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April 9, 2008

Michael P. Voich, P.E.  
Lead Project Manager, Northern Everglades Restoration  
1661 Worthington Road, Unit #150  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

Dear Mr. Voich:

At the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rivers Coalition, Bob Washam, of the Martin County Health Department presented information about bacterial samples from waters in our county. Specifically, he noted that high run-off events are correlated with higher levels of E. Coli and Enterococcus bacteria in our waters. The Coalition is quite concerned about this threat to our citizens and our environment, and to our economy that strongly depends on water-based activities.

Mr. Washam's samples were limited to coastal and estuarine areas downstream of the Roosevelt Bridge, thus leave questions of exactly where the sources might be. Paul Millar, also of Martin County, noted that some sources of animal Enterococcus were known and being addressed, but more information is needed.

The Rivers Coalition unanimously voted to request that you, as the leader of the St. Lucie Plan for the Northern Everglades effort, look at the Health Department Data and come up with a plan to address what's happening upstream.

Thank you for your efforts in this matter, please feel free to contact me if we can help further.

Sincerely

Leon Abood, Chairman

CC. Temperince Morgan

The Rivers Coalition is a group of 50 organizations joined together "To fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast."

[www.RiversCoalition.org](http://www.RiversCoalition.org)