



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THE KEYSTONE COUNTY-ESTABLISHED 1827

435 W. Walnut St., Monticello, Florida 32344

**Benjamin "Benny"
Bishop**

District 1, Chair

Eugene Hall

District 2

Hines F. Boyd

District 3

Betsy Barfield

District 4

Stephen Walker

District 5, Vice Chair

**Regular Session Agenda
September 1, 2015 at the Courthouse Annex
435 W. Walnut St. Monticello, FL 32344**

- 1. 9:00 A.M. – Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Public Announcements, Presentations, & Awards**
 - a) SRWMD Presentation – Abby Johnson**
- 3. Consent Agenda**
 - a) Approval of Agenda**
 - b) Minutes of August 18, 2015 Regular Session**
- 4. Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit)**
- 5. General Business**
 - a) Small Business Grant Proposal – Marcia Elder**
 - b) Budget Discussion/Action – Commissioner Boyd**
- 6. County Coordinator**
- 7. Commissioner Discussion Items**
- 8. Adjourn**

From the manual "Government in the Sunshine", page 40:

Paragraph C. Each board, commission or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing, if notice of meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Kirk Reams
Clerk of Courts

Parrish Barwick
County Coordinator

T. Buckingham Bird
County Attorney

ITEM 3

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
August 18, 2015

The Board met this date in regular session. Present were Chairperson Benjamin “Benny” Bishop, Commissioners Betsy Barfield, Hines Boyd, Eugene Hall and Stephen Walker. Also present were County Attorney Buck Bird, County Coordinator Parrish Barwick and Clerk of Court Kirk Reams.

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

1. Commissioner Hall led the invocation and pledge.

ITEM 2: Public Announcements, Presentations & Awards

2. Chairman Bishop announced the Brownfields District Public Hearing that would be held at the Lloyd Interchange on August 27th, 2015 at 6 pm at the Capital City Travel Center/Restaurant.

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

3. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the consent agenda—consisting of the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the August 4th, 2015 Regular Session, Rural Economic Development Resolution, TDC Items (Member Reappointment, FY 15-16 Proposed Budget, Advertising Grant Requests) and Library State Aid Grant Agreement—was approved.**

ITEM 4: Citizens Request & Input on Non-Agenda Items

4. Citizen Dick Bailar spoke about the County library and its funding and thanked the Board for its continued commitment to the library.

ITEM 5a: Ban on Fracking

5. Amy Datz, of Tallahassee, introduced the topic of fracking and stated her opposition to this practice, citing different impacts fracking could have. She encouraged the Board to pass the resolution to ban fracking. Dr. Bellamy, of Tallahassee, spoke of increased medical and health issues that were present in areas where fracking occurred. David Micah, Director of the Florida Petroleum Council, gave a presentation on fracking and spoke of the benefits of this practice. The following expressed their opposition to fracking: Jefferson County citizen Roy King; Wakulla County Commissioner Kessler; Mr. Tatum and Ms. Jepsim of Fort White; Ms. Sullivan of Madison County; Ms. Moneen with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; Ms. Dickert of Madison County; Ms. Bonn; Ms. Merrill; Mr. Fred Williams of Jefferson County. Citizen Paul Henry stated there were holes in the resolution and not enough concrete citation. He urged the Board to further research this issue and carefully deliberate before making a decision. Citizen Phil Calandra suggested the Board not sign the ban and try to get people to find another way to protect the aquifer. Commissioner Walker stated he was

100% in support of the ban on fracking. Commissioner Boyd stated the Board had no legal authority and that people were not giving “regulatory folks enough credit.” He added the Board was taking a risk with an out-right ban.

Commissioner Hall stated he was against the practice of fracking. Chairman Bishop inquired if this ban could be interpreted as a ban on other avenues of exploration/mineral rights and asked Mr. Micah approximately how many states currently had fracking activity, to which Mr. Micah responded approximately 30. **On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved the resolution to ban fracking.**

ITEM 5b: Legislative Priorities

6. Dick Bailar, on behalf of the Legislative Committee, asked the Board what special priorities/projects it wanted the Legislative Committee to seek funding for in the upcoming session. He stated that standard/rollover items would continue and that the Board did not need to list or prioritize these projects. County Coordinator Barwick stated the Senior Center had been mentioned by the Board, to which Mr. Bailar stated it would be hard for the Legislative Committee to seek funding on this item since the state just cut the budget by \$54,000 and noted it was more of a policy issue than a funding issue. Commissioner Barfield expressed her desire to hear from the Health Department about their proposed renovation project. Mr. Bailar also stated the sports center in Lloyd had been mentioned and requested the Board to provide a list.

ITEM 5c: Millage Rate Discussion/Decision

7. County Extension Director John Lilly requested the Board approve his appointment and the additional funding of \$5240 to the Extension Department to bring on a new employee. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Walker and carried 3 to 2 (Bishop and Boyd opposed), the Board approved the appointment and additional funding.**
8. Commissioner Boyd stated there was enough money in the budget to formulate a plan to reduce the millage rate. **Commissioner Boyd made a motion to reduce the millage rate by .5 mills, to which Commissioner Hall seconded for discussion.** Chairman Bishop stated he liked the millage rate where it presently was and felt it adequately funded departments’ needs. **The above motion failed 2 to 3 (Barfield, Bishop and Walker opposed). On motion by Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Barfield and carried 3 to 2 (Boyd and Hall opposed), the Board elected to keep the millage rate at 8.3 mills.**
9. County Coordinator Barwick presented the issue of the Building Inspector position. Per Mr. Barwick, the current building inspector is currently funded 50% by Madison County but wishes to terminate his employment with and no longer represent Madison County and work exclusively in Jefferson County.
10. Commissioner Boyd expressed concern about the cost of the Sheriff’s Office and also discussed his recent public records request. Commissioner Walker noted that the Sheriff’s budget was not just for the Sheriff’s Office but also included the jail,

911 and Emergency Management. Citizen Roy King commented it was the price we paid for safety. Citizen Paul Henry noted the Sheriff's realistic use of money on guns and rifles rather than unnecessary items like surplus helicopters. He urged the Board to use caution before making allegations or insinuations about how money was utilized.

ITEM 7: PUBLIC HEARING: LDC FINAL READING

11. Commissioner Barfield noted the Board had been working on the Land Development Code for a long period of time and that she took issue with how the final reading had been advertised. She stated that it may be legal and satisfy statutes to advertise in the Tallahassee Democrat, but she felt it should have been advertised in the Monticello News as well. It was the consensus of the Board to re-advertise in the Monticello News to have the final reading at the September 15th night meeting.

ITEM 8: PUBLIC HEARING: G. BISHOP ENTERPRISES PROJECT

12. Chairman Bisho passed the gavel to Commissioner Walker and abstained from discussion and voting on this issue as it was a conflict of interest. Attorney Buck Bird introduced this item and stated before the Board could move forward, the ordinance would need to be passed. Citizen Paul Henry stated his opposition to the resolution and inquired who would pay for the note if the owner defaulted, to which Commissioner Boyd stated the County would pay until it found another occupant. **On motion by Commissioner Barfield, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the ordinance. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the resolution. On motion by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the commitment letter of loan. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board approved the supplemental loan agreement. On motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Hall and carried 4 to 0 (Bishop abstained), the Board authorized Commissioner Walker as Vice-Chair and Kirk Reams the Clerk of Court to executive documents, including the lease-purchase agreement.**

ITEM 9: Commissioner Discussion Items

13. County Attorney Buck Bird again mentioned the first Brownfields meeting in Lloyd and stated the second meeting would be held at the Annex. Clerk of Court commented that property owners in the area had been noticed via certified mail.
14. Commissioner Hall stated Congresswoman Gwen Graham recently visited the County Library and stated that, in the future, he would like to see the grounds in better condition when the County knows of a visitor coming into town.

ITEM 8: Adjournment

15. The warrant register was reviewed and bills ordered paid.

16. **On motion by Chairman Bishop, seconded by Commissioner Walker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.**

Attest: _____
Clerk

Chairman



Suwannee River Water Management District State of the Resource 2015

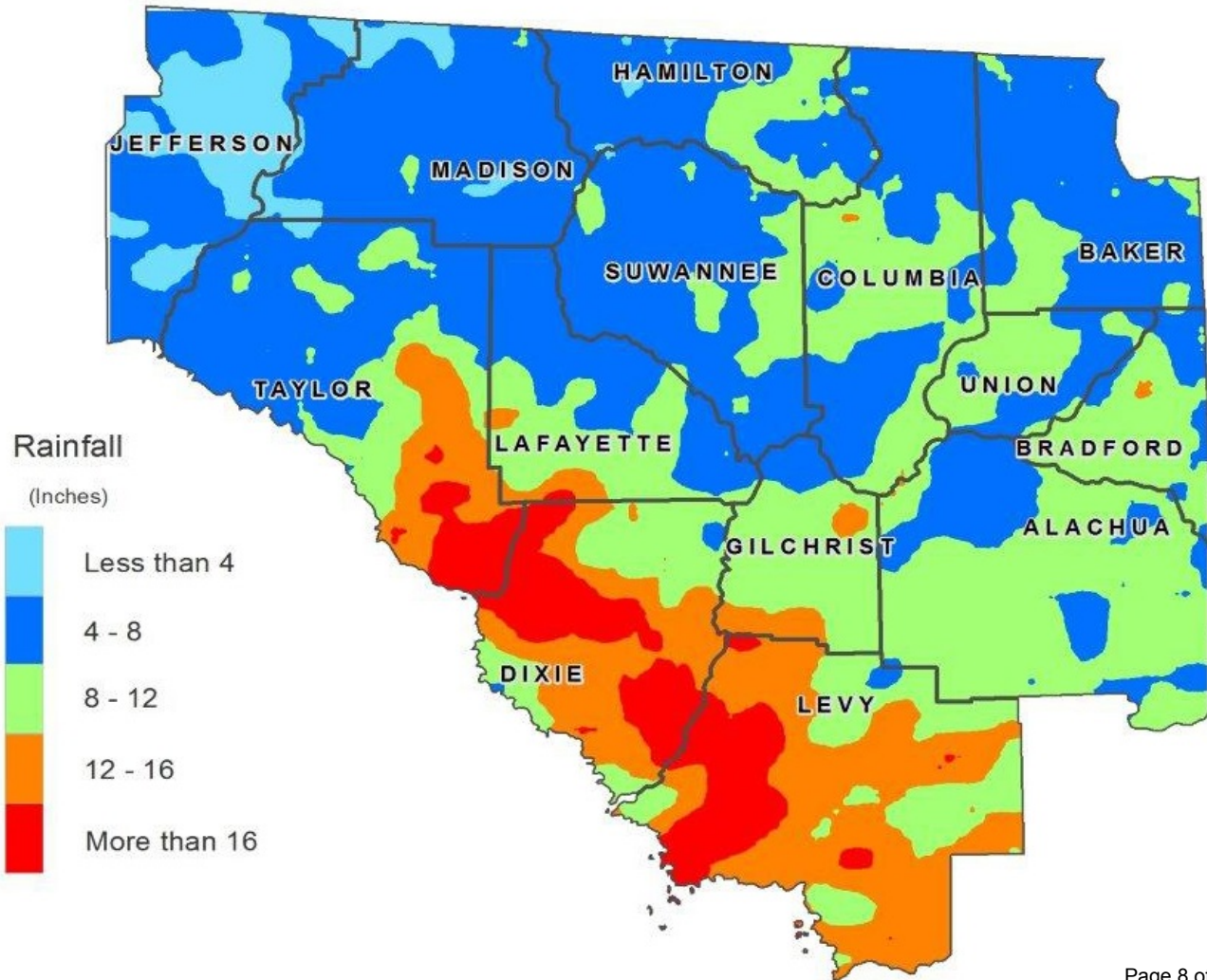
Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners

Abby Johnson.

Governmental Affairs and Communications Coordinator

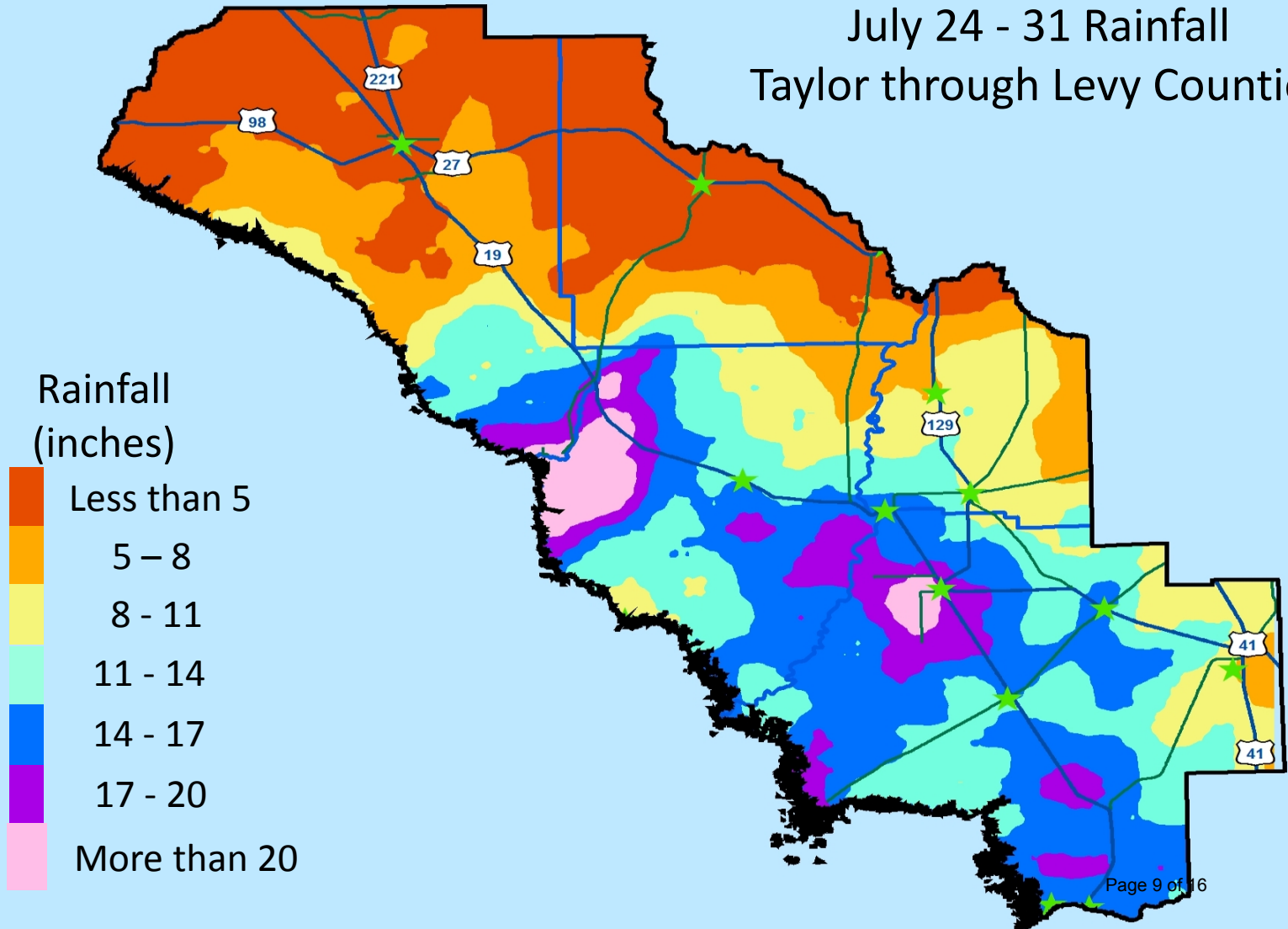


July Rainfall



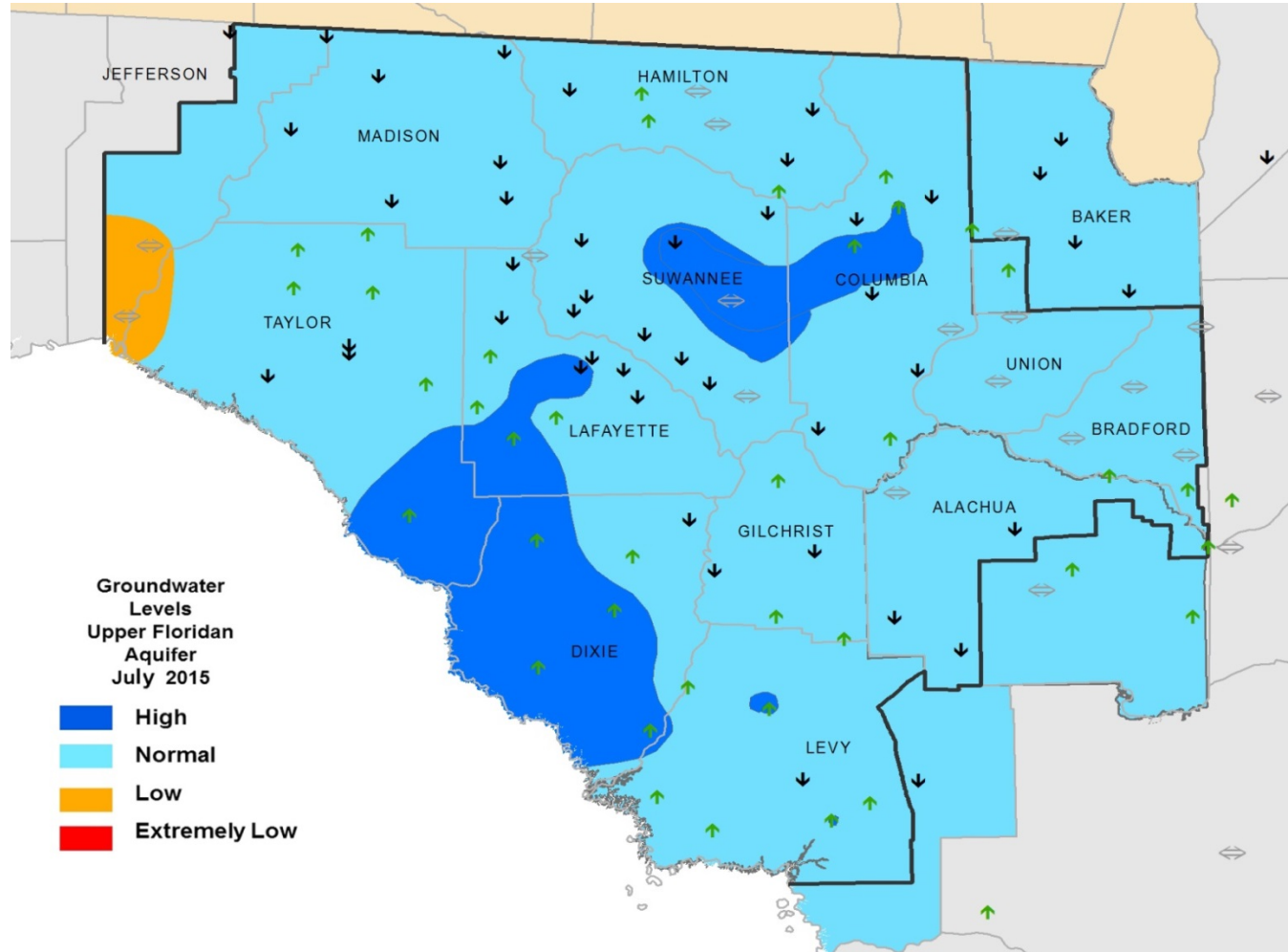


July 24 - 31 Rainfall Taylor through Levy Counties



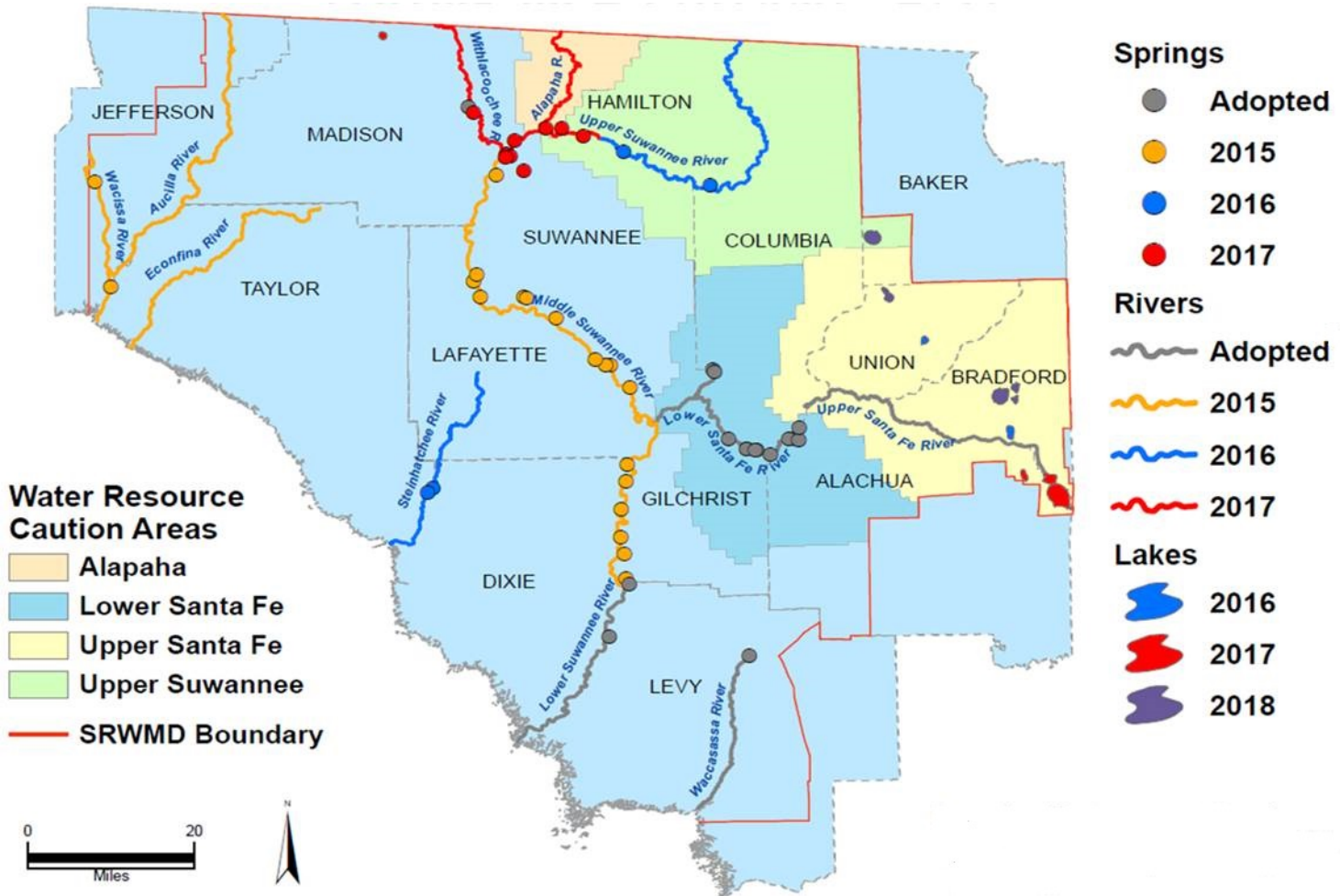


July Groundwater Levels



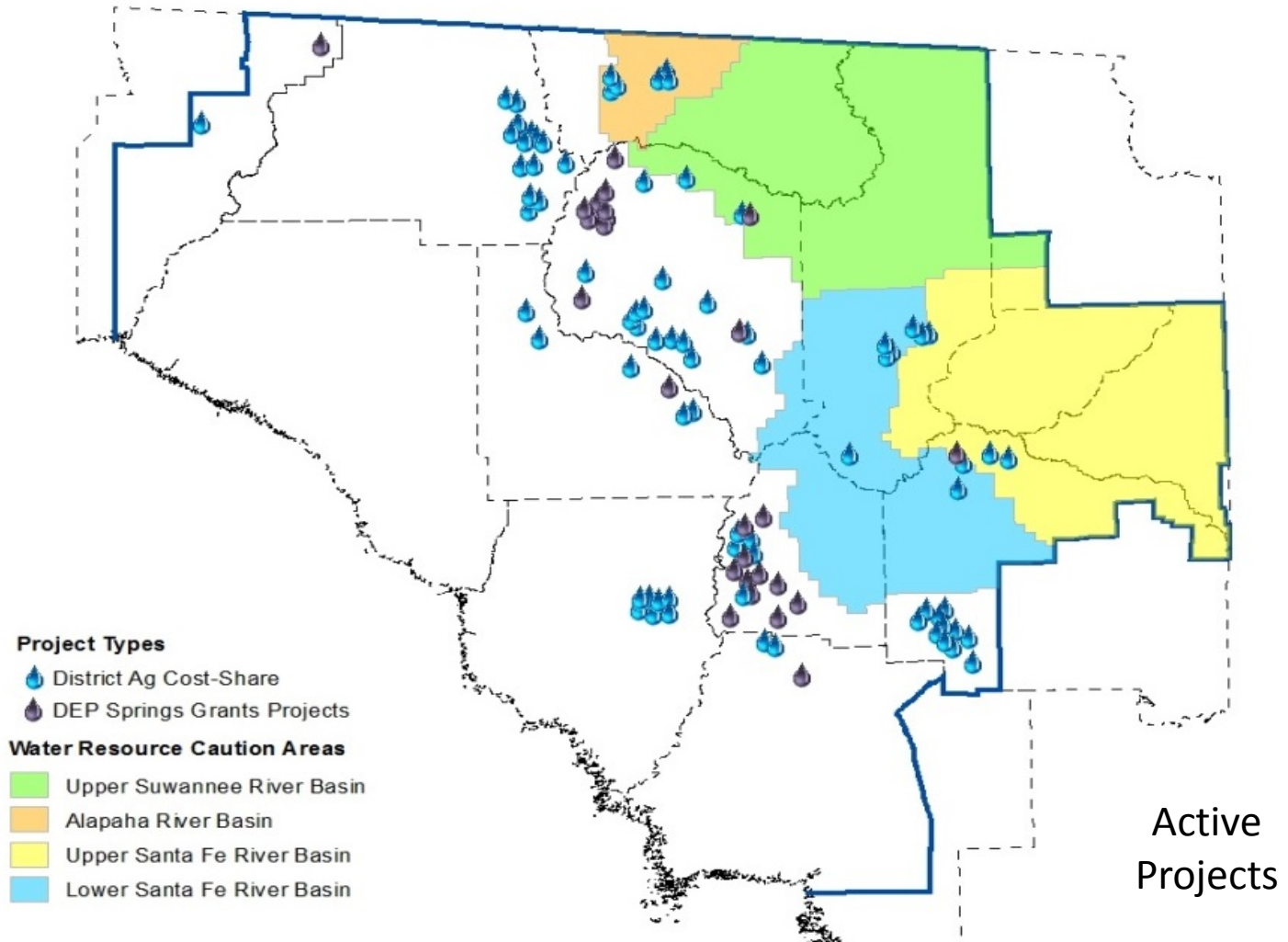


MFL Schedule



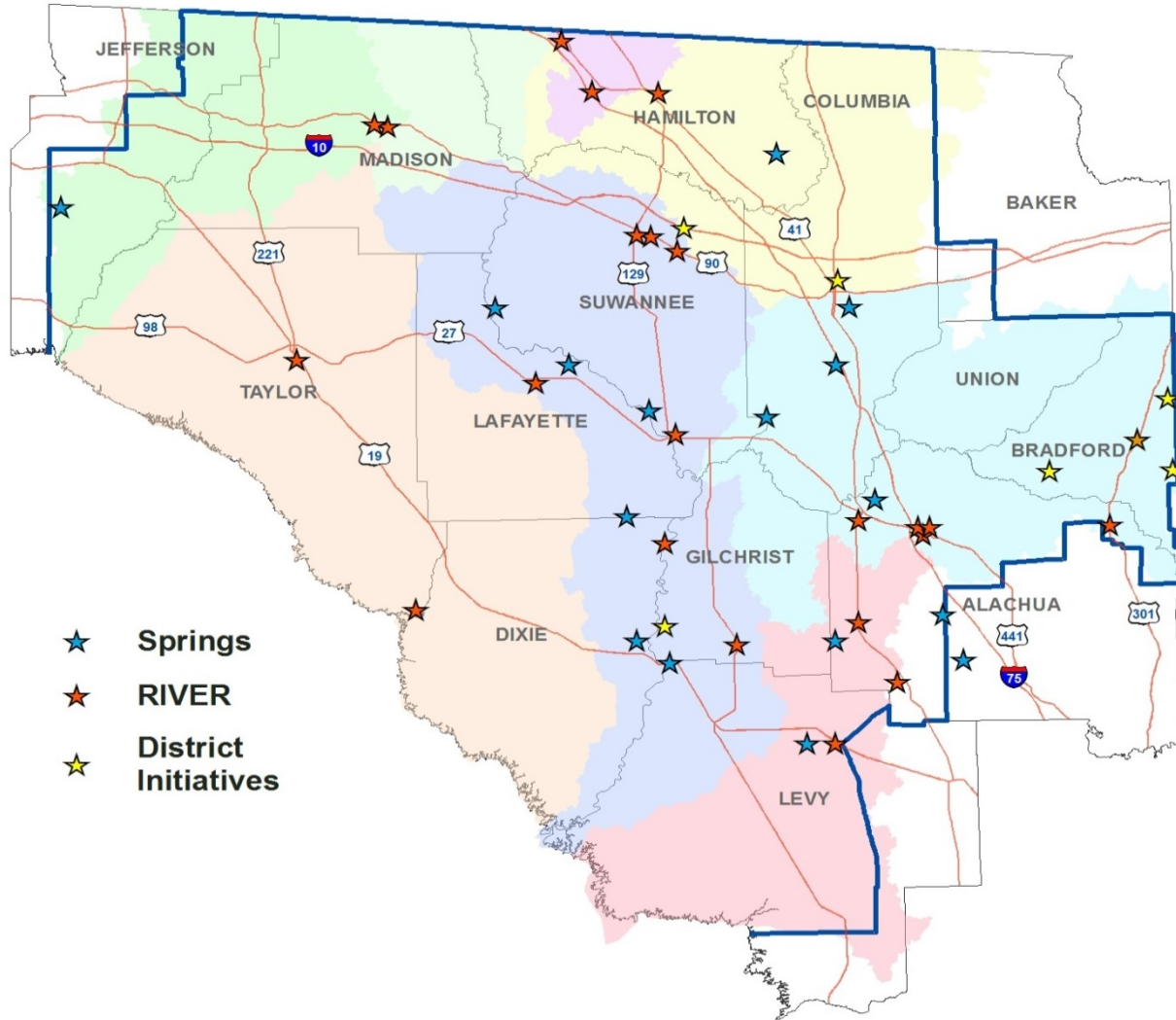


Agriculture





Projects



- ★ Springs
- ★ RIVER
- ★ District Initiatives



Achievements



ITEM 5(a)

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROPOSAL

Jefferson County Small Business Development Program

Grant Proposal Request

The SBDP has previously provided detailed proposals on **one-time, high impact small business special projects** to implement selected parts of the Jefferson County Vision ACTION Plan and, as part thereof, to advance small business development and growth within Jefferson County.

With approval of the County Commission, the SBDP submitted a grant proposal to the State of Florida for funding of such projects. It appeared that the County had a strong chance of receiving grant approval. However, the County received recent notice from the State that many grant proposals were received this year, the process was highly competitive and the Jefferson proposal was not approved.

The projects remain of great significance for the future of business in Jefferson County and the ACTION Plan, as approved by the County Commission, calls for the pursuit of grants and other funding to make projects in the Plan possible.

Some of the small business-related projects in the ACTION Plan are of regional significance and the ACTION Plan provides for County exploration of alternatives for regional collaboration on projects and opportunities of this nature.

As reported to the Commission previously, a four-county group has formed to consider regional business and economic development opportunities (for Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie & Levy counties) and the organizing entity has just announced a grant program that fits with some of the Jefferson ACTION priorities.

The grant program is for grants in the amount of \$10,000 – 20,000 and proposals must tie to the Big Bend Economic Analysis report provided to the BOCC previously.

The **SBDP requests permission to submit a grant proposal** that encompasses portions of our prior proposal to the BOCC, on such needs as Growing Agricultural Businesses, Freight & Distribution Services and Energy Production & Sales, with details dependent upon proposal specifications by the grantor and collaboration with other partners.

No County funding is being requested for this purpose.