

Minimum Flows and Levels and Reservations Team

***Developing Options for a Standard
Methodology to Establish Minimum
Flows and Levels***

CFWI Steering Committee Meeting

**November 9, 2012
Kissimmee, Florida**

CFWI Guiding Document MFLRT Tasks & Schedule

Rev: 8/23/2012

TASK	Start	Stop
Review and understand the various approaches used by the WMDs to set MFLs/Reservations (C1)	Jun 22, 2011	Sep 30, 2011 Done
Identify commonalities and differences in the approaches currently used to set criteria (C2)	Jun 22, 2011	Nov 30, 2011 Done
Develop options for a standard methodology to establish MFLs and Reservations (C3 a,b,c- MFLs Sub-Tasks)	Sep 30, 2011	Mar 31, 2013

Minimum Flows and Levels

The **minimum flow** for a given watercourse shall be the limit at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources or ecology of the area.

The **minimum water level** shall be the level of groundwater in an aquifer and the level of surface water at which further withdrawals would be significantly harmful to the water resources of the area.

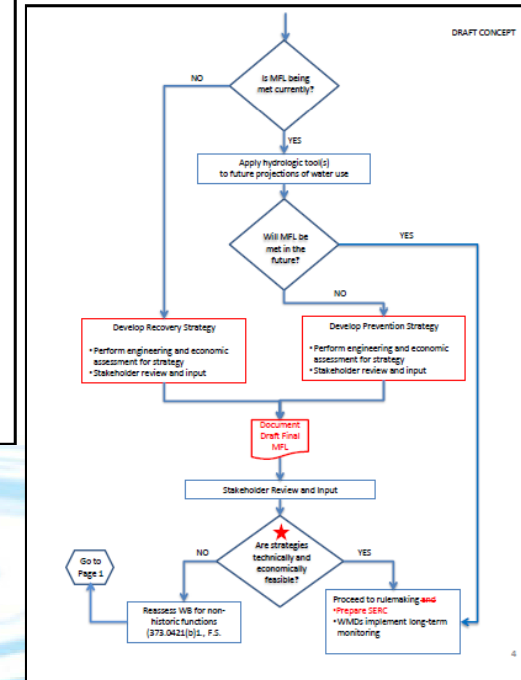
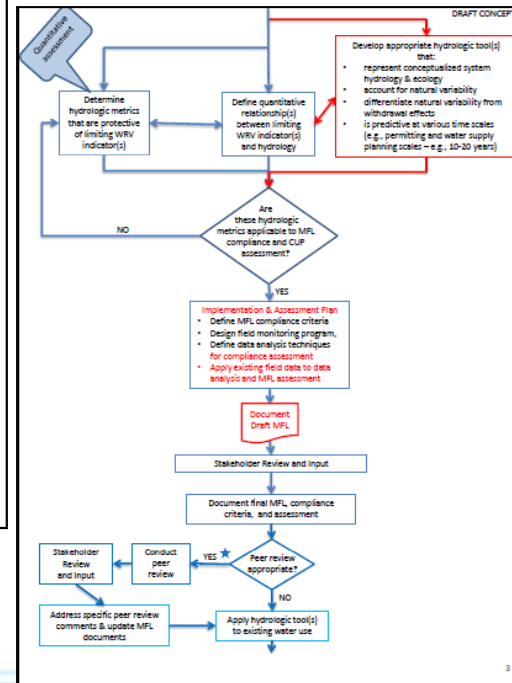
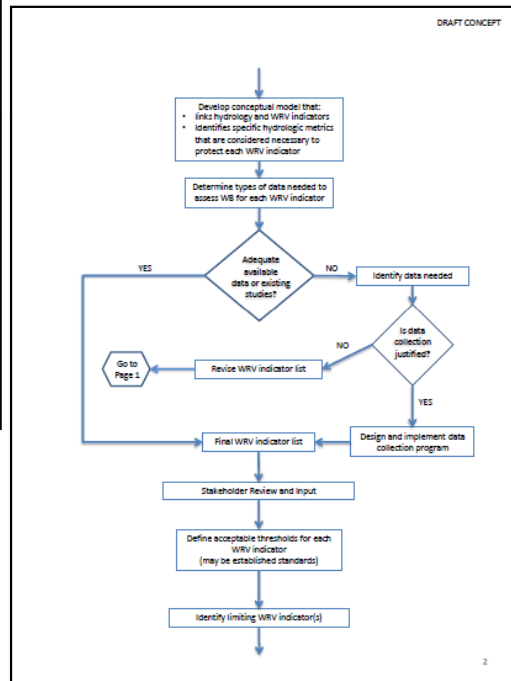
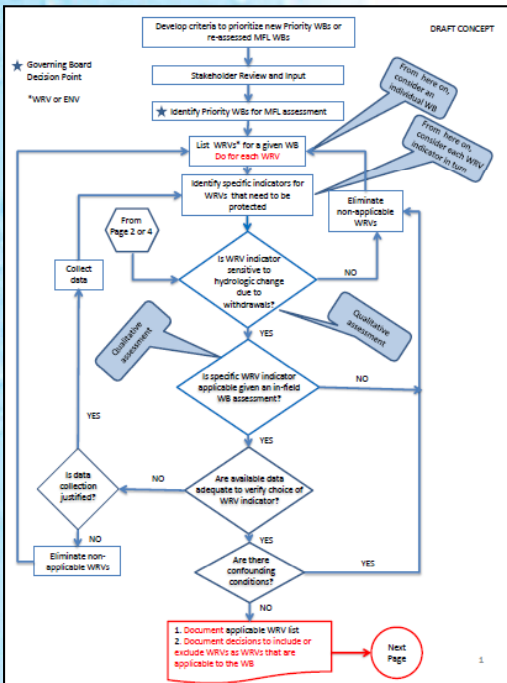
Minimum Flows and Levels Considerations

...consideration shall be given natural seasonal fluctuations in water flows or levels, nonconsumptive uses, and **environmental values** associated with coastal, estuarine, riverine, spring, aquatic, and wetland ecology, including:

- (a) Recreation in and on the water;
- (b) Fish and wildlife habitats and the passage of fish;
- (c) Estuarine resources;
- (d) Transfer of detrital material;
- (e) Maintenance of freshwater storage and supply;
- (f) Aesthetic and scenic attributes;
- (g) Filtration and absorption of nutrients and other pollutants;
- (h) Sediment loads;
- (i) Water quality; and
- (j) Navigation.

Rule 62-40.473(1), Florida Administrative Code

Minimum Flows and Levels Method Process Flow Chart



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Overview of Process/Steps

- TBD* Identify priority minimum flow and level water bodies
- ✓ Identify appropriate water resource values and indicators/thresholds
- ✓ Develop hydrologic tools that account for natural hydrologic variability and can be used to characterize withdrawal effects and evaluate compliance
- TBD* Use water resource value indicators/thresholds and hydrologic tools to develop proposed minimum flows and levels metrics
- TBD* Evaluate current and future compliance with proposed minimum flows and levels
- ✓ Subject proposed minimum flows and levels to peer review, as appropriate
- ✓ Develop minimum flows and levels recovery or prevention strategies, as needed
- ✓ Proceed to rulemaking for adoption of minimum flows and levels