

6.0 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

This section presents a summary of the recommended implementation schedule for the major capital components of the Plan. In the schedule presented below, it is assumed that the Plan will be adopted during FY-2001, and that implementation will be initiated in early FY-2002 (October 2001).

Phasing of Plan Components

It should be emphasized that the various components of the Plan are not all independent management actions that can be implemented without regard for the others. That is, among the various Plan components there are certain dependencies that need to be accommodated in the implementation schedule to ensure the most cost-effective results. For example, the recommended in-lake habitat restoration projects clearly should not be implemented prior to the dredging of the organic fibrous shoreline sediments that preclude the natural recruitment of desirable aquatic vegetation, or the removal of herbivorous grass carp which would effectively harvest planted macrophytes. Similarly, aquatic weed harvesting clearly should not be initiated until there is a substantial enough crop of macrophytes to effectively harvest.

The implementation of other management actions should be based on the measured effectiveness of preceding management actions. For example, it is recommended that the removal of the flocculent deep sediments in the lake not be initiated until the effectiveness of external phosphorus removal has been evaluated through water quality monitoring. If monitoring indicates that expected progress towards meeting the defined water quality targets is not being met through the reduction of external phosphorus loads, then the implementation of the dredging project would be justified. Similarly, sediment phosphorus inactivation through whole lake alum applications should not be initiated until the flocculent sediments have been removed and monitoring results still indicate insufficient progress towards meeting water quality targets.

In recognition of these dependencies, as well as potential financial constraints, it is recommended that the Plan be implemented in three phases, as described below.

- **Phase I** - The first phase of the Plan would focus initially on the design and permitting of the major structural components for which land acquisition, engineering design and regulatory permit approvals will be required. In addition, the primary focus of Phase I will be on watershed management activities that result in the reduction of external phosphorus loads to the lake (e.g., construction of enhanced regional stormwater treatment facilities). Land acquisition, engineering design, and environmental permitting activities in support of the major structural components of the Plan may require up to two years to complete and therefore should be initiated immediately. Phase I activities are projected to require a minimum of two years to complete, including construction. Therefore, Phase I would extend from October 2001 through at least September 2003.

- **Phase II** - The second phase of the Plan would focus primarily on in-lake restoration activities that build upon the watershed management projects completed under Phase I. These would include implementation of in-lake habitat restoration projects, as well as the removal of the flocculent deep sediments if monitoring results warrant this major project. Assuming that all land acquisition, design and permitting activities have been completed for the major structural components in Phase I, it is anticipated that the Phase II construction projects, and other non-structural components of the Plan, could be completed in two years. Therefore, Phase II would extend from October 2003 through September 2005.
- **Phase III** - The third phase of the Plan would focus primarily on following-up on in-lake restoration activities that build upon, or are dependent upon, the implementation of Phase I and Phase II projects. For example, assuming that adequate water quality improvement to support the proliferation of aquatic macrophytes in the lake has resulted from the implementation of the Phase I and II components, the aquatic weed harvesting program would be initiated during Phase III. Conversely, if the defined water quality targets have not been attained following implementation of the Phase I and II components, then sediment phosphorus inactivation would be implemented in Phase III. It should be noted that the majority of the Phase III projects are management or maintenance activities that will likely be conducted indefinitely on an ongoing basis. Therefore, Phase III would begin in October 2005 and extend indefinitely into the future.

Table 6-1 below summarizes the recommended capital improvement and implementation schedule for the Plan. This table embodies the logical sequencing and dependencies of the various Plan components discussed above. In addition to the components of the Plan, the recommended monitoring and success evaluation program presented in Chapter 5 should be implemented in Phase I to document existing baseline conditions, and to track progress throughout Plan implementation.

Table 6-1. Recommended capital improvement and Plan implementation schedule.

Priority Issue	Phase I Components FY-2002 through FY-2003	Phase II Components FY-2004 through FY-2005	Phase III Components FY-2006 and Beyond
Water Quality	<p><i>Structural Component 1</i> - Construct Enhanced Regional Stormwater Treatment Facilities in Priority Sub-Basins</p> <p><i>Structural Component 2</i> - Divert Seminole Bypass Canal Flows to Improve Lake Flushing and Dilution</p> <p><i>Structural Component 6</i> - Install Stage and Flow Measurement Instrumentation on the Lake Seminole Outfall Control Structure</p> <p><i>Legal Component 1</i> - Amend the Florida Statutes to Temporarily Exempt Lake Seminole from Aquatic Preserve and Outstanding Florida Water Regulatory Restrictions</p> <p><i>Legal Component 2</i> - Adopt a Resolution Designating the Lake Seminole Watershed as a "Nutrient Sensitive Watershed"</p> <p><i>Policy Component 1</i> - Establish a Lake Seminole Watershed Management Area (WMA) through Amendments to the Pinellas County, and Cities of Largo and Seminole Comprehensive Plans</p>	<p><i>Structural Component 4</i> - Dredge Organic Silt Sediments from Submerged Areas</p> <p><i>Management Component 5</i> - Improve Treatment Efficiency of Existing Stormwater Facilities</p> <p><i>Legal Component 3</i> - Strengthen and Standardize Local Ordinances for Regulating Stormwater Treatment for Redevelopment in the Lake Seminole Watershed</p>	<p><i>Management Component 2</i> - Inactivate Phosphorus through Whole Lake Alum Applications (if warranted by monitoring results)</p>

Priority Issue	Phase I Components FY-2002 through FY-2003	Phase II Components FY-2004 through FY-2005	Phase III Components FY-2006 and Beyond
Aquatic Vegetation	<i>Structural Component 3</i> - Excavate Organic Peat Sediments from Shoreline Areas	<i>Structural Component 5</i> - Restore Priority Upland and Wetland Habitats (In-Lake Habitat Restoration and Enhancement)	<i>Management Component 3</i> - Mechanically Harvest Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation
Fisheries	<i>Management Component 1</i> - Implement an Enhanced Lake Level Fluctuation Schedule	<i>Management Component 4</i> - Biomanipulate Sport Fish Populations - Phase II (Sport Fish Stocking)	<i>Management Component 4</i> - Biomanipulate Sport Fish Populations - Phase III (Enforce Catch & Release)
Wildlife and Associated Habitat	<i>Management Component 4</i> - Biomanipulate Sport Fish Populations - Phase I (Rough Fish Removal)	<i>Structural Component 5</i> - Restore Priority Upland and Wetland Habitats (Upland Habitat Restoration and Enhancement)	
Recreation and Aesthetics	<i>Compliance and Enforcement Component 1</i> - Expand and Enforce Restricted Speed Zones on Lake Seminole	<i>Social and Recreational Component 1</i> - Construct a Public Pedestrian Fishing Pier and Boardwalk in Lake Seminole County Park	
Flood Control	<i>Compliance and Enforcement Component 2</i> - Dedicate a Pinellas County Marine Unit Sheriff to Enforce Laws on Lake Seminole	<i>Social and Recreational Component 2</i> - Establish and Protect Fishing Enhancement Zones on Lake Seminole	
Public Education	<i>Structural Component 6</i> - Install Stage and Flow Measurement Instrumentation on the Lake Seminole Outfall Control Structure	<i>Public Education Component 2</i> - Develop and Implement a Local Citizens Lake Watch Program for Lake Seminole	<i>Operation and Maintenance Component 1</i> - Operate and Maintain Structural Facilities and Equipment Recommended in the Plan