

# The Flow

August 2016 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Special Events & Meetings

- Sep 21: [Natural Areas & Aquatic Seminar](#) in North Ft. Myers
- Sep 30: [Sustainability Chautauqua](#) at FGCU
- Oct 1: [Return to Nature](#) in Ft. Myers
- Oct 5-6: [Climate Summit](#) in West Palm
- Oct 8: [Marshall Foundation Everglades Symposium](#) in West Palm

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*Riverkeeper is searching for a Waterkeeper and an Executive Director.*

## Solar Tax Breaks Approved



73% of voters approved Amendment 4 eliminating ad valorem taxes on solar and other renewable energy equipment on commercial properties. This will encourage businesses to use more solar. Next is the effort to vote down Amendment 1 on the November ballot - a fake pro-solar amendment. [\[Floridians for Solar Choice\]](#) [\[Victory + Opposition\]](#)

## Algae Watching - The New Thing



Sure, you can ID 250 types of birds by sight, but how many types of algae can you identify? Florida shores may have a new type of eco-tourism guide - the algae watcher. Instead of microcystin, the St Lucie now has Pyrodinium bahamense or brown tide. [\[TCPalm\]](#)

## Cape Seeks to Remove Lock



In a unanimous vote on Jul 25th, the Cape Coral City Council approved the plan to move ahead with the removal of the Chiquita Lock. Roger Wood a local boater says the lock is important as it maintains the balance of fresh water in the back channels. However, Cape Coral continues push for removal. [\[Wink News\]](#) [\[Roger Wood\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

## Riverwatch on WGCU-FM



On Thursday, Sep 15 at 4pm, Riverwatch Vice President Rob Wilson and CRCA Director John Cassani will be on the radio live at WGCU to help with a pledge drive. Each \$35 you donate provides Riverwatch with a future public information announcement (spot) on WGCU. 2 for \$70, 3 for \$105, 4 for \$140, etc. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[DONATE\]](#)

## Wanted: Waterkeeper & Exec Director



Riverwatch announces its search for two employees - a Waterkeeper & an Executive Director. The Waterkeeper is the CRCA face to the media and presence on our waterways. The Waterkeeper will be our local Aquaman (or woman) - a water superhero. The Executive Director will fuel the program. [\[Waterkeeper Position\]](#) [\[Executive Director Position\]](#)

## Kennedy Explains Waterkeeper



On Aug 11 Vanity Fair published an interview by Bruno Navasky with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President of Waterkeeper Alliance. Asked what a waterkeeper does? Kennedy responds, "Waterkeepers patrol local waterways and prosecute polluters. Essentially, they act as the community's coast guard." [\[Excerpts\]](#) [\[Interview\]](#) [\[Vanity Fair\]](#)

## Bullying by SFWMD



Politico.com & other papers report that SFWMD has been getting angry, treating policy debates more like overt political battles when engaging the public on water management issues. Journalists report the use of "bullying" tactics that are more typical of political candidates, not agency staff. [\[Politico\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#) [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

## SFWMD to Corps of Engineers



SFWMD told the Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Corps of Engineers in DC that an EAA water storage study would be distracting and harmful. In a letter to Rep. Patrick Murphy the Corps had indicated its willingness to move forward with an EAA water storage study if SFWMD would cooperate. [\[SFWMD-Corps PR & Letters\]](#) [\[E&E News\]](#)

## Time to Lawyer Up

SFWMD BOARD MEMBERS	
Daniel O'Keefe	Lawyer
Federico Fernandez	Lawyer
James Moran	Lawyer
Kevin Powers	Realtor
Clarke Harlow	Realtor
Melanie Peterson	Realtor
Mitch Hutchcraft	Developer
Sam Accursio	Farmer
Rick Barber	Engineer

On Aug 26 Governor Rick Scott named two lawyers to the Water Management District Board: Daniel O'Keefe and Federico Fernandez. The board now consists of 3 lawyers, 3 realtors, 1 developer, 1 farmer, and 1 engineer. [\[Press Release\]](#)

## Questionable Benefits & Cost Effectiveness



Despite and IG report questioning its cost effectiveness, SFWMD is reviewing proposals from six large-tract landowners to store water using dispersed storage. These would cost \$45.5 million of the \$47.8 million the 2016 Legislature approved for more water storage projects. [\[TCPalm\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

## Mathilde Grand Tour of USA



After completing her 4-month program as Riverwatch intern, Mathilde Laurendon took a 3-week AMTRAK tour of the USA. After returning safe and sound, she said, "It was really AWESOME! I saw and did many things and I met a lot of people. Everybody was nice with me." Mathilde is now home in France. [\[Photo\]](#)

## Vacationer Disappointed in Water



A former Southwest Florida vacationer says, "I appeal to you to elect officials that will step up, immediately restore, and protect your beautiful region and attractions for the future and encourage business and continued tourism." [\[News-Press\]](#)

## Doug MacGregor Cartoons



Anyone receiving the Riverwatch newsletter knows that we love cartoons. They cut to the heart of an issue. There are many great political cartoonists in Florida and Doug MacGregor is our local champion of chagrin. Big Arts features an exhibit of his works. [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[More Cartoons\]](#)

## Choking Our Waterways



Brion Blackwelder & Marc Yaggi (Waterkeeper Alliance National Executive Director) say Florida is a microcosm of our serious national economic, human health & environmental crisis, with causes that are well understood & solutions that are aggressively opposed by powerful agribusiness interests. [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#)

## Melting the Hearts of Deniers



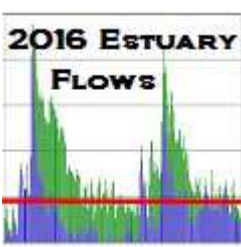
The number of conservative voters who believe in climate change has almost doubled in the past two years, according to a new poll that attributes the rise in part to a lessening hostility toward the issue by Republican leaders. The Pope's encyclical, a warm winter & Paris Agreement are factors too. [\[Climate Wire\]](#)

## No Fix On The Horizon



Big Sugar conference panelists from the SW region included Karson Turner, John Capece, Jennifer Hecker and Ray Judah. Riverwatch director John Capece presented on issues of the Caloosahatchee, explaining that no water fix is yet on the horizon. Karson Turner spoke on Hendry County economics. [\[Capece Presentation\]](#) [\[Cris Costello, Organizer\]](#)

## Calm Before the Storm



Lake Okeechobee discharges to the Caloosahatchee have been moderate in late August. However this may be the calm before the storm depending on how much rain the tropical depression in the Gulf brings to South Florida. Harmful Lake O discharges will soon pass the 1 million acre-feet mark. [\[S-79 Hydrograph\]](#) [\[Harmful Flows\]](#)

## More than Negrón Needed



A static reservoir won't stop the discharges, said Gary Goforth, a Stuart-based environmental engineer with more than 30 years of experience. To better use the existing treatment areas would require a policy of moving water south from the lake 52 weeks a year, not just during the rainy season. [\[TCPalm\]](#) [\[Gary Goforth\]](#)