

Martin County Projects Update



Rivers Coalition Meeting

August 25, 2016 at 11 a.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers

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

LAKE OKEECHOBEE CURRENT CONDITIONS

- Lake Okeechobee at 14.67 feet
 - (1 week ago = 14.75 feet; 1 year ago = 12.63 feet)
- Atlantic storm activity definitely a factor
- Continue to report blue green algae sightings
- Weekly inspections around estuary for blue green algae presence and status
- Conditions have been improved with respect to blue green algae in the past weeks

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING AT BLUE-GREEN ALGAE LOCATIONS

- Martin County contracted for additional limited environmental sampling of with Enviro Team North America
- 3 sites (Outboards Only and Central Marine, and Bathtub Beach)
- Tested for microcystin in air, water, sediment, and oyster tissue; (only tested for sediment at Bathtub Beach)
- No live oysters found so no tissue samples taken
- No results yet

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Each commissioner from Martin County was personally invited to attend Senator Negron's announcement. We are excited to hear about his plan in the coming weeks leading up to the 2017 state legislative session.
- The MCBOCC collectively signed a letter to thank Senator Negron for proposing a permanent solution for new water storage south of Lake Okeechobee, and for his recognition for new permanent storage all around the Lake.
- The MCBOCC supports bonding Legacy Florida funds to buy land for storage to reduce and eventually eliminate the releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries.
- The MCBOCC provided official comments to the USACE to support the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project to address storage and water treatment north of the Lake that will decrease harmful discharges to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries currently on the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). We also requested inclusion of a eastern Lake O littoral zone restoration project as part of this plan.
- The MCBOCC supports planning and additional storage north of the Lake.
- Martin County staff provides all members of the state and federal delegation weekly updates on the status of the water conditions in Martin County.
- The MCBOCC supports and is currently advocating for the passage of the WRDA bill that includes the authorization of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) (Note: Congress is due back in Session after Labor Day).

OTHER ITEMS

- Martin County is submitting \$1,118,000 for stormwater projects to be considered by the St. Lucie River Issues Team tomorrow.