

Martin County Projects Update



Rivers Coalition Meeting September 24, 2014 at 6 p.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers

(Update provided by Deborah Drum and Dianne Hughes, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division)

- Martin County completed the Rio Exfiltration Trench / water quality improvement project this past summer.
- Martin County constructed a rain garden at the Hoke Library to convert a green lawn into a small detention area which we planted with native vegetation for educational purposes. Our hope is to inspire residents and businesses to build similar rain gardens on their properties. We have plans to build another rain garden along Mapp Road.
- Martin County is working through design and permitting for the Bessey Creek Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology project and hope to be under construction soon.
- Martin County is initiating grant contracts through the St. Lucie Rivers Issues Team for MC Golf Course Stormwater Improvement Project, All American Ditch Water Quality Improvement Project, Manatee Pocket SW Prong Baffle Box. We are about 60% complete on design for the MC Golf Course and Manatee Pocket Baffle Box projects, and expect to be under construction in the Spring of 2015.
- Martin County will be presenting a grant application through the St. Lucie River Issues Team on October 3rd for the Willoughby Creek Water Quality Improvement Project.
- Martin County is anticipating a EPA/FDEP Section 319 grant for the All American Ditch project (total project is estimated at \$3.2 million), and will also apply for a TMDL grant by November this year.
- Regarding the Microbial Source Tracking Study, everyone is anxious to get results. The bottom line is that FDEP and Martin County have completed 3 sampling events. The samples had evidence of high bacteria counts and we did get data on chemical/biological markers. FDEP is in the process of completing the statistical analyses to determine if any particular site is showing up as particularly problematic. Part of the analysis includes consideration for rainfall and tide conditions. Through the preliminary evaluation of the results and site conditions, FDEP has recommended some "fine tuning" of sampling designs to address site-specific conditions (e.g. rain events >0.5 inches, or sampling at or near low tide). The results of the August 21 sampling event are undergoing appropriate and necessary quality assurance/quality control protocols, but have been made a priority within FDEP. The next step is for FDEP to fully evaluate the results and providing consultation to us on the identified issues that the data supports.