

**JACKSONVILLE ELECTRIC AUTHORITY/CONSUMPTIVE USE PERMIT
SJRWMD – “MFL-PREVENTION/RECOVERY”**

Two issues hit the Lake Region from mid-December 2010 into early 2011. The first was the notification by the SJRWMD that the MFL (Minimum Flow Level) of Lake Geneva in Keystone Heights would possibly be lowered from 98.5ft. to 83.5 ft. That started a firestorm of debate and controversy. That was followed shortly by the news that the District (SJRWMD) was reviewing a very large Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) application! Many letters, emails, phone calls and meetings took place. Leaving out the detail of all that, here is the current status:

LAKE GENEVA’S MFL ISSUE – The SJRWMD has put the Lake Geneva MFL “on hold” ***for now***.

JEA’S CUP APPLICATION – This Permit was officially approved at the SJRWMD’s May 10th Board Meeting. The Board vote was 7 to 1 in favor. There is actually some good news that came out of this permit approval.

MFL-PREVENTION/RECOVERY - SJRWMD did approve the JEA CUP Application ***with conditions***. That’s the “good news”. Condition #34 requires JEA to participate in the MFL-Prevention/Recovery effort.

The SJRWMD has now put four local area lakes into “Prevention/Recovery” status (Lake Geneva, Lake Brooklyn, Lake Grandin and Lake Cowpen). This means that SJRWMD is required to address the low water levels in these lakes. The process will go as follows:

1. A Stakeholders Group will be established to develop potential “Prevention/Recovery” strategies.
2. The Stakeholders will meet once a month (beginning July 2011) to review the situation and develop strategies.
3. Implementation of “Prevention/Recovery” strategies.

The Stakeholders Group will be made up of representatives of local/state government, lake area residents, businesses, etc. The Group will have access to experts in hydrology and other relevant fields.

This MFL-Prevention/Recovery process is under way. It will take some time and a lot of effort to bring real recovery to our lakes. Check the Save Our Lakes newsletter each month for continuing updates. As always, we hope that you will take the time to JOIN the Save Our Lakes Organization and show your support for this community effort! Thank you.

Vivian

Vivian Katz, President
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