

SAVE OUR LAKES



FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 12, Issue 2

2011 - A YEAR IN REVIEW LAKE RECOVERY... WATER ISSUES

A week or so ago, I was contacted and asked to give my perspective on the water issues in 2011. I decided that would also be a good idea for this newsletter. We have many new members (THANK YOU!) and others who probably have concerns for our community and lake levels. So here goes:

MFL's (Minimum Flow Level) – 2011 had begun to study the possibility of lowering the MFL on Lake Geneva by 15 ft. The District indicated Lake Brooklyn would be the next MFL review! Elected officials, Save Our lakes Organization and many citizens of Keystone Heights came together to confront the District. The District conducted several MFL “educational” presentations. To my knowledge, no one was convinced that lowering Lake Geneva’s MFL could possibly be beneficial.

As 2011 came to a close, Lake Geneva’s MFL had not been changed. The District does, however, have a technical team continuing to study that possibility.

JEA CUP (Jacksonville Electric Authority – Consumptive Use Permit) – January 2011 brought yet another dark cloud. The Jacksonville Electric Authority’s Consumptive Use Permit was up for renewal. JEA asked for 187 mgd (million gallons per day), an increase of approximately 30 mgd. Once again, elected officials, Save Our Lakes Organization and many citizens of Keystone Heights came together to confront the District. JEA prevailed – in late Spring 2011, the District issued the JEA permit. The District did NOT, however, give JEA their requested increase of 30 mgd. In order to receive that additional water, the District required that JEA develop a reuse program for 30 mgd in order to receive the increase in pumpage. The District also included a condition (#34 to be exact) to the permit, requiring JEA to “participate” in a recovery plan (not yet fully developed) for those Keystone Heights area lakes being negatively affected by their (JEA) pumping from the aquifer. *(continued on page 2)*

... NEXT S.O.L.O. MEETING...

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 7p.m., Keystone Heights City Hall

SAVE OUR LAKES ORGANIZATION, INC.

P. O. Box 185, Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Email: save-our-lakes@comcast.net Web Page: www.saveourlakes.org

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Vivian Katz, President (352) 473-2494 Joe Califano, Vice-President (352) 473-9726

Barbara Roberts, Secretary Sherman (Sam) Katz, Treasurer

Board Members: Robert Thomas, Jackie King, Jim Young

2011 - A YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED...

ALLIGATOR CREEK CLEANOUT – January/February 2011. Once again (with the hope of rain to come), elected officials, Save Our Lakes Organization and some concerned citizens came together to clean out Alligator Creek from the effects of years of erosion and debris cluttering/clogging the creek bed. The City of Keystone Heights and Clay County allowed their State inmate crews to help with the cleanout. They did a great job, but no water has flowed through the Creek for the entire year.

MFL-PREVENTION/RECOVERY – The District announces Lakes Geneva, Brooklyn, Cowpen and Grandin are in distress and planned to launch an MFL-Prevention/Recovery project to develop and implement recovery strategies. The District put together a “Stakeholders” group consisting of technical and implementation representatives from the District, major CUP holders such as JEA, CCUA, GRU, DuPont, etc., along with elected officials, Save Our Lakes and other organizations representing citizens living in and around these lakes. The City of Keystone Heights hired a technical consultant (Peter Schreuder) to guide the City through this process. Clay County, Save Our Lakes Organization, Lake Brooklyn Civic Association, LAWA and many concerned citizens came together to assist the City financially with the Schreuder contract.

Though the process seemed much too slow, monthly meetings were well underway by the end of 2011. As will happen with work of this magnitude, opinions sometimes differed and emotions got in the way on a few occasions. A few emotional bumps and bruises along the way...but no one required bandages. I just call 2011 my baptism by fire!

SJRWMD'S MAJOR BUDGET CUT AND REDUCTION IN FORCE – District Director, Kirby Green the top ranking to go. SJRWMD lost many employees and a big chunk of their annual budget. It wasn't a pleasant year, I'm sure. Hans Tanzler takes over as Director

*PLEASE stay tuned! You can
"stay tuned" by coming to the
S.O.L.O. meetings! Our Members
give us great ideas!*

WATER FLOW

PLEASE VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE AT

www.saveourlakes.org

Our website will be a work in progress, so your input and ideas are always welcome!



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Andre' P. Gourd, President CEO

2012 – LET THE “RECOVERY” GAMES BEGIN!!!

THE NEW SJRWMD – More lean and mean(I think) and, *hopefully*, ready to make recovery happen. I see a District ready to communicate. I see a District not just talking but actively studying recovery strategies. They are meeting with DuPont officials and seem to have their cooperation...as well as Camp Blanding. They appear to be looking at and evaluating all options. They also are in joint efforts with the SRWMD. Cooperation between these Districts will go a long way in developing REGIONAL recovery!

RECOVERY IS ON THE TABLE – The SJRWMD, CCUA, GRU, JEA, SRWMD, DuPONT, CAMP BLANDING and others are working on a three phase plan. The first phase, a Pilot Study to begin in early 2012 and continue for one to two years. Intermediate and long term plans will depend on the results of the Pilot Study.

HERE’S WHAT I’VE SEEN – The community has come together in a huge effort to bring recovery to our lake community. We haven’t always agreed with or even liked each other, but most of us have stayed the course. While there are some real champions I could commend right now, that’s probably not a good idea. So, I’ll just stop and say...2012 started with sad looking lakes, but I AM totally optimistic that we are on the right track.

NOW LET’S GET TOGETHER AND PRAY FOR RAIN!

I got a call from Sue Plaster this week. She is coordinating a *pray for rain event*.

February 4th – 1 p.m. – Keystone Heights - City Beach

While I will be out of town that week, I am asking all S.O.L.O. Members and Keystone Heights area citizens to attend this very important event. Lend your voice in prayer for our lakes and our community. S.O.L.O. Members...wear your Red S.O.L.O. shirts! Thank you Sue Plaster for bringing this prayer event about!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER? (Circle One)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA US-MAIL OR EMAIL: (Circle One)

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR ANNUAL DUES CHECK FOR \$25.00 PAYABLE TO: SAVE OUR LAKES ORG., P.O. BOX 185, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR MEETINGS: HELD ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 P.M., KEYSTONE HEIGHTS CITY HALL

Alligator Creek.... the lifeline to recovery of our lakes!!! Keep it flowing!!!

Members like you will help Save Our Lakes...please join or renew your MEMBERSHIP today!



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NEXT SOLO MEETING: TUESDAY- FEBRUARY 14th 7p.m. – Keystone Heights City Hall

S.O.L.O. NEWSLETTER PRINTING PROVIDED BY: FABCO-AIR

