

SAVE OUR LAKES



JANUARY 2012

Volume 12, Issue 1

LOWER FLORIDAN WELLS... WATER REUSE... STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING TOPICS...

WERE YOU THERE?

The monthly SJRWMD “STAKEHOLDERS” meeting was held December 20th at the Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights. In our December newsletter, I asked you to attend these meetings if at all possible. Several of you showed up wearing your “Save Our Lakes” shirts! Even though the meetings can be tedious at times, it’s a good way to keep up with what is actually happening in the recovery effort. There were some audio problems (no microphones) at the December meeting that will hopefully be fixed before the next meeting!

LOWER FLORIDAN WELLS. David Bolam with the Clay County Utility Authority (CCUA) gave a presentation on water quality test results for their new “lower Floridan” wells. The SJRWMD approved the permitting for these wells in November. According to CCUA and SJRWMD, pumping water from the lower Floridan aquifer has much less (if any) draw down effect on our lakes. In fact, the District indicated that we may actually see a “rebound” effect in area lakes once CCUA puts these lower Floridan wells into full use. David Bolam indicated that CCUA hoped to make use of more lower Floridan wells in the future and eventually reduce (or possibly discontinue) pumping from upper Floridan wells.

WATER REUSE is on the table. According to David Bolam, CCUA is currently studying additional water reuse projects. CCUA is apparently one of the leaders in the field of water reuse, and they continue to fine tune their efforts! My hat is off to CCUA! Potential water reuse projects in the Lake Asbury area were also presented at the December Stakeholders meeting!

The **PERMANENT** solution for this entire region will definitely involve **REUSE** and **CONSERVATION**. I applaud those who are working diligently to make this happen! JEA could learn a lot from CCUA!

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th 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

DOES THE SJRWMD HAVE A PLAN???

5TH MFL-PREVENTION RECOVERY MEETING UPDATE

Tom Bartol, SJRWMD representative, presented a three phase plan (North Florida Aquifer Replenishment Initiative) at the December STAKEHOLDERS meeting. While this plan has not been finalized and will need Board approval, it DOES appear to be moving in that direction. The District is working cooperatively with Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). I'll give you the three phases "in general" now and will continue to update you as this plan progresses. Here goes:

Phase One – (Time frame – NOW to 2 years): Feasibility and pilot testing. *“Feasibility analysis and pilot testing will be needed first to further the Initiative. One example is a proposed pilot test in the Keystone Heights area, using existing wells to temporarily increase volume of water delivered via Alligator Creek downstream through the Etonia chain.”*

Phase Two – (Mid-Term 2 to 4 years) – *“Based on the outcome of feasibility analysis and pilot testing (completed in Phase One), a series of projects would be developed using reclaimed water, stormwater and peak surface water flows throughout the region to replenish the aquifer.”*

“Mid-Term projects would be smaller in scope and use nearby water sources.”

Phase Three – (4 years plus) – *“Longer-term projects would be more regional in scope with multiple sources, some of which may be a considerable distance from optimal recharge sites.”*

As you can see, I'm using a lot of "...". I wanted you to know this is coming **directly** from the District (SJRWMD).

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE: I know we've been waiting a LONG TIME to see recovery of our beautiful lakes and some of us may be tired of waiting. That said, I want you to know that I BELIEVE recovery is coming with this **Initiative**. Yes, our lakes have suffered but, ultimately, this IS a REGIONAL issue. The Cowpen Lake and Lake Grandin areas have suffered, along with the springs and lakes in the Suwannee River Water Management District. The mere fact that the SJRWMD, SRWMD and FDEP are ACTIVELY working to "manage" the waters in our region is our BEST HOPE for the future of our lakes and our community. Be patient for a little while longer...I WILL keep you posted.

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

WATER CONSERVATION... WE CAN DO BETTER!!!

One of the things I learned at the December STAKEHOLDERS meeting was the general water usage per day per person in the CCUA Keystone Heights are (118gpd -gal. per day). I've also heard other utility presentations at the SJRWMD Board Meetings where per day, per person water usage was significantly lower (less than 100gpd). Bottom line, we can do a lot better! Now you say, oh sure, the big companies can pump all they want, but WE have to conserve????? YES – we need to do our part in this recovery effort. In addition to fighting the fight, we can also conserve...show the world that we care enough to do our part!

Now, the next question....HOW can "I" be a better steward of our water...HOW can I conserve? I have to confess, I can think of a couple of obvious answers...but, I think we can all learn a thing or two. SO, one of our (S.O.L.O.) efforts and goals for 2012 is to focus some attention on water conservation. We'll be bringing some experts in to help with this effort!

Keep an eye out on upcoming newsletters as our conservation plans develop.

MEMBERSHIP – Yes, our membership is growing...as I've said many times in the past...we welcome your annual membership fee of \$25...but MOST IMPORTANT to us is YOU!

Thank you for your membership...to succeed, we need each and every one of you!

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER? (Circle One)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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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

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



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NEXT SOLO MEETING: TUESDAY- JANUARY 10th 7p.m. – Keystone Heights City Hall

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