



How to Form a MSTU or MSBU in Orange County

1. Contact the Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Lake Management Section at 407-836-1400 to discuss your concerns with your lake and for assistance with creating a MSTU/MSBU petition form. Note: This petition is only to show an interest in forming a MSTU/MSBU; it does not create the MSTU/MSBU.
2. The interested resident(s) submits the completed petition to EPD. The petition must be representative of at least 15% of the affected parcels/plats.
3. If at least 15% of the property owners show an interest in learning more about the creation of a MSTU/MSBU, the following steps will occur:
 - a. The County will determine a cost estimate of the proposed MSTU/MSBU and may conduct a community meeting with the affected property owners.
 - b. In order to get owner input, the Comptroller's Office sends a ballot to all affected property owners with a letter of explanation giving them at least 14 days to respond. 66⅔% of the returned ballots must approve establishing the MSBU, before the process can continue. If the ballot method is unsuccessful, the owners may initiate on their own, a follow-up signature petition, whereby the Comptroller's Office provides a list of all affected property owners.
4. Once the requisite percentage of property owners have approved establishing the MSTU/MSBU, a public hearing is scheduled before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on the MSTU/MSBU Resolution, and notice is mailed to all affected property owners. The bullets should be regular numbers not roman numerals. The MSTU/MSBU shall not be effective until the Resolution has been approved at a public hearing held before the BCC.
5. All MSTU/MSBU's are effective as of the first eligible November 1st real estate tax billing cycle. Timing of submittal of the petition and balloting will determine which year a newly created MSTU/MSBU will be placed on the tax bill.

ALTERNATE OPTION: A Non-MSTU/MSBU for aquatic plant management is for residents to contact Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for applicable permits, hire a private contractor, and collect funds from residents without the assistance of the County. FWC permits must be obtained prior to any aquatic plant management on the lake, such as herbicide application (chemical treatment) or triploid grass carp stocking (biological control).