

COMMUNICATION PACKAGE

OCTOBER 2015

	Page
Letter from Darrell Smith, Acting Director, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, dated September 10, 2015 regarding <i>Impediments to Implementation of the Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plans</i>	1
Save the Date – Southeast Florida 2040 Regional Transportation Plan Rollout	3
<i>Unemployment Summary – Treasure Coast Region – September 18, 2015</i>	4
<i>Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region – September 18, 2015</i>	6
<i>Overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County Region – September 18, 2015</i>	8



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

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SEP 11 2015

September 10, 2015

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Honorable Chairman Tod Mowery, Commissioner St. Lucie County
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 SW Camden Avenue
Stuart, Florida 34994

Dear Chairman Mowery,

The Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) staff within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has reviewed the memorandum entitled, "Impediments to Implementation of the Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plans," which was discussed as agenda item 11 at the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council meeting on Friday, July 17th. The memorandum addresses various concerns of the stakeholders in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River Estuary Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) with regards to BMAP implementation. Several of these concerns focus on agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and their effectiveness as well as assurance that these BMPs are being implemented by the agricultural community.

Agricultural BMPs are practical measures that farmers, ranchers, nursery owners, and sod growers can take to reduce the impacts of their fertilizer and water use, and otherwise manage the landscape to help protect water resources. The OAWP works cooperatively with agricultural producers and industry groups, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, environmental representatives, and other interested parties to develop and implement agricultural BMPs for "traditional" agricultural commodities (those other than forestry or aquaculture, which are addressed by other divisions within FDACS). The OAWP, in coordination with these partners, has adopted BMPs by rule for the following types of operations: citrus, vegetable and agronomic crops, nurseries, sod, cow/calf, specialty fruit and nut, and equine. A dairy BMP manual is under development with expected adoption in late 2015. Adoption of the revised vegetable and agronomic crop manual is also expected in 2015.

Similar to urban stormwater BMPs, agricultural BMPs are tested in field and laboratory studies. The OAWP has funded numerous research studies around the state to determine the effectiveness of agricultural BMPs contained within the adopted manuals, and the findings from these studies are used to strengthen existing BMP manuals. On average, these BMPs achieve a 30% reduction of incoming total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) loads. Like urban stormwater BMPs, agricultural BMPs are not designed to achieve 100% reduction in total incoming TN and TP loads. As a result, the OAWP will work with our partners to identify, develop, and implement other projects to achieve required reductions under the adopted BMAPs. Furthermore, OAWP welcomes the opportunity to work with other stakeholders in the Indian River Lagoon BMAPs and St. Lucie River and Estuary BMAP to target high nutrient loading areas and to identify and implement possible projects. This collaboration will allow all

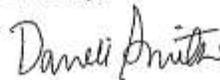
stakeholders to maximize their dollars and the nutrient-reduction benefits of the implemented projects by capitalizing on the knowledge and monetary resources of various stakeholders.

During the 2015–2016 fiscal year, the OAWP will focus staffing resources in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River and Estuary BMAPs areas to increase enrollments. The OAWP will also continue to provide cost-share money for eligible projects and practices in these areas of the state. In addition, the OAWP, South Florida Water Management District, and other agencies and stakeholders are collaborating on several large-scale projects, including hybrid wetland treatment technology facilities and water farming on citrus groves, which will reduce nutrient loads associated with agriculture.

Once a producer enrolls in the FDACS BMP Program, FDACS staff, as workload allows, conduct a site-visit to determine whether a producer is properly implementing his/her BMPs and to discuss other BMPs that could be installed or implemented on the property. This follow-up program is known as the Implementation Assurance (IA) Program. The IA Program consists of two components—site visits and surveys. The surveys were borne out of the recognition that staff resources were limited. To date, FDACS has developed and mailed out surveys to enrolled producers in nine of the adopted manuals. The results from the surveys are synthesized into reports and provide valuable insight on the state of agricultural BMPs, i.e., what BMPs are working and what BMPs are no longer applicable (technically or economically) for a specific commodity. In late 2014, FDACS commenced efforts to revise the current IA Program. Under the revised program, an even greater emphasis will be placed on site visits to enrolled producers.

FDACS appreciates the time and effort that went into the development of the report and associated memorandum and recognizes the need for closer collaboration and discussion between the stakeholders in the Indian River Lagoon Basin BMAPs and the St. Lucie River and Estuary BMAP. We welcome any opportunity to present our programs to interested stakeholders, and we look forward to working together to improve the water quality in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River and Estuary.

Sincerely,



Darrell Smith
Acting Director, Office of Agricultural Water Policy

CC: Peter G. Merritt, Assistant Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
Michael J. Busha, Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
6TH 2015**

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN **2040**
Miami-Dade • Broward • Palm Beach



10:45 AM - 11:30 AM
Tri-Rail Boca Raton Station

JOIN US FOR THE
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
2040 REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION
PLAN ROLLOUT

12:25 PM - 1:10 PM
**Tri-Rail Fort Lauderdale/
Hollywood International
Airport Station at Dania Beach**

EVENT WILL INCLUDE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
AND RAFFLE

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM
Tri-Rail Miami Airport Station

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Unemployment Summary - Treasure Coast Region September 18, 2015

Highlights

- **Unemployment falls to 5.8 percent in August, down from 7.0 percent in August of the previous year.**
 - **17,200 new nonagricultural jobs year over year from August 2014 to August 2015.**
 - **Job gains primarily in education and health services; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and trade, transportation and utilities.**
-
- This unemployment summary is derived from statistical reports - *Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region* (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties) and *Overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County Region* (Palm Beach County) prepared by the two workforce development boards in the Treasure Coast Region. Their respective reports follow this regional summary.
 - The unemployment rate for the Treasure Coast Region was 5.8 percent in August 2015, down 1.2 percentage points from the August 2014 rate of 7.0 percent. The Region's unemployment rate was 0.2 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 5.6 percent and 0.6 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate of 5.2 percent. Out of a labor force of 939,473 there were 54,555 unemployed residents in the Treasure Coast Region.
 - The Treasure Coast Region contains three metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), the Port St. Lucie MSA (Martin and St. Lucie counties), the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA (Indian River County), and the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach MSA (Palm Beach County). In August 2015, nonagricultural employment in the combined metropolitan areas of the Region was 705,800 an increase of 17,200 jobs over the previous year.

Unemployment Rates*			
Geographic Area	August 2015	July 2015	August 2014
Indian River	7.7	7.8	8.9
Martin	5.7	5.9	6.8
Palm Beach	5.5	5.6	6.5
St. Lucie	6.8	7.1	8.7
Treasure Coast Region	5.8	6.0	7.0
Florida	5.6	5.7	6.7
United States	5.2	5.6	6.3

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
* Not seasonally adjusted.

- In the combined metropolitan areas, job gains were primarily in the education and health services (+3,700); professional and business services (+8,600); leisure and hospitality (+3,300); other services (+1,400) and trade, transportation and utilities (+1,400).

Port St. Lucie Metro Area:

- Seven of ten major industries gained jobs in the Port St. Lucie metro area over the year. Education and health services (+1,100 jobs) gained the most jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality (+900 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+700 jobs); professional and business services (+500 jobs); other services (+300 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction and information (+100 jobs each). Manufacturing (-500 jobs) and government (-200 jobs) lost jobs over the year, while financial activities was unchanged. Other services includes, but is not limited to, businesses such as: automotive repair; personal household goods repair; dry cleaners; hair salons and barber shops; funeral homes; pet care services; and religious organizations.

Sebastian-Vero Beach Metro Area:

- Information (+16.7 percent); manufacturing (+9.5 percent); other services (+7.7 percent); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+3.1 percent) grew faster in the metro area than in the state.

West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division:

- The West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division gained 14,200 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job gains were primarily in professional and business services (+8,100 jobs) and education and health services (+2,600 jobs). Job gains also occurred in leisure and hospitality (+2,400 jobs); other services (+1,100 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+700 jobs); and financial activities (+100 jobs).

**Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
September 18, 2015**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Research Coast region (Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie counties) declined by 1.6 percentage points over the year to 6.7 percent in August 2015. Out of a labor force of 257,468, there were 17,185 unemployed residents in the region.
- Unemployment rates in the counties that make up the CareerSource Research Coast region were: 5.7 percent in Martin County, 6.8 percent in St. Lucie County, and 7.7 percent in Indian River County.
- The CareerSource Research Coast region contains two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs); the Port St. Lucie MSA (Martin and St. Lucie counties) and the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA (Indian River County). In August 2015, nonagricultural employment in the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas was 180,700, an increase of 3,400 jobs over the previous year.
- In the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas, six of the ten major industries gained jobs over the year. Trade, transportation, and utilities, education and health services, and leisure and hospitality (+1,000 jobs each) gained the most jobs; other services (+500 jobs); professional and business services (+400 jobs); and information (+200 jobs). The three industries losing jobs were manufacturing (-300 jobs) and mining, logging, and construction and government (-200 jobs each). Financial activities was unchanged.

Port St. Lucie metro area

- The majority of the nonagricultural employment in the CareerSource Research Coast region was in the Port St. Lucie metro area. This metro area accounted for 133,600 jobs in August 2015, an increase of 3,000 jobs from August 2014 (+2.3 percent).
- The Port St. Lucie metro area had the second highest over the year growth rate in information employment (+7.7 percent) and other services employment (+4.2 percent) of all Florida metro areas.
- Annual employment growth in information (+7.7 percent); leisure and hospitality (+5.5 percent); education and health services (+4.8 percent); and other services (+4.2 percent) was faster in the metro area than statewide.
- Seven of ten major industries gained jobs in the Port St. Lucie metro area over the year. Education and health services (+1,100 jobs) gained the most jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality (+900 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+700 jobs); professional and business services (+500 jobs); other services (+300 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction and information (+100 jobs each). Manufacturing (-500 jobs) and government (-200 jobs) lost jobs over the year, while financial activities was unchanged.

Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area

- Nonagricultural employment was 47,100 in the Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area in August 2015, an increase of 400 jobs (+0.9 percent) from the previous year.
- The Sebastian-Vero Beach area had the highest over the year growth rate in manufacturing employment (+9.5 percent), information employment (+16.7 percent), and other services employment (+7.7 percent) of all Florida metro areas.
- Information (+16.7 percent); manufacturing (+9.5 percent); other services (+7.7 percent); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+3.1 percent) grew faster in the metro area than in the state.
- Five industries gained jobs over the year including trade, transportation, and utilities (+300 jobs); manufacturing and other services (+200 jobs each); and information and leisure and hospitality (+100 jobs each). Mining, logging, and construction (-300 jobs) and professional and business services and education and health services (-100 jobs each) lost jobs over the year. Financial activities and government were unchanged over the year.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Unemployment Rates (not seasonally adjusted)			
	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14
CareerSource Research Coast	6.7%	6.9%	8.3%
Indian River County	7.7%	7.8%	8.9%
Martin County	5.7%	5.9%	6.8%
St. Lucie County	6.8%	7.1%	8.7%
Florida	5.6%	5.7%	6.7%
United States	5.2%	5.6%	6.3%

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	Port St. Lucie Metropolitan Statistical Area				Sebastian-Vero Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area			
	Aug-15	Aug-14	change	percent change	Aug-15	Aug-14	change	percent change
Total Employment	133,600	130,600	3,000	2.3	47,100	46,700	400	0.9
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,400	8,300	100	1.2	2,900	3,200	-300	-9.4
Manufacturing	5,400	5,900	-500	-8.5	2,300	2,100	200	9.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	29,400	28,700	700	2.4	10,000	9,700	300	3.1
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,900	-200	-4.1	800	800	0	0.0
Retail Trade	20,600	19,800	800	4.0	8,500	8,200	300	3.7
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	4,100	4,000	100	2.5	700	700	0	0.0
Information	1,400	1,300	100	7.7	700	600	100	16.7
Financial Activities	5,200	5,200	0	0.0	2,400	2,400	0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	16,600	16,100	500	3.1	4,900	5,000	-100	-2.0
Education and Health Services	24,200	23,100	1,100	4.8	9,100	9,200	-100	-1.1
Leisure and Hospitality	17,200	16,300	900	5.5	6,800	6,700	100	1.5
Other Services	7,400	7,100	300	4.2	2,800	2,600	200	7.7
Government	18,400	18,600	-200	-1.1	5,200	5,200	0	0.0

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	CareerSource Research Coast Combined Metropolitan Statistical Areas				Florida			
	Aug-15	Aug-14	change	percent change	Aug-15	Aug-14	change	percent change
Total Employment	180,700	177,300	3,400	1.9	8,058,400	7,815,500	242,900	3.1
Mining, Logging, and Construction	11,300	11,500	-200	-1.7	438,700	411,100	27,600	6.7
Manufacturing	7,700	8,000	-300	-3.8	336,900	332,200	4,700	1.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	39,400	38,400	1,000	2.6	1,662,000	1,614,600	47,400	2.9
Wholesale Trade	5,500	5,700	-200	-3.5	335,100	328,500	6,600	2.0
Retail Trade	29,100	28,000	1,100	3.9	1,065,400	1,033,400	32,000	3.1
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	4,800	4,700	100	2.1	261,500	252,700	8,800	3.5
Information	2,100	1,900	200	10.5	135,100	136,200	-1,100	-0.8
Financial Activities	7,600	7,600	0	0.0	537,100	524,100	13,000	2.5
Professional and Business Services	21,500	21,100	400	1.9	1,207,300	1,171,000	36,300	3.1
Education and Health Services	33,300	32,300	1,000	3.1	1,207,400	1,157,000	50,400	4.4
Leisure and Hospitality	24,000	23,000	1,000	4.3	1,130,900	1,076,400	54,500	5.1
Other Services	10,200	9,700	500	5.2	333,500	323,100	10,400	3.2
Government	23,600	23,800	-200	-0.8	1,069,500	1,069,800	-300	0.0

Population	2014	2013	change	percent change
CareerSource Research Coast	571,821	568,814	3,007	0.5
Indian River County	140,955	139,586	1,369	1.0
Martin County	148,585	148,077	508	0.3
St. Lucie County	282,281	281,151	1,130	0.4
Florida	19,507,369	19,259,543	247,826	1.3

Average Annual Wage	2014	2013	change	percent change
CareerSource Research Coast	\$38,040	\$37,078	\$962	2.6
Indian River County	\$38,725	\$37,075	\$1,650	4.5
Martin County	\$39,010	\$38,149	\$861	2.3
St. Lucie County	\$36,728	\$36,173	\$555	1.5
Florida	\$44,803	\$43,651	\$1,152	2.6

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

**Overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
September 18, 2015**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Palm Beach County region declined by 1.0 percentage point over the year to 5.5 percent in August 2015. The region's jobless rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than the state rate. Out of a labor force of 682,005 in the metro area, there were 37,370 unemployed persons.
- Nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division was 572,200 in August 2015, up 2.5 percent from August 2014.
- In August 2015, the West Palm Beach metro area had the most job gains in professional and business services employment (+8,100 jobs) among all the metro areas in Florida.
- The over the year job growth rates for professional and business services (+8.0 percent) and other services (+3.7 percent) exceeded the state rates.
- The West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division gained 14,200 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job gains were primarily in professional and business services (+8,100 jobs) and education and health services (+2,600 jobs). Job gains also occurred in leisure and hospitality (+2,400 jobs); other services (+1,100 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+700 jobs); and financial activities (+100 jobs).
- Industry sectors that lost jobs over the year were government (-400 jobs); information (-200 jobs); and construction and manufacturing (-100 jobs each).

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Unemployment Rates			
(not seasonally adjusted)			
	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-14
CareerSource Palm Beach County	5.5%	5.6%	6.5%
Florida	5.6%	5.7%	6.7%
United States	5.2%	5.6%	6.3%

Nonagricultural Employment by industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
				percent				percent
	Aug-15	Aug-14	change	change	Aug-15	Aug-14	change	change
Total Employment	572,200	558,000	14,200	2.5	8,058,400	7,815,500	242,900	3.1
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,500	5,700	-200	-3.5
Construction	28,800	28,900	-100	-0.4	433,200	405,400	27,800	6.9
Manufacturing	16,200	16,300	-100	-0.6	336,900	332,200	4,700	1.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	107,500	106,800	700	0.7	1,662,000	1,614,600	47,400	2.9
Wholesale Trade	22,900	22,400	500	2.2	335,100	328,500	6,600	2.0
Retail Trade	73,800	74,100	-300	-0.4	1,065,400	1,033,400	32,000	3.1
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,800	10,300	500	4.9	261,500	252,700	8,800	3.5
Information	10,100	10,300	-200	-1.9	135,100	136,200	-1,100	-0.8
Financial Activities	38,600	38,500	100	0.3	537,100	524,100	13,000	2.5
Professional and Business Services	109,800	101,700	8,100	8.0	1,207,300	1,171,000	36,300	3.1
Education and Health Services	91,400	88,800	2,600	2.9	1,207,400	1,157,000	50,400	4.4
Leisure and Hospitality	77,500	75,100	2,400	3.2	1,130,900	1,076,400	54,500	5.1
Other Services	31,200	30,100	1,100	3.7	333,500	323,100	10,400	3.2
Government	61,000	61,400	-400	-0.7	1,069,500	1,069,800	-300	0.0

Population	2014	2013	change	percent change
CareerSource Palm Beach County	1,360,238	1,345,652	14,586	1.1
Florida	19,507,369	19,259,543	247,826	1.3

Average Annual Wage	2014	2013	change	percent change
CareerSource Palm Beach County	\$49,823	\$48,218	\$1,605	3.3
Florida	\$44,803	\$43,651	\$1,152	2.6

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.