

after the water quality testing.

Meanwhile, SRWMD does frequent water quality monitoring at a variety of sites on springs, lakes, and rivers, including in many sites testing for nitrates such as may come from fertilizers leaching through the soils or overland. Such nitrate testing is important to determining if the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) are being met. Unfortunately, SRWMD does not do bacterial tests and has no plans to add those nor DNA nor sucralose testing, according to SRWMD's Water Resources Chief Darlene Velez and Deputy Executive Director Tom Mirti.

WWALS Watershed Coalition is working up a volunteer water quality monitoring program, but that is a long and slow process, with little ability to do some tests, such as for DNA. The state of Florida could ramp up such tests far faster than we can.

I urge the state of Florida to ramp up more water quality testing, especially bacterial, DNA, and human waste markers, more frequently, and at more locations, and to publish current and further future test results within days, not months.

This request is relevant to the Triennial Review process. In general, water quality standards are not of much use unless there is testing to see whether they are met. Testing results are of less use than they could be if they are not made public in a timely manner.

Back to the first topic: I urge you not to raise any limits on any contaminants. It was at that April 15, 2019, meeting in Orlando that FDEP mentioned that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is recommending raising the limits on some contaminants. As discussed in that meeting, actually raising such a limit is a policy decision. Considering the sad state of Florida's waters, with cyanobacteria on the coasts and algae blooms in springs and sewage in rivers inland, raising any limits would be a bad idea, so please don't do it.

Finally, I would like to compliment FDEP, SRWMD, and FDOH for their outstanding current work in water quality monitoring. These are merely a few suggestions for improvements, to make current and additional monitoring even more useful to conserving and improving the waters of the State of Florida, while not raising any pollution limits.

For the rivers and the aquifer,  
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