

Martin County Projects Update



Rivers Coalition Meeting

February 27, 2017 at 6 p.m., City of Stuart Commission Chambers
(Update provided by Deborah Drum, Manager, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division)

LAKE OKEECHOBEE CONDITIONS

- Lake Okeechobee level is currently at 13.48 feet. 1 year ago the Lake was at 16.11 feet (2.63 feet higher). The Lake has dropped almost ½ foot in the past month due to exceptionally dry conditions. Dry conditions continue to be predicted.
- Temperatures at the Roosevelt Bridge are ranging from 73-75 degrees Fahrenheit, and are reactive to cold fronts as they pass through.
- Salinities are ranging from 26 to just under 30 ppt. Conditions generally look good.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- The Martin County BOCC passed a resolution in support of Senate Bill 10 and House Bill 761. Our legislative staff continues to meet with appropriators on our water project requests.
- Our Administrative Department is formulating a plan for the multi-community summit requested by the BOCC yesterday.
- The BOCC Chairman Doug Smith and legislative staff will be in Washington DC next week to meet with key members on CERP projects.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Martin County will participate in the “County Coalition for Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Worth Lagoon” group’s annual DC advocacy trip on March 1. The day will include an Everglades Caucus meeting hosted by Representatives Diaz-Balart and Hastings, and is expected to be attended by other members of our federal delegation. Communications will center on advocacy of the Coalition’s legislative priorities, including completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike, completion of Kissimmee River Restoration, completion of the entire Indian River Lagoon-South CERP project, completion of the Caloosahatchee River C-43 West Basin Storage Reservoir, and other important priorities.