



Wwals Watershed Coalition &lt;wwalswatershed@gmail.com&gt;

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## Very high E. coli counts on Withlacoochee River in Georgia with no Valdosta warning signs

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**Butler, Dwain** <Dwain.Butler@dph.ga.gov>

Tue, Jan 7, 2020 at 4:24 PM

To: Wwals Watershed Coalition &lt;wwalswatershed@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: "Calhoun, Chris" &lt;Chris.Calhoun@dph.ga.gov&gt;, "Sheeley, Courtney" &lt;Courtney.Sheeley@dph.ga.gov&gt;

Mr. Quarterman,

I read your e-mail and will do my best to quickly answer your questions. As I told you on the telephone a couple of weeks ago, municipal sewage spills are monitored by Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Because of jurisdictional authority, Public Health in Georgia normally does not get involved with these types of spills unless some type of request is made by the divisional authority or in rare cases, Emergency Management Agency.

1. Was the Georgia Department of Health (GA DPH) or Lowndes Health informed about these Wednesday meetings in Madison and Valdosta?

**Not to my knowledge**

2. Will someone from GA DPH or Lowndes Health be at these meetings, to speak, or to answer questions?

**Not to my knowledge**

3. The Brooks County Administrator tells me she had some difficulty getting anybody at Lowndes Health to respond. Did she finally get through to you?

**I was informed this morning that she left a message for Kyle Copping at the Lowndes County H.D. and that he returned her call that day and left a message. I was informed she returned his call two days later and that they spoke. I do not know the extent of the conversation.**

4. Did Valdosta notify DPH or Lowndes Health about this record-largest sewage spill since 2015?

**To my knowledge, this office was not notified immediately. Lowndes H.D. may have been notified, which would have been the norm. District offices are usually not notified. These notifications are generally a FYI to local health departments because we do not have any jurisdiction in EPD regulated facilities. Courtney Sheeley, Director of Communications, was contacted by Valdosta Daily Times on December 9, 2019, for comment.**