

The Flow

December 2012 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Jan 2: [Lake O Discussion](#), Paul Gray
- Jan 6: [Annual River Trail Run](#)
- Jan 10-13: [EvCo Conference](#)
- Jan 19: [Estero Outfitters Benefit](#)
- Jan 25-26: [Water Resources Conference](#)
- Jan 26: [ECOSWF Annual Meeting](#)

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at crca.caloosahatchee.org
Also, you can renew your membership online



Manatees flock to Lee County park to view the annual influx of tourists.

Water Resources Conference



Focus of the 22nd Annual SW FL Water Resources Conference on Fri, Jan 25 is water & energy. Riverwatch, AWRA, & others are bringing in speakers from the Government Accountability Office & Congressional Research Service on water and energy policy as well as national speakers on "fracking" science.

[\[Agenda & Contents\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Donation Time



The Riverwatch donation letter was sent out in mid December. Thank you to those who already sent in very generous donation checks or credit card payments. It is your support that allows CRCA to continue its River Advocacy on all our behalf. [\[Donation Request Letter\]](#) [\[CRCA Highlights\]](#) [\[Donate Online\]](#) [\[Request a Remittance Envelope\]](#)

November Dry and 2012 Warm



South FL had its driest November on record (only 0.3 inches, 1.5 below normal). With Lake O at 15ft (more than a foot above last year), the Corps continues to release much needed water to the Caloosahatchee estuary, averaging 800 cfs the past 2 weeks. Also, 2012 was the 4th warmest year recorded. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[Lake O Stage\]](#) [\[Warm Weather\]](#)

Fracking Water Report



EPA released a progress report on its national study to understand the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources. Next, EPA is hosting a public webinar on Jan 3 & 4 to discuss updates on its 18 projects. A draft final report from these projects is expected in late 2014. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Article\]](#) [\[Fracking Water Cycle\]](#)

If At First You Do Not Succeed



In response to criticism that the recently adopted Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan lacks a comprehensive restoration component, SFWMD has announced a "new visioning" process for the Caloosahatchee estuary restoration. Stakeholders will revisit the issues and update plans, priorities & schedules. [\[News\]](#) [\[Opinion\]](#) [\[Visioning\]](#) [\[Strategies\]](#) [\[Water Supply Plan\]](#)

Lake Okeechobee Discussion



Dr. Paul Gray, researcher and advocate for Lake Okeechobee ecological issues is the Riverwatch guest speaker for the January 2 meeting at the Calusa Nature Center in Ft. Myers from 7 to 8 pm. The presentation is free and open to the public. A CRCA board meeting will follow the presentation. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Registration\]](#) [\[Driving directions\]](#)

New Regulators in DEP



A former DEP employee asserts that 58 employees were laid off by DEP in a concerted effort to loosen regulation of polluting industries. Other former staff say DEP was never great, but now it's all a political sham. It will take Florida decades to recover from this. [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#)

Confessions of an Enabler



Paula Dockery, a Republican and former state senator from Lakeland apparently regrets that she voted to confirm DEP head Herschel Vineyard given what he and Governor Scott have been doing to DEP, DCA, and Florida's environment in general, and to knowledgeable DEP staff in particular. [\[Florida Voices\]](#)

EPA Water Rules Public Input



EPA seeks public comment on its recently released rules for inland & coastal waters. EPA will host a public information sessions in Tampa on Jan 17-18, along with web-based public hearings on Jan 22-24 to gather input. [\[EPA Approval Water Rule\]](#) [\[EPA Decision\]](#) [\[EPA Approval Letter\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Eric Smith Cartoon Web Site\]](#)

Unhealthy Rivers in Florida



22 rivers from Miami to Pensacola were studied by former DEP official Joe Hand. Half are in decline due to pollution from lawns, street runoff, wastewater & agriculture. Shrinking flows caused by drought as well as rising demand for water by cities & industries have also contributed to the problems. [\[Florida Rivers\]](#) [\[Caloosahatchee\]](#) [\[Rae Ann\]](#) [\[Interactive\]](#) [\[Series\]](#)

State vs Federal Water Rules



State & private agencies say EPA should have let FL implement & regulate its own water rules rather than those set by the EPA that they say will cost the state millions of dollars to comply. After all, FL has such a great record on protecting water. [\[Article\]](#) [\[EPA Action in FL Waterways\]](#) [\[EPA Approval\]](#) [\[Causes of Federal Rules\]](#)

Waterways Score: FL 18 - EPA 82



Florida's new water protection rules haven't entirely prevailed over the USEPA. The Feds are issuing their own rules on 82,000 of 100,000 miles of waterways. Meanwhile, the state DEP anti-pollution criteria will cover just the remaining 18,000. [\[Industry Reaction\]](#) [\[Associated Press\]](#)

Ta-Da! DEP Adopts BMAPs



Florida DEP announced adoption of two Basin Management Action Plans in Southwest FL, one for Hendry Creek & Imperial River and the other for the Caloosahatchee River (CR). Stakeholders are expected to reduce

discharge of 148,000 pounds/yr of total nitrogen in the first five years. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[CR BMPs\]](#) [\[CR Final Order\]](#)

Cassani on BMAP



90% of the BMAP water quality projects have already been completed for the first 5-year cycle and 44% of the required nitrogen reduction has supposedly already been met for local urban areas. But pollution has actually increased, 50% in some areas. [\[Cassani Editorial\]](#) [\[Despite Good Intentions Cartoon\]](#)

BOMA Moves Forward



The BOMA property water quality project in which Lee County invested \$10 million has started to move forward. The intent is to use an old grove in Glades County on the south shore of the Caloosahatchee as a treatment area to remove nitrogen from Lake O discharges. [\[Project Management Plan\]](#) [\[Wetland Performance Evaluation\]](#) [\[Conceptual Plan\]](#)

Resignation by Lisa P. Jackson



Lisa P. Jackson is stepping down as administrator of the EPA after a four year tenure. She began her journey with high hopes of sweeping action to address climate change & other environmental problems but ended with a series of rear-guard actions. [\[New York Times\]](#) [\[Climate Change Challenges\]](#) [\[Science News\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#)

Another Newsletter Disclaimer



Views or opinions expressed in the CRCA web site & newsletter are solely those of the author(s) & do not necessarily represent those of "Riverwatch." Comments & questions about editorial content & facts can be directed to John Capece, CRCA Secretary. [\[Cartoons Cartoon\]](#)

Senate Ready But House Not



Senate's Environment & Public Works Chair B. Boxer (D-CA) & ranking D. Vitter (R-LA) hope to move Water Resources Development Act 2012 (WRDA) out of committee within the first month of the new Congress. But House chair J. Mica (R-FL) is hedging. [\[ENS WRDA Update\]](#) [\[Houma Today\]](#) [\[Politico\]](#)