

Martin County Projects Update



Rivers Coalition Meeting

March 23, 2017 at 11 a.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 12.77 feet. 1 year ago the Lake was at 15.11 feet (2.34 feet higher). The Lake has dropped .72 feet in the past month due to exceptionally dry conditions (13.49 feet one month ago). Dry conditions continue to be predicted. We have had below average rainfall throughout the SFWMD region since September 2016.
- Temperatures at the Roosevelt Bridge are ranging in the past week from 67-74 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Salinities are pretty consistent, ranging from 26 to just under 30 ppt. Conditions generally look good.
- There is a *Microcystis* bloom occurring on Lake Okeechobee in the area of Pahokee. We continue to communicate with the agencies who are sampling the blooms to get the latest information.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

SUPPORT Beaches and Inlets – SB 1590 (Latvala) / HB 1213 (Peters)

Senator **Jack Latvala** filed **SB 1590** and Rep. **Kathleen Peters** filed **HB 1213** “The Beach Re-nourishment Bill,” *which will both be heard in their respective chambers during Week 3 of session.* The bills seek to allocate dedicated funding to beach nourishment and inlet management projects from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

SUPPORT Water Resources - SB 10 (Bradley)/HB 761 (Altman)

A strike-all amendment adopted in Senate Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations significantly expanded the scope of SB 10 (Sen. Bradley) to create the “Coast-to-Coast Comprehensive Water Resources Program.” The amended version encompasses a \$3.3 billion bonding program to fund water projects across the state.

SB 10 was heard and passed by the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources on 3/8/17 and is now in full Senate Appropriations. **SB 10 has passed its first two committees and is now in full Senate Appropriations. ***The bill has yet to be heard in the House.***

SUPPORT Coral Reefs – HB 1143 (Jacobs) / SB 1624 (Farmer)

Establishes Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area

****HB 1143 Passed unanimously its first committee of reference in the House- Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee on March 20.**

****HB 3805 (Jacobs) passed its first committee of reference in the House - Natural Resources and Environment Subcommittee on Appropriations on March 21.**

SUPPORT Fracking Ban – SB 442 (Young) / HB 451 (Miller)

Prohibiting the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments; clarifying that permits for drilling or operating a well do not authorize the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments

****Martin County BCC Legislative Affairs SUPPORTED this bill in the Senate Environmental Preservation Conservation committee on March 7, and the bill passed unanimously, it is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources.**

Additional Environmental Policy Proposals of Note

- SB 1748 (Stewart)/HB 285 (Fine) – Septic Tank Inspections **SUPPORT**
- SB 874 (Young)/HB 551 (Stone) – Septic Tank Remediation Plans **SUPPORT**
- SB 1738 (Perry)/HB 715 (Clemons) – Stormwater Management **SUPPORT**
- SB 532 (Galvano)/HB 1065 (Peters) – Public Notice of Pollution **SUPPORT**
- SB 1438 (Broxson)/HB 755 (Albritton) – Aquifer Replenishment **SUPPORT**