The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has participated in several workshops across the State to “roll-out” Governor Scott’s policy and budget recommendations. Some items of interest include:

- Governor Scott will be evaluating ways to eliminate overlaps between FDEP and Water Management Districts (WMD) to streamline permitting and enforcement processes. Fewer resources are anticipated in both the FDEP and WMD offices. Governor Scott is also committed to obtaining input/endorsement from the FDEP Secretary on new WMD Board appointees.

- FDEP anticipates the State will ultimately lose on pending litigation and proposed legislation concerning the Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) and is evaluating methods to ultimately be compliant. A concern is that EPA could rescind the State’s delegated authority over National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, and other programs, if the State does not comply with the NNC. One strategy being considered would be to use “biological knowledge and monitoring” to guide permitting and enforcement decisions.

- The Statewide Stormwater rule is on a “holding pattern” pending collection and interpretation of additional monitoring data for dry retention areas and under drain filters. Dr. Harvey Harper is currently performing the study on behalf of FDEP.

- FDEP is developing rules to delegate permitting authority to local governments, similar to Broward County. Hillsborough and Miami-Dade were specifically mentioned as candidates.

- FDEP is evaluating methods to streamline permitting and renewal processes. Ideas include online applications and self-certifications.

- Governor Scott is recommending the reduction of authority for the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The intent is to give local governments autonomy in developing and implementing comprehensive plans without State review.
A brochure titled "Policy and Budget Recommendations is attached. The brochure summarizes Governor Scott's budget recommendations for environmental policy for Fiscal Year 2011-12.

Respectively Submitted: Robert H. Garland, PE
February 26, 2011
Governor Rick Scott’s Budget Recommendations
for
Environmental Policy
Fiscal Year 2011-12

Presented to the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Committee
February 9, 2011

Policy and Budget Recommendations

Environmental Policy Unit
Office of Policy and Budget
Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Citrus
Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Major Reforms At a Glance
Biennial Budget/Transparency/Accountability

- Long-term planning allows more time for in-depth program review and evaluation;
- Through the consolidated process of preparing a biennial budget, costs for the executive branch can be reduced;
- Encourage accountability through outcome measures rather than focus on budget controls;
- The budget structure is simplified and presented to the tax-payers in a common sense fashion.
**Major Reforms At a Glance**  
**Trust Fund Consolidation**

- The Governor's Proposed Budget moves the general purpose revenue portion from 124 funds into the General Revenue Fund so that the pot of money available to fund the state's most critical needs is broader and that all expenditures are subject to the same accountability standards.
- This results in almost $9 billion more revenue available for Florida's highest priorities.
- Funding required to be segregated due to constitutional issues, bond covenants, federal or other grant restrictions or money owed to non-state entities was not changed.
- Issues previously funded from money that was moved will now be funded from the General Revenue Fund at a level justified by the priority in state needs.

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**Governor Scott's Solution**

1. **Accountability Budgeting**
2. **Reduce Government Spending**
3. **Regulatory Reform**
4. **Focus on Job Growth and Retention**
5. **World Class Education**
6. **Reduce Property Taxes**
7. **Eliminate Florida's Corporate Income Tax**

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**1. Accountability Budgeting**

Governor Scott's budget recommendations for environmental programs include:

- A streamlined transparent budget aimed at performance and effectiveness.
- A focus on "services" each with accountable and measureable performance "outcomes."
- Greater flexibility for agency leadership to apply appropriated funding to meet these performance measures.
- A realignment of budget authority tied to anticipated revenues, resulting in a budget authority reduction of $11.4 million.
- Increased Governor oversight of water management districts budgets.
2. Reduce Government Spending

Paving the Way to a Smaller, More Efficient Government

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- $7.5 million by eliminating 36 vacant positions and 13 filled positions
- $155.6 million by reducing the Mosquito Control Program
- $285.0 million by reducing the Office of Water Policy
- $200,000 by eliminating State Forest Receipts to Fiscally Constrained Counties
- $70,000 by reducing the Off Highway Vehicle Program

Department of Environmental Protection
- $6.3 million by eliminating 12 vacant positions.
- $4 million and 48 positions as a result of transferring the Community Planning Program from the Department of Community Affairs
- $2.8 million and 22 positions by reducing and merging the Office of Greenways and Trails, the Recreational Assistance to Local Governments service, and the Florida Communities Trust with State Park Operations.
- $2 million by shifting the expenditures for operations associated with the Federal Clean Water Revolving Loan Program to pay these costs from service fees already collected as authorized under federal law instead of state General Revenue.

Water Management Districts
- $176 million in increased revenue reduction for Fiscal Year 2013-12 and 2012-13

Department of Environmental Protection
- $46.5 million and 25 positions for the Energy Office from the Florida Energy and Climate Commission, and for the Public Service and Energy Initiatives from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- $5.3 million and 58 positions for Community Planning from DCA.

Governor Scott's budget recommendations anticipate streamlining and expediting the review of local comprehensive plans.

- Eliminates state oversight of local comprehensive planning by expanding existing Alternative State Review Process Program to all local governments.
- Repeals the administrative rule (Ch. 51-6, F.A.C.) pertaining to state review of local comprehensive plans and incorporates revised state minimum standards into the statutes.
- Local governments will solicit comments from state agencies regarding only issues of regional or state-wide importance (comments provided within 30 days).
- State and 3rd parties will continue to have rights to appeal local action (state’s challenge is limited to those issues of regional or state-wide importance reviewed by commenting agencies)
6. Reduce Property Taxes

Water Management Districts

- Governor Scott's budget recommendation reduces taxes by $1.78 million dollars for each of the next two years
- Provides a 25 percent reduction in ad valorem taxation by water management districts
- Reduces property taxes levied by water management districts by an average of about 0.15 mills

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Agency Budgets at a Glance

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Agriculture & Consumer Services $30 Million

- $12.4 million - Federal Grants
- $750,000 - Replacement Equipment for Agricultural Environmental Services
- $975,000 - Increased Funding for Emergency Food Distribution
- $1.2 million - Oyster Rebuilding and Rehabilitation
- $3.2 million - Wildfire Prevention
- $7.1 million - Citrus Health Response Plan
- $651,000 - Agricultural Best Management Practices
- $400,000 - Water Conservation Program - Mobile Irrigation Labs
- $65,000 - State Farmer's Markets - Statewide Repairs

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Environmental Protection $3.3 Billion

- $151.6 million - Water Resource and Restoration Programs
- $110.3 million - Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- $36.9 million - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- $6.4 million - Total Maximum Daily Loads
- $130 million - Petroleum Tank Cleanup Projects
- $57 million - Everglades Restoration
- $6 million - State Park Repairs and Enhancements
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
$74.5 million

- $7.7 million - Federal Grants
  - $3.9 million Law Enforcement Contracts and Grants
  - $3.8 million Boating Improvement Grants
  - $666,667 - Artificial Reef/Construction

Department of Citrus
$60.9 million

Environmental Policy Unit
Office of Policy & Budget

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