

The Flow

April 2016 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- **Apr 28:** [SWFL Sustainability](#) at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
- **May 4:** [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- **May 4:** [Weirs Project Groundbreaking](#) in Lehigh Acres
- **May 11:** [C43 Reservoir Public Forum](#) in Ft. Myers
- **May 17:** [CR Working Group](#) near Alva

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Directors met on the tall ship Amara Zee, a floating theater stage

Meeting on Amara Zee



Riverwatch directors met on the tall theater ship Amara Zee on Apr 6, hosted by Paul Kirby and Adriana Kelder. Officers were reelected for the next year. Presidents typically serve two terms whereas the treasurer and secretaries are long term and VP duration of service falls in between. [\[Agenda\]](#) [\[Next Production\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#)

C43 Reservoir Discussion



On May 11 Riverwatch and Watershed Council will host a Public Forum to discuss the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir project. It is intended to improve the timing, quantity and quality of freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. But will it? [\[Plan\]](#) [\[Forum\]](#) [\[Info\]](#) [\[Debate\]](#) [\[Location\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

C43 Reservoir Project Debate



Nature's ecosystems are so finely tuned that no matter which water quality solutions Florida pursues, it creates other problems. The question is whether our technology and lifestyle can evolve quickly enough to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[St Petersburg Times\]](#) [\[Detailed Answer\]](#) [\[Video William Mitsch\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

Property Value Impacts



Riverwatch VP Gene Gibson explained to the Island Reporter newspaper that \$1 billion was lost in property value for every foot of lost clarity in the water, and that's before the economic impact on tourism and the fisheries. Gibson says that's why we need Waterkeeper. [\[Island Reporter\]](#)

Ceitus Case Stipulation Signed



Riverwatch and the other plaintiffs submitted to the court a motion for summary judgement on the action seeking to compel Cape Coral and DEP to replace the Ceitus Boat Lift structure they removed in 2007. Ralf Brookes is the attorney representing CRCA in this case. [\[Ceitus Stipulation\]](#) [\[Statement of Facts\]](#) [\[Notice of Hearing\]](#) [\[Notice of Mediation\]](#) [\[Ralf Brookes\]](#)

Cape Sued Over Pollution



Florida Clean Water Network filed a 60-day notice of intention to sue the City of Cape Coral over violations of their NPDES (water pollution discharges) permit. CRCA has a separate suit against the Cape over their removal of the Ceitus Boat Lift, the act that FCWN says led to the NPDES violation. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[Legal Notice\]](#) [\[Fox4\]](#) [\[Linda Young's\]](#)

FCWN

Billys Creek Clean-up



On Mar 25th FGCU Students/Faculty/Staff and FSW Students, led by CRCA VP Mary Rawl, held a cleanup to remove trash and debris from Billy's Creek and surrounding areas. Student produced an excellent video and the event was featured at the FGCU Community Engagement Day on Apr 15. [\[Mary Rawl\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Success\]](#) [\[FGCU\]](#)

Wastewater Discharges to River



Speaking at a DEP hearing, Riverwatch VP Gene Gibson called for enforceable timelines and milestones for the City of Ft Myers to eliminate all their wastewater discharges to the river. [\[Statement Notes\]](#) [\[Background\]](#) [\[Problem in 2007\]](#) [\[Same Problem in 1995\]](#)

Most Endangered Rivers



This report identifies the 10 most threatened waterways in United States and highlights the urgent need for conservation, greater efficiency, and better management of water resources to prevent further harm to river health, wildlife, fish and recreation. [\[American Rivers\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Tech Times\]](#) [\[Report\]](#)

Ruth Scott on Collier Development



Riverwatch Director Ruth Scott spoke at a meeting in Collier County addressing habitat concerns in reaction to an Immokalee regional urbanization plan for 45,000 acres with agriculture on much of the remaining lands. Developers seek a 50-year Fish & Wildlife Service permit. [\[NBC-2\]](#) [\[100+ Concerned\]](#) [\[Kenneth McDonald\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Ruth Scott\]](#)

Caldwell and Scott at FGCU



At an FGCU meeting with State Rep Matt Caldwell, CRCA Director John Scott stressed the need to purchase land south of the lake as the highest priority but noted that land north of the Lake is easier to acquire because the sugar industry isn't involved there. [\[Sun Bay Paper\]](#) [\[Matt Caldwell\]](#) [\[Biography\]](#) [\[Matt Caldwell\]](#) [\[John Scott\]](#) [\[On Video\]](#)

Big Sugar VS Bullsugar



Putnam stated: anyone affiliated with Bullsugar or buying lands in the EAA, would be vaporized. Here is a brief explanation of what Putnam said, according to a FB post by Michael Conner, a spokesperson for Bullsugar. Adam Putnam is Rick Scott's right-hand man. Aspiring to be Florida's next governor. [\[Eye On Miami\]](#) [\[Adam Putnam\]](#) [\[Bullsugar\]](#)

How Runoff Can Kill Fish



It seems like every few years a blue-green algae bloom hits the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. TC Palm clearly explains the process by which watershed stormwater runoff and Lake Okeechobee discharges can result in an algae bloom and then a fish kill. [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[Algae Bloom\]](#) [\[Tyler Treadway\]](#) [\[Public Health Bullets\]](#) [\[Fact Sheet\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Cassani Addresses Islands Board



An exploding population rate in Southwest Florida, combined with poor water management, has deteriorated the fragile estuaries this region depends on for its fishing industry, boating and tourism. That message was the focal point of John Cassani. [\[Captiva Sanibel\]](#) [\[Comments\]](#) [\[Santiva Chronicle\]](#) [\[John Cassani\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Earth Day at the Conservancy



On Apr 16, Harrison Langley and Jesse Roberts from Collier County Waterkeeper, along with Phil Schwartz and John Capece from Caloosahatchee Riverwatch, joined together for an exhibit at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida in Naples to celebrate Earth Day. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Photo 4\]](#) [\[Conservancy of Southwest Florida\]](#)

20/20 Ballot Language Matters



Lee County Commissioners are finalizing language which will appear on the Nov 2016 general election ballot, regarding the continuation of the county's successful Conservation 20/20 land acquisition and management program. It may be one of the most important referendums to come. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Daily Breeze\]](#) [\[Conservation\]](#) [\[Ordinance\]](#)

Fracking Conference Disrupted



On Apr 2, activists disrupted a speech entitled Friends Don't Let Friends Ban Fracking at FGCU. Liesa Priddy, vice chair of FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, spoke at this pro-fracking conference. She has a ranch near Immokalee and is a co-applicant in the large Collier development permit [\[Liberation\]](#) [\[Priddy\]](#) [\[Photo1\]](#) [\[Photo2\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[April Fools\]](#)

Keep It in the Ground



The U.S. continues to lease public land & water for fossil fuel extraction, going against claims made in Paris. Waterkeeper Alliance is a part of the Keep It in the Ground movement. We must embrace a full accounting approach to our energy options to avoiding the worst effects of climate change. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Waterkeeper Alliance\]](#) [\[Keep It in the Ground\]](#)