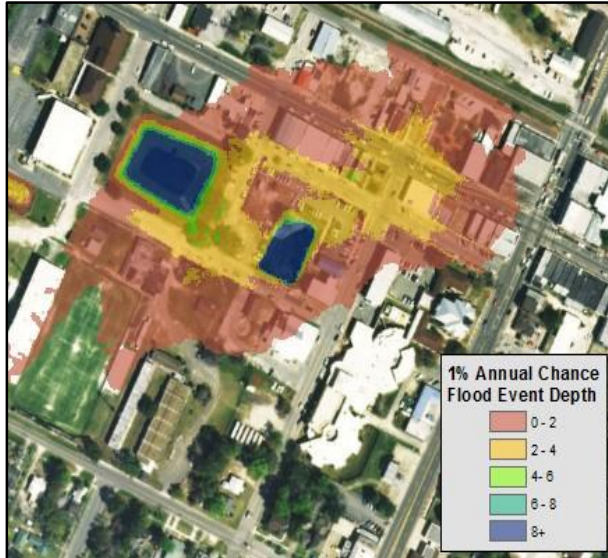


Paddlers along the Suwannee River, 2015

## Strategic Priority — Flood Protection

### Non-Structural Flood Protection

*Goal: Enhance flood risk information to protect life and property against flood hazards.*



Aerial map shows depth of flooding

#### Projects

- RiskMAP products for:
  - Waccasassa River Basin
  - Withlacoochee River Basins
  - Upper and Lower Suwannee River Basins
  - Santa Fe River Basin
  - Steinhatchee River Basin
  - Wacissa River Basin
- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)

#### Progress

- FEMA Flood Risk Maps Completion
- 90% of District with LiDAR

#### Plans

- FEMA
- USGS

#### Program Funding

- Ad valorem
- Federal grants

The District applies a non-structural approach to address flood issues. Technological advances allow the District to apply both conventional methods as well as new methodologies to assist and empower

residents to minimize flooding hazard risks and provide ample warning of threatening flooding conditions.

Examples of the District's non-structural approaches include educating the public, assisting communities with the best available data, making data electronically available, acquiring floodplains and having more stringent regulations for developments in floodplains.

#### Partnerships

The District and U. S. Geological Survey are partnering to provide light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data over approximately 670 square miles in portions of Gilchrist, Levy, Madison and Taylor counties by March 2016.

LiDAR data is utilized by many of the District's programs including setting minimum flows and levels, floodplain mapping and modeling, water supply planning and natural systems management.

The District is continuing its partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a Cooperating Technical Partner for FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (RiskMAP) program.

The vision for RiskMAP is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness, which will lead to actions that reduce risks to life and property. RiskMAP builds on flood hazard data and maps produced during the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) program.

## Non-Structural Flood Protection

The District will continue its partnership with local communities to develop accessible and accurate floodplain data through the FEMA partnership. The District's FEMA floodplain mapping information webpage provides current FEMA floodplain elevations through the Flood Information Report Tool Portal.

In addition to floodplain mapping, the District implements an environmental resource permitting (ERP) program to help ensure that development does not increase flooding. Permit reviews are performed to ensure that there is no net loss of the 100-year floodplain and no increase in flood levels. Also, permit evaluations consider specific storm design conditions and any associated impacts to upstream and downstream properties.

Groundwater and surface water levels and rainfall data are collected at numerous sites around the District. River levels and rainfall data are provided to the National Weather

Service for use in flood forecasting. During flood events, the District is the primary source of flooding information for other agencies and the public. The public also uses the District's real-time river level webpage as a source of information. There were over 1,600 District webpage visits for updates on river levels and rainfall amounts for flood events and high rainfall periods in 2015. When there are major flood events monthly page visits will exceed 100,000.

Land acquisition within the 100-year riverine floodplain also helps protect against the destructive effects of flooding. One of the District's land acquisition criteria is to protect areas that have flood storage and conveyance potential.

### Horizon

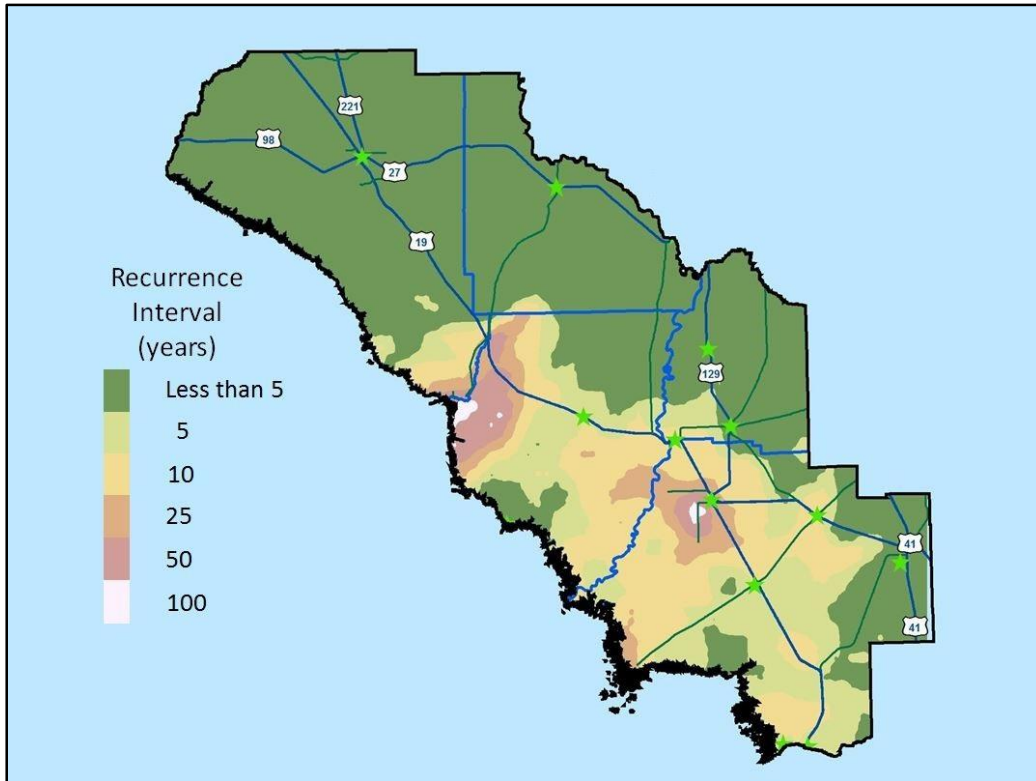
The District will continue its partnership with FEMA to assist our communities to reduce the risk and mitigate of flood risk.

Additionally, the District will continue efforts to modernize flood hazard maps and to make them more user friendly and accessible to the public.

### Risk MAP Deliverables by Basin

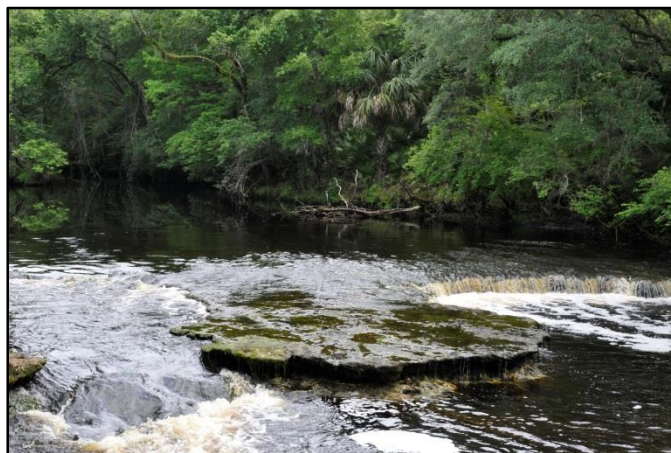
| Basin                   | Community Engagement | Discovery | Study | Preliminary Maps |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------|------------------|
| Alapaha                 | ✓                    | ✓         |       |                  |
| Aucilla                 | ✓                    |           |       |                  |
| Econfina / Steinhatchee | ✓                    | ✓         | ✓     | ✓                |
| Santa Fe                | ✓                    | ✓         | ✓     | ✓                |
| Lower Suwannee          | ✓                    | ✓         | ✓     | ✓                |
| Upper Suwannee          | ✓                    | ✓         | ✓     |                  |
| Waccasassa              | ✓                    |           |       |                  |
| Withlacoochee           | ✓                    | ✓         | ✓     |                  |

# 100-Year Rainfall Event, 2015



Significant rain event in the District from July 24 to August 2, 2015

| <b>Milestones and Deliverables</b>     |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Priorities</b>                      | <b>Responsibility</b>  |
| <b>Sustainable Water Supply</b>        | Adequate water supply, water resource development, natural system protection, regulatory compliance, water quality protection, local assistance, monitoring and analysis.  |
| <b>Water Conservation</b>              | Implement retrofit water conservation program, regulatory strategies, agriculture conservation, residential conservation and community assistance  |
| <b>Minimum Flows and Levels</b>        | Establish and adopt MFLs on priority list and protect water resources from significant harm.   |
| <b>Heartland Springs Initiative</b>    | Ensure springs flows meet adopted MFLs and water quality is not impaired. Improve springshed delineation and gather more frequent data to focus management actions. Gather sufficient data to assess conditions on priority springs and make available via website and dashboards. |
| <b>Water Management Lands</b>          | Protect groundwater and surface water sources, recharge areas, water quality, flood water storage and protect natural habitats.  |
| <b>Non-Structural Flood Protection</b> | Monitoring and analysis, regulatory compliance, flood hazard mapping and data accessibility.   |



**Steinhatchee Falls, May 2015**

| <b>Performance Measures</b>            |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Strategic Priority</b>              | <b>Success Indicators</b>  | <b>Milestones</b>  | <b>Deliverables</b>   |
| <b>Sustainable Water Supply</b>        | Water made available<br>Percentage increase of demand met  | Total amount of water available<br>Quantity created  | Regional Water Supply 2015<br>Number of projects implemented                  |
| <b>Water Conservation</b>              | Groundwater offsets<br>Percentage using Conserve Florida<br>Per capita under 150 gpd<br>Number of irrigation retrofits | Amount of water conserved per capita demand less than 150 gallons  | Implemented Project Per Capita Demand<br>Number of retrofits<br>MGD conserved |
| <b>Minimum Flows and Levels</b>        | Cumulative number of MFLs adopted  | Middle Suwannee 2015 MFLs for Wacissa, Aucilla and Econfina  | MFL priority schedule<br>Number of water bodies meeting MFLs                  |
| <b>Heartland Springs Initiative</b>    | Percentage of springs meeting MFLs<br>Percentage of springs meeting numeric nutrient criterion for nitrate             | Percentage of springs with sufficient flow and water quality to support healthy biota and provide recreational opportunities | 100% Springs meeting adopted MFLs and numeric nutrient criterion              |
| <b>Water Management Lands</b>          | Managed cost per acre<br>Percentage of lands evaluated for surplus   | Less than \$10 per acre<br>100% evaluated  | Number of surplus parcels sold  |
| <b>Non-Structural Flood Protection</b> | Percentage of communities with RiskMAPS completed  | Number of communities with RiskMAPS  | Communities with Completed RiskMAPS   |

## Performance Measures

**Natural System Primary Goal: To restore the hydrology of natural systems and improve water quality of natural systems.**

| NS Objective 1: Maintain the integrity and functions of water resources and related natural systems      |                       |            |
|--|-----------------------|------------|
| Annual Measures  | Fiscal Year 2014-2015 |            |
| Number of MFLs and Reservations, by water body type, established annually (fiscal year) and cumulatively | Annual                | Cumulative |
| Aquifer  | 0                     | 0          |
| Estuary  | 0                     | 2          |
| Lake   | 0                     | 0          |
| River  | 2                     | 6          |
| Spring   | 16                    | 21         |
| Wetland  | 0                     | 0          |
| Number and percentage of water bodies meeting their adopted MFLs   | Annual                | Percent    |
| Number of water bodies meeting MFLs  | 9                     | 32.14%     |
| Number of water bodies with adopted MFLs   | 28                    |            |

| NS Objective 2: Restore or improve degraded water resources and related natural systems to a naturally functioning condition.                     |                       |         |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| Annual Measures   | Fiscal Year 2014-2015 |         |
| For water bodies not meeting their adopted MFLs, the number and percentage of those water bodies with an adopted recovery or prevention strategy. | Annual                | Percent |
| Number of water bodies with an adopted recovery or prevention strategy  | 19                    | 0.00%   |
| Number of water bodies supposed to have an adopted recovery or prevention strategy  | 19                    |         |

| NS Objective 3: To evaluate district owned lands to ensure that lands owned are necessary for the protection and restoration of water resources |           |         |           |         |           |         |           |         |                        |                       |
|---|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Quarterly Measures  | Quarter 1 |         | Quarter 2 |         | Quarter 3 |         | Quarter 4 |         | Annualized Performance |                       |
|   | Number    | Percent | Number    | Percent | Number    | Percent | Number    | Percent | Number                 | Fiscal Year 2014-2015 |
| Number of acres and percentage of District lands evaluated for surplus.   |           |         |           |         |           |         |           |         |                        |                       |
| Number of acres evaluated for surplus   | 0.00      | -       | 0.00      | -       | 0.00      | -       | 1,067.09  | 0.68%   | 1,067.09               | 0.68%                 |
| Total acres of District lands held at the beginning of the fiscal year  | 157,984   |         | 157,984   |         | 157,984   |         | 157,984   |         | 157,984                |                       |
| Number of acres and % of surplus lands sold, exchanged, or leased.  |           |         |           |         |           |         |           |         |                        |                       |
| Number of acres of surplus lands sold, exchanged, or leased   | 0.00      | -       | 0.00      | -       | 0.00      | -       | 610.00    | 98.51%  | 610.00                 | 98.51%                |
| Total acres of land approved for sale, trade or lease by the Governing Board during the quarter   | 0.00      |         | 0.00      |         | 0.00      |         | 619.25    |         | 619.25                 |                       |

| NS Objective 4: To identify the efficiency and relative cost of restoration and land management activities |              |            |              |           |              |           |              |           |                          |                       |
|--|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Quarterly Measures   | Quarter 1    |            | Quarter 2    |           | Quarter 3    |           | Quarter 4    |           | Annualized Cost per Acre |                       |
|  | Number       | Cost/Acre  | Number       | Cost/Acre | Number       | Cost/Acre | Number       | Cost/Acre | Number                   | Fiscal Year 2014-2015 |
| Cost/acre for lands managed by the District (not total).   |              |            |              |           |              |           |              |           |                          |                       |
| Dollars expended in land management where the District serves as the lead manager                          | \$229,336.24 | \$1.48     | \$357,085.71 | \$2.31    | \$310,827.98 | \$2.01    | \$726,510.65 | \$4.70    | \$1,623,760.58           | \$10.50               |
| Number of acres where the District serves as the lead manager  | 154,587.00   |            | 154,587.00   |           | 154,587.00   |           | 154,587.00   |           | 154,587.00               |                       |
| Cost/acre prescribed fire.   |              |            |              |           |              |           |              |           |                          |                       |
| Dollars expended for prescribed burning  | \$55,816.03  | \$36.70    | \$134,588.31 | \$25.95   | \$104,149.85 | \$46.68   | \$22,516.80  | -         | \$317,070.99             | \$35.47               |
| Number of acres burned   | 1,521.00     |            | 5,187.00     |           | 2,231.00     |           | 0.00         |           | 8,939.00                 |                       |
| Cost/acre for invasive plant control.  |              |            |              |           |              |           |              |           |                          |                       |
| Dollars expended controlling invasive plants   | \$6,024.98   | \$1,772.05 | \$250.14     | \$0.00    | \$3,464.21   | \$51.17   | \$15,867.46  | \$294.93  | \$25,606.79              | \$205.02              |
| Number of acres treated  | 3.40         |            | 0.00         |           | 67.70        |           | 53.80        |           | 124.90                   |                       |

**Flood Control Primary Goal: Prevent or minimize loss of life and property from flood events**

| FC Objective 1: Minimize damage from flooding              |  |                    |         |
|--|--|--------------------|---------|
| Annual Measure   |  | Annualized Average |         |
| Percentage of Maintenance Activities Completed on Schedule |  | Number             | Percent |
| Number of maintenance activities completed                 |  | 0.00               | 0.00%   |
| Number of maintenance activities planned                   |  | 0.00               | 0.00    |

**Water Quality Primary Goal: To achieve and maintain surface water quality standards**

| WQ Objective 1: Identify the efficiency of permit review, issuance and relative cost of permit processing. |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                        |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Quarterly Measures   | Quarter 1   |             | Quarter 2   |             | Quarter 3   |             | Quarter 4   |             | Annualized Performance |             |
| For closed applications, the median time to process ERP by permit type and total.                          | Median      |             | Median      |             | Median      |             | Median      |             | Median                 |             |
| Exemptions and noticed general permits   | 19.00       |             | 16.00       |             | 19.00       |             | 18.00       |             | 18.50                  |             |
| Individually processed permits   | 30.50       |             | 45.00       |             | 29.00       |             | 40.00       |             | 35.25                  |             |
| All authorizations combined  | 22.00       |             | 17.00       |             | 22.00       |             | 29.00       |             | 22.00                  |             |
| For ERPs, cost to issue permit for all permit types  | Number      | Cost/Permit | Number      | Cost/Permit | Number      | Cost/Permit | Number      | Cost/Permit | Number                 | Cost/Permit |
| Total cost   | \$24,566.32 | \$356.03    | \$18,424.98 | \$279.17    | \$34,316.00 | \$357.46    | \$38,305.97 | \$440.30    | \$115,613.27           | \$363.56    |
| Number of permits  | 69          |             | 66          |             | 96          |             | 87          |             | 318                    |             |
| For ERP, In-House Application to Staff Ratio for All Permit Types  | Number      | Ratio       | Number      | Ratio       | Number      | Ratio       | Number      | Ratio       | Number                 | Ratio       |
| Total number of open applications  | 69          | 17.25       | 66          | 16.50       | 96          | 24.00       | 87          | 34.80       | 318                    | 87.70       |
| Number of staff for the permit area  | 4.00        |             | 4.00        |             | 4.00        |             | 2.50        |             | 3.63                   |             |



**Water Supply Primary Goal: To ensure a safe and adequate source of water for all users**

| <b>WS Objective 1: Increase available water supplies and maximize overall water use efficiency to meet identified existing and future needs.</b>                                 |                       |        |
|--|-----------------------|--------|
| Annual Measure   | Fiscal Year 2014-2015 |        |
| District-wide, the estimated amount of water (mgd) made available through projects that the District has constructed or contributed funding to, excluding conservation projects. | MGD                   |        |
|  | 0.00                  |        |
| Uniform residential per capita water use (Public Supply) by District   | 126                   |        |
| Percentage of domestic wastewater reused   |                       |        |
| Quantity (mgd) of domestic reused wastewater   | 10.21                 | 91.28% |
| *Quantity (mgd) domestic wastewater produced   | 11.68                 |        |
| *Based on the 2012 DEP Reuse Inventory Report  |                       |        |

| <b>WS Objective 2: To identify the efficiency of permit review and issuance and relative cost of permit processing.</b> |             |          |             |          |             |          |             |          |                        |          |
|---|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Quarterly Measures  | Quarter 1   |          | Quarter 2   |          | Quarter 3   |          | Quarter 4   |          | Annualized Performance |          |
| For closed applications, the median time to process CUP by permit type and total.                                       | Median      |          | Median      |          | Median      |          | Median      |          | Median                 |          |
| Individually processed permits  | 31.00       |          | 27.00       |          | 37.00       |          | 28.00       |          | 30.00                  |          |
| All authorizations combined   | 29.00       |          | 25.00       |          | 34.00       |          | 27.00       |          | 29.00                  |          |
| For CUPs, cost to issue permit for all permit types (BPM and Metric - Report Quarterly Measures)                        | Number      | Cost     | Number      | Cost     | Number      | Cost     | Number      | Cost     | 0.00                   | Cost     |
| Total cost  | \$24,925.79 | \$377.66 | \$24,569.07 | \$416.42 | \$37,177.00 | \$652.23 | \$25,232.10 | \$573.46 | \$111,903.96           | \$495.15 |
| Number of permits   | 66          |          | 59          |          | 57          |          | 44          |          | 226                    |          |
| For CUP, In-House application to staff ratio for all permit types (Metric - Report Quarterly Measures)                  | Number      | Ratio    | Number      | Ratio    | Number      | Ratio    | Number      | Ratio    | Number                 | Ratio    |
| Total number of open applications   | 66          | 44.00    | 59          | 40.14    | 57          | 24.46    | 44          | 20.95    | 226                    | 122.16   |
| Number of staff for the permit area   | 1.50        |          | 1.47        |          | 2.33        |          | 2.10        |          | 1.85                   |          |

\*Database was under development during Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

| <b>WS Objective 3: To identify the efficiency of developing water resources and water supply.</b> |                       |        |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Annual Measures   | Fiscal Year 2014-2015 |        |
| Water Supply planning cost per capita.  | Number                | Cost   |
| Water Supply Planning Cost  | 525,970.36            | \$1.64 |
| FY2012 District Population  | 320,000.00            |        |
| Cost per million gallons a day for Water Resource Development.                                    | Number                | Cost   |
| Water Resource Development Cost   | 0.00                  | NA     |
| Quantity (mgd) produced   | 0.00                  |        |
| Cost per million gallons a day for Water Supply Development                                       | Number                | Cost   |
| Water Supply Development Cost   | 0.00                  | NA     |
| Quantity (mgd) produced   | 0.00                  |        |

**Mission Support Primary Goal: Support District core programs both effectively and efficiently.**

| <b>MS Objective 1: To assess the ongoing costs of administrative and support operations in order to achieve optimal efficiency to minimize costs.</b> |              |         |              |         |               |         |               |         |                        |         |
|---|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Quarterly Measures  | Quarter 1    |         | Quarter 2    |         | Quarter 3     |         | Quarter 4     |         | Annualized Performance |         |
| Administrative Costs as a Percentage of Total Expenditures (report cumulative totals for each quarter during a fiscal year)                           | Number       | Percent | Number       | Percent | Number        | Percent | Number        | Percent | Number                 | Percent |
| Administrative costs  | 297,622.56   | 8.86%   | 620,719.17   | 8.92%   | 996,920.24    | 9.16%   | 1,328,534.06  | 6.58%   | 1,328,534.06           | 6.58%   |
| Total expenditures  | 3,360,015.65 |         | 6,958,422.41 |         | 10,883,536.37 |         | 20,204,160.27 |         | 20,201,160.27          |         |

**Water Quality Primary Goal: To achieve and maintain surface water quality standards**

| <b>WQ Objective 1: Identify the efficiency of permit review, issuance and relative cost of permit processing.</b> |               |                    |               |                    |               |                    |               |                    |                        |                    |
|---|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Quarterly Measures  | Quarter 1     |                    | Quarter 2     |                    | Quarter 3     |                    | Quarter 4     |                    | Annualized Performance |                    |
| <b>For closed applications, the median time to process ERP by permit type and total.</b>                          | <b>Median</b> |                    | <b>Median</b> |                    | <b>Median</b> |                    | <b>Median</b> |                    | <b>Median</b>          |                    |
| Exemptions and noticed general permits  | 19.00         |                    | 16.00         |                    | 19.00         |                    | 18.00         |                    | 18.50                  |                    |
| Individually processed permits  | 30.50         |                    | 45.00         |                    | 29.00         |                    | 40.00         |                    | 35.25                  |                    |
| All authorizations combined   | 22.00         |                    | 17.00         |                    | 22.00         |                    | 29.00         |                    | 22.00                  |                    |
| <b>For ERPs, cost to issue permit for all permit types</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Cost/Permit</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Cost/Permit</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Cost/Permit</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Cost/Permit</b> | <b>Number</b>          | <b>Cost/Permit</b> |
| Total cost  | \$24,566.32   | \$356.03           | \$18,424.98   | \$279.17           | \$34,316.00   | \$357.46           | \$38,305.97   | \$440.30           | \$115,613.27           | \$363.56           |
| Number of permits   | 69            |                    | 66            |                    | 96            |                    | 87            |                    | 318                    |                    |
| <b>For ERP, In-House Application to Staff Ratio for All Permit Types</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Ratio</b>       | <b>Number</b> | <b>Ratio</b>       | <b>Number</b> | <b>Ratio</b>       | <b>Number</b> | <b>Ratio</b>       | <b>Number</b>          | <b>Ratio</b>       |
| Total number of open applications   | 69            | 17.25              | 66            | 16.50              | 96            | 24.00              | 87            | 34.80              | 318                    | 87.70              |
| Number of staff for the permit area   | 4.00          |                    | 4.00          |                    | 4.00          |                    | 2.50          |                    | 3.63                   |                    |

*Suwannee River Water Management District*  
*Strategic Plan*  
*2017-2021*



*Water for People*  
*Water for Nature*

*February 29, 2016*