

# SAVE OUR LAKES



FEBRUARY 2022 Volume 22, Issue 2

## DEP ISSUES “NOTICE OF INTENT”

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has given a Notice of Intent to issue a permit to the St Johns River Water Management District for the construction and operation of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. The Notice was published in the Legal Notices section of the Jan 27, 2022 CLAY TODAY Newspaper. The Legal Notice describes the project and states that the Department will issue the Permit unless a “timely and sufficient” Petition for an Administrative Hearing is filed before the deadline for filing a petition which is **14 days** after the publication of the Notice of Intent.

The process and requirements for filing such a petition are described in detail in the Legal Notice. The Notice of Intent is yet another of the long awaited permitting steps that must be taken before the project is actually constructed and water begins to flow, filling our lakes and recharging the Floridan Aquifer.

At the January 11th SOLO Meeting we reported on the presentation by Dale Jenkins, P.G. to the Governing Board at the meeting held earlier that same day. In that presentation he said:

*“Met with DEP on Dec 17th 2021 to discuss responses submitted in November, 2021 to those questions raised by the EPA to the draft NPDES permit. DEP is*



**SJRWMD Photo of test water beakers from the Pilot Study Test** The water discharged into Alligator Creek will meet water quality goals for Color, Total Lead, Total nitrogen, Total Organic Carbon and Total Phosphorous. It must equal or exceed the quality of water that is naturally existing in Alligator Creek.

*now satisfied with those responses and sent to the EPA a revised draft NPDES just yesterday (1/10/2022). DEP anticipates issuing a Notice of Intent to approve the Final NPDES Permit late this month provided EPA does not have any further comments. The State issued ERP should be issued shortly thereafter.”*

*“So the schedule slipped slightly taking into account the extra weeks it took to satisfy DEP and EPA concerns and considering the 14 day petition period once the Notice of Intent is published for a NPDES Permit. We are encouraged by NPDES news today and assuming the Army Corps of Engineers issues the ...*

(Cont. Pg 2)

**SAVE OUR LAKES ORGANIZATION, INC.**

**P.O. BOX 185, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656**

**EMAIL:** [save-our-lakes@comcast.net](mailto:save-our-lakes@comcast.net) - **WEBPAGE:** [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org)

**President:** Vivian James — **Vice President:** Chandler Rozear — **Secretary/Treasurer:** Susan Welsh

**Board Members:** Webb Farber, Glenda Harper, Scott Slater, Dr. Pat Welsh

(Continued from Pg 1)

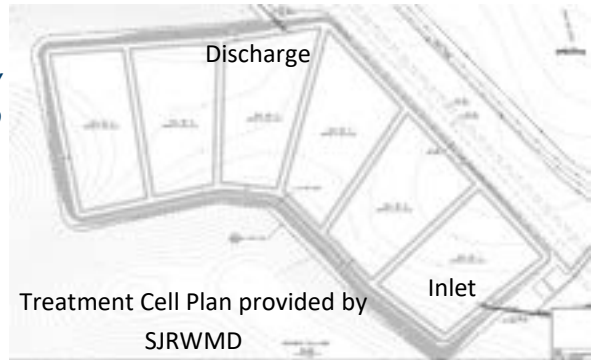
“...404 Permit addressing wetlands and water quality certifications sometime in March, we should be able to pick up the pace and get to construction sometime in August. Construction is expected to take two years.”

NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

ERP = Environmental Resource Permit

DEP = Fla. Dept. of Environmental Protection

EPA = Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)

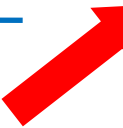


**BLACK CREEK WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RECHARGE SYSTEM SITE PLAN**

Note the existing Gopher Tortoise Burrow locations marked by XGTL's on the site plan. Ones within the area of the treatment cells have a circle around the X's. There are at least 16 burrows which will need to be relocated just within the treatment cell area alone. Others likely exist along the 17 mile long pipeline. Gopher Tortoises are a long lived federally protected species who share their burrows with more than 350 other species and are therefore considered to be a "Keystone Species" of great importance to the environment. Their burrows average 15 feet long and 6.5 feet deep. They have been documented reaching up to 40 feet long and 10 feet deep. Current Florida state regulations clearly indicate that it is illegal to handle or disturb gopher tortoises or to bother their burrows. They must be properly relocated before any site clearing or development takes place. Property owners must obtain permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) before capturing and relocating tortoises.

**Looking forward to our next SOLO Members Meeting, March 8, 2022,  
7PM at First Baptist Church**

**Have you renewed your SOLO Membership for 2022! You can use  
this convenient form.**







Webb Farber Dr. Pat Welsh Chandler Rozear  
SOLO Board Members at the January 2022 Governing Board Meeting Screen Shot from SJRWMD Video

**SJRWMD GOVERNING BOARD Mtg. 10:00 AM Tues.,02/08/2022 at the Palatka Office**  
**\*VERIFY\* on website: [www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/](http://www.sjrwmd.com/governingboard/) (Live Streaming is available)**

 **SUE PLASTER**  
REALTOR



**C.B. ISAAC**  
REALTY  
Office:352-475-2199  
Fax:352-475-3406

2518 S'R21/PO BOX 893  
MELROSE, FL 32666  
sueplaster77@gmail.com.com  
cbisaacrealty.com Lakehomeslady.com  
Cell:352-538-9384

**RTS Rocky's Tractor Service**

- Bush Hogging
- Beach Tilling
- Loader Work
- Road Grading



6450 Loch Lommond Dr.  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
Cell: 904.412.5025

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM**

(Please Check) **RENEWAL**  **NEW MEMBER**

Cut, copy or send the whole page!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**US MAIL**

**EMAIL**

**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, FL32656.**

**SOLO WEBSITE** [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org)

You can get information as well as communicate with us through our website: [www.saveourlakes.org](http://www.saveourlakes.org) or our email: [save-our-lakes@comcast.net](mailto:save-our-lakes@comcast.net) . Our newsletter comes out once a month by email and US Mail (usually the first week of the month). **Please feel free to check us out!**

Save Our Lakes Organization, Inc.  
P.O. Box 185  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656



Logo by: *Graham E. Kestner*

**Next meeting: 7PM, March 8 at the First Baptist Church. We'll have updates on the Black Creek Project and more! Look for meeting signs posted around Keystone Heights. Get your Shot/Booster!**

NEWSLETTER PRINTING BY FABCO-AIR. THANK YOU, FABCO-AIR!



*Webpage Design By: REALTY PRODUCTIONS CO.*  
*RealtyProductions.com – (904) 502-0165 - Email: [wwwweb@realtyproductions.com](mailto:wwwweb@realtyproductions.com)*



**Bald Eagle**  
  
**Bait and Tackle**  
Fishing, Hunting, Boating  
Supplies, Feed,  
Dog Food  
Snack Bar  
352-473-6060  
Keystone Heights, Fla.  
State Road 100  
Owners:  
Joey & Patty Tyson  
Hours: 5:30 AM - 6:PM  
Open Seven Days a Week  
"Not just a Bait Shop"

**Helen Hersey Realty**  
*Helen A. Hersey*  
Broker  
  
Office: 352-473-8882  
Cell: 352-235-1586  
Toll Free: 1-866-649-8882  
Web Site: [www.helenhersey.com](http://www.helenhersey.com)  
Email: [helen@helenhersey.com](mailto:helen@helenhersey.com)  
7396 SR-21 North • PO Box 2002  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Phone: 352.473.6405  
Cell: 904.219.1562  
Fax: 352.473.6495  
  
*Let Us Be Your  
Homestead Electrician*  
Serving  
The Lake Area And  
Surrounding  
Counties  
  
RegionalElectricInc.com  
Residential & Commercial  
New Construction • Remodel • Service Calls  
Daryl Wilkins

**TEAM BEALS**  
  
**TODD & DEBBIE BEALS**  
Todd Beals (904) 588-2083 [toddbeals@cbvfl.com](mailto:toddbeals@cbvfl.com)  
510 S. Lawrence Blvd  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
www.lakearearealtors.com  
Debbie Beals (318) 648-0295 [debbiebeals@cbvfl.com](mailto:debbiebeals@cbvfl.com)

***S.O.L.O., Inc.***