This presentation goes over the changes being made to the Withlacoochee River Boating Restricted Areas Rule 68D-24.109 FAC. The changes include the scaling back of restricted zones that would not adversely affect the safety of the public, minimally increasing the footprint of one zone, updating the rule language with more appropriate descriptions of the zone boundaries, and updating all the maps included in the rule. No change was made to the activation levels for the flood stages within the river.

Staff Contact: Richard Moore and Ryan Moreau
The changes to the rule include reducing the size of the restricted areas that do not affect public safety. During staff evaluation of the rule, staff determined that a reduction in the size of the regulatory zone in certain flood areas would not adversely affect the safety of the general public and would also reduce unnecessary regulation. As each zone is talked about in the following presentation you will see the amount of reduction in each zone.

- A minimal increase of 200' to one zone to facilitate better marking.
- Rule language was also modified by staff. In the original rule mile markers were used as a basis for delineating the boundaries of these different regulatory zones. Staff determined that the mile markers were not the best landmarks to use within the rule language due to the fact that many of these markers are now missing or have been reinstalled in different locations. The change to the language would use GPS points and physical landmarks that are visible from the water to describe the zone boundaries.
- All maps of the regulatory zones will be updated as a result of this change in the rule, this allows staff to develop better overall maps to show where the zones are located.
• The Withlacoochee River section between Big Flat Rock to Camp Izzard Boat Ramp is approximately 5 miles long and runs through Citrus and Marion Counties.

• The flood zone is triggered by readings taken from the Holder flood gauge. The location of which can be seen above. At 7.0 feet or higher Idle Speed No Wake. At 10.0 feet or higher No Entry.

• There would be no change in the referenced flood levels and no change in zone boundaries for this section.

• The rule language will change to reflect GPS coordinates identifying the location of Big Flat Rock and the Camp Izzard Boat Ramp.

• Maps will be updated to better reflect the zone.
• The Withlacoochee River section between Camp Izzard Boat Ramp to the Marion/Sumter County Line is approximately 6 miles long and runs through Citrus, Marion and Sumter Counties.

• The flood zone is triggered by readings taken from the Holder flood gauge. The location of which can be seen above. At 6.0 feet or higher Idle Speed No Wake. At 9.0 feet or higher No Entry.

• There would be no change in the referenced flood levels and no change in zone boundaries for this section.

• The rule language will change to reflect GPS coordinates identifying the location of the Camp Izzard Boat Ramp and the Marion/Sumter County line.

• Maps will be updated to better reflect the zone.
• The Withlacoochee River section between North Hooty Point to south of East Newman Drive is approximately 1.5 miles long and runs through Citrus and Sumter Counties.

• The flood zone is triggered by readings taken from the SR 44 gauge, which is located approximately 4 miles south of this zone. At 38 feet or higher Idle Speed No Wake. At 41 feet or higher No Entry.

• There would be no change in the referenced flood levels. However, there would be a change of zone boundaries which would result in a net decrease of the zone by approximately 1 mile. A decrease of approximately 2,440 feet to the northern boundary and a decrease of approximately 2,630 feet to the southern boundary.

• Staff determined that the decrease in the zone was warranted due to the absence of maritime infrastructure and the ability of the public to navigate without an increase in danger during a flood event.

• The rule language will change to reflect GPS coordinates identifying the location of the North Hooty Point and south of East Newman Drive.

• Maps will be updated to better reflect the zone.
• The Withlacoochee River section between East Squire Court to South of East Shawnee Trail is approximately 4 miles long and runs through Citrus and Sumter Counties.

• The flood zone is triggered by readings taken from the SR 44 gauge, as shown in map. At 38 feet or higher Idle Speed No Wake. At 41 feet or higher No Entry.

• There would be no change in the referenced flood levels. However, there would be a change of zone boundaries which would result in a net decrease of the zone by approximately 1 mile. A decrease of approximately 5,000 feet to the southern boundary.

• Staff determined that the decrease in the zone was warranted due to the absence of maritime infrastructure and the ability of the public to navigate without an increase in danger during a flood event.

• The rule language will change to reflect GPS coordinates identifying the location of the East Squire Court and South of East Shawnee Trail.

• Maps will be updated to better reflect the zone.
• The Withlacoochee River section between the Citrus/Hernando County Line to south of Riverside RV Park is approximately 4 miles long and runs through Citrus, Hernando and Sumter Counties.

• The flood zone is triggered by readings taken from the Croom Gauge, which is approximately 5 miles south of this zone. At 9.0 feet or higher Idle Speed No Wake. At 11.0 feet or higher No Entry.

• There would be no change in the referenced flood levels. However, there would be a change of zone boundaries which would result in a net decrease of the zone by just under a mile. A decrease of approximately 3,400 feet to the southern boundary.

• Staff determined that the decrease in the zone was warranted due to the absence of maritime infrastructure and the ability of the public to navigate without an increase in danger during a flood event.

• The rule language will change to reflect GPS coordinates identifying the location of the Citrus/Hernando County Line and south of Riverside RV Park.

• Maps will be updated to better reflect the zone.
• The Withlacoochee River section between the Iron Bridge Primitive Boat Launch to CSX Railroad Trestle is approximately 7 miles long and runs through Hernando and Sumter Counties.

• The flood zone is triggered by readings taken from the Trilby Gauge, as shown on the map. At 12.0 feet or higher Idle Speed No Wake. At 15.0 feet or higher No Entry.

• There would be no change in the referenced flood levels. However, there would be a change of zone boundary which would result in a minimal increase of 200’ to the northern boundary to incorporate the Iron Bridge Primitive Boat Launch and provide for better marking of the zone.

• The rule language will change to reflect GPS coordinates identifying the location of the Primitive Boat Launch and CSX Railroad Trestle.

• Maps will be updated to better reflect the zone.
The exact proposed rule language is provided in an attachment to this agenda item.