Final Lake Trafford Management Plan

Joseph D. Schmidt, P.E.
Lead Engineer, Everglades Policy and Coordination Division

Big Cypress Basin Board Meeting

October 25, 2018

Lake Trafford

- Largest natural lake south of Lake Okeechobee
- Classified as hyper-eutrophic with recurrent harmful algal blooms and fish kills
- Critical Restoration Project completed in 2010
- Over 6 million cubic yards of sediment removed from lake

Lake Trafford Management Team

- Established by BCB/SFWMD in 2011
- Instrumental in development of vision for Lake Trafford
- Inter-agency partnership for coordination, collaboration, and implementation of management strategies, restoration efforts, and scientific studies as well as leveraging of available resources
- Provided key input during development of Lake Trafford Management Plan

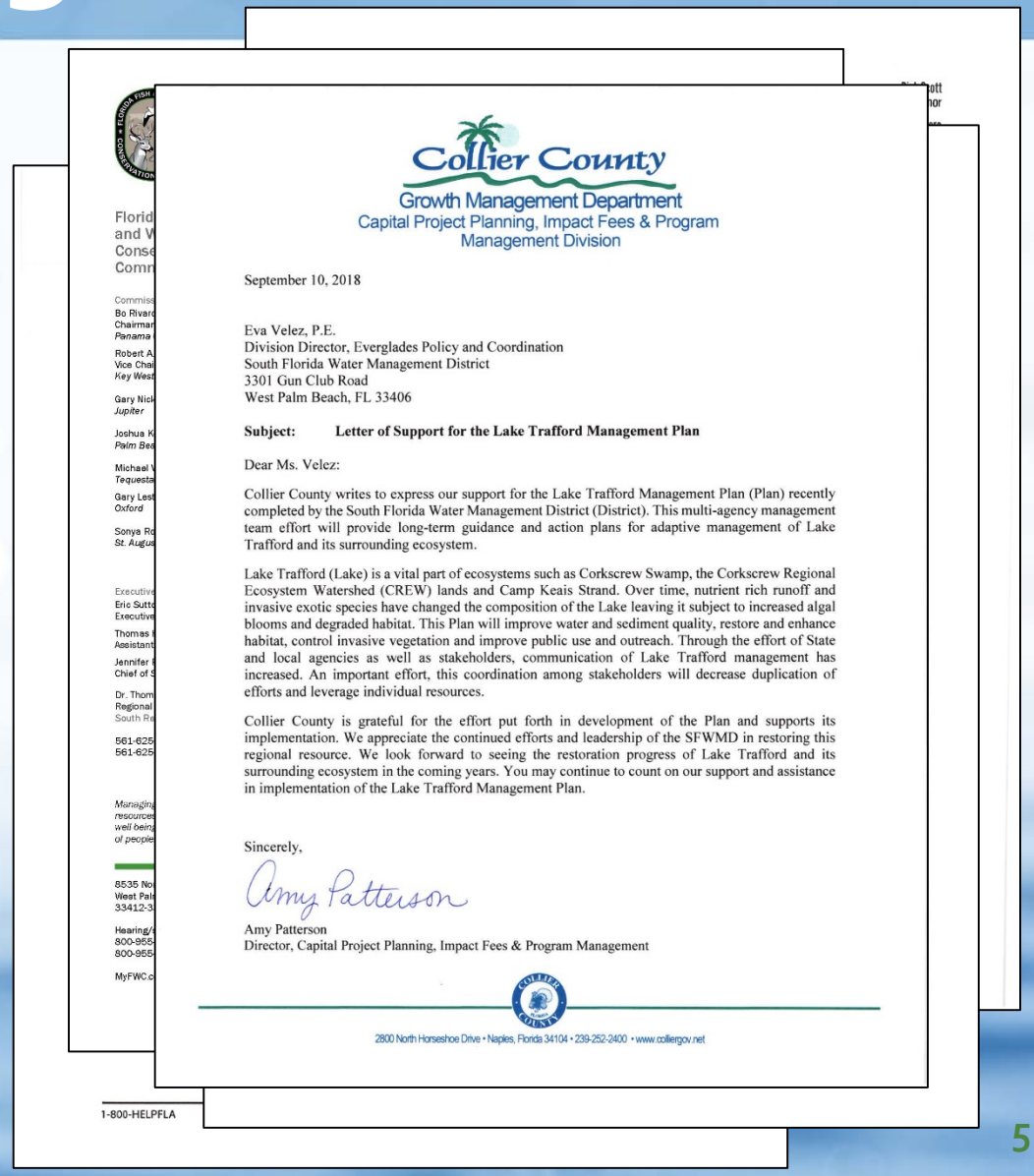
- Partners
  - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
  - Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
  - Collier County
  - U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)
  - University of Florida (UF)
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Corkscrew Audubon
  - Natural Ecosystems
  - Peninsula Engineering

Lake Trafford Management Plan

- Objective
  - Develop and implement adaptive strategies that engage Partners
  - Foster management synergy and comprehensive restoration efforts
  - Promote healthy lake ecosystem with diverse native plants and animals
- Identifies and Describes Opportunities
  - Improve Water Quality
  - Restore and enhance habitat
  - Manage invasive vegetation
  - Continue and expand public outreach

Lake Trafford Management Plan

- July 2018
  - Present Draft Plan to Team for feedback
- August 2018
  - Present Draft Plan to BCB Board
- September 2018
  - Solicit letters of support from partners
- October 2018
  - Finalize and Polish Plan
  - Present Final Plan to BCB Board
  - Transmit to Partners and public



Collier County
Growth Management Department
Capital Project Planning, Impact Fees & Program Management Division

September 10, 2018

Eva Velez, P.E.
Division Director, Everglades Policy and Coordination
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Subject: Letter of Support for the Lake Trafford Management Plan

Dear Ms. Velez:

Collier County writes to express our support for the Lake Trafford Management Plan (Plan) recently completed by the South Florida Water Management District (District). This multi-agency management team effort will provide long-term guidance and action plans for adaptive management of Lake Trafford and its surrounding ecosystem.

Lake Trafford (Lake) is a vital part of ecosystems such as Corkscrew Swamp, the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) lands and Camp Keais Strand. Over time, nutrient rich runoff and invasive exotic species have changed the composition of the Lake leaving it subject to increased algal blooms and degraded habitat. This Plan will improve water and sediment quality, restore and enhance habitat, control invasive vegetation and improve public use and outreach. Through the effort of State and local agencies as well as stakeholders, communication of Lake Trafford management has increased. An important effort, this coordination among stakeholders will decrease duplication of efforts and leverage individual resources.

Collier County is grateful for the effort put forth in development of the Plan and supports its implementation. We appreciate the continued efforts and leadership of the SFWMD in restoring this regional resource. We look forward to seeing the restoration progress of Lake Trafford and its surrounding ecosystem in the coming years. You may continue to count on our support and assistance in implementation of the Lake Trafford Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Amy Patterson

Amy Patterson
Director, Capital Project Planning, Impact Fees & Program Management

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Discussion

https://www.sfwmd.gov/who-we-are/bcb