

Martin County Projects Update



Rivers Coalition Meeting

February 26, 2015 at 11 a.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers
(Update provided by Deborah Drum, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division)

- As reported last time, Martin County has been participating in the Operations calls with the ACOE to provide input related to Lake Okeechobee operations. We requested that the ACOE halt the discharges from February 20-25 to allow us to complete a sampling event for the microbial source tracking study. We were able to complete the sampling event yesterday. The water clarity was good during sampling, and we should have the fecal coliform results back in the near future, and the human DNA marker, acetaminophen and sucralose results in a few months.
- The Everglades Caucus, co-chaired by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Congressman Alcee Hastings, hosted the County Coalition at their meeting in Washington, D.C. yesterday. Nine counties were represented at the Caucus (Miami-Dade, Orange, Monroe, Martin County, St. Lucie, Lee, Broward, Palm Beach, Hendry), and the following U.S. House of Representatives were present: U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings - Florida's 20th congressional district, U.S. Representative Mario Díaz-Balart - Florida's 25th congressional district, U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz - Florida's 23rd congressional district, U.S. Representative Curtis Clawson - Florida's 19th congressional district, U.S. Representative Carlos Curbelo - Florida's 26th congressional district, and U.S. Representative Daniel Webster - Florida's 10th congressional district. We also met separately with U.S. Representative Patrick Murphy - Florida's 18th congressional district, and Senator Marco Rubio. It was a very successful day to further the message of commitment to Everglades restoration and completing projects that will help reduce the damaging discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.

County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee • St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee

Estuaries • Lake Worth Lagoon: The 16 Counties 2015 Federal and State Legislative Priorities were approved at the Summit and include:

#1 Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD)

FEDERAL: Increase annual appropriation or rehabilitation of the HHD to accelerate project completion

#2 Kissimmee River Restoration

FEDERAL AND STATE: Continued appropriations to complete restoration

Other important priorities:

- **FEDERAL AND STATE: Funding necessary to complete St. Lucie C-44 reservoirs/STA complex and the entire Indian River Lagoon-South project including the C-23, C-24 and C-25 projects**
 - **FEDERAL AND STATE: Funding necessary to complete the C-43 project**
 - **FEDERAL: An updated Water Resources and Reform Development Act every two years to include authorization of crucial ecosystem restoration projects**
 - **STATE: Protect local fertilizer ordinances**
 - **STATE: Protect local wetland protection ordinances, oppose any preemption to regulations, particularly in water control districts created and operating pursuant to chapter 298, Florida State Statutes**
 - **STATE: Support the recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin**
- The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group is sponsoring workshops to receive input on the Integrated Delivery Schedule which will detail the next round of Everglades restoration priorities from 2015-2030. Martin County has been very engaged in this process and has suggested projects that have regional benefits to all of South Florida including the Indian River Lagoon.