

## Martin County Projects Update



### Rivers Coalition Meeting March 26, 2014 at 6 p.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers

(Update provided by Deborah Drum, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division)

- The 2014 Florida Legislative Session continues. Martin County has been active in advocating for our previously stated priorities to healthy waterways and ecosystems, which are essential to our economy and quality of life. Specifically, Martin County is advocating for \$40 million for the C-44 project, the \$220 million for recommendations from the Senate Select Committee, funding for the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon Issues Team, and supporting House Memorial 607 advocating Congress to fully fund Everglades restoration projects and authorize Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).
- As previously reported, Martin County is actively opposing HB703/SB1464 and discussing our concerns with the bill sponsors. The bill was heard in its first committee in the Senate today and Martin County staff and commissioners attended the committee hearings to continue to address the County's concerns.
- As previously reported, the Rio / St. Lucie Exfiltration and Baffle Box project is under construction. Since last month, we have been able to utilize cost savings on the project to install an additional 260 linear feet of exfiltration trenches along Alice Avenue within the low areas west of Sumner. As a result, we will be getting additional water quality treatment than originally anticipated, and assist with solving some local drainage issues.
- As previously reported, the Ecosystem Restoration and Management Division plans on implementing the dry season sampling of the bacterial DNA analysis on March 31, 2014. We will be analyzing for two human biomarkers, along with horse, cattle, dog and avian biomarkers. The wet season sampling event is scheduled to take place in August 2014. We received some phone calls since the last Rivers Coalition meeting indicating that there was a rumor going around that we had completed this work and that the source of fecal coliforms was overwhelmingly equine. That is not true; we have not yet completed our work.
- The Ecosystem Restoration and Management Division sent a letter to approximately 200 commercial fertilizer applicators in Martin County who had taken the Green Industries Best Management Practices class, but had not obtained their Limited Urban Commercial Fertilizer Applicator certification from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The letter asked them to obtain certification and provide a copy back to the County.
- A public meeting is being held on April 1, 2014 beginning at 5:00 pm at the Cummings Library in Palm City to discuss the Bessey Creek Stormwater Treatment Area Water Quality Enhancements. You are invited to come hear about County plans to enhance water quality treatment in the Bessey Creek watershed through the implementation of alternative treatment technology known as Hybrid Wetland Treatment Technology, and to provide comments regarding any of our current efforts.