

September 3, 2018

Ross Chandler, Chairman
 Bradford County, Florida, Board of County Commissioners
 P O Drawer B, Starke, Fl. 32091
 (904) 966-6327
bocc@bradfordcountyfl.gov

Re: HPS II Phosphate Mine proposal

Dear Chairman Chandler, Commissioners, and Staff,

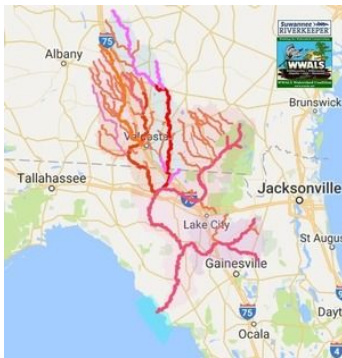
The Bradford BOCC agenda for this Tuesday, September 4, 2018, item 10.B, reads:

“Schedule the Public Hearing on Application for Special Permit for Mining (Sec. 14.6, LDR's) submitted on behalf of HPS Enterprise II, LLC.”

The preceding item 9 on the same agenda is about payments to and benefits from the North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP). It would seem imprudent to spend money on that and then to approve a phosphate mine that would drastically decrease economic development opportunities in Bradford County.

I hope you will schedule extensive workshops for the subject of phosphate mining, beyond this one application, including changes to Bradford County’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations. As you know, neighboring Union County has already done this.

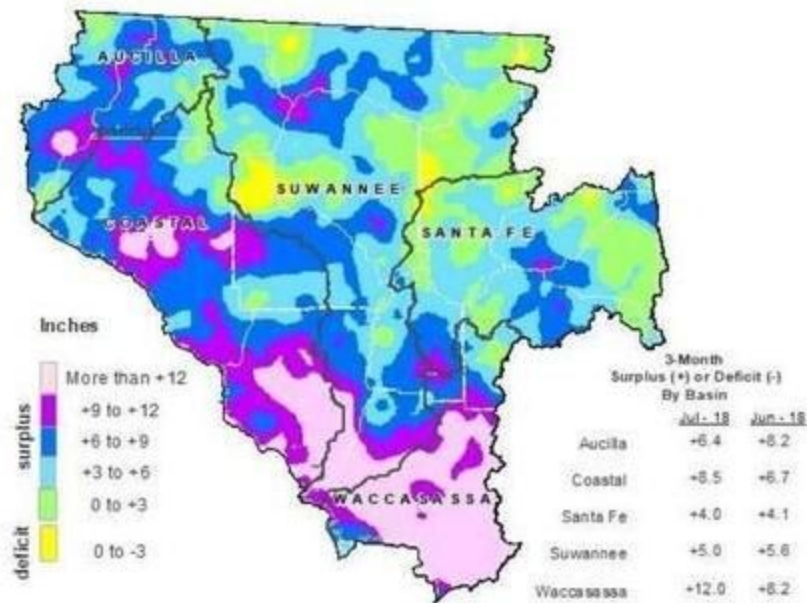
Please also note that according to the “July 2018 Hydrologic Conditions Report for the SRWMD,” <http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1206>, rainfall and streamflow have been higher than usual for the past several months, including in Bradford County.



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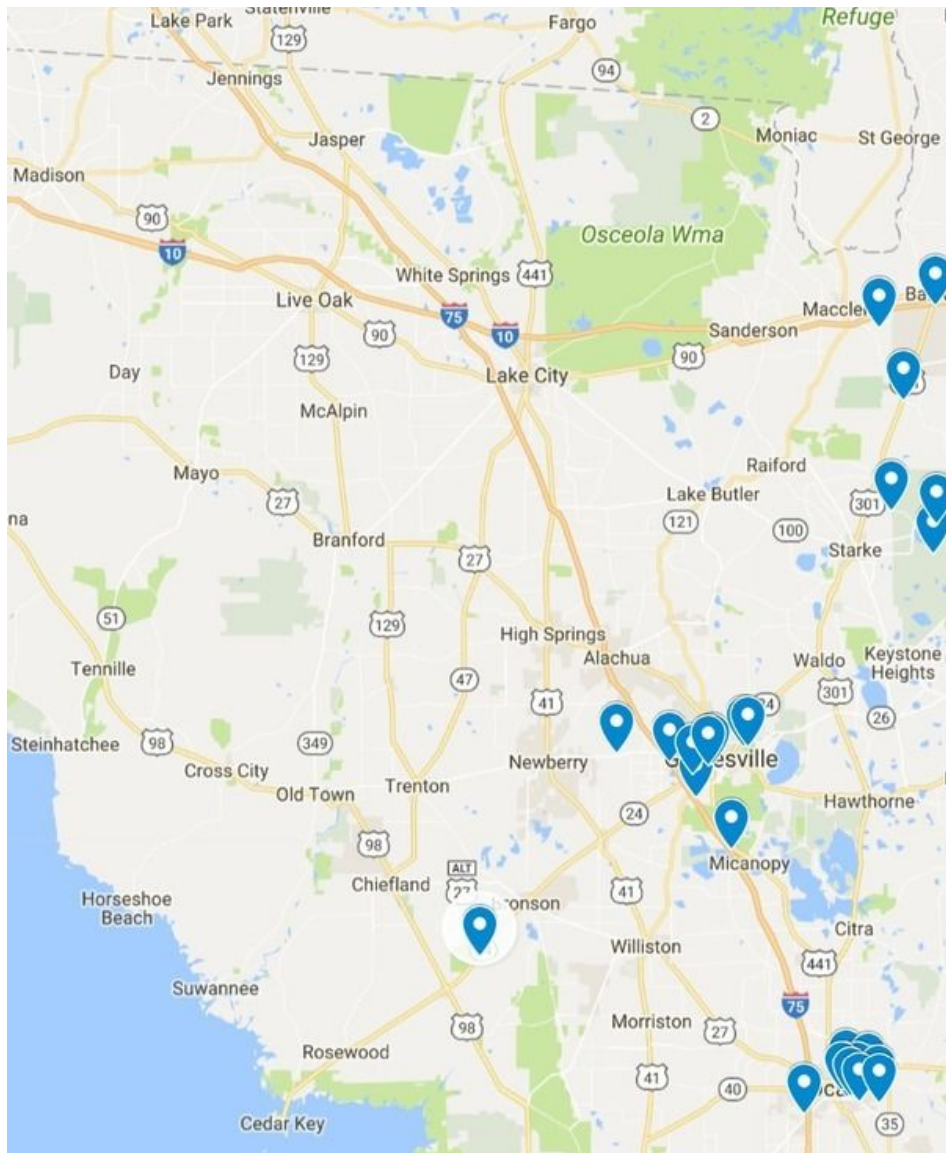
WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

Figure 4: 3-Month Rainfall Surplus/Deficit by River Basin through July 31, 2018



Further please note that around the time of Hurricane Irma, the only spills in the Suwannee River Basin in Florida, according to FDEP’s Notices of Pollution (other than some traffic accidents at Camp Blanding), were from Chemours Company mine sites in Bradford and Baker Counties. <http://wwals.net/?p=37541>





There is no need to risk such spills from a phosphate mine.

Finally, back in May I sent you a copy of a Resolution Against Phosphate Mines in Florida. <http://wwals.net/?p=39892> At that time five Florida Waterkeepers had signed it. Now 11 of the 14 Waterkeepers of Florida have signed it, indicating even more widespread opposition to phosphate mining from across the state. This resolution was among the documents that seven Waterkeepers, including Suwannee Riverkeeper, delivered to FDEP Secretary Noah Valenstein in Tallahassee at the end of July. <http://wwals.net/?p=45325> Please accept the attached copy of this resolution with the additional signatures.

What Bradford BOCC decides affects everyone downstream in the Suwannee River Basin, and also the Floridan Aquifer. Please choose wisely.

Sincerely,

John S. Quarterman,
Suwannee Riverkeeper,
President, WWALS Watershed Coalition
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