

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SFWMD)
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2008**

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2008:

EVERGLADES RESTORATION:

- **C-111 Spreader Canal Expedited Project, Phase I:** Recommended that the proposed C-111 Spreader Canal “Expedited Project” move to the next design phase.
- **Environmental Resources Permit (ERP) Rule Development:** Recommended that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection include non-agency stakeholders on the Technical Advisory Committee being appointed to help develop the proposed statewide ERP rule. This should include representatives of agricultural interests, one representative from the Florida League of Cities and one from the Florida Association of Counties.
- **CERP Programmatic Regulations:** Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board adopt a resolution urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately revise and simplify the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Programmatic Regulations.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE AND ESTUARY PROTECTION/RESTORATION:

- **Northern Everglades Watershed Phase II Construction Plan:** Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve forwarding the Phase II Lake Okeechobee Watershed Construction Plan to the Florida Legislature in February. Members had concerns about the impacts of possible revenue reductions for the funding of the Phase II Technical Plan.
- **Northern Everglades River Watershed Protection Plans:**
 - Recommended that the Northern Everglades River Watershed Protection Plans for the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers Watersheds be presented to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval and forwarding to the Florida Legislature.
 - Recommended to the SFWMD Governing Board a statement that the Statewide Fertilizer Rule administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, is a step in the right direction to reduce nutrient runoff in urban areas. Concerns noted:

- continued research is needed to help further reduce phosphorous;
 - the public needs to be educated about fertilizer application methods;
 - the rule could preempt local government ordinances that may impose more stringent standards than the statewide rule.
- Approved a Resolution recommended by the Lake Okeechobee Committee honoring SFWMD Governing Board member Malcolm “Bubba” Wade, Jr., for his outstanding leadership as Vice Chair of the WRAC and Chair of the WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee.

WATER SUPPLY:

- **Minimum Flows and Levels Annual Priority List:** Recommended that the Annual Priority List for Minimum Flows and Levels should move forward to the Governing Board.
- **Water Conservation Program and Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule:** Participated in the Water Conservation Program Summit and made recommendations for improvement. Recommended improvements in the proposed Year-Round Landscape Irrigation rule.

RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND PUBLIC USE OF SFWMD LANDS:

- Endorsed recommendation of the WRAC Recreation Issues Workshop to request Governing Board approval of a bank fishing program at STA-1, West.
- Endorsed work by the Recreation Issues Workshop to initiate a mobility impaired access site at STA-5 for disabled veterans and other disabled or handicapped people.
- Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board approve staff recommendations for the 2009 Waterfowl Hunting Season, including:
 - small game hunting on vacant, undesignated lands
 - that the annual waterfowl hunting program be established by the Governing Board as a permanent program.
- **Chandler Slough:** Recommended that the SFWMD Governing Board authorize the FWCC to add the 3,700 acre Chandler Slough to the Kissimmee Public Use Area.

- **Recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include an Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) statement in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Master Recreation Plan. Statement:**

“ On lands where Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) access was a traditional and legal use, is consistent with any and all applicable laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations, including those of the managing agency, and is not in conflict with hydrological and ecological restoration goals, such ORV access should be considered as a possible future managed use in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Master Recreation Plan.”

- **Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Public Use and Recreation Access:**
Recommended that:
 - **the staff recommendation for Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Public Use and Recreation Access provisions be presented to the SFWMD Governing Board for approval and to authorize the FWCC to initiate rulemaking;**
 - **the provisions regarding air boating at Johnson Island be approved on a trial basis for one year;**
 - **request FWCC look into requiring non-toxic shot for all hunting areas;**
 - **concerns of those not in agreement were reported to the SFWMD Governing Board**